



## **HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA**

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO a meeting of Hailsham Town Council  
to be held at the Civic Community Hall, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, BN27  
1BH on**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.00 p.m.**

1. **Public Forum**  
(No more than 15 Minutes)
2. **Apologies for Absence**  
To receive apologies for absence from Council members.
3. **Declarations of Interest**  
To receive notice of declarations of personal or prejudicial interest in respect of items on this agenda.
4. **Confirmation of Minutes**  
To resolve that the minutes of the;  
Annual Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 17th May 2023 - and  
the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May  
are confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.
5. **Confidential Business**  
To resolve that the press and public are excluded during the discussion on  
the next item of the agenda (6) as it concerns: The beginning of legal  
proceedings and the terms of tenders for contracts or negotiations (In  
accordance with the Council's Standing Orders No. 1E).
6. **Hailsham Health & Wellbeing Hub**  
To receive an update from Wealden District Council.
7. **Chairman's Update**  
To receive a verbal update from the Chairman of Hailsham Town Council
8. **East Sussex County Council Update**  
To receive an update from the East Sussex County Councillors for  
Hailsham
9. **Committee Recommendations to Council**  
To consider recommendations made by committees, which are outside of  
their terms of reference or otherwise were resolved as recommendations to  
full council

10. **Motion 181 – Urban Grass Cutting**  
To consider a motion put to the council by Cllr Colin Mitchell and seconded by Cllr Mary Laxton
11. **Motion 182 – Road Repairs**  
To consider a motion put to the council by Cllr Stephen Potts and seconded by Cllr Chris Bryant
12. **Motion 183 – Review of Governance Structures**  
To consider a motion put to the council by Cllr Kelly-Marie Blundell and seconded by Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins
13. **Confidential Business**  
To resolve that the press and public are excluded during the discussion on the next items of the agenda (14 - 17) as they concern: The beginning of legal proceedings and the terms of tenders for contracts or negotiations (In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders No. 1E).
14. **Motion 184 – To suspend Standing Order 11**  
To consider a motion put to the council by Cllr Kelly-Marie Blundell and seconded by Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins.
15. **Motion 185 – 2 North Street**  
To consider a motion put to the council by Cllr Kelly-Marie Blundell and seconded by Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins.
16. **Motion 186 – First Fields**  
To consider a motion put to the council by Cllr Kelly-Marie Blundell and seconded by Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins
17. **Hellingly Closer Working Group**  
To consider re-establishing a Working Group with Hellingly PC



John Harrison  
Town Clerk  
4<sup>th</sup> July 2023



4 July 2023

Councillor's report to Hailsham Town council

Dear Councillors

There are many issues to report to you for the town council on the 12<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Eastwell place Bridge Arts project**

I am very pleased to say that after many months of work, we are now at the stage where we are appealing across the town for artwork to be submitted. The closing date for entries is 20July, so there is still plenty of time to submit artwork. It can be anything a photo or painting or collage. All that needs to be done is take a photo of the artwork and submit it to the Festival website. The generous pledge from the Town council has meant that other organisations and business's have also made contributions.

### **Hailsham and District model show**

I went to an entertaining model show in Eastbourne sports park organised by The Hailsham and District Model Club on the 1<sup>st</sup> July. It was huge and was an incredible showcase of skill and craftsmanship by some very talented modelers. There were exhibitors from as far afield as Frome in Somerset, Kent, Surrey, Hampshire as well as more local groups. Individuals entered their work in a competition of their craft in various categories. I'm very pleased to be able to support our talent in Hailsham. I would recommend a visit to the show next year.

### **20 mph traffic speed limit in the town centre**

This report is to be read in conjunction with the letter from County highways ( attached)  
Earlier this year, Hailsham Liberal democrats carried out a household survey, we delivered a survey form to every letter box in Hailsham. One of the questions concerned traffic speeds limits on major routes into Hailsham and 20mph speed limit I the town centre. Of the replies we received, 63% were in favour of such a speed limit. That was enough for me to enquire at county hall as to what the procedure was. The reply attached was rather more than I had expected. It would be for the town council to decide if this matter is worth pursuing further.

