

Our Hailsham

January 2021

INTRODUCTION FROM THE MAYOR OF HAILSHAM

"I hope that you had a pleasant Christmas break, despite it being very different for many of us with the restrictions on the number of people from different households we were permitted to engage in festivities with.

I'd like to take the opportunity to say that, while many of us had a pretty rough 2020 due to the terrible COVID-19 pandemic, we have now entered a brand new year and things are beginning to look positive. 2021 brings the hope that we will see a noticeable reduction in the number of COVID-19 infection cases, if as many of us as possible seek the protection needed from COVID-19 and have the vaccine when it's available to you.

With the arrival of the new COVID-19 vaccine, it is estimated that we should be able to fully protect ourselves from the virus and return to some semblance of normality in our daily lives at some point in 2021.

We just need to be patient a little longer and, even though we are still battling the Coronavirus, we should follow the latest Government guidelines relating to social distancing, hygiene and other COVID-protection measures for the benefit of local community health.

While we can clearly see a light at the end of the tunnel now as a result of the introduction of effective vaccines, we're not quite there yet and we all need to do our part to keep everyone safe and prevent COVID-19 case numbers from rising further.

On a positive note, the New Year traditionally denotes a new start – an opportunity to begin afresh and strive to do even better. For me personally this is an exciting time, as I look forward with expectancy and anticipation to what 2021 has to offer our wonderful town.

While the first part of the year is likely to still be rocky due to the pandemic and restrictions in place, I am looking forward to the remaining few months in my term of office as Town Mayor and Chairman of the Town Council. I feel honoured to serve and represent the people of Hailsham and look forward to getting out and about and meeting you all at future civic engagements, when restrictions are eased.



I will continue to raise the profile of local charities, community groups and voluntary organisations in Hailsham as much as possible, all of which work selflessly to help others and make individuals' lives just that much better and brighter. I am sure that the warm-hearted and generous people of our town will continue to join together and support those most in need during 2021.

The Town Council is again this year working towards finding ways to carry out our activities and make frontline operations as efficient as possible. Like many town and parish councils across the country we are committed to providing value for money.

We all know times are tough at present, and in the coming year we may face some difficult decisions on how to balance providing essential quality services with ever-decreasing budgets. The way the Town Council operates will continue to transform.

However, whatever the future holds, I can guarantee the residents this. My New Year's resolution, and the Town Council's, is to have a renewed determination to work hard for the residents and the wider community of Hailsham.

On behalf of the Mayoress Barbara and myself, may we wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. Whatever your aspirations may be, go forward with determination and you will be rewarded by your own efforts in 2021.

"Thank you and stay safe."

Cllr Paul Holbrook,

Town Mayor & Chairman,

ANNUAL TOWN (ELECTORS') MEETING

****PROVISIONAL DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING, - PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE (WWW.HAILSHAM-TC.GOV.UK) FOR UPDATES REGARDING POTENTIAL CANCELLATION/RESCHEDULING DUE TO COVID-19**

Hailsham Town Council invites residents to attend the next Annual Town Meeting which, dependant on COVID-19 restrictions, takes place at the Hailsham Civic Community Hall in Vicarage Lane on Wednesday 3rd March.

The main part of the meeting will start at 7.30pm and will be chaired by the Town Mayor and Chairman, Councillor Paul Holbrook.

Prior to the main residents' meeting there will be an opportunity for you to view information stands from local groups and talk to representatives of those organisations from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

At the time of writing, the Government's position on the current lockdown is that COVID-19 restrictions will be reviewed in mid-February. If the vaccination of the four priority groups is attained by this time, some restrictions may be lifted, therefore allowing the Annual Town Meeting to go ahead as scheduled.

"It's been a very challenging year and indeed a very difficult time for so many people as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and protecting the health and safety of our residents has remained our top priority throughout," said Town Clerk John Harrison.

"Despite having to close many services on and off since last year, we have been taking forward a number of projects,



including improvements to existing services. Our Annual Town Meeting offers a great opportunity to provide a clear update on the important community projects that we have been working on to take the town forward."

"Furthermore, this vitally important meeting gives all residents an opportunity to tell us what you would like to see over the coming year and put forward your views on ways to improve our town for everyone."

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions, a full Agenda for the evening will be available on the Town Council website and public notice boards in Market Street/Vicarage Field from mid-February.

To ask a question in advance, please write to:

**John Harrison (Town Clerk),
Inglenook, Market Street,
Hailsham, BN27 2AE.**

The deadline for submission of questions is Friday 26th February. Residents can also turn up and ask questions on the night.



