



Hailsham
TOWN COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019

CONTENTS

- Introduction: Town Mayor & Chairman's Report
- Chairman's Report: Finance, Budget, Resources & Staffing Committee
- Vice-Chairman's Report: Strategic Projects Committee
- Chairman's Report: Planning & Development Committee
- Chairman's Report: Communities Committee
- Vice-Chairman's Report: Neighbourhood Planning Committee
- Hailsham Town Clerk's Report
- Appendix 1: Hailsham Town Council Mission Statement
- Appendix 2: Hailsham Town Council Facts & Services
- Appendix 3: Mayoral Engagements (2018/2019)
- Appendix 4: Member & Officer Contact Information



Introduction: Town Mayor & Chairman's Report



Approaching the end of my fourth term as Town Mayor and Chairman, I am delighted to introduce Hailsham Town Council's Annual Report for the 2018/19 financial year.

It is with great pride that I have been able to serve the town of Hailsham as Chairman of the Council and Town Mayor once again. The past twelve months have been extremely busy with many projects being undertaken by your Town Council. In this Annual Report, I hope we will be able to give you an insight into the work we have carried out.

There are many changes taking shape in our town with several major planning applications and a variety of important issues such as ensuring that Hailsham continued to have a post office - the Town Council has endeavoured to achieve the best possible outcome for residents.

The Town Council was successful in its bid to be granted the franchise for Hailsham's Post Office, which is due to open in 10 High Street, once the fitting out of the premises has been completed.

The post office is an essential component of our community, and indeed any local community. By taking the opportunity to apply for the franchise and being successful in doing so, your Town Council has ensured that our local post office is safeguarded and has a sustainable future for residents and local businesses.

It's rare and to some degree unusual for a town to run its own post office, but by taking this on we are ensuring an essential service every resident deserves is maintained in our town centre.

I would like to personally thank all the officers involved with making this happen, particularly the Town Clerk, as well as all our town councillors who supported taking on the Post Office and its responsibilities.

In addition to saving the local post office, your Town Council has been working hard to plan for the town's future by way of the establishment of a neighbourhood plan for Hailsham.

The final steps towards the publication of the Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan are coming ever closer, a document which will propose a number of policies relating to what infrastructure and development is needed to sustain future housing growth in the Hailsham area, taking into consideration local environment and sustainability, design, housing type, traffic and transport, economy, services and facilities.

Although the publication of the Neighbourhood Plan for Hailsham has been delayed in recent months due to various environmental assessment taking place, things are back on track and the public will be consulted again soon.

My Chairman role aside, throughout the past year, it has also been a privilege to serve Hailsham in a mayoral capacity. I have been invited to numerous events and civic engagements with local charities, community groups and voluntary organisations, as well as local businesses and, from these engagements, I have learned that Hailsham has a great deal of community spirit and capacity for enterprise.



In this Annual Report, you will find a separate page listing the mayoral engagements myself and the Deputy Mayor have attended during the past year. I'd like to thank all of those involved in these activities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind people about the Hailsham Hero Community Award, of which I will be delighted to present the 2019 accolade to the very worthy recipient at the Annual Town Meeting. The award is to celebrate those people working tirelessly amongst us, in recognition of outstanding service to the people of Hailsham and it is important that Hailsham's "unsung heroes" can be acknowledged and given formal recognition. These hard-working volunteers are an inspiration to others and demonstrate how so much can be achieved when a community pulls together to help one another.

In closing, I know that I could not have carried out my duties without the support of the Deputy Town Mayor & Vice-Chairman Cllr Grant De Jongh and all my fellow councillors. My gratitude must also be extended to the Town Clerk and his support team for their unflagging support, without whom the whole fabric of the Town Council would fall apart.

Councillor Nigel Coltman
Town Mayor & Chairman, Hailsham Town Council



Chairman's Report: Finance, Budget & Resources Committee



The Town Council adopted the recommendation put forward by the Finance, Budget, Resources & Staffing Committee for the current financial year (April 2019 to March 2020) and agreed a precept of £1,059,811 - a 0% rise for its share of the council tax.

