



Hailsham
TOWN COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017

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Introduction: Town Mayor & Chairman's Report



Approaching the end of my second term as Town Mayor and Chairman, I am delighted to introduce Hailsham Town Council's Annual Report for the 2016/17 financial year.

It has been another busy and exciting year for us and we have worked on a number of major projects, all of which I hope you will be given an insight into from the relevant committees throughout this Report.

One such project is the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Hailsham. Your Town Council has been working hard to plan for the town's future by addressing any infrastructure concerns over future housing development. A number of public consultation exercises have taken place, from which residents' feedback will inform the draft Neighbourhood Plan document and provide a blueprint for the future development of the Hailsham area.

Thanks to everyone for participating in the various Neighbourhood Planning questionnaires and attending the public engagement events so far. You, the people of Hailsham, have spoken and your views and concerns will help shape the future of our great town.

Throughout the past year, it has also been a privilege to serve Hailsham again in a mayoral capacity. I have been guest of honour at a number of civic engagements with charities, voluntary organisations and local businesses and, from these engagements, I have learned that Hailsham has a wonderful community spirit in addition to a capacity for enterprise.

My gratitude goes to all our community organisations, charities and individual volunteers for their commitment and tireless, ongoing fundraising efforts. Their contribution to the local community is valued immensely. Organisations worth mentioning here include Environment Hailsham, Age Concern, Hailsham & District Twinning Association, Hailsham Lions Club, Hailsham Rotary Club, Hailsham Bonfire Society, Royal British Legion, Royal Air Forces Association, ATC 249 Millennium Squadron, No 19 Platoon Army Cadets and many others.

The backbone of the Town Council however is the work carried out by the Town Clerk John Harrison and his team of dedicated officers, as well as the outdoor works staff and youth project workers. As councillors, we come up with the plans and make decisions, while the staff do the hard work by actioning these decisions and bringing them to reality.

I can't finish without my thanks going to my wife, the Mayoress Sandra Coltman who has attended some engagements alongside me. Thanks also to my deputy Councillor Amanda O'Rawe who has been a rock, often standing in for me when I was not available. Without her determination, both as Deputy Town Mayor and chair of the Communities Committee, we would not have achieved so much this year.

May I also take the opportunity to thank you all for attending this Annual Town Meeting. Please feel free to come along to our future Council meetings or contact any Town Councillor or the Town Clerk if you have any issues you wish to raise.

Councillor Nigel Coltman
Town Mayor & Chairman, Hailsham Town Council



Chairman's Report: Finance, Budget & Resources Committee



The annual subsidy reduction by about £17,000 continued in the past year, adding to the financial pressure to Town Council finances.

Expenditure increases have been kept to a minimum and while one Town Council employee has retired, they have not been replaced. Their workload has been redistributed to other employees and also to Environment Hailsham.

The Hailsham Works! scheme has finished, but new expense has been added by the ongoing Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan project.

In order to balance the budget and to continue providing the current level of services provided by the Town Council, a small increase in its share of the council tax was agreed. This amounts to approximately

50p per month.

The Town Council continues to fund the Square Youth Café and Friday Night Project, which are extremely important in supporting the young people of Hailsham, as well as maintaining public open spaces and play areas.

A modest amount is spent annually to provide funding grant funding to local charities, community organisations and the local Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Renewed emphasis has been placed on the regeneration of the Town Centre and, in order to enhance public footfall, the weekly Hailsham Street Market, as well as special summer and Christmas events, are recipients of Town Council support.

I would like to thank the Town Council's Finance Officer, Michelle Hagger, and our Town Clerk John Harrison – who is also Responsible Finance Officer – for their hard work and support.

Councillor Chriss Triandafyllou
Chairman, Finance, Budget & Resources Committee



Chairman's Report: Strategic Projects Committee



The Strategic Projects Committee deals with play areas, open spaces, sports grounds, allotments, tree maintenance, grass cutting, dog waste bins, Council properties such as Maurice Thornton Pavilion, Cemetery buildings and Grovelands Barn, the public toilet facility in North Street, bus shelters and street lighting.