### **Lansdowne childrens centre**

This building is still closed and efforts are continuing to attract a manager of sufficient calibre for the post. I have seen the Job description and let's hope that it will attract the right person so we can expect the centre to open again in the Autumn.

### **Percy Burton Memorial ( off station road).**

I would like to bring to your attention and offer some information about this memorial.  
The memorial to Percy Burton, a Hurricane pilot shot down over Hailsham and crashed into a large oak tree during WWII has seen better days. The memorial was erected in about 1992 form memory and I remember attending the dedication. Recently I was made aware that the ATC

squadron in Hailsham has the number 249 the same number as Percy flew with. The memorial and tree are at present protected by Heras fencing as it is on the edge of the field where there is going to be a lot of houses. I haven't seen the site plans in detail, but I fear that with all the housing going up it will somehow get damaged or worse.

I have made a few enquiries to see if any of the corporate bodies have any information about the memorial. The county Keep has none, WDC has none, they referred me to the Town council. The ATC are attempting to discuss this with RAFA to see what can be done and maybe by the Battle of Britain day, in September next year we can re dedicate a new memorial. If any councillor wishes to see this memorial I will gladly conduct a visit.

### **Police and crime**

Due to The Political Balances act and the recent local elections in May. I find that I have been removed from the Sussex police and Crime panel as the second nominee of the County Council. However, that will not stop me from advocating on behalf of the people of Hailsham. I will be meeting with the local inspector towards the end of the month and will discuss the household survey (mentioned above) with him as there were questions about crime and policing to the people.

### **Firstfields London Road**

I am very disappointed to report that I have been completely ignored by the County Council over the sale of this property. Over the last two years I have written 22 emails and letters to the County Council officers and Councillors about the sale of the building and I that I oppose it. I was promised that I would receive a report directly on the sale, subsequently told that it is an officer decision.

I have asked when do I get my legal right and duty to call this administration to account only to be ignored. I still have not seen the officer report, I may have missed it but given that I have been on about this building officers and councillor cannot be under any misapprehension that they can ride roughshod over me. I am rightly very angry about this matter and the right of the people of Hailsham to have their representative heard.

I have written to the Chief Executive of The County Council asking for the sale to be stopped and an investigation carried out as to why I have been ignored over this matter for 2 years. I have also asked if I have a case to take this to the Ombudsman or even judicial review of the decision.

### **Highways**

There are a number of items under this subject.

Hawks road bridge subsidence,

I have not received a copy of the highways report yet as of today's date. I will of course report when I have it

South road and Ersham road re-surfacing.

As you will no doubt be well aware that the resurfacing works have been going on since the 3<sup>rd</sup> July and by the meeting I hope it will be finished. This has taken a long time and quite a number of emails to keep these roads high up on the works agenda for Highways. It still remains to make sure that both ESCC and WDC recognise that need to get the South road bridge junction made into a large Gyratory and that will finally bring to an end the years of traffic chaos on south road. This matter will be subject of discussion on MASHH 2 committee when it next meets.

New highways contractor

Balfour Beatty are now the Highways works contractors and so far they appear to be doing a good job with repairs. I see a number of repairs carried out and let's hope they will last better than the previous. There has been many posts on local facebook pages about long grass on roadside verges. If anyone sees that there is danger to sight lines due to long grass then report it to [Location of grass – live.eastsussexhighways.com](https://live.eastsussexhighways.com) They do respond quickly and I have passed this information on previously.

Road works station road

Just to give advanced warning that there will be road works starting soon in Station from South road bridge all the way down to the new housing estate opposite the household waste site. This will entail laying a new 11Kv cable to feed the new housing estate. I do not have the start date yet but it was contingent on South Road/ Ersham road works finishing first and as you know these works are in a slight delay.

Thank you

SJ Murphy

Your sincerely



Cllr Steve Murphy  
Hailsham Market

E. [cllr.Steve.Murphy@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.Steve.Murphy@eastsussex.gov.uk)

07510 074256



Councillor Steve Murphy  
By email only

19 June 2023

Dear Councillor Murphy,

**Your recent enquiry14533397**

Thank you for your email of 5 June to Karl Taylor, which has been passed to me as Assistant Director for Communities to respond. I note that you are enquiring about the possible implementation of a 20mph speed limit for Hailsham town centre.

