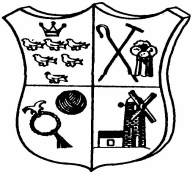


# HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE



REPORT (Minutes) of the Communities Committee relating to the organisation of festivities and events held at the Fleur de Lys Council Chambers, Market Street, Hailsham, on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 6.00 pm.

CC/16/7/80

Prior to commencement of the formal business of the meeting, a period of not more than 15 minutes will be assigned for the purpose of permitting members of the public to address the assembly, or ask questions on matters relevant to responsibilities under the direction of this committee, at the discretion of the Chairman.

Mrs B. Taylor, a regular trader at the market, expressed concern that the street market is failing, she complained that the market is not advertised enough, and stated there were only 7 stalls present on Saturday. She suggested the market is advertised more, the stall fees are reduced, and that traders are brought into the market who sell items that cannot be bought in the shops such as homemade pies and cakes. M. Caira advised that the Town Council is seeking to commission someone to find these niche traders and look into areas where the market can be improved. He stated that the Council will be able to invest in further advertising when the street markets have been improved and further advised that Hailsham Forward have agreed that any new traders can now attend the first 2 markets for free.

Mr R. Morton of "onlinecornershop.com" and a regular trader at the Hailsham Market asked whether the tender for employing someone to source traders for the street markets will be publicised? M. Caira advised the tender would be publicised.

Ms T. Applegate, a regular trader at the market, informed the Committee that the owner of a cheese shop in Uckfield was keen to attend the markets and she was advised that the trader will be contacted. Ms Applegate asked whether Hailsham FM could be present at more of the markets and was advised that the Town Council's licence only permits 10 events with entertainment a year, but it would be possible to have Hailsham FM or some form of entertainment once a month. She also requested flyers are distributed to advertise the markets.

Further suggestions by the market traders were to include dance schools and choirs in the events.

Councillor A. O'Rawe stated that all traders would be notified when the Council had further details on the future markets.

Sarah from Bay Tree Foods, a regular trader at the market, suggested the Council target businesses to encourage the small businesses working from small units to use the market as their shop window.

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## **Committee members present**

Councillors: Mrs B. Beckett (substituting for L. Collinson), G. Blake Coggins, Mrs A. Clarke, R. Grocock, Mrs S. Cottingham, R. Grocock, Ms. A. O'Rawe (Chairman) C. Triandafyllou (Vice Chairman)

## **Other Councillors present:**

Councillor Mrs M. Laxton

**Other members present**

G. Constable (Hailsham Lions), J. Cullen (Hailsham Community College), B. Pratt (Farmers' Market) J. Seale, Mrs D. Sinden (Hailsham Parish Church)

Officers in attendance: K. Giddings, M. Caira

82 **Apologies For Absence:**

**Committee Members**

Mrs L. Collinson, N. Collinson

**Other members**

R. Piggott (Bonfire Society),

83 **Declarations of Interest**

None were received

84 **Confirmation of Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Communities Committee meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.

85 **To receive an update about progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Communities Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

A number of questions had been raised at the last meeting. In response to the cost of the stalls, K. Giddings advised that a stall was £25.00 for a regular trader and £40.00 for a new trader. Charities were charged half price for a stall. Those booking a traditional market stall were charged £30.00. In response to how many new stalls were at the event, K. Giddings advised there were 12 new stalls. A question had also been raised at the previous meeting asking what happens to any old Christmas lights? K. Giddings reported that any broken lights cannot be fixed and are therefore disposed of.

86 **Christmas 2016 feedback**

As requested, a questionnaire had been placed on the Town Council's website and sent to all the traders that attended the Christmas market, and a number had been received back. Many comments had been received, including the following:

- There were too many food stalls at the event and the food stalls were too expensive
- There were not enough gift stalls
- More Christmas type stalls were needed at the event
- More promotion of the event
- Although the market was busy, spending was low
- Lower stall prices should be considered
- Hailsham FM was too loud and should play more Christmas music
- A late night shopping and switch on event should be combined
- Suggestions to have wandering costume characters/Christmas characters

T. Ryland advised that there were many other events at other towns on the day of the market, which may have had an impact on the number of people attending the market and unfortunately

the number of traders attending was lower than had been hoped for and some traders had dropped out at the last minute. It had not been possible to place some of the regular traders in their usual positions, but they had been advised of this prior to the event. Although the event had been busy with footfall, unfortunately spending by the public had been quite poor.

87 **Hailsham and Hellingly Movement & Access Strategy**

M. Caira advised that the road works are due to be completed on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

88 **Hailsham Forward**

M. Laxton asked about the pop up shop which is due to come to Hailsham High Street and was advised that the Chamber of Commerce have received some funding to rent the old mobile phone shop.

