

Our Hailsham

FEBRUARY 2023



Town Council Sets Budget for Next Financial Year

Hailsham Town Council has agreed its budget for 2023-2024 and adopted the recommendation put forward by the Finance, Budget & Resources Committee for the next financial year.

A budget of £1,281,529 has been agreed, with the amount of precept of £1,281,505 to be requisitioned from Wealden District Council.

This means that council tax for a Band D property in Hailsham will be £166.65, which represents only a £3.42 per year increase on the previous year.

Town Council members and officers have worked tirelessly together over many months to ensure that any tax variation is minimised for the next financial year. Difficulties have arisen and the Town Council has been subject to external pressures such as economic inflation and the cost-of-living crisis.

The shortfall in the budget of £23 is to be drawn from the Council's reserves.

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.

Some key changes which have affected the Town Council during the current financial year include significant increase in the cost of utilities across most Town Council-maintained sites, in addition to horticultural contract price rises (in line with RPI), further financial support for the Hailsham Neighbourhood Development Plan and an increase in running costs for the James West Community Centre.

The Town Council has made changes to ensure that Hailsham residents are not burdened with such cost increases, and this has required the Council to make savings several areas.

These changes and savings have resulted in a small increase in the Town Council's budget and subsequently, its share of the precept.



Councillor Steve Keogh, Chairman of the Finance, Budget & Resources Committee explained the rationale behind the budget decision: "The Town Council has challenged its officers and committees to make budget savings throughout the year, so that additional money can be reinvested in local services and facilities for the community."

"When considering its annual precept for the financial year 2023/2024, the Town Council has taken into account the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, rising costs across the board and, moreover, the international and national inflation crisis that also affects our local communities."

"The decision to vote in favour of a small increase in the Town Council's share of the precept for the next financial year was a difficult one to make. However, the budget proposals represent our commitment to protecting the town's essential services for residents and our focus now will be to continue to ensure all services are run as efficiently as possible."

"The Town Council has had to take some proactive decisions and has been faced with increasing costs over the past year for the services it maintains, services of which we have a responsibility to ensure are retained and supported, with value for money improvements carried out where possible."

Councillor Keogh added: "Our focus for the next year, is to make a small number of required cutbacks, to ensure the tax increase is as low as possible, whilst continuing to operate our core services efficiently, including the running of the high street post office, youth services, public conveniences, community halls, cemetery and play areas, to name but a few."

Council taxpayers should be aware that only a small percentage of the council tax demand goes to Hailsham Town Council - the remaining percentage goes to Wealden District Council, East Sussex County Council, the Police Authority and the Fire Service for the services they provide.

Locally, the Town Council is committed to supporting community-based initiatives and voluntary organisations, and throughout the next 12 months, will continue to work hard and drive forward initiatives to promote the town as a key location to live, work and visit, helping to boost the local economy.

If you require any further information on the Town Council budget for 2023/2024, please contact Michelle Webber (Responsible Finance Officer) on 01323 841702 or by email: michelle.webber@hailsham-tc.gov.uk



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RESIDENTS INVITED TO ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Hailsham Town Council invites residents to attend its Annual Town (Electors') Meeting which takes place at the Hailsham Civic Community Hall in Vicarage Lane on Wednesday 8th 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.

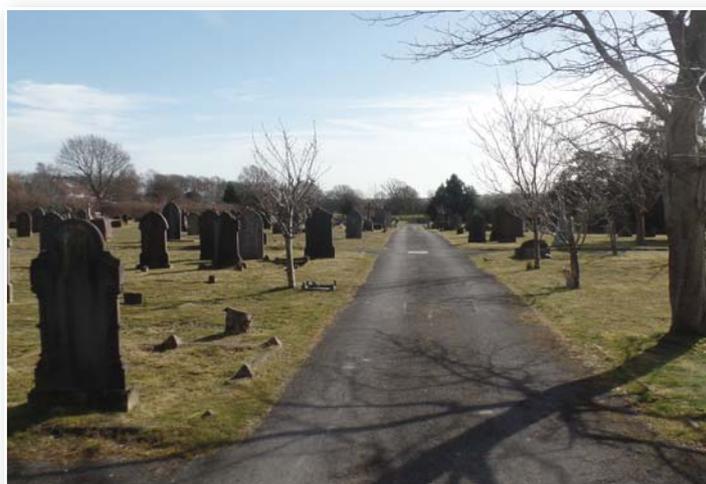
Those who attend will be given the opportunity to discuss matters applicable to the parish of Hailsham and ask relevant questions, subject to the provisions of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972. The subject of the questions can properly cover any issue of public concern affecting residents of the parish.