The Committee has focused on a number of projects this year and I have listed a few of them below. The Committee is working with members of the public on a wildlife project in one of its play areas to encourage butterflies, birds, bees and other wildlife into the area. There are plans to build a bug hotel and this area can be used by local children and schools and the Committee welcomes projects like these which enhance our community.

The Committee has been working hard to improve the parking problems on the town's roads. Inconsiderate parking of cars on the pavement can block access for those on mobility scooters or cause problems for parents with pushchairs, sometimes forcing pedestrians to go into the road to get past the cars which have blocked the pavement.

The Committee has been liaising with the police, other town/parish councils and Wealden District Council on this matter, to try to organise ways to deal with the problem. The Council has been discussing the possibility of civil parking enforcement, which means that parking becomes an issue for councils rather than the police and Hailsham Town Council is keen to work with Wealden District Council to investigate ways to tackle this problem.

On another parking matter, the Committee has also been in touch with Wetherspoon's regarding the problems of lorries unloading at their premises in in George Street, which causes great congestion in the Town. The Committee is trying to arrange for the lorries to unload adjacent the arches of Wetherspoon's, away from the road, which will prevent them blocking the road when they unload and causing the build-up of traffic in the town as a result.

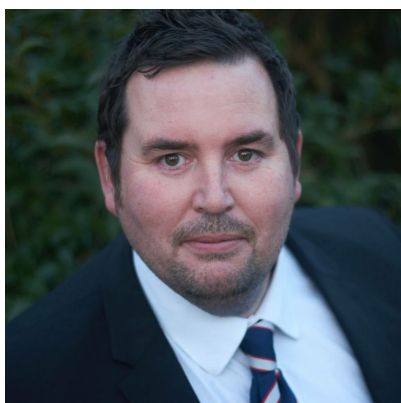
The Committee also organises maintenance of pathways in its parks and grounds and is organising the repair of the pathway between Bellbanks Road and Archery Walk, adjacent the Common Pond. This will take place this coming summer.

Further information on all the Committee's projects can be found on the Town Council's website and residents' newsletter which is sent to households three times a year.

Councillor Richard Grocock
Chairman, Strategic Projects Committee



Chairman's Report: Planning & Development Committee



The Planning & Development Committee has again had a very busy year, with 136 applications considered, 4 of these being major applications.

In early 2016, Wealden District Council announced that Hailsham would be receiving approximately 9,000+ homes over the next 20 years and this understandably created much concern amongst the Council and residents.

However, last month, Wealden District Council submitted its draft Local Plan and in this is some good news for Hailsham. The Plan proposes a huge reduction in the amount of housing proposed for Hailsham; the original proposed amount has now been reduced to 2,420 houses.

This does, however, also mean that Hailsham will lose out on some of the infrastructure that would have been put in place for such a large number of houses. Many other towns have also had their proposed housing numbers reduced.

A key factor in the reduction in housing is due to the evidence gathered in relation to the impact upon the Ashdown Forest. Wealden District Council has discovered evidence of high levels of nitrogen deposition across the forest which would be worsened by higher housing levels and the subsequent higher traffic movements which would result in further nitrogen deposition.

The Draft Plan was due for public consultation in May, but this time frame has been delayed and we look forward to when the Plan will be ready for consultation.

The Town Council is also working on its neighbourhood plan, and has been for the past year. This will run alongside Wealden Council's Local Plan. The Town Council organised a public consultation at the Hailsham East Community Centre earlier in the year and the final version of the Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan will be ready to be put to a referendum in the future, hopefully next year.

The Committee considers its role an important one and although we are only a consultee, we always try to ensure we do the right thing for the people of Hailsham.

