



**Wealden Works, trading under the umbrella  
of the Heathfield Partnership Trust Ltd  
www.wealdenworks.co.uk  
c/o 73 High Street, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 8HU**

1 November 2019

Mr J Harrison  
The Town Clerk, Hailsham Town Council  
Inglenook, Market Street  
Hailsham  
East Sussex BN27 2AE

Dear John

Further to our presentation at your last Full Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019, we would like to put in a formal request to Hailsham Town Council for future funding of our youth employability project Wealden Works. I provide the following information which I hope will answer any questions which may arise when putting forward a proposal.

Wealden Works was formed in May 2017 with our centre located for this project in Heathfield Youth Centre. This is a free employability service that is available to all young people living within the Wealden area. There is simply no other such provision in the rural stretches of our county, our initiative has stimulated young people back into progressive pathways who are now making positive contributions to society.

The outline of our project is to bridge the gap between education and employment and we do this by enrolling up to 40 young people a year (between the ages of 16-24) who each attend an intense 10-week employability course. During these 10 weeks our young people attend daily employability workshops, career assessments, financial workshops and work trials. We also address other life skills such as confidence building, mental health issues and we provide a free professional counselling service to those in need. We provide a 12month aftercare programme for each young person who has attended the course as we believe that ongoing support is crucial to sustain success.

With no Job Centre located within the Wealden area, this project is much needed. A current bus fare to the nearest Job Centre which is based in Eastbourne is nearly £7.00 return and once a young person has signed up to the Job Centre they must attend appointments once a week. This equates to nearly £30 in travel expenses in one month.

Wealden Works comes under the charitable status of The Heathfield Partnership Trust Ltd, although Wealden Works is wholly independent as an operation.

We are currently funded by local grants, private donations and we also hold a small Skills UK contract which is due to end in July 2020 with no certainty this will continue. Secondary schools state funding has evaporated and there is no longer satisfactory provision for independent career advice and guidance or work placement experience. Our pilot scheme with

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Heathfield Community College which achieved such plaudits in recent press coverage is going to be an important service as we increase our coverage within Wealden.

We are now seeking funding from Hailsham Town Council as we have been actively promoting our services within Hailsham and receive referrals via Hailsham Youth Centre, HCC, YMCA and Hailsham FM.

Hailsham residents attend the project in Heathfield where travel expenses are reimbursed along with other participant expenses. The current cost of 1 participant attending the project for the 10 weeks is £2,000.00. We would like to request the amount of £10,000 from Hailsham Town Council which would go towards Hailsham residents that have attended the project to-date.

<b>MIX OF ATTENDEES SINCE 2017</b>	
9 from Hailsham	15%
3 Crowborough	5%
8 Uckfield	14%
14 Heathfield	23%
26 from other surrounding villages	43%

We have also made bids and received funding from the following local councils and parishes:

<b>FUNDING FROM LOCAL COUNCILS AND PARISHES SINCE 2007</b>	
Heathfield & Waldron Parish Council	£10,000.00
Uckfield Town Council	£13,500.00
Horam Parish Council	£ 3,200.00
Wealden District Council	£27,000.00
Hellingly Parish Council	£ 467.00
Mayfield Parish Council	£ 150.00

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Current funders and stakeholders are all invited to our triannual stakeholder meetings where we discuss the current participants' journeys, current financial information and any other business. Prior to this meeting we also send out a newsletter to all our funders and stakeholders which outlines all the key information since the previous meeting.

We offer written financial reports to all stakeholder and fundraisers in order to keep them updated on an ad-hoc basis.

We will be holding our annual graduation event for this year's participants on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 6.15pm and would like to invite your members along to be part of the celebration. This will also be an opportunity to really see how Wealden Works can change lives. The event will be held at Heathfield Youth Centre

Case study on a Hailsham young person:

**Participant's Parents:** *We are so grateful that we had the good fortune to put our son in touch with Wealden Works. They have been amazingly helpful and positive for Ben in this transitional time. It has been invaluable to have their support and for Ben to have someone so friendly to talk things through with. Although only 16, we have really seen him grow in confidence, especially after his week of work experience proving that a college course to gain further educational qualifications would be the best route. This made us all feel reassured. He has been given the best help and start possible and is loving his College course. A fantastic service!*

#### **BEN (Case Study)**

Ben joined the group after disappointing exam results and being unhappy at school. A bright lad, lacking in self-esteem and confidence and unsure which career choice or path to take. He became a valued and active member of the group showing natural team leadership, happy and confident it was suggested he attend an open day at a College for Further Education with his parents. Inspired and now keen to continue his studies Ben enrolled on a 2-year Academic course to gain A Levels in Economics and Business Studies. Six months into the course, he has made new friends, is enjoying and doing well with his studies and now has the potential for a successful career future.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Crozier  
Project Manager

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