In making the recommendations for the budget, the Town Council aims to provide continuing security for essential services for residents and visitors alike with value for money improvements where possible.

All local authorities have a public duty to keep council tax increases to a minimum and, despite having the same financial pressures as all other local authorities, we have shown that, with careful financial planning, we can achieve a no-increase council tax precept without compromising essential services for the community.

Our focus throughout the past year and indeed for the next year ahead, will be to continue to ensure all services are run as efficiently as possible, including the running of the franchise for the new post office, a sizeable project which is progressing well. It is hoped that the new post office will be up and running by early summer and, as provisions for this were made in the previous financial year, no additional funding was budgeted for this in the current financial year.

A substantial amount of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) has been collected from new houses, which can be used for infrastructure projects or projects benefiting the town in the future.

The Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan has been completed and it is hoped that the Planning Inspector will approve it soon. This will provide 10% additional CIL income.

The Town Council continues to fund the Hailsham Youth Service (Square Youth Café, Friday Night Project, Infopoint and Monday Youth Club), which are extremely important in supporting the young people of Hailsham, as well as maintaining Hailsham Cemetery, play areas, public open spaces, the James West Community Centre and many other properties and areas of land.

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

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 the exceptionally good work that they do on our behalf.

Councillor Chriss Triandafyllou
Chairman, Finance, Budget, Resources & Staffing Committee



Vice-Chairman's Report: **Strategic Projects Committee**



The Strategic Projects Committee deals with Council properties such as play areas, open spaces, sports grounds, allotments, tree maintenance, grass cutting, dog bins and buildings 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 Town Council has re-surfaced the lake end car park, at Hailsham Country Park.

Two new swing bays have been installed at South Road play area. There are now six new swings plus a cradle swing in the play area and the Town Council has agreed to fund a complete re-design of the rest of the play area.

The James West Community Centre in Brunel Drive is now fully operational, with a number of community groups now using the hall and meeting rooms.

A Deed of Dedication has been put in place for the Western Road Recreation Ground. This has been set up by the Town Council alongside Fields in Trust. This Deed protects the site for future years, ensuring it will always remain a recreation ground. The same Deed of Dedication is being set up for Hailsham Country Park.

The Town Council now manages three allotment sites – Station Road, Battle Road and Harold Avenue. The Harold Avenue site was taken over around 18 months ago and we have now created 26 plots on this site. This extra site has greatly helped to reduce the lengthy waiting list that we used to have for an allotment plot and now there are only a handful of residents on the waiting list for an allotment.

Further information on all the Committee's projects can be found in the Town Council's newsletter – *Our Hailsham* - which is sent to all Hailsham Residents three times a year.

Councillor Richard Grocock
Vice-Chairman, Strategic Projects Committee



Chairman's Report: **Planning & Development Committee**



The Planning & Development Committee again has had a very busy year, with 146 applications considered by the Committee, 8 of these being major applications.

The Committee meets every three weeks to consider the planning applications that have been submitted and then puts forward its views to Wealden District Council. We are only consultees so we cannot make the decision on whether to approve or object to an application - we can only offer our opinion.

The Town Council has been working on its Neighbourhood Plan for the last three years. This Plan is now completed and was approved by the Town Council at its Full Council meeting on 27th March 2019.

The Plan was submitted to Wealden District Council at the end of March and providing it is approved by the district council, it will be put forward for a public referendum at the end of the year, to give residents a chance to have their say on the Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan.

Wealden District Council have now submitted its proposed Local Plan for inspection to the Planning Inspector. The examinations will determine whether the plan is legally compliant and sound - being carried out in two stages, the first commencing in May and it is hoped that the second will take place this summer.

The Town Council has submitted its views on Wealden District Council's Local Plan.

The Town Council considered lodging a judicial review against the district council in relation to a significant housing development in Marshfoot Lane. The Town Council went as far as commissioning legal opinion on the matter, which unfortunately came back with the advice that there was no case to answer.

As always, I would like to thank the Planning & Development Committee for all their hard work this year.