One of the major developments considered by the Planning & Development Committee was for up to 300 houses on land at the Old Marshfoot Farm in Hailsham. This application has been the subject of much controversy for many reasons, including its proximity to the Pevensy Levels and the fact that Marshfoot Lane cannot cope with the extra traffic that such a development would bring. The Town Council therefore strongly objected to this development and is now awaiting a decision by Wealden District Council on this.

As always I would like to thank the Planning committee for all their hard work this year.

Councillor Alex Willis
Chairman, Planning & Development Committee



Chairman's Report: **Communities Committee**



As always, it has been a busy and varied year for the Communities Committee. I would like to thank our amazing partners who work so hard in their own time to make such a difference to Hailsham events - Hailsham Lions Club, Hailsham Rotary Club, James Cullen of Hailsham Community College, Hailsham Parish Church, Hailsham Bonfire Society, Hailsham FM and Hailsham Festival of Arts & Culture.

This year we have two events planned in the summer as well as our Christmas light switch-on and Christmas Market.

We are holding an event on Saturday 24th June to "Celebrate Hailsham" and the end of the road works in the Town. There will be a number of community stalls at this event. Among others, we have

Hailsham Lions with their candy floss stall, the Air Cadets with strawberries, prosecco and cakes, Hailsham Bonfire Society with the sweet spinner and Sussex Community Development Association with their smoothie bike.

For the children there is a tea cup ride and sensory tent, as well as balloon modelling and face painting. We are also very pleased to be working with the local shops on the event and many of the High Street shops will be offering up to 25% discount off their goods - so come into the town and pick up some wonderful bargains in the shops!

On Saturday 29th July, we will be holding a food and drink market with some fantastic stalls, although not exclusively food and drink as there will also be other stalls selling crafts etc, accompanied by live music and Harvey's of Lewes beer tent will be present too, so after a bit of shopping you can enjoy a cold beer or glass of wine in the sunshine and listen to the live music.

Our Christmas light switch-on event this year takes place on Friday 24th November. The local schools will be present to sing carols and we will also be working with the local traders to hold a late night shopping event on the same night. A children's treasure hunt is also being planned for the event. Hailsham Rotary Club's Father Christmas will be in attendance in his sleigh, handing out sweets to the children. A raffle draw will be held in the days up to the Christmas light switch-on and the lucky winner will get to turn on the town's Christmas lights!

Our Christmas Market is planned for Saturday 16th December with many stalls selling Christmas goods. There will also be another visit from Father Christmas who will be handing out free gifts to the children. Further entertainment is planned on this day and details will be available later in the year. As always, Hailsham FM will be at the Christmas events to entertain us and I would like to thank them for their continued support at our events.

I would like to mention some other events throughout the year – Hailsham Lions are holding a Family Fun Day on Western Road Recreation Ground on Sunday 23rd July, Hailsham Festival will be held on 14th–24th September and Hailsham Bonfire Society always organise a spectacular bonfire and firework event and this year it will be held on 21st October.

We hope to see you at the events later this year

Councillor Amanda O'Rawe
Chairman, Communities Committee



Chairman's Report: Neighbourhood Planning Committee



The Neighbourhood Planning Committee was set up in November 2015; it is made up of nine Hailsham Town Councillors and five lay members, who are residents of Hailsham.

The remit of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee is to put together a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish of Hailsham. Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. It must not oppose Wealden's Local Plan and cannot dictate the number of houses earmarked for the area.

During the last year the Council has consulted widely with local residents to gather their views on what services, infrastructure changes and, indeed, what type of housing is needed for our town to manage this level of growth.

During spring last year, the Town Council hired a van for two weeks to take to every part of the town to get your opinions. This led to an unprecedented number of people giving their views. This consultation programme was followed up by a further residents' forum in February this year to present the Council's emerging findings, present a vision for the future and generally get your feedback on the work so far. This meeting was well attended and your views are being taken into account in our future work.