We have a limited amount of funding to develop local transport improvements. We need to ensure that we target our resources to those schemes of greatest benefit to our local communities. To help us prioritise improvement requests, we have developed a process to determine which schemes should be funded through our Integrated Transport Programme.

Your request has been assessed under the initial stage of the scheme prioritisation process.

I am sorry to say that the proposal did not achieve the benchmark score to enable it to be taken forward at the present time.

We understand that some schemes which are not classed as a priority for East Sussex County Council are still important to the local community. As a result, we developed a Community Match initiative. This initiative can provide part funding for local schemes and is managed by East Sussex Highways.

Part of the Community Match process is the commissioning of a Feasibility Study at a cost of £500 plus VAT. A Highway Engineer will then assess the outcomes expected by the parish council and provide a report detailing how a potential scheme could be progressed. This will include indicative costs to enable the local community to make an informed decision about whether to submit a full Community Match application.

For more information about Community Match and details on how to apply, please liaise with Victoria Rojanachotikul who is currently our main point of contact for the scheme. Victoria can be contacted via email at [Victoria.Rojanachotikul@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Victoria.Rojanachotikul@eastsussex.gov.uk)

While I realise that some of my response may be disappointing to you, I trust that the information provided will be of use and interest.

I would like to thank you once again for taking the time to contact me about this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Skelton', written in a cursive style.

Nick Skelton  
Assistant Director – Communities  
Tel: 01273 482994  
[Nick.skelton@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Nick.skelton@eastsussex.gov.uk)

## **Gerard Fox County Councillor Hailsham - Report to Hailsham Town Council**

**ADDITIONAL HIGHWAYS INVESTMENT:** East Sussex County Council has agreed up to £15.7 million in additional investment in highways (subject to July Full Council approval of an additional £5 million) this financial year to include maintenance for extra patching and drainage work and to provide early improvements and resilience.

Decisions on future investment will be made during the council's normal budget setting process, starting in the autumn. East Sussex County Council continues to lobby central Government for better and longer-term funding for road maintenance.

**ERSHAM RD & SOUTH ROAD RESURFACING WORK:** After much lobbying over several years, I'm pleased to see resurfacing take place this month in key sections of the Ersham Rd & South Rd., including the bridge up to North St. Officers have also indicated to me that resurfacing on Diplocks Way is planned at some point this financial year.

**RECENT LOCAL ARSON & ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN THE TOWN:** I have been in contact with Police & Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne in relation to the recent upsurge in local car arson attacks and anti-social behaviour. I sought assurances from her that adequate local policing resources are being applied to resolving these issues. She expressed concern and sympathy for our affected residents and reassured me that additional resourcing is being applied. She reaffirmed that efforts to resource and support the local Neighbourhood Policing Team are a clear priority for her and a focus for the Chief Constable.

My key takeaways from our discussion were as follows:

Significant work is being conducted by the Wealden Neighbourhood Police team to tackle current issues surrounding anti-social behaviour (ASB). These include:

1. **Arson attacks:** police have investigated the circumstances around the incidents and are reassured that there is no concerted campaign of arson in the town. They continue to investigate and PCSOs have been out collecting more evidence and reviewing CCTV footage.



2. **Anti-Social Behaviour: *Operation Empire 3*** is currently being run to tackle youth ASB in the town centre. Analytical work has been undertaken to identify the main troublemakers as well as the worst hotspots, while engagement has been carried out with parents and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts have been signed. The most prolific offenders have been identified and arrests made with bail conditions and curfews enforced.
3. **Safer Streets** government funding is being used for additional police officers to be present in the town for the weekend later this month when schools break up, to provide reassurance for local residents.
4. **JAG FUNDING:** £12,000 has been allocated by the Joint Action Group (JAG) to extend the remit of ***Operation Blitz*** beyond Friday and Saturday evenings, to provide the presence of more police officers in Hailsham at other times during the week to tackle youth disorder.