Councillor John Puttick
Chairman, Planning & Development Committee



Chairman's Report: **Communities Committee**



As always it has been a busy year for the Communities Committee and there are a number of events taking place in the town, organised by various groups.

I would like to thank our fantastic partners who work so hard every year to organise various community events in the town - Hailsham Lions, Hailsham Rotary Club, Hailsham Community College, Hailsham Parish Church, Hailsham Bonfire Society, Hailsham Farmers' Market, Hailsham FM, Hailsham Festival and the Hailsham Community Forum.

This year we again have two events planned for the summer, as well as our Christmas Lights Switch-on and Christmas Market.

This summer, we are organising 'Hailsham Sussex Day' in the town centre and the event will be held on Saturday 15th June. There will be a number of community groups attending, including the Hailsham Lions with their candy floss stall, Hailsham Bonfire Society with their tombola, the Demelza Hospice Care for Children charity also with a tombola, as well as Environment Hailsham selling plants and Herstmonceux Science Centre.

There will be performances from the Long Man Morris Men, a sensory tent, ice cream van and live music from the Peter Willson Quartet playing in the morning and The Sussex Stompers in the afternoon.

We are also very pleased to be working again with the local shops and many of the town centre shops will be offering special promotions on the day.

On Saturday 20th July, Hailsham High Street will be closed for the day and the French Market - 'Le Marche' - will be coming to town selling wonderful food as well as local craft stalls selling goods.

Again, there will be live music at the event provided by the Peter Willson Quartet and The Sussex Stompers.

A 'Kind Heart Festival' was held in October last year and proved to be very popular. The festival will be back again this year on Sunday 25th August, taking place in Vicarage Field. There will be dance displays and a parade in the high street, plus a number of stalls in Vicarage Field.

On Thursday 31st October, Demelza Hospice Care for Children will be holding a fundraising pumpkin hunt in the town, at which children will be encouraged to attend and take part in a fancy-dress competition on the day.

There will be bunting placed across Hailsham High Street throughout the summer months to bring a festive feel to the town centre.

Our Christmas Lights Switch-on this year takes place on Friday 29th November, coinciding with Black Friday. The lights will be switched on at 6pm and the local schools will be present to sing carols, plus Father Christmas will be in attendance in his sleigh handing out sweets to the children (courtesy of Hailsham Rotary Club).



Our Christmas Market is planned to take place on Saturday 14th December, with many stalls selling wonderful gifts for Christmas. There will also be another visit from Father Christmas who will be handing out free sweets to the children.

Hailsham Lions will be in attendance selling candy floss and there will also be live music and carol singing. This year, we are delighted that Hailsham Farmers' Market will be joining us on the same day, on the Cattle Market site, selling local produce and crafts.

As always, Hailsham FM will be at all the markets to entertain us and I would like to thank them for their continued support at our events to date. We are very fortunate to have our own local community radio station.

There are so many other events being held through the year, including the Hailsham Lions Family Fun Day, taking place on Western Road Recreation Ground on Sunday 7th July. Furthermore, the annual Hailsham Festival will be held in September, plus Hailsham Bonfire Society will be again holding their fantastic bonfire and firework event on Saturday 19th October. This year, the bonfire spectacular will be held on Western Road Recreation Ground.

Lastly, I would like to mention the Hailsham Farmers' Market, of which Communities Committee members are supporting as best they can. However, it also needs to be supported by the local community. The Farmers' Market is held on the Cattle Market in Market Street on the second Saturday of the month. So why not pop along and buy some of the lovely local produce they have to offer.

We do hope to see you at our events later this year to support the local traders and have a wonderful day out.

Councillor Alexa Clarke
Chairman, Communities Committee



Vice-Chairman's Report: Neighbourhood Planning Committee



The final steps towards the publication of a Neighbourhood Plan for Hailsham are coming ever closer.

The Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan, written by a group made up of members from the community and from the Town Council's Neighbourhood Planning Committee, proposes a number of policies relating to what infrastructure and development is needed to sustain future housing growth in the Hailsham area, taking into consideration local environment and sustainability, design, housing type, traffic and transport, economy, services and facilities.

We have not allocated housing sites/locations.