COUNCIL and COMMITTEE Meetings

In line with advice and guidelines from the Government concerning social distancing and protection from COVID-19, Full Council and Committee meetings will continue to be conducted remotely/online via video conferencing (Zoom) until further notice.

The Town Council has held several remote meetings since March of last year, including Emergency Grants Panel sessions to agree the allocation of funding to local voluntary organisations working to support the Hailsham community during the coronavirus pandemic.

Town Clerk John Harrison commented: "We are monitoring developments concerning the coronavirus very closely, in

line with guidance from the Government. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the public for their understanding of these necessary precautions as we take every step possible by not conducting face-to-face meetings to ensure their well-being and safety - and that of our members and staff."

Members of the public are still welcome to attend and simply need to email the Town Clerk:
(john.harrison@hailsham-tc.gov.uk)
to request the necessary meeting access information.

Dates of Full Council and Committee meetings are available on our website: **www.hailsham-tc.gov.uk**.



BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS AT HAILSHAM CEMETERY

As the Town Council continues to review its service delivery for residents in response to COVID-19, strict measures in relation to burial arrangements at Hailsham Cemetery continue to be practiced in order to protect the local community.

The Cemetery in Ersham Road remains open for graveside and ashes burials and, in line with Government guidance, the maximum number of mourners/attendees allowed at graveside burial services is currently 30. Social distancing should be maintained between people who do not live together or share a support bubble.

Cemetery grounds will be closed to the public, except for funerals or burials, commemorative events celebrating the life of a person who has died, or to allow a person to pay respects to a member of their household, a family member or friend.

People must refrain from attending the cemetery if they are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms and should follow all



government guidance relating to personal hygiene prior to, during and after use of the cemetery.

Town Clerk John Harrison said: "We recognise this is a distressing time for anyone who has lost a loved one. But we cannot emphasise enough the importance of sticking to these measures and restrictions on service. They are all being put in place to protect members of staff who help to carry out this critical service, as well as members of the public."

Members of the public can get in touch with the burial services team by calling Hailsham Town Council on 01323 841702 or emailing david.saxby@hailsham-tc.gov.uk.

USE OF PLAY AREAS

Play areas remain open to children during the lockdown, although users of the sites are encouraged to follow all social distancing and hygiene measures in place.

All Town Council-maintained play areas - those located at Western Road, Battle Road, Stroma Gardens, Quinnell Drive and on the Maurice Thornton playing field - are accessible to the public.

Signs have been erected at each of the play area sites reminding users of social distancing requirements and providing guidance for users of the equipment relating to hygiene. Anyone visiting a play area or outdoor gym should follow all guidelines listed on the signs.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the outdoor gym equipment on the Western Road Recreation Ground and Maurice Thornton playing field is closed until further notice.

"Whilst our play areas remain open, we encourage users of



the sites to observe and adhere to the guidance displayed on the signs at each site," said Town Mayor Councillor Paul Holbrook. "This is vital in order to help combat the spread of the coronavirus, and it's imperative that we take the health of the local community into consideration during the pandemic."

LAND & PROPERTY

MANAGED/MAINTAINED BY HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL



PUBLIC OPEN SPACES & PARKS

Land at Butts Field; Land at rear of Retail Park (Diplocks Way); Land at Arlington Road East; Land at Blacksmith's Copse; Common Pond; Land at Ersham Road Triangle; Land on west side of Solway; Land to the south side of Quinnell Drive; Dennis King Memorial Sensory Garden; Cameron Close public open space; Orchard Park and land adjacent to Grovelands Barn

RECREATION LAND & PLAY AREAS

Hailsham Country Park (including lake and ponds); Western Road Recreation Ground (including Beaconsfield and tennis courts); Maurice Thornton Playing Fields; Carpenters Way play area; Stroma Gardens play area; Battle Road play area; Maurice Thornton play area; Quinnell Drive play area; Maurice Thornton skate park

ALLOTMENT SITES

Station Road; Battle Road; Harold Avenue

CEMETERY LAND

Cemetery site at Ersham Road

PREMISES MANAGED

1 Market Square (Square Youth Cafe/SafeHub/The Foyer); Cemetery Lodge (Ersham Road); Cemetery buildings inc. chapel; 3 Market Street; Inglenook & Fleur de Lys (Market Street); 4 Market Street; James West Community Centre; Union Corner Hall and car park; Maurice Thornton Pavilion, Grovelands Barn; 2 North Street building (inc. public toilets)

OTHER

War Memorial (Vicarage Field); Victoria Gate (High Street)

POST OFFICE

10 High Street

FOR A MORE DETAILED LIST OF LAND & PROPERTIES MANAGED BY HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL, PLEASE CALL 01323 841702.