#### **HAILSHAM & HELLINGLY SET TO BENEFIT FROM IMPROVED BUS SERVICES:**

Hailsham Residents are set to benefit from Improved bus services commencing from Sunday 23rd July. This includes new routes being introduced, timetables extended, and improvements to some Sunday services.

This comes on the back of Conservative-run East Sussex's highly successful Bus Service Improvement Programme bid to the DfT last year and follows the introduction in May of our new (DDR) Digital Demand Response flexi bus service which is designed to serve rural areas, assisting better access to health, education and shopping facilities, as well as to connect to the wider bus and rail networks. These County Council public transport initiatives come in addition to the lower bus fares which were introduced as part of our strategy, and on top of the government's fare cap of £2 for a single journey.

More information about FlexiBus, including details of operational zones, can be found [here](#).

Wealden Bus Service Schedule Improvements full details can be found here:

[Wealden District Bus Service Improvements | East Sussex County Council](#)

#### **Hailsham & Hellingly bus service improvements include:**

- New service 28 to/from Brighton and Lewes via Laughton, every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday daytime, connecting Hellingly Green

(Bulrush Lane) and Hailsham town centre with Brighton and Lewes. Hourly evenings and Sundays. Also extends to/from Eastbourne on Monday to Saturday daytime.

- New route 48 running on Tuesdays and Thursdays linking Eastbourne, Polegate and Hailsham to Knockhatch Adventure Park and Michelham Priory.
- Route 51/251/252 (Eastbourne-Polegate-Hailsham-Heathfield-Mayfield-Rotherfield-Tunbridge Wells). New hourly Monday to Saturday evening service to/from Eastbourne/Tunbridge Wells, which is also increased to hourly on Sundays. Service to be numbered route 51 throughout.
- Route 54 (Eastbourne-Polegate-Hailsham-East Hoathly-Halland-Uckfield) new 2 hourly evening and Sunday service.
- Route 98 (Eastbourne-Polegate-Hailsham-Herstmonceux-Magham Down-Herstmonceux-Windmill Hill-Ninfield-Bexhill-Hastings) new Monday to Saturday evening journeys. Plus, new 2 hourly Sunday service 98 between Eastbourne and Bexhill.

**ARMED FORCES DAY:** East Sussex has an estimated 21,000 armed forces veterans aged 16 years and over, and the county has the fourth highest proportion of veterans (4.6 per cent) in the South East. Within that, Hailsham has one of the strongest military traditions in the County.

On 19 June, the Armed Forces flag was raised at County Hall in Lewes to mark Armed Forces Day. The flag flies in recognition of the whole armed forces community, from currently serving troops to Service families, veterans and cadets. Armed Forces Day is an annual event which intends to raise awareness of the contribution made by the UK's servicemen and women, past and present. The council is also a signatory to the Armed Forces Covenant, a promise that those who have served in the armed forces are treated fairly and suffer no disadvantage.

**FAMILY HUBS:** Following the receipt of funding from the Government's Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme, families across the county will be able to access a range of support services through 11 Family Hubs which will open their doors this summer. Local hubs serving Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford are to be found at:

- Archery Youth Hub
- Devonshire Family Hub
- Hailsham East Family Hub
- Shinewater Family Hub

Professionals, includes midwives, health visitors, Early Communications Support Workers and Early Years Practitioners, will offer support from the Hubs. Sessions will also give families the chance to socialise and support their children's needs and development. The Hubs will run across 11 sites, with more support offered [online](#).

East Sussex is one of 15 authorities to be awarded trailblazer status, specifically focussing on parent/infant relationships and perinatal mental health.

More information about this story can be found [here](#).

**The Apprenticeship Roadshow is back for 2023.** Two events will provide an opportunity for young people, parents and carers as well as job seekers and career changers across East Sussex to meet employers with live apprenticeship vacancies in their area. Attendees can also speak to advisers about which pathway is right for them and learn from current apprentices about their experiences.

Each event will provide up to date information on apprenticeships, ranging from pre-employment through to higher and degree level apprenticeships. One event will be held in Hastings on 21 June, and the other in Eastbourne on 12 July.