Your Town Council has voted in favour of the final Plan document. This document has now been submitted to Wealden District Council for the Regulation 16 process to begin, followed by an inspection of an independent planning inspector in the summer with a public referendum to be held this autumn.

The process of building a neighbourhood plan started in 2016, which we had timetabled to finish within this term of the current Council. However, due to a European court ruling we have been delayed through no fault of our own - but are now back on track.

After the referendum and once adopted by Wealden District Council, our Neighbourhood Plan must be given due weight and consideration in future planning applications.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of the Committee, particularly those five residents who have given up their time, as well as the appointed consultants, Troy Planning Ltd (led by Jon Herbert) and especially those members of the public who have come along to the various consultation meetings and taken the trouble and time to let us have your views.

I can say with confidence that the Committee's aim of ensuring that the local community had the opportunity to voice its opinion on how the town should grow in the future (and the facilities and services required to do so) has been successfully achieved.

DEDICATION TO COUNCILLOR GLENN MOORE

The Neighbourhood Planning Committee dedicates this Plan in memory of Councillor Glenn Moore, whose sole purpose for having a plan in place was to "Make Good" for the residents of Hailsham. His planning knowledge and expertise was invaluable to ensure that our Plan is fit for purpose.

Councillor Mary Laxton
Vice-Chairman, Neighbourhood Planning Committee



Town Clerk's Report



I always make some of same points every year in this report and I'm doing so again this year: The amount of work put in by the small and hard-working staff team are not always obvious to those outside the council, but a huge amount of work and expertise goes into delivering and administering the council's services.

This includes servicing and producing papers for the meetings, communicating with the local people, working with our colleagues from other organisations, monitoring our finances, and offering a professional and friendly service to all of our 24 councillors.

As always, this adds up to a large and varied workload. There are over 50 council or committee meetings per year, usually in the early evenings which can result in some late nights for everyone involved.

Our Outdoor works team continue to provide a vital service to the town, working hard to improve the environment and look after our large portfolio of land and property in all weathers. Our Youth Service team provides a fantastic service for the young people of the town, working hard to ensure the services are successful in providing young people with structure and a safe space.

There have been some significant achievements and changes made by the council this year. It was very frustrating to have to delay our Neighbourhood Plan process because of a high court ruling, which meant we were required to submit additional assessments, but great to see the plan finally completed and just recently submitted to Wealden District Council. I am convinced it will become a vital piece of work and significant document in shaping the future of Hailsham.

The decision to take on the Post Office was a major piece of work for the Town Council. I believe we may be the only parish council in the country to have done so. It has been and continues to be a large project with several elements. The application process itself was rigorous, which included my having to attend an interview in London, and from there we have been negotiating the contract with the Post office, the lease for the building, the legalities around the transfer of the staff and planning and designing the shop fitting. It is a long a slow process and I understand people's frustration at the time it is taking. In the end it will all be worth it to provide this vital service for a rapidly growing town.

Looking back on this year there is a note of sadness at having lost two prominent councillors. Stella van Der Geyten who left Hailsham for pastures new, put in a lot of work with the council's strategic projects committee and for local sports clubs. Cllr Glenn Moore who very sadly passed away very recently. Glenn was an absolutely pivotal member of our Planning and Neighbourhood Plan committees, particularly driving forward the Neighbourhood Plan with his extensive knowledge of planning and development issues as well as his unique character and sense of humour. Both Stella and Glenn were a real loss to the council.

It is always a slightly peculiar situation for the council's officers as we face the end of the council term and the approaching elections. In theory we could have 18 entirely new councillors implementing significant changes in direction. In reality there is usually at least some continuity, but we prepare ourselves to work successfully and co-operatively with whoever gets elected and to develop a fruitful and productive relationship. I do have a great level of respect for anyone who puts their name forward to represent and improve their community.



So, I'd like to take this opportunity on behalf of the myself and council officer team to thank all of the current council for their work, support and good natured working relationship over the past four years and to wish absolutely everyone who has chosen to stand up and be counted at the forthcoming election the best of luck.