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.

"It's been another very busy year where we have been taking forward a number of projects, including improvements to existing services," said Town Clerk John Harrison.

"Our Annual Town Meeting offers a great opportunity to provide a clear update on the significant community projects that we have been working on to take the town forward. Furthermore, this 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."

Town Mayor Councillor Paul Holbrook said: "It is the responsibility of all of us to help ensure that the town continues to be a pleasant place to live, work and visit, so I encourage you to come along and put forward your comments and suggestions. Your town councillors will be there to listen, help and answer any questions relating to our services and projects."



Find us on
facebook



Keep up to date with Town Council news, events, activities
and more in your local community!

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

Follow us on
twitter



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

SERVICES AVAILABLE AT HIGH STREET POST OFFICE

The Town Council wishes to assure residents that normal bank transactions can be carried out in branch at the town centre Post Office located at 10 High Street, including business deposits.

Residents can access their high street bank accounts at the town centre Post Office - this service is free of charge and, provided customers have their debit card with them, they can check your balance and withdraw or deposit cash. If you don't have a debit card, some banks will still allow you to deposit cash via the Post Office, if you have a deposit slip. The Post Office's free everyday banking service is available to both businesses and individuals. Information on which banks offer what services at the Post Office is available online at postoffice.co.uk/everydaybanking

"An increasing number of people bank online and consequently make far fewer visits to branches," said John Harrison, Town Clerk and Postmaster. "Whilst we fully understand the considerable uptake in the use of online banking in recent years, there are still people, particularly the elderly, who like to visit their branches and bank in person. This is where we can help, with transactions for customers of banks and building societies."



MEMORIAL PLAQUE UNVEILED FOR FORMER TOWN COUNCILLOR

A plaque has been unveiled in memory of former town councillor Glenn Moore, who passed away in February 2019.

Organised and funded by the Town Mayor, friends, family members and town councillors attended the unveiling ceremony at Ersham Farm in Hailsham last month.

"I wanted to do something to remember Glenn and having it at Ersham Farm, of which Glenn was such a great supporter in terms of preventing development on the site in recent years, seemed an appropriate thing to do," said Mayor Cllr Paul Holbrook.

"Glenn was a very popular and respected town councillor, having served the community for many years and caring passionately about Hailsham and its residents. We were all greatly upset by the news that our friend had passed away in 2019 and still miss him to this day. His passing was a huge loss for Hailsham and for everyone who knew him - and we will always remember the big contribution he made to the life and well-being of the local community in which he lived and served."



"Now, his efforts have been recognised with a plaque at Ersham Farm and we hope the plaque will help keep his memory alive for many years to come."

Glenn Moore was a well-respected and active member of the local community, having been elected on to the Town Council in May 2015. He represented Hailsham Central & North ward and served on various committees, including the Town Council's Planning & Development and Neighbourhood Planning Committees, the latter of which he was chairman until he passed away.

We want to hear your views as they are important to us...

HAILSHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

This is your meeting, at which your needs and concerns are addressed, so please do come along and make your comments and suggestions. Your town councillors will be there to listen and help.

WHEN:

Wednesday 8th March

WHERE:

Civic Community Hall, Vicarage Lane

There will be information stands from local organisations from 6.30pm. The main part of the meeting starts at 7.30pm and will be chaired by the Town Mayor, Cllr Paul Holbrook.

Want to submit a question?

To ask a question in advance, please write to:

The Town Clerk, Inglenook, Market Street, BN27 2AE.

The deadline for submission of questions is **Friday 3rd March**. Residents can also **turn up and ask questions on the night**.



APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR HAILSHAM ACTIVE RUN!