More information about the Apprenticeship Roadshow and registration instructions can be found [here](#).

**NEW APP TO SUPPORT VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:** The contribution of volunteers across the county is being celebrated with the development of an app to make it easier for people to find opportunities. East Sussex County Council is working with [The Tribe Project](#) on an initiative to boost community involvement across the county and support voluntary for the right roles.

**CARER SUPPORT** East Sussex County Council has a carers strategy which sets out a commitment to support staff who have caring responsibilities.

Between 5 and 11 June, East Sussex celebrated Carers Week. The week is an annual campaign which aims to raise awareness of caring, whilst encouraging

people who don't think of themselves as having caring responsibilities to identify as carers and access much-needed support.

More information about support and resources for carers can be found [here](#).

**LGBTQ+** Funding has been awarded to the council's Joint Mental Health Commissioning Team from the Sussex Health and Care Partnership to fund three advice services. The services will offer support and information to those identifying as LGBTQ+, or who are exploring their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Details here: [LGBTQ+ support | East Sussex County Council](#)

**Report to:** Hailsham Town Council

**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**By:** John Harrison, Town Clerk

**Title of Report:** Motion 181 – Urban Grass cutting

**PURPOSE:**

To consider a motion put to the council by Cllr Colin Mitchell and seconded by Cllr Mary Laxton.

**MOTION:**

That the Clerk be charged with obtaining suitable quotations without delay, for two additional grass cuts to be carried out in this financial year after ESCC's first cut scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and timed to fit in with ESCC's scheduled second cut on 12th October 2023, say mid-August and mid-September. Specification to be cut, strim, and blow as ESCCs own specification. Clerk to be given authority to approve the most suitable quotation to implement the work, to best serve the safety and aesthetics of The Town and its residents.

Proposer Cllr Colin Mitchell

Seconder Cllr Mary Laxton

**BACKGROUND:**

**Previous Resolution**

The decision not to pay for additional cuts was made by council at its meeting on 23 November 2022.

Minute Ref HTC/22/03/168.1-168.2

**Urban Grass Cutting**

*Members were asked to consider a request from East Sussex County Council in respect urban grass cutting. The options were as follows:*

***Option 1 – Standard:*** Two cuts over the course of a year to be carried out by ESCC at no cost to Hailsham Town Council. Urban grass will be managed for safety purposes only.

***Option 2 – Extra cuts:*** Parish/Town Councils may fund an additional four cuts to be carried out by ESCC, totalling six cuts over the year. This would cost Hailsham Town Council a total of £9,639 for the year.

***Option 3 – Self delivery:*** Parish/Town Councils take on responsibility to deliver all urban grass cutting in the area. ESCC would pay the Parish/Town Council the sum of £4,820.

**RESOLVED** to proceed with option 1 above.

*Councillor Laxton requested that her opposition to the proposal be recorded.*

### **Considerations**

**ESCC Highways Contracts Management group have confirmed they would be in agreement with this suggestion as follows:**

If you can work around our schedule and fit your cuts in between, we would accept this. There are certain documents we will need to see from your sub-contractor and an agreement may have to be signed between the councils. It would also be useful to be notified when your cutting, so we can ensure any public correspondence is dealt with effectively.

Please note though, going forward it may not always be possible for this to be an option.

In terms of the funding, there wouldn't be any funding available as ESCC are still delivering the 2 cuts. And the amount outlined in the original options email is what we give Parish/Town Councils to deliver that service on our behalf.

**HTC's RFO has confirmed that the Historical Commuted Sum reserves could fund the additional cost.**

Historical Commuted Sum reserves £26,450.00 is all we have available in this EMR. EMR shows a balance of £39,450.00 however £5,000 is ringfenced for Staff Review and £4,000 is for Drainage at Western Rd/MT. There are no other funds to take this from.

It is estimated that the additional cuts would cost in excess of £5,000.

**HTC Works Manager** has spoken to one local contractor that has been used in the past who has confirmed that they will be able to cut the grass in August and September. These cuts will fit around ESCC schedule.