A decision was taken to employ Troy Navigus, a firm of consultants with a specialised knowledge of producing Neighbourhood Plans; this has been invaluable in taking our work forward, giving much needed advice.

The Neighbourhood Planning Committee is currently working on "Town Wide Policies" and has divided into sub-groups. The sub-groups will reconvene within the next two weeks to feedback from the draft topics paper that will now form the basis to formulate our policies. The topics are:

- Green Infrastructure/Cuckoo Trail
- Public Transport
- Community Facilities
- Employment
- Character Area Policy
- Town Centre and Public Realm
- Draft Growth Policies

Wealden District Council has within the last six weeks announced that the increase in housing planned for Hailsham will now be 2,420. Although this is a large reduction in the proposed level of extra housing it still brings challenges as well as opportunities for the town.

Your Town Council will continue in its efforts to protect and enhance your interests, making Hailsham a nice place to live, work and visit for you and generations to come.

Councillor Glenn Moore
Neighbourhood Planning Committee



Town Clerk's Report



This year has been the year when the Town Council elected in 2015 has 'found its feet' and really started to drive things forward. In particular, the Neighbourhood Plan has started to take shape and I am convinced it will be a valuable and essential part of the 'Vision' for Hailsham.

Indeed, housing development, the publication of the Wealden Local Plan in its revised format, and the need for infrastructure to come in alongside those developments are of course, still the main considerations for people in the town and therefore, for the Town Council.

This year, there have been a handful of changes in membership of the Town Council as councillors have left and others elected. This is all part of the process of democracy and the council has consistently maintained its focus on delivering a quality service for the town.

I am going to make the same points I make every year in this report: The efforts and achievements of the small and hard-working staff team are not obvious to those outside the Council, but a huge amount of work and expertise goes into delivering and administering the Council's services, communicating with the townsfolk, working with our colleagues from other organisations, monitoring and maintaining our finances, servicing and producing the papers for the meetings and offering a professional and friendly service to all of our councillors.

As always, this adds up to a large and varied workload. There are over 60 Council or Committee meetings each year, usually in the early evenings which can result in some fairly late nights for everyone involved. This year has seen the continuation of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee – this project alone is a huge piece of work.

Our Outdoor Works team continue to provide an invaluable service to the town, working hard to improve the environment and look after our large portfolio of land and property.

Another point I continually make in this report and at other times; the council maintains various properties and important parcels of land in the town and implements other services I believe to a consistently high level, but that is only part of the story.

Our Youth Projects team provides, what is in my opinion, a vital service for the young people of the town, working hard to ensure the services are successful, providing the young people with structure, a safe space and a wide range of support services. The Friday Night Project continues to be very popular and I am pleased that it continues to run.

One of the Town Council's greatest strengths is its ability to facilitate: to develop and enhance strong partnerships and relationships in order to take the town forwards together.

It continues to be the case that by working together with the other local authorities, organisations and businesses who have influence in Hailsham that we can really get things improving and moving.

We continue to work with our partners in Wealden District and East Sussex County Councils and in other organisations such as the local police to find ways to drive the town forwards and give it the



future it deserves.

I will end as always, by thanking all of the council for their support, advice and help in allowing us to work together successfully and for making my job interesting and rewarding – and of course to our Mayor and Chairman, Cllr Nigel Coltman and Deputy Mayor and Vice-Chairman, Cllr Amanda O’Rawe for being so pleasant and easy to work with.

John Harrison
Town Clerk



Appendix 1: Hailsham Town Council Mission Statement

Mission Statement

Hailsham Town Council will work to provide a safe, high quality social and physical environment to meet the needs of residents and visitors; will be at the forefront of promoting Hailsham as a place, and will work with other agencies to defend the best interests of the Town for the benefit of everyone.

