

# Our Hailsham

JUNE 2022

## MAYOR & CHAIRMAN VOTED IN AT ANNUAL MEETING

Long-serving local councillor Paul Holbrook has been voted to serve a fourth year as Town Mayor and Chairman at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council, held at the James West Community Centre on Wednesday 18th May.

The Annual Meeting also voted in Councillor John Puttick for a second consecutive year as Deputy Town Mayor and Vice-Chairman, as well as various representatives for local community organisations.

A long-serving member of the Town Council, Councillor Holbrook also represents Hailsham on Wealden District Council. A builder by trade, he has lived in Hailsham for nearly 50 years, having raised a family here with his wife, Barbara Holbrook, who is also a Hailsham town councillor and Mayoress.

Councillor Holbrook's long-term vision is for a town that is community-driven, with a positive and co-operative mindset - and will continue working towards helping the local community in its recovery from the coronavirus pandemic

and work with project partners and stakeholders to make the town become an attractive focus for the growing population of Hailsham.

During his address, Councillor Holbrook stated that it will be another busy year ahead for the Town Council and looks forward to contributing to its future achievements, including continuing to help provide more facilities for Hailsham and helping towards revitalising the town.

"Thank you to everyone for having faith in me to carry out the duty of Mayor and Chairman for a fourth year," said Cllr Holbrook. "I am deeply honoured to continue on as Mayor, yet, despite the many privileges associated with the role, I am aware of the burden of responsibility which it brings as an ambassador and representative of the people of Hailsham."

"A lot can be achieved in our town and, as Town Mayor, I will endeavour to work with different groups of people to overcome the challenges we face in the future. Hailsham is a special place, and I will work hard to ensure that it remains so."

# COMMITTEE STRUCTURE FOR NEXT YEAR

Following on from proposals made at the Annual Meeting of Hailsham Town Council, the Council's Committee structure for the next year has been put in place.

Seven Standing Committees have been appointed for the 2022/23 municipal year, these being the:

## ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Responsibilities include: Cemetery and Cemetery Buildings; Burial Records; James West Community Centre; Cortlandt Former Stable Block and Public Toilet Facility; Fleur de Lys Meeting Room; Union Corner Hall; Maurice Thornton Pavilion; Street Lighting; Youth Services (Square Youth Cafe/Friday Night Project/Monday Youth Hub/Hellingly Youth Hub/Eastside Youth Hub/Safehub); Play Areas; Public Open Spaces; Hailsham Country Park; Common Pond; Orchard Park; Maurice Thornton Playing Field; Western Road Recreation Ground; Allotments (Battle Road/Station Road/Harold Avenue)

## COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Responsibilities include: Business, Retail and Town Centre Development; Town Revitalisation, Coordination of Hailsham Street Market; Christmas Market and Lights Switch-on Events; Community Events

## FINANCE, BUDGET & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Responsibilities include: Precept (recommending the Town Council's budget); Insurance; Policy & Policy Reviews; Health & Safety; Contracted Services; Leases; Banking & Investment; Grants; Joint Funded Projects; Subsidies; Section 137 Payments

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Delegated powers include: Commenting on Planning Applications; Enforcement Notices; Notices of Appeal (against planning decisions); Justices Licences; Tree Preservation Orders; Conservation Areas & Listed Buildings; Local Development Proposals; any other planning related matters; Street Closures; Street Naming; Footpath Diversions

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Town Council established a Neighbourhood Planning Committee in 2015 to oversee a process that resulted in the preparation of a Plan for Hailsham, which was put to a public referendum on 6th May 2021, of which a majority voted in favour of adopting the Plan. The Plan will be amended and updated to reflect the latest Wealden Local Plan.



## STAFFING COMMITTEE

Responsibilities include: Staffing matters and personnel issues; review of staffing structure; policies for staff; health and safety at work; staff recruitment

## STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Responsibilities include: Making recommendation to the Council in drawing up a business plan of priorities for the Town Council, working in partnership with other organisations, members of the Town Council or other Town Council committees or sub-committees to achieve these objectives.