J. Seale advised she is now facilitating the Community Forum.

89 **Additional Planting in the High Street**

Members were advised that when the High Street was re-opened after the road works, parking on the new footways became a problem. M. Caira suggested that a long term solution could be to use some of the revitalisation funds to buy some new planters, which would be more aesthetically pleasing than bollards. R. Grocock advised that East Sussex County Council may be able to contribute some funding towards the planters. Members were advised that the approximate cost for 10 planters would be in the region of £6,500, for concrete planters. A. Clarke suggested using recycled materials for the planters, rather than concrete.

**RESOLVED** to research the planters and provide costings for these for further consideration

90 **Proposed events in April and July**

M. Laxton proposed an event to be held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April, between 10.00 am to 1.00 pm entitled "I love Hailsham" to celebrate the end of the road works, to be socially inclusive and involving local community groups and charities, with performers/entertainers, tombolas, brick a brack, with a theme of red for the event, with shops to dress their windows in red items, Tesco and Waitrose to be approached to ask them to donate red apples and red smoothies on the day.

A second event was proposed for July, potentially to be combined with an event being held with the Hailsham Lions on Western Road Recreation Ground on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. G. Constable confirmed the Lions have booked the Pavilion at Western Road to hold a Family Fun day and this could be combined with the event proposed by Councillor Laxton.

M. Caira stated that because the events for the year have already been approved by Council, any additional events and costs would need further approval.

Some concern was expressed at holding the "I love Hailsham" event the day after the road works are due to be finished, in the event of a delay in the completion of the works and it was suggested this event could be incorporated instead into one of the other summer events already planned, and work within the budget, so it is not necessary to approach the Council for further funding.

Councillor Laxton advised that the sports clubs will be available to help with the event and staff time would not be required

90.1 **RESOLVED** that :

- i) Councillor Laxton to provide details for the February Communities Committee

meeting detailing how the Council will be involved in the 23<sup>rd</sup> July event at Western Road Recreation Ground and any costings or contributions required by the Council

- ii) The “I love Hailsham” event proposed for April to be incorporated with the Town Council’s Children’s event and market, to be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June

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### **Summer Events 2017**

It was agreed that the summer market will be held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July. G. Blake Coggins suggested a road closure for the event, to allow room for some children’s rides. Members discussed this proposal and agreed a road closure would be better placed at the children’s market on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June, and book children’s rides for this event. Councillor A. O’Rawe advised of the Council’s commitment to holding socially inclusive events and M. Laxton advised she would source some rides suitable for disabled children.

Members were in agreement to request a road closure for Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June for the “Childrens event and Market” , to include the “I love Hailsham” event. J. Cullen stated he would approach the schools to ask them if they are interested in performing on the day.

Members further agreed not to book an Italian market, as last year, but to invite local food and drink traders to attend for the 29<sup>th</sup> July summer market.

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### **Christmas 2017**

K. Giddings was asked to contact all local businesses asking if they would wish to be involved in a late night shopping event. Members agreed that for a late night shopping event to be successful it would be necessary to have 30-35 shops open on the night

Mrs S. Cottingham left at 7.35 pm

Members agreed to hold the late night shopping event/Christmas switch on event on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November, with a late night shopping event to be subject to 30/35 shops committing to opening on the night.

Members agreed to hold the Christmas market on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Councillor M. Laxton advised that East Sussex County Council have given permission for her to arrange yarn bombing in the High Street.

B. Funnell confirmed that Santa and his sleigh would be available on 24<sup>th</sup> November for the switch on and he would check and confirm re the availability for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December

J. Cullen advised he would speak to Hailsham Community College and Groveland School regarding carol singing and suggested the carol singing to consist only of the groups of children singing, rather than any soloists performing.

Councillor M. Laxton stated she would obtain quotations for a laser light show for the switch on/late night shopping event. It was agreed the event could be named “let there be light” and children could also be encouraged to attend the event with lanterns. D. Sinden will ask Hailsham Parish Church whether they are willing to give permission for the laser light show to be projected onto the Church.

D. Sinden confirmed Hailsham Parish Church would be keen to organise another open church around the Christmas light switch on.

M. Cairn suggested one way to attract many traders would be to offer them a free stall at the Christmas market. A deposit could be charged which would be handed back at the end of the day. Members agreed this was a good idea.

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**Bonfire Society**

There was no further update

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**Hailsham Festival**

There was no further update.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

The next meeting will be held at 6.00 pm on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

Global/Minutes & Agendas/Communities