Aims & Objectives

- To enable residents of Hailsham and its surroundings to enjoy high-quality social, recreational and cultural facilities within the Town and seek the continuing improvement and development of these facilities in accordance with the wishes of residents.
- To encourage and promote the economic and commercial vitality of Hailsham.
 - To preserve the unique identity of Hailsham and promote its heritage.
- To ensure that harmony exists between commercial, ecological and residential requirements.
 - To consult with and take due regard of all comments received from other statutory bodies, voluntary organisations and individuals, to ensure an improving standard of service to meet local needs.
 - To represent the views and wishes of the people of Hailsham.
- To help create a socially inclusive and caring community that embraces all residents, irrespective of their circumstances.
- To promote and maintain the "Charter of Twinning" between the people of Hailsham and the citizens of Gournay-en-Bray.



Appendix 2: Hailsham Town Council Facts & Services

- has 24 elected Members
- holds over 60 Council or Committee meetings a year, plus the Annual Town (Electors') Meeting
- employs/retains 26 members of staff (including a Town Clerk and Works Supervisor, in addition to 4 volunteer workers
- owns and maintains Hailsham Cemetery; Common Pond; allotments (Battle Road and Station Road); Hailsham Country Park; Hempstead and Wentworth Ponds; Solway; 1 Market Square (Square Youth Café and Infopoint); Eastside Youth Café (Maurice Thornton Pavilion); Inglenook and neighbouring properties (Market Street); Union Corner Hall; Western Road Recreation Ground; Western Road Pavilion; play areas; Orchard Park/Grovelands Barn
- publishes a newsletter three times a year, distributed to households across Hailsham
- commented on 136 planning applications in 2016/17, including 4 major applications.



Appendix 3: Mayor/Deputy Mayor's Engagements 2016/17

Date	Function
9 June 2016	East Sussex Disability Association AGM (Hailsham Methodist Church Hall)
10 June 2016	Girlguiding Sussex East Annual Review (Sheffield Park)
15 June 2016	H.O.P.S. Indian Photographic Exhibition (Royal Indian, South Road, Hailsham)
20 June 2016	Armed Forces Week Flag Raising Ceremony (Hailsham War Memorial)
26 June 2016	Armed Forces Day Memorial Service (Hailsham War Memorial)
2 July 2016	Unveiling of Nelson Carter VC Memorial Stone (Hailsham War Memorial)
10 July 2016	Centenary of the Battle of the Somme Service (Hailsham War Memorial)
15 July 2016	ATC 249 Millennium Squadron Awards Presentation (Cadet HQ, Victoria Road)
18 Sept 2016	Battle of Britain Commemorative Service (Hailsham Parish Church)
18 Sept 2016	Battle of Britain Wreath-laying Ceremony (Hailsham War Memorial)
26 Sept 2016	Visit to Hailsham Short Mat Bowls Club (Hailsham Civic community Hall)
2 Oct 2016	Hailsham Lions Charter Luncheon (Wellshurst Golf Club, Hellingly)
5 Oct 2016	Environment Hailsham Awards 2016 (Charles Hunt Centre, Vicarage Field)
8 Nov 2016	Age Concern Hailsham Volunteer Awards (Charles Hunt Centre, Vicarage Field)
11 Nov 2016	Remembrance Day Service & Wreath-laying (Parish Church / War Memorial)
23 Nov 2016	Now! Charity Anniversary Celebration (North Street, Hailsham)
4 Dec 2016	Royal Air Forces Association Brass Band Concert (Hailsham Pavilion)
8 Dec 2016	ESCC Chairman's Christmas Reception (Pilgrim Hall, Easons Green)
10 Dec 2016	John Britton Youth Award Presentation (Ropemaker Centre, Hailsham)
16 Dec 2016	Hailsham Choral Society Christmas Concert (Hailsham Community Hall)
17 Jan 2017	Age Concern Volunteer Awards Presentation (Charles Hunt Centre)
3 Apr 2017	Care Home Resident's 100th Birthday Celebrations (Marshview Care Home)
7 Apr 2017	Opening of TaxAssist Hailsham Branch (St Mary's Walk, Hailsham)
14 Apr 2017	Re-opening of Wickes Hailsham Store (Diplocks Retail Park, Hailsham)



