



Hailsham
TOWN COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Hailsham Town Council To Support Infrastructure Improvement Plans

2 October 2015

Hailsham town councillors have agreed to support plans for improved infrastructure, in the light of the number of future new housing developments demanded by the government in the South of England.

Town councillor Nick Collinson made the proposal at a meeting of Full Council held on Wednesday evening [30 September] that the Town Council will work with Wealden District Council and other service providers to ensure that the infrastructure to support new housing in Hailsham and Hellingly comes either before or as development begins.

Also mentioned in the motion proposal agreed was that the Town Council will request that Wealden District Council agrees to and pays for a jointly developed Area Action Plan for Hailsham and its environs to advance plan the required infrastructure.

Councillor Nick Collinson, who is also vice-chairman of the Hailsham Forward Executive, said: "Hailsham's significant growth in population over the course of the next few years brings with it a number of benefits, but it is also faces increased pressure in terms of transport capacity, services and utilities, as well as local environment and sustainability."

"Hailsham needs a long-term, integrated plan that links up infrastructure systems across the town to support its housing growth and continued success, which is why we must work with service providers to establish an Area Action Plan to take into consideration these infrastructure requirements before it's too late."

Town Mayor Councillor Nigel Coltman, who seconded the motion said: "The proposal put forward at last night's Full council meeting is a necessary step towards understanding the needs of a much larger town which Hailsham will soon become."

The town's infrastructure will require substantial investment to accommodate additional residents who will set up home in the town within ten years. Setting up an Action Plan will certainly help make it possible to draw up proposals for developing schemes and raising resources."

Town Clerk John Harrison commented: "The pressures of population growth and Hailsham's continuing development as a town call for some hard thinking about future infrastructure. By passing the motion proposed last night, the Town Council will be making a significant step in working with Wealden District Council to develop a comprehensive strategy to ensure that Hailsham remains a competitive and liveable town for its residents."

The Town Council agreed that it will hold an emergency extraordinary meeting soon, which will be open for members of the public to attend, to formally respond to and debate the issues and options relating to the Wealden Local Plan.

The Town Council will also be holding a public meeting for residents to discuss the Plan and will be inviting Wealden District Council members and officers to present details of the Plan. The date of this and the extraordinary Council meeting will be announced soon.

Hailsham Town Council is always proactive on planning matters and has already agreed to set up a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for the town which will help to determine the level of infrastructure required to support both new development and the existing community, and a working party will be formed in the near future to move the project forward.

Furthermore, the Town Council organises regular Residents' Forum meetings in partnership with Hailsham Forward, of which people can submit questions for discussion on issues that affect them, including the impact of housing developments on local infrastructure.

In the meantime, work will be underway in February 2016 on a major project to improve Hailsham town centre and help minimise the impact of more housing on the local transport network, which includes road layout improvements, changes to parking and a new pedestrian crossing.

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