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[facebook.com/hailsham.towncouncil.3](https://facebook.com/hailsham.towncouncil.3)

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Twitter updates:  
[hailshamtowncouncil \(HailshamTC\)](https://twitter.com/hailshamtowncouncil)

# APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND EXTERNAL BODY REPRESENTATIVES

At the Annual Meeting, members also considered and agreed to councillor representation on external bodies as proposed:

**Wealden District Association of Local Councils:**

Cllr Paul Holbrook and John Puttick

**Hailsham Aspires (Board):** Cllr Paul Holbrook

**Halsham Active (formerly Hailsham & District Sports Alliance):** Cllr Ross Newark

**Hailsham Forward (Executive):** Cllrs Gavin Blake-Coggins and Chris Bryant

**Cuckmere Buses Stakeholder Group:**

Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins

**Environment Hailsham (Board):** Cllr Richard Grocock

**Wealden & District Citizens' Advice Bureau (Board):**

Cllr Karen Nicholls

**Wealden Dementia Action Alliance:**

Cllr Anne Marie Ricketts

**Movement & Access Strategy for Hailsham and Hellingly Steering Group:** Cllrs Paul Holbrook and Nigel Coltman

**Hailsham Community Safety Action Group:**

Cllr Paul Holbrook

**PCC Focus Group:** Cllrs Nigel Coltman, Anne Marie Ricketts and Richard Grocock

**Union Corner Hall Management:** Cllr Barbara Holbrook

**Save the DGH Campaign:** Cllrs Anne Marie Ricketts and Jo Crittenden

## PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Town Council warmly welcomes the public to observe all of its meetings, with the exception individual items of confidential business, meetings which are confidential and informal workshops.

At these meetings, residents are invited to address members during the 15 minutes set aside for this purpose at the start of each meeting.

Members of the public are welcome to stay for the duration of a Full Council meeting after the public session as observers, but will not be able to join in the discussion unless invited to do so by the Chairman. Members of the public may be excluded by a resolution of the meeting for specific items which need to be discussed in confidence (e.g. tenders for contracts, staffing matters, some legal issues).

Members of the public are also welcome to attend individual committee meetings, which are normally held in the Fleur de Lys Meeting Room in Market Street.

"Local government needs local people," said Town Clerk John Harrison. "The Town Council is determined to make Hailsham a great place to live, work and learn and residents can get involved by attending, observing, making an enquiry or raising an issue relating to Town Council services at our regular meetings."

"Council meetings are a great way to learn first-hand how local decisions are made and the Town Council is committed to community engagement. So, if there is an issue you think is important or where you believe the Town Council can make improvements you may want to bring it to the attention of members, please do consider observing some of our meetings."

A full schedule of Committee meetings, in addition to bi-monthly meetings of Full Council, is available to view on the Town Council website ([hailsham-tc.gov.uk](http://hailsham-tc.gov.uk)).

A copy of the agenda for these meetings is displayed on the notice boards outside the Town Council offices and in Vicarage Field, as well as on the Town Council's website.

**MEETING ROOM HIRE**

Ideal for group meetings and training sessions

**Fleur de Lys Meeting Room**

£10 per hour for commercial and private hire

from £20 per session for community groups and voluntary organisations

Includes access to small kitchen, use of garden and free Wi-fi facility

BOOKING & MORE INFORMATION:  
**01323 841702**  
[enquiries@hailsham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hailsham-tc.gov.uk)

Hailsham TOWN COUNCIL



# GRANTS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Local community groups and voluntary organisations across Hailsham have benefitted from a total of £10,000 in grants after recommendations from the Finance, Budget & Resources & Committee were agreed by members. These grants form part of the 2022/23 Community Grants Scheme.

The Town Council has awarded grants to a wide range of community groups that aim to introduce improved facilities, activities or projects for the benefit of the town's residents:

The Cedars Residents' Association (£500); Hailsham Bonfire Society (£2,500); Hailsham Active (£500); Sussex Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus - SASBAH (£500); Wealden Writers (£500); Environment Hailsham (£4,000); Hailsham Choral Society (£500); Animazing CIC (£500); Hailsham Allotment Society (£500).

Michelle Webber, Responsible Finance Officer at Hailsham Town Council said: "Our grant scheme is the main way in which the Town Council provides funding and support to the voluntary sector. Most of the time, voluntary groups and charities survive on the generosity of donations from the public, fundraising and the willingness of volunteers to give up their time."

"Small grants such as these are a valuable addition to this mix and can make a considerable difference to them when planning and funding a worthwhile project. Such organisations are assets to the local community and I'm proud the Town Council can help them to keep up the excellent work they are doing by way of these grants."

Grant application forms are now available for non-profit organisations, registered charities or other agencies in Hailsham intending to request funding for new or improved facilities, activities or projects from Hailsham Town Council's 2023/24 grants budget (deadline end of January 2023).