Appendix 4: Member & Officer Contact Information

HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Inglenook • Market Street • Hailsham • East Sussex • BN27 2AE

T: (01323) 841702

F: (01323) 842978

E: enquiries@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

W: www.hailsham-tc.gov.uk

TOWN CLERK & OFFICERS

Caira, Mickey	Deputy Town Clerk & Business Enterprise Manager	mickey.caira@hailsham-tc.gov.uk
Giddings, Karen	Planning & Environment Officer	karen.giddings@hailsham-tc.gov.uk
Gillett, Richard	Works Supervisor	richard.gillett@hailsham-tc.gov.uk
Hagger, Michelle	Finance Officer	michelle.hagger@hailsham-tc.gov.uk
Hall, Terry	Communications & Public Information Officer	terry.hall@hailsham-tc.gov.uk
Harper, Sherridan	Administrator & Finance Assistant	sherridan.harper@hailsham-tc.gov.uk
Harrison, John	Town Clerk	john.harrison@hailsham-tc.gov.uk
Joyes, Andy	Youth Project Coordinator	andy.joyes@hailsham-tc.gov.uk
Letschka, Christian	Receptionist & Business Enterprise Assistant	enquiries@hailsham-tc.gov.uk
Saxby, David	Burials & Properties Officer	david.saxby@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

South & West Ward

Cllr M. BURT	C/o Inglenook, Market Street, Hailsham	01323 840345
Cllr L. COLLINSON	C/o Inglenook, Market Street, Hailsham	07706 915716
Cllr S. COTTINGHAM	110 Station Road, Hailsham	01323 845792
Cllr M. LAXTON	70 Harmers Hay Road, Hailsham	07723 444209
Cllr J. PUTTICK	145 The Diplocks, Hailsham	07762 502362
Cllr R. GROCOCK	Camelot, Western Road, Hailsham	01323 842931
Cllr A. O' RAWE	40 Sandbanks Way, Hailsham	07525 351580
Cllr C. TASANE	Flat 1, 20 South Road, Hailsham	07503 594302
Cllr C. TRIANDAFYLLOU	Hillcrest, Coldthorn Lane, Hailsham	01323 442956
Cllr A. WILLIS	C/o Inglenook, Market Street, Hailsham	01323 841702

Central & North Ward

Cllr B. BECKETT	27 Lansdowne Drive, Hailsham	01323 841702
Cllr F. BERRY	12 Stoney Lane, Hailsham	01323 843880
Cllr N. COLLINSON	Hawkland House, Hawkwood Road, Hailsham	01323 846040
Cllr N. COLTMAN	8 Marshfoot Lane, Hailsham	01323 841925
Cllr P. HOLBROOK	146 Battle Road, Hailsham	01323 841978
Cllr G. MOORE	15 Garfield Road, Hailsham	01323 888013
Cllr M. PINKNEY	27 Lansdowne Drive, Hailsham	07988 745222

East Ward

Cllr G. BLAKE-COGGINS	Tanglewood, South Road, Hailsham	01323 848713
Cllr A. CLARKE	C/o Inglenook, Market Street, Hailsham	07725 027613
Cllr G. MOORE	C/o Inglenook, Market Street, Hailsham	01323 841702

Upper Horsebridge Ward

Cllr C. COLLINSON-O'TOOLE	C/o Inglenook, Market Street, Hailsham	01323 841702
Cllr B. HOLBROOK	146 Battle Road, Hailsham	01323 841978
Cllr G. DE JONGH	43 Hawkwood Drive, Hailsham	01323 365463
Cllr S. VAN DER GEYTEN	C/o Inglenook, Market Street, Hailsham	01323 841702