Council will need to be aware of: the time we'd need to take to procure, the day to day management of the new contract, which in the past has also included fielding complaints and phone calls from residents about the 'standard' of cuts, often arising from a misunderstanding about the work contracted to do, but also a variety of other issues etc.

It is estimated that the additional cuts would cost in excess of £5,000.

## Agreement and Evidence Documents

From last year we requested all who decided to self-deliver the Urban Grass Cut to sign an agreement.

The agreement outlines both East Sussex County Councils responsibilities and your own.

You will be asked to sign two copies and send them back to us. We then Seal both and send one copy back to you for your records.

**The Agreement must be signed and sent back to us before the contractor commences work on the highway.**

## Notes on employing a contractor

As noted below, we also request certain documentation to be provided from your contractor. We request this every year as certain documents should be updated each year, such as Risk Assessments and Methods Statements.

When employing a contractor to carry out verge cutting on the highway you must satisfy yourselves of their competence.

Any individual carrying out works on the highway (including grass verges) must comply with all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the [Highways Act, 1980](#) and the [New Roads and Streetworks Act \(NRSWA\), 1991](#).

They must also be trained and competent as required by the [Safety at Streetworks and Roadworks Code of Practice, 2013](#). This includes training in traffic management as well as the use of machinery.

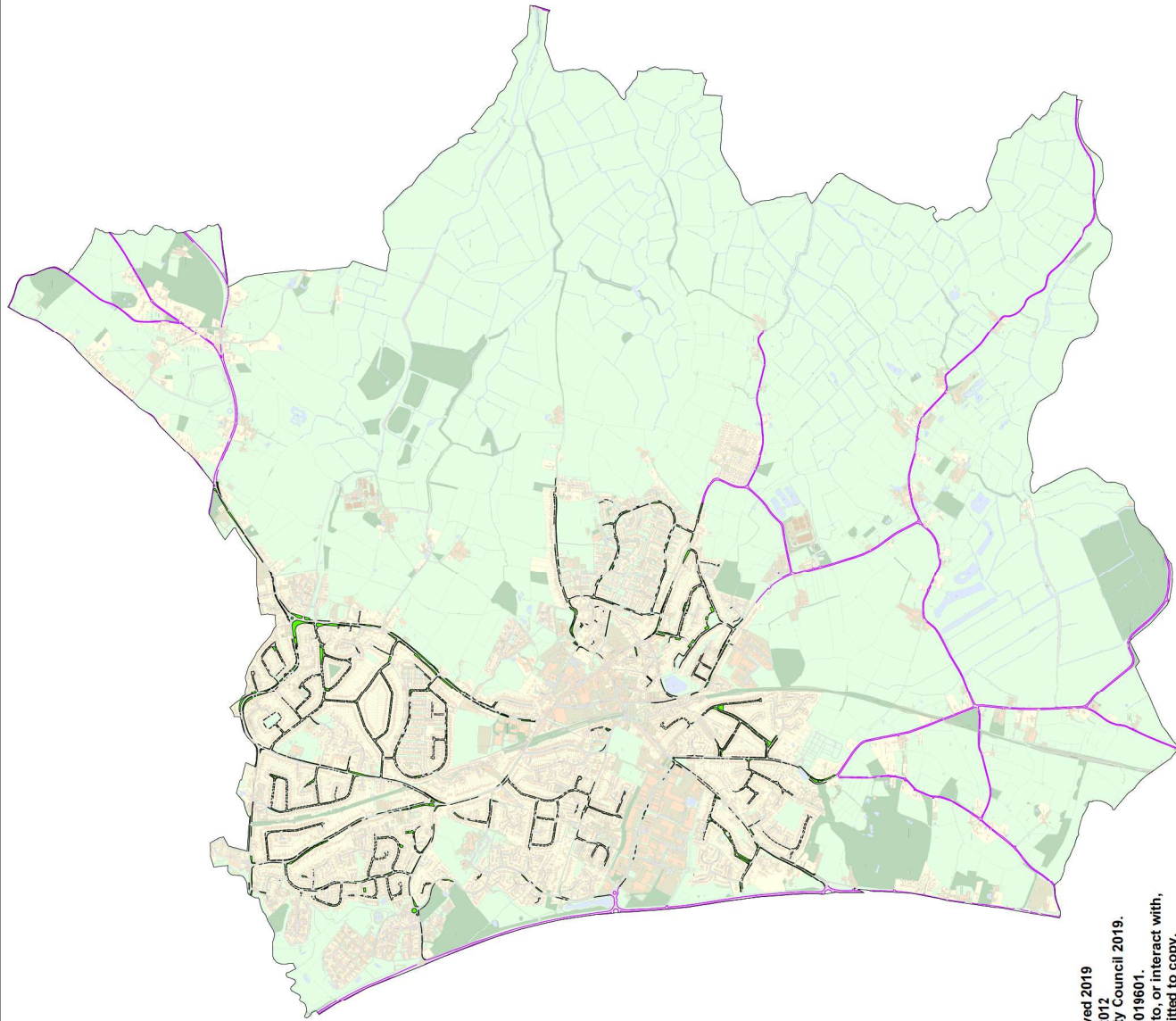
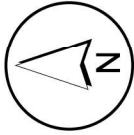
Further information on [Street Works qualifications](#).