**Application forms and grant award criteria are available by writing to Michelle Webber at Hailsham Town Council, Inglenook, Market Street, Hailsham, BN27 2AE. Alternatively, send an email to [michelle.hagger@hailsham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.hagger@hailsham-tc.gov.uk)**

**Hailsham TOWN COUNCIL**

Tea with  
**the Mayor**

**Cllr Paul Holbrook**

Drop in to see the Mayor & Chairman for information and advice, to make an enquiry about the services the Town Council provides, or discuss local issues and items of concern.

**EVERY SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH**

**10AM-12PM** **MAYOR'S PARLOUR**  
(Council Offices, Market Street)

SURGERIES OPERATE ON A DROP-IN BASIS - NO APPOINTMENT REQUIRED.  
**EVERYONE WELCOME!**



# SET UP PITCH AT HAILSHAM STREET MARKET!

Organisers of the Hailsham Street Market are encouraging local small businesses to give trading at the market a try, whether they are experienced traders or a first-time, budding entrepreneurs who would like to sell their wares to new customers.

The market, organised by the Town Council, takes place in Vicarage Field on Saturdays from 8.30am to 1.30pm, and items on sale include selling locally produced items such as food, as well as and unique gifts, crafts, confectionery and more.

The continuation of the Hailsham Street Market, which was launched in August 2013, is just one of many projects being carried out by the Town Council's Communities Committee, aimed at improving retail opportunities locally and increasing footfall within the town.

"I'm delighted that Hailsham Street Market continues to operate," said Deputy Town Clerk & Business Enterprise Manager Mickey Cairn. "It goes without saying that we saw

a decline in trading activity since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, as was the case for many street markets across the southeast and nationally."

"While we have seen a gradual increase in the number of traders again in recent months, the acquisition of new stallholders is our main aim for the rest of the year and we are keen to support local businesses and new traders the chance to sell their goods in the town centre at our street market."

**Pitch hire for the street market costs £15 per market. To book a stall call 01323 841702, email [enquiries@hailsham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hailsham-tc.gov.uk) or visit [hailshamstreetmarket.org](http://hailshamstreetmarket.org) for more information and to access the market trader application forms.**



# FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS AT HAILSHAM CEMETERY

New chapel doors have been installed at Hailsham Cemetery in Ersham Road, just one of the many improvements carried out at the cemetery over the past year.

The new oak doors have been hand-made by a local craftsman and the original door furniture, including hinges and handles, were cleaned, repainted and reused.

Significant work has been carried out at the cemetery including the resurfacing of some of the footpaths - the remainder of which will be completed over the next 2-3 years - involving the overlaying of all the paths with tarmac.

The commencement of footpath renewal work followed a series of other recent cemetery improvements, including the refurbishment of the New Garden of Remembrance with the re-laying of paving slabs, installation of a new weed membrane and new gravel.

Work was also carried out on the old chapel, with a full re-roof incorporating new slate tiles, guttering and leadwork, prior to the recent installation of new doors earlier this month.

Furthermore, some ground has been cleared and reclaimed at the south end of the cemetery.

"Hailsham Cemetery is a quiet, secluded burial ground run by the Town Council and maintained for maximum peace for those visiting loved ones," said Town Clerk John Harrison.



"We want to ensure that our cemetery provides a fitting and appropriate place for people to visit their loved ones which is why we continue to make improvements by carrying out any upgrades and repair work necessary on site. By doing this, we can ensure that the cemetery remains a place the community can be truly proud of."



# NEW YOUTH CLUB OPENS ITS DOORS

A new youth club opened its doors recently, which will engage young people in Hailsham and the surrounding area.

The continued expansion of Hailsham Youth Service's operations and opening of a satellite youth centre in the town, 'Eastside Youth Hub' based at the Hailsham East Community Centre in Vega Close, has been well received by the town's young people.

**The Eastside Youth Hub now runs sessions on Thursday evenings at the following times, operating all year round:**

**5.30pm-7pm: School Years 6-8**  
**7.30pm-9pm School Year 9-11 (from September)**

Sessions are free to enter for local young people and offer activities such as table tennis, games, crafts, well-being and more, with light snacks and refreshments served. A programme of activities such as cookery and sports will also be included.

Hailsham Youth Service, managed and funded by the Town Council, currently operates the Square Youth Cafe in Market Square, the Monday Youth Hub at the James West Community Centre, and the Hellingly Youth Hub at the village's Community Hub premises, as well as Friday Night Project activity sessions and support services for young people such as SafeHub and Sexual Health.

The benefits of expanding the youth service into the east of the town is considered to be of benefit to young people and the local community in general.



