



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Businesses Continue to Set Up Shop in Hailsham**

6 September 2016

Business is steadily improving in Hailsham, with latest figures showing a significant fall in the number of empty shop units in the town centre.

During the past two years, the town centre has welcomed a number of new businesses in the town centre, including those which have expanded and subsequently relocated to larger premises and retail spaces.

According to a recent vacancy rate survey conducted by Springboard, the percentage of vacant ground floor units in Hailsham currently stands at 6.7%, a decrease from 7.3% in April 2016. This compares to a current regional/South east average of 7.7% and national average of 10.1%, which is excellent news for Hailsham.

Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager Mickey Caira said: "The percentage of vacant ground floor commercial units in Hailsham currently falls below the current regional and national averages, which is excellent news for Hailsham. Hailsham is the place to be and there has been a marked improvement in the number of empty shops in the town centre which has fallen considerably."

Town Mayor Councillor Nigel Coltman said he is delighted to see Hailsham's business activity strengthening and expects to see continual improvement in the future: "The Town Council and Hailsham Forward have key priorities to work with local businesses to deliver plans to help address the issue of empty shops further and work towards a 100% occupancy rate for retail and business units."

"The fall in empty retail units and the town centre traffic improvements which are scheduled for this summer will help us build on our growing reputation as a safe, clean, vibrant market town with plenty to offer residents and visitors alike."

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