Running races are set to make a big comeback in Hailsham this year and event organisers are delighted to confirm people are now invited to take part in 10k, 5k, 3k and 1-mile runs, scheduled to take place in May.

Organisers Hailsham Active have partnered with the Town Council (which has provided funding for the event) and Sport Systems, a specialist management company which organises races across the UK each year on behalf of running clubs, charities and local authorities, to welcome runners to the town to participate in the popular 10k, 5k, 3k or all-inclusive 1-mile runs.

The Hailsham Active Run is scheduled to take place on Sunday 21st May, commencing at 9.30am in Hailsham High Street.

Entrants are required to be over the age of 15 to enter the 10k run and 11 for the 5k run (with no age restrictions for the 3k and 1-mile all-inclusive runs).

The route has been confirmed and will be within the Hailsham parish boundary.

"Hailsham Active is delighted to be co-organising the event with Sport Systems, complementing our mission to create a healthier Hailsham community," said joint project lead Cllr Mary Laxton. "Yes, it's true, we were inspired by Team GB's success in the Olympics last year and are bringing back the 'Run' to our great town of Hailsham!"

"In the mid-90s we hosted various fun runs but now, running is a growing community activity, beneficial to participants' mental health, well-being and helping to combat isolation



Hailsham
TOWN COUNCIL

HAILSHAM
RUN

10K 5K 3K & 1MILE INCLUSIVE

SUNDAY 21ST MAY 2023

MORE INFO, ROUTES, PRICING & REGISTRATION AT
WWW.HAILSHAMACTIVERUN.CO.UK

facebook.com/HailshamActive
info@hailshamactiverun.co.uk

and stress into the bargain. Of course, this will be a prestigious event that will bring in runners and clubs with their families from across the area, and this in turn will also benefit our local economy and town centre trade on the day."

"Furthermore, we are encouraging all Hailsham residents with any form of disability or special need to participate in the 1-mile inclusive run especially, using any form of support that they require. There will be a fully accessible portable toilet on site. It's so important to us to be fully inclusive as a community."

Cllr Laxton added: "We are advertising far and wide to spread the word of this event, and now the Run is in place, it will go ahead regardless of the weather and applications are open! Let's do this together and help put Hailsham on the sporting map."

"It was a shame that we had to postpone the original date scheduled for May 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions, but we are pleased that we have now launched the event and are accepting applications now!"

"Getting people active is our objective, and we are sure the Hailsham Active Run will be a spur for many to start gentle exercise, working towards another wonderful fun day with the whole community. We are very grateful for the unanimous support with this project from race organisers, and of course, Hailsham Active."

For full details about the event and to register for the Run, visit hailshamactiverun.co.uk



TOWN CENTRE GROWTH IN HAILSHAM

During the past two years, Hailsham has welcomed a range of new businesses, resulting in there currently being a small number of empty retail units in the town centre which compares well to current national averages.

Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager Mickey Cairn said: "The percentage of vacant commercial units in Hailsham currently falls below the current regional and national averages, which is excellent news for the town. 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 since the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic."

"We're pleased to see such a variety of new businesses open in Hailsham and delighted that business owners recognise the town's potential. Both the Town Council and Hailsham Forward (Town Team) have been working hard to raise Hailsham's profile as a shopping and eating destination, and we hope this is just the beginning of the town's growth over the coming years."

Not only is it excellent to see Hailsham's offering strengthen with these new businesses bringing something unique to complement the existing businesses already lining the town centre streets of our market town, but it's essential that business owners - particularly independent proprietors - continue to collaborate to establish a strong community which helps to establish a sense of place for Hailsham and ultimately attract new visitors."

A succession of new businesses has opened in the town recently, including Huckleberry Hair (now LW Hair), Furniture Now!, Aesthetics 4 You and Harry & Ellie's Cabin in the High Street, Sweethearts Party Boutique and Monkey King Games in George Street, Happy Paws, Simply Weigh, Burton Solicitors and Sjann Dance Academy in St Mary's Walk, Angela Marden Estate Agents in North Street, and Bijou Brews in the Quintins Centre.