"The new Eastside Youth Hub provides a safe place for the young people of Hailsham to go to receive mentorship, acceptance and empowerment, and to have fun in a constructive way, as well as building community spirit and well-being," said Youth Service Manager Andy Joyes.

"Eastside is a great addition to Hailsham and will provide a safe space for many young people, but also give them a range of great opportunities just like the young people who attend the Square Youth Cafe and our other centres receive."

"Within growing communities, provision needs to be made for young people, and by running an additional free centre catering for 11-16 year olds, our hope is to encourage them to take part in other activities run by Hailsham Youth Service if they don't already, such as the Friday Night Project."





# REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF EMPTY SHOPS

Latest 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 drop from the 6.7% recorded at the start of the year. This also compares to a current regional/Southeast average of 9.9% and national average of 11.2%.

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

Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager Mickey Cairra said: "The percentage of vacant commercial units in

Hailsham has decreased considerably during the last quarter and still falls below the current regional and national averages, which is excellent news for Hailsham. Hailsham is definitely the place to be for all shopping needs."

Mr Cairra added: "Linked to this, while it may be tempting to shop solely online, people need to consider all of the implications for local bricks and mortar businesses. Many Hailsham residents haven't yet incorporated buying local into their lifestyles and it's imperative that people realise what unique benefits local products have to offer."

"By switching your shopping habits and supporting your local shops, you can make a big difference and really help to keep Hailsham buzzing and prevent further vacant retail units in the town."



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## HIRE OF COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR PRIVATE FUNCTIONS

Bookings from residents and for private function and children's or family party hire of the James West Community Centre in Brunel Drive have been reinstated, following the easing of restrictions a few months ago.

Additionally, community groups, businesses and other hirers are able to use the centre for social events, sports, business meetings, memorial services and other activities.

The Centre consists of an 18m x 11.7m hall, able to accommodate an audience of around 200 seated, in addition to two meeting rooms. The facility also includes a modern kitchen, store rooms, toilets, changing rooms and a P.A. system.

**For further information or to make a booking, contact the Town Council on 01323 841702 or email [sherridan.harper@hailsham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:sherridan.harper@hailsham-tc.gov.uk)**



## TEA WITH THE MAYOR ADVICE SURGERY

Residents can visit the Town Council offices and meet the Mayor of Hailsham Cllr Paul Holbrook at his monthly surgeries.

'Tea with the Mayor' advice surgeries take place on the second Friday of every month (10am-12pm), enabling residents to make enquiries about the services the Town Council provides, as well as discuss local issues and raise items of concern.

**Surgeries operate on a drop-in basis, with no appointment needed**



## HAILSHAM'S TREE WARDEN

Have you noticed any dead, diseased or dangerous trees in Hailsham's public open spaces? Do you wish to report damage or vandalism to protected trees in your neighbourhood?

Making sure trees on public property remain beautiful and don't become safety hazards falls into the hands of Hailsham's Tree Warden, Sam Spiers, appointed by the Town Council.

Sam, an experienced arboriculturist, is responsible for notifying the Town Council of threats to trees such as illegal building works, diseases and vandalism and advising the Council on various tree matters including those relating to tree policies and preservation orders.

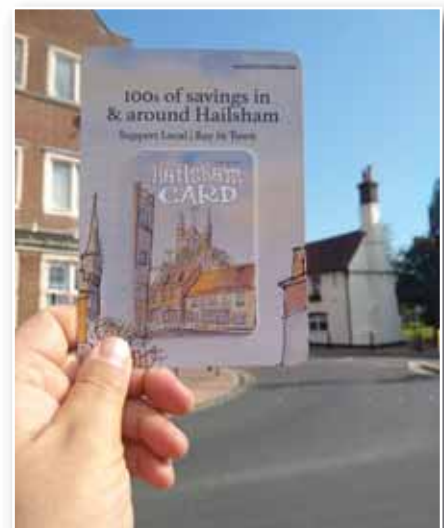
**To report damage to or potential safety issues concerning trees in public areas within Hailsham, contact Sam Spiers on 07812 910957 or email [townandcountrytrees@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:townandcountrytrees@hotmail.co.uk)**

## HAILSHAM CARDS AVAILABLE TO BUY AT POST OFFICE

The 'Hailsham Card', a loyalty card scheme launched to give customers a greater incentive to use town centre shops, is now available to purchase from the town centre post office located in the High Street, among other locations.

Operated by Town City Cards and fully supported by the Town Council, the Hailsham Card offers 100s of exclusive discounts and offers to shoppers, diners and other service users in and around the town.