HAILSHAM POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Hailsham's town centre post office is currently operating at near-normal operating hours, having remained open since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic last March as an essential service to the local community.

The post office, run by the Town Council and located at 10 High Street, is currently open from 10am-4pm (Monday to Friday) and 10am-1pm (Saturday).

Physical distancing guidelines and other protocols are in place at the post office, in keeping with current Government recommendations. Members of the public must wear a face mask or other face covering when entering the post office building.

A concern among some residents is the closure of the Hailsham branch of Barclays Bank. Residents can rest assured that normal Barclays Bank transactions can be carried out in branch at the High Street post office in Hailsham, including business deposits.

For more information, visit www.postoffice.co.uk/barclays.



PUBLIC CONVENIENCES IN HAILSHAM TOWN CENTRE

The Town Council wishes to assure residents that the public conveniences located in the former Cortlandt Stable building adjacent to the Asda car park in North Street, will remain open during the pandemic, and an outside contractor is currently responsible for the opening, closing and cleaning of the toilet block on a daily basis.

To allow more frequent cleaning of toilets, the facility operates six days a week (Monday to Saturday), with opening hours of 10am-2.30pm each day

The facilities have reduced capacity to ensure social distancing can be managed and there are signs on display outside and inside the premises offering guidance on social distancing and hand hygiene.

Town Clerk John Harrison said: "Our main concern is to protect the health and well-being of those who use our public toilet facilities. Therefore, we ask residents and visitors to please



ensure that you do your best to abide by the government's guidelines on social distancing when using the toilets."

Whilst the Town Council will be following Government guidance on the cleaning of public places and will do all we they can to reduce the risk of exposing both the public and the cleaners to COVID-19, the public need to be aware that the use of these facilities is at the individuals' own risk.

HAILSHAM

YOUTH SERVICE UPDATE

Earlier in the year as restrictions allowed, Hailsham Youth Service re-opened its face-to-face facilities including the Square Youth Café and the new Hellingly Youth Hub. Although Hailsham Youth Service only managed to remain open for six weeks before new restrictions came into place, the team thoroughly enjoyed seeing the young people back in the buildings.

Making its spaces COVID-secure was a top priority and the youth service team was impressed with how well the young people of Hailsham adjusted to the changes to what is essentially their space. The last year has been very tough for many young people and Hailsham Youth Service has continued to try to evolve and innovate to meet the needs of the young people it supports locally.

In line with the latest guidance from the Government concerning social distancing and protection from COVID-19, facilities managed by Hailsham Youth Service are now closed until further notice. However, young people can stay updated, join in on discussions, take part in activities and keep in touch with the youth worker team via social media, including their Facebook and Instagram pages.

Young people in Hailsham are encouraged to connect with discussions and take part in various online activities, including interactive challenges, quizzes, and recommendations on which films and TV programmes to watch and what games to play on their smartphones during the lockdown period.

"Maintaining contact with young people and keeping them engaged with services is essential, especially with the closure of face-to-face services," said Andy Joyes, Youth Project Coordinator at Hailsham Town Council.

"Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing measures over the past year, there have been a lot of changes to young people's living circumstances. Keeping young people updated on social media and in touch with youth workers are important, and to help with this, on our Instagram page, we are producing lighter content and activities to keep young people engaged."

The temporary closure of the Square Youth Café, Friday Night Project, Hellingly Youth Hub and Monday Youth Hub, as well as some support services, is part of a Town Council-wide measure to combat the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, heeding advice for residents to avoid communal spaces and observe social distancing.

Regular updates and activities can be accessed on Hailsham Youth Service's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/HailshamYouthService/) and Instagram (www.instagram.com/hailshamyouth/)



YOUTH WORKERS CONTINUE TO OFFER DETACHED SUPPORT

The Hailsham Youth Service team continues to maintain a presence during the COVID-19 pandemic and, in liaison with Sussex Police and other authorities, youth workers have mobilised its detached provision since last summer's post-lock-down period in specific areas identified as needing further support during the pandemic.

The success of the detached (or 'outreach') work, in helping to keep antisocial behaviour low, has resulted in an increase of detached work engagement in recent months from three evenings to five evenings a week, supporting young people experiencing a range of issues including mental health, unemployment, isolation and loneliness.

Currently, Hailsham Youth Service's staff engage in detached work at various times during the day and on several days a week. Staff wear clearly visible youth service branded

clothes so they can be found easily, and the Service ensures that all detached work is carried out in accordance with social distancing guidelines.