In addition they must be able to provide copies of:

- Staff training and qualifications in traffic management including signing and guarding
- Staff training and qualifications in the safe use of machinery
- A formal contract with your Council
- Insurance certificates including a minimum of £10 million public liability insurance
- A health and safety policy
- Risk assessments for carrying out verge cutting on the highway
- Method Statements for carrying out verge cutting on the highway

Copies of evidence **must** be sent to [contracts.managementgroup@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:contracts.managementgroup@eastsussex.gov.uk) **before** the contractor commences work on the highway.





## Legend

-  Rural Grass
-  Urban Grass

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Title: Hailsham Current Grass

Author: Asset Management Team

Scale: 1:34,761

Date: 14/11/2019

East Sussex  
County Council





**Report to:** Hailsham Town Council

**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**By:** John Harrison, Town Clerk

**Title of Report:** Motion 182: Road Repairs

**PURPOSE:**

To consider a motion put to the council by Cllr Stephen Potts and Seconded by Cllr Chris Bryant

**Motion**

Following the recent Motion passed by Wealden District Council calling on East Sussex County Council to address problems with potholes across the district and the pledge made by WDC to lobby ESCC, Hailsham Town Council should pass a similar motion to ensure East Sussex County Council gives full consideration to the parlous state of Hailsham's roads.

The Chair and Town Clerk should write to East Sussex County Council to express our complete dissatisfaction with the level of management exercised by their Highways Department regarding road maintenance in and around Hailsham. This has resulted in far too many roads that can only be navigated by traffic weaving around potholes and this is becoming dangerous for motorists and other road users. It is noticeable that visitors to Hailsham comment on the exceptionally appalling condition of our roads and the appalling state of those repairs that have been carried out to date.

Far too frequently repairs have only been performed on partial areas of damage requiring repeat future visits to finish the job. These partial repairs often deteriorate rapidly increasing the future workload and the attendant cost.

ESCC should be invited to send Highways Department representatives to the next Town Council meeting to explain their plan of action and to give assurances that repairs will be carried out before more damage will be suffered by our roads during the next winter season.

To assist Highways in prioritising their work schedule around Hailsham, we should provide a list of locations that require immediate attention and this list should be compiled following a review by Councillors of the roads in their wards. This information should be provided to the Town Clerk within the next week.

**The Press Release from WDC regarding their motion on pot holes is attached below:**

080/23

8 June 2023

## **Pledge made to lobby county council over potholes problem on Wealden roads**

Wealden District Council has passed a motion calling on East Sussex County Council to address problems associating with potholes across the district.

The county council has responsibility for the county's roads and has its own contractor to deal with issues such as potholes.

At a meeting of the Full Council recently, a motion proposed by Councillor David White and seconded by Councillor Mike Gadd, was unanimously approved by fellow councillors.

The motion called on Wealden council leader Councillor James Partridge and chief