Membership costs just £12 and cardholders can use the card to receive discounts in all the local businesses that are part of the scheme (including any online businesses) together with any other towns across Sussex that are signed up to the scheme, including Eastbourne, Hastings and Bexhill.



# 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.**



## ANNUAL FISHING SEASON

Summer here and so is the onset of the fishing season! Angling enthusiasts can enjoy the best coarse fishing and cast a line on the Town Council's waterways with the start of the annual fishing season on Thursday 16th June.

Fishing is currently permitted on season at two Town Council managed sites: Hailsham Country Park lake (off Gleneagles Drive) and Hempstead Pond (adjacent to Tilehurst Wood). Both fishing areas are well-stocked with fish including carp, bream, roach, rudd, tench, perch and pike.

Karen Giddings, Environment & Planning Officer at Hailsham Town Council said, "For the keen fisherman, there isn't a better place for fishing than the Hailsham Country Park lake. Besides enjoying the beauty of the surrounding areas, there's an abundance of fish to catch and the nearby Hempstead Pond site provides anglers with a wide variety of species to target too."

Yearly season tickets are available via the Town Council (£40 adult; £25 senior citizens, disabled and children under 16 years). A current Environment Agency rod licence and passport photo must be produced when purchasing permits.

## RESIDENTS' NEWSLETTER COLLECTION POINTS

Hailsham Town Council made changes to the way in which it distributes its newsletter to residents earlier this year.

'Our Hailsham, which is currently published three times a year (February, June and October) and includes articles of interest to residents such as information on the Town Council's activities, service updates, upcoming community projects and town events is now distributed to a small number of public outlets for display/collection by residents, as opposed to being delivered to households in the town.

The newsletter is currently available from the following collection points:

**Hailsham Town Council Offices**, Market Street

**Hailsham Post Office**, (10 High Street)

**Hailsham Library**, Western Road

**James West Community Centre**, Brunel Drive

**Hailsham East Community Centre**, Vega Close

Additional locations may be added in the future subject to a proval, including doctors' surgeries and supermarkets.

Residents can still access the publication online as a downloadable Portable Document Format file via [hailsham-tc.gov.uk](http://hailsham-tc.gov.uk) - and are invited to subscribe to receive a link to the latest newsletter when as and when it is published.

To subscribe, send an email to [enquiries@hailsham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hailsham-tc.gov.uk) with 'SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER' typed in the subject bar. Those who subscribe will be able to unsubscribe at any time by contacting the Town Council





# HAILSHAM SUMMER MARKET

DATE FOR THE DIARY  
**SATURDAY 23RD JULY**

## FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR **HAILSHAM** SUMMER MARKET

Further preparations by the Town Council's festivities team are under way for a fun event taking place in the town centre this summer.

Plans are being made for this year's Hailsham Summer Market, which will take place in Vicarage Field on Saturday 23rd July, and organisers of the event are confident that it will be a great family event offering something for everyone.

Vicarage Field will be home to a range of street market stalls selling locally sourced food, as well as gifts and accessories and one of the highlights of the event will be a specialist French Market, courtesy of traders France At Home.

The French traders mostly come from different 'departments' in Normandy and cross the Channel every week to offer a wide range of high-quality products in different parts of the UK. Products on sale include local and regional cheeses, freshly baked bread, patisserie products, olives and dried fruits, as well as jewellery, accessories and more.

There will also be a candy floss stall courtesy of Hailsham Lions, live music will be provided by the Sussex Stompers and Hailsham FM will also be in attendance.

There will be a road closure in place along the High Street on the day.

"Visitors can expect everything from the finest food and gifts on sale at the market, to some amazing live entertainment and more!" said Town Mayor, Councillor Paul Holbrook.

"Our Summer Market events attract traders and visitors from across the region and is an annual highlight for Hailsham town centre, despite having not taken place since 2019 as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and associated restrictions."

Deputy Town Clerk & Business Enterprise Manager Mickey Cairra commented: "Whilst there are further arrangements to be made, we are confident that the Summer Market organised by the Town Council will be well received by the public and offer fun for residents and visitors alike."

Mr Cairra added: "Our main aim is to work with partner organisations to establish community led festivities - not only during the summer but throughout the year - all of which benefit the residents of Hailsham, whilst supporting local traders and increasing the footfall in the town on event days."

**Further details about Hailsham Summer Market will be announced in the coming weeks.**

**To book a stall at the market, please contact the Town Council on 01323 841702 or by email: [enquiries@hailsham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hailsham-tc.gov.uk)**