Hailsham Youth Service also has a minibus that travels to different areas in Hailsham and Hellingly, offering young people an opportunity to come and chat with the team about any issues they may be having, offering the full range of support that the youth service offers but in a 'mobile' way.

Youth Project Coordinator, Andy Joyes said: "Now more than ever, young people in Hailsham need help, advice and support to manage with feelings of isolation associated with current social restrictions and concerns about their future."

"While the Square Youth Café, Monday Youth Club, Friday Night Project and our advisory services remain closed because of restrictions, Hailsham Youth Service has adapted to ensure that it continues to help young people and the community and ensure they're safe, following government guidance on social distancing and getting the appropriate support during the Coronavirus pandemic."



HAILSHAM YOUTH SERVICE RECEIVES ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Hailsham Youth Service has received £1,166 worth of grant funding, to help towards the cost of adapting the youth service in this pandemic.

The Service has received two separate grants of £333 from the Waitrose Community Matters scheme (for the Square Youth Café and Hellingly Youth Hub respectively), as well as £500 via Tesco's 'Bags of Help' grant programme, which has been used for the costs involved in reinstating centres and activities which were recently closed again due to COVID-19 restrictions. The money is also going towards adjusting the youth services offered in the local community, as well as a garden project which will give young people access to outdoor green spaces.

Deputy Youth Project Coordinator, Helen Deane said, "We are delighted to receive this funding and extremely grateful to Waitrose and Tesco for supporting our important youth projects in Hailsham and Hellingly."

"Funding for our various youth projects is always needed to keep services running and to make sure that everyone gets the chance to use them. The young people who attend our centres and take part in our activities will benefit considerably from this donation."





FREE PITCH HIRE FOR TRADERS AT HAILSHAM STREET MARKET

Hailsham Street Market, which takes place in Vicarage Field on Saturdays from 8.30am-1.30pm, continues to operate during the pandemic, albeit with strict social distancing measures and COVID-protection measures in place.

The street market introduced a new layout when it reopened last summer, with social distancing barriers in place where required and queuing systems in place at each stall. Traders are also sanitising their stalls and tables.

"I'm delighted that the street market continues to operate throughout the pandemic," said Deputy Town Clerk & Business Enterprise Manager Mickey Cairn. "However, safety is of crucial importance to us, so all market stalls are COVID-secure and signs are in place on-site reminding people to continue social distancing and to follow the latest guidance. Advice on how to shop safely at the market is also available, but I urge residents and visitors to also do their part to keep each other safe."

"We welcome back all returning traders and would like to hear from anyone interested in becoming a market stall trader at Hailsham Street Market."

Traders at Hailsham Street Market will now receive free market pitches until the end of March, as part of the Town Council's commitment to support the town centre and its businesses.

Eligible traders can continue to operate at the market, but this will be kept under review, should the situation change regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and potential changes to restrictions.

For more information and market trader application forms, please telephone 01323 841702 or send an email to enquiries@hailsham-tc.gov.uk.

TRADE AT HAILSHAM STREET MARKET!

The HAILSHAM STREET MARKET
EST. 2015

EVERY SATURDAY
VICARAGE FIELD
8.30am-1.30pm

Locally sourced food - crafts
unique gifts - accessories
and much more...
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

FREE PITCH HIRE
UNTIL
MARCH 2021

SUPPORTING THE TOWN CENTRE
DURING THE PANDEMIC

NEW & RETURNING TRADERS WELCOME

BUY LOCAL BUY FRESH

www.facebook.com/WalshamStreetMarket
www.facebook.com/WalshamFarmersMarket

Hailsham TOWN COUNCIL

SOUTH ROAD PLAY AREA TO BE REBUILT IN SPRING

Children in Hailsham can look forward to new improved facilities as plans are underway to rebuild the play area in Western Road, which are set to deliver an exciting upgrade to play equipment this year.

The play area is to be nearly completely renewed, and the rebuild will include the installation of more accessible play equipment, resurfacing of the playground as required and additional public benches (and other furniture).

The revamp of the play area is part of Hailsham Town Council's continued commitment to improve local parks and open spaces and will involve the installation of a large multi-play unit to be located in the centre of the play area (with accessible ramps if the space allows), a wheelchair-accessible carousel, four-person springer seesaw, sensory play area, toddler area with a train theme, new picnic bench plus three new benches and two new litter bins with recycle option.

The site will be DDA approved and feature an overlay of the existing surfacing with colour-fleck wet pour or bonded rubber mulch for optimum safety of play area users.