WARM BANKS: LATEST INFORMATION

Hailsham Town Council partnered with local community groups and charities to introduce measures to help residents who are struggling to pay their heating bills and stay warm amid the cost-of-living crisis.

The Town Council, like the community at large, is concerned about the town's residents and what cost-of-living issues many face during the winter. 'Warm banks' (also referred to as 'warm hubs') became widespread everywhere before Christmas, with a lot of councils, including those at parish level, having opened them because it is necessary in many cases.

Hailsham residents are reminded that, in December, the Town Council set up a warm bank at the James West Community Centre, situated in Meeting Room 1 at the James West Community Centre in Brunel Drive.

The facility is open from 10am to noon on Saturdays and Sundays until the end of February, and everyone struggling with keeping warm at home and paying their energy bills are welcome to attend. Hot drinks are available and people attending are encouraged to bring board games, books and other items with them.

There are several other warm banks currently in operation in Hailsham, including an additional facility set up by the Town



Council and Hailsham Youth Service at the Square Youth Cafe at (1 Market Square, Fridays, 11am to 1pm) and the Charles Hunt Centre (Vicarage Field, weekdays, 9am-3.30pm - for over 55s only).

Town Clerk John Harrison said: "Local community groups and voluntary associations have always been quick to respond to the needs of the people of our town and this has further been demonstrated by the Town Council's provision of its own warm bank facilities at the James West Community Centre and the Square Youth Cafe during the winter months."

"Whilst warm banks are not the only solution to helping people affected by the cost-of-living crisis keep warm, they certainly can help."

NEWS IN BRIEF

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Residents are warmly welcomed to observe Council and Committee meetings, except confidential meetings, specific items of confidential business 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.

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. 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 online.



URGENT REPAIR EMERGENCY CALL-OUT NUMBER



The Town Council operates a 24-hour phone line for residents to request an urgent repair for town council-maintained buildings and grounds. The direct access facility is available out of normal working hours (before 9am and after 4pm and for 24 hours during weekends and bank holidays).

If an urgent repair is needed outside of office hours, the number to call is **07946 211045**.

This service is provided to deal with genuine urgent damage to/repairs needed for Town Council-maintained properties and grounds, which arise when the council offices are closed.

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 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 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.

Your Hailsham Town Councillors

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Hailsham Youth Service



Hailsham Youth Service (HYS), managed by Hailsham Town Council, provides youth work, support services and opportunities for young people in the local area. As well as running clubs and centres, HYS provides support services for young people, in addition to organising a range of recreational outings and activities.

Regardless of background, gender or culture, young people can expect a safe, supportive and non-judgmental environment at all our centres and through our various activities and service provision.



SQUARE YOUTH CAFE (Market Square, Monday-Friday)
Yrs 6-8, 3.15-5pm (term-time only) | Yrs 9-12, 6.45-9pm



HELLINGLY YOUTH HUB (Hellingly Hub, Wednesday)
Yrs 6-8, 5.30pm-7pm | Yrs 9-11, 7.30pm-9pm



MONDAY YOUTH HUB (James West Centre, Monday)
Yrs 6-8, 6.15-7.30pm | Years 9-11, 7.45-9pm



EASTSIDE YOUTH HUB (Hailsham East Ctr, Thursday)
Yrs 6-8, 5.30-7pm | Yrs 9-11, 7.30-9pm



FRIDAY NIGHT PROJECT (Term-time only)
Yrs 7-11 | Times and venues vary - visit hailshamyouthservice.org



SAFEHUB (1 Market Square, Friday (3.15-9.15pm))
Incorporating our Sexual Health advisory service

DETACHED SERVICE

Hailsham Youth Service continues to carry out 'Detached' or outreach youth work, which supports young people experiencing a range of issues such as those relating to mental health, unemployment, isolation and loneliness.

RECENT FUNDING FOR SERVICE

Hailsham Youth Service has received yet another cash boost, this time a £500 donation from the Police Property Act Fund (PPAF). The award was given recently and will be used to fund the Service's arts, crafts and cookery activities over the coming months.

We are delighted to receive this support from the police property fund and are extremely grateful to officials for generously supporting our important youth projects and activities!