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

- currently has 24 elected Members.
- holds over 60 Council or Committee meetings a year, plus the Annual Town (Electors') Meeting.
- employs/retains 28 paid members of staff (including a Town Clerk and Works Supervisor) and a small number of volunteers.
- owns and maintains Hailsham Cemetery; James West Community Centre (Brunel Drive); Common Pond; allotments (Battle Road; Station Road; Harold Avenue); Hailsham Country Park; Hempstead and Wentworth Ponds; Solway; 1 Market Square (Square Youth Café and Infopoint); 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 146 planning applications in 2018/19, including 8 major applications.



Appendix 3: Mayor/Deputy Mayor's Engagements 2018/19

Date	Function
16 Jun 2018	Hailsham Photographic Society Summer Exhibition Opening (Charles Hunt Ctr)
25 Jun 2018	Armed Forces Week Flag-Raising Ceremony (Hailsham War Memorial)
30 Jun 2018	Hailsham Choral Society Summer Concert (Hailsham Civic Community Hall)
2 Jul 2018	Armed Forces Week Flag-Lowering Ceremony (Hailsham War Memorial)
4 Jul 2018	Tour of Hailsham Heritage Centre & Museum (Blackmans Yard, Market Street)
9 Jul 2018	ESCC Chairman's Summer Reception (Hendall Manors, Uckfield)
21 Jul 2018	Hailsham Foodbank New Office Opening (Sheriff Place, Hailsham)
22 Jul 2018	Hailsham Lions Fun Day (Western Road Recreation Ground, Hailsham)
15 Sep 2018	Hailsham Festival Mayor's Concert (Hailsham Parish Church)
16 Sep 2018	Battle of Britain Commemorative Service (Hailsham Parish Church)
16 Sep 2018	Battle of Britain Wreath-laying Ceremony (Hailsham War Memorial)
18 Sep 2018	Margaret Luery 100th Birthday Celebrations (Marshview Care Home)
30 Sep 2018	Hailsham Lions Club Charter Luncheon (Crockstead Farm Hotel, Halland)
11 Oct 2018	Opening of Maybugs Gift Shop (Vicarage Field)
13 Oct 2018	Opening of James West Community Centre (James West Community Centre)
13 Oct 2018	Unveiling of Fields in Trust Plaque (Western Road Recreation Ground)
12 Dec 2018	ESCC Chairman's Christmas Reception (De L Warr Pavillion, Bexhill-on-Sea)
15 Dec 2018	Hailsham Choral Society Christmas Concert (Hailsham Civic Community Hall)
17 Dec 2018	Premiere Screening of 'Hailsham Song for Christmas' (Hailsham Pavilion)
26 Jan 2019	What Can I Join in Hailsham? Forum Event (Hailsham Parish Church Lounge)
7 Feb 2019	Performance of 'We Will Rock You' (Hailsham Community College)
1 Mar 2019	Hailsham Photographic Annual Colour Show (Hailsham Civic Community Hall)
1 Mar 2019	Wealden District Council Chairman's Civic Reception (Herstmonceux Castle)
3 Mar 2019	Hailsham Lions It's A Knockout Event (Bede's School, Upper Dicker)
15 Mar 2019	HomeStart East Sussex Service Awards (Fleur De Lys Meeting Room)



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
Saxby, David	Burials & Properties Officer	david.saxby@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

South & West Ward

Cllr T. BURNS	192 The Diplocks, Hailsham	01323 841702
Cllr S. COTTINGHAM	110 Station Road, Hailsham	01323 845792
Cllr M. LAXTON	70 Harmers Hay Road, Hailsham	07723 444209
Cllr R. GROCOCK	Camelot, Western Road, Hailsham	01323 842931
Cllr A. O' RAWE	40 Sandbanks Way, Hailsham	07525 351580
Cllr S. POTTS	9 Holyhead Close, Hailsham	01323 846460
Cllr J. PUTTICK	145 The Diplocks, Hailsham	07762 502362
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 M. PINKNEY	27 Lansdowne Drive, Hailsham	07988 745222

East Ward

Cllr G. BLAKE-COGGINS	Tanglewood, South Road, Hailsham	07766 077398
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