Councillor Richard Grocock, Chairman of the Town Council's Assets Management Committee which oversees play areas in Hailsham said: "Children's play areas play a vital role in outdoor recreation, providing children with an area to relax, meet friends and play."

"The Town Council's play areas strike a balance between providing stimulating play and meeting current safety requirements, which is why we pride ourselves in maintaining our facilities to the highest standards and undertaking regular inspections and repairs where necessary, and major revamps such as this one."

"We are very pleased to be able to provide a major rebuild of the Western Road play area. The facility is well-used and the revamp to be carried out is aimed at improving and refreshing the equipment, plus it also helps the Town Council tackle the challenge of a growing number of families with children in the area."

In addition to Western Road, the Town Council currently manages play areas in South Road, Battle Road, Stroma Gardens, Quinnell Drive and on the Maurice Thornton playing field.

SOCIAL DISTANCING AT ALLOTMENT SITES

Hailsham Town Council's allotment sites in Battle Road, Station Road and Harold Avenue remain open to tenants during the pandemic, although people are encouraged to observe the latest social distancing rules and coronavirus-protection guidelines when visiting their plots.

The public must follow the guidelines below when tending to their allotments:

- Observe the latest government social distancing guidelines with each other
- Have hand sanitiser available and disinfect your hands regularly
- Minimise contact with each other, e.g. no hand-shaking
- Do not share tools or any other equipment with another plot holder
- Follow all government guidance on personal hygiene prior to and during use of allotment sites

ANY PLOT HOLDER WHO IS SELF-ISOLATING BECAUSE A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER IS ILL WITH CORONAVIRUS SHOULD NOT BE VISITING ANY ALLOTMENT SITE.





DECREASE IN NUMBER OF EMPTY RETAIL UNITS IN TOWN CENTRE

Recent figures show that Hailsham town centre falls well below the current regional and national averages of vacant ground floor commercial units.

According to a recent vacancy rate survey conducted by Springboard, the percentage of vacant ground floor units in Hailsham currently stands at 6.2%, a significant drop from the 7.7% recorded in July 2020. This compares to a current regional/South East average of 11.2% and national average of 11.3%.

Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager Mickey Cairra said: "The percentage of vacant 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 over the past few years."

Town Mayor Councillor Paul Holbrook 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."

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and more in your local community!
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Twitter updates:
[hailshamtowncouncil \(HailshamTC\)](https://twitter.com/hailshamtowncouncil)

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SEVERAL NEW BUSINESSES SET UP SHOP IN HAILSHAM

More excellent news is that several new businesses have opened in Hailsham in recent months, despite the ongoing pandemic.

Such businesses include Huckleberry Hair Salon and Hailsham Barbers in the High Street, Sweet Tooth in Market Square, 847847 Taxis in George Street, Flowers By Maybugs in Vicarage Field and Happy Paws and Simply Weigh, both in St Mary's Walk.

Town Mayor Cllr Paul Holbrook, who cut the ribbon at the official openings of the new businesses said: "I am delighted to have been asked to open all these new shops and other businesses, and it's wonderful to see enterprising people continue to set up businesses in our town, despite the pandemic which has affected the local economy to a considerable degree."

"We have an increasingly vibrant town centre and the opening of these new businesses is a great addition!"



TOWN COUNCIL TO FUND MORE GRASS CUTS

Hailsham Town Council agreed at a recent meeting to continue paying for extra grass cutting of roadside verges in the town.

The Town Council pays for some of the cuts, contracting of which is carried out by East Sussex County Council for the majority of highway verges in Hailsham, which are cut 10 times per year (April to November).

Town councillors have agreed to fund an additional four cuts this year, to be carried out by the County Council and totalling six cuts (two standard and four extra) over the course of the year.

The Town Council also arranges grass cutting in areas of land owned by the Town Council including Hailsham Country Park, Western Road Recreation Ground and Maurice Thornton Playing Field. It does not make arrangements for grass to be



cut on privately owned estates such as Harmers Hay, on developments that have not been adopted by the District, County or Town Council, or on local authority housing estates such as Town Farm, which is the responsibility of Wealden District Council.

Deputy Town Clerk Mickey Caira said, "The Town Council currently shares payment costs for grass cutting services on public highways and footpaths with the County Council."

"Although environmental issues are of principal concern, the majority of urban grass cutting is actually carried out for highway safety reasons rather than aesthetic purposes."

"Hailsham Town Council recognises the importance of maintaining a reasonable standard of grass cutting throughout the town and works with contractors in order to continually improve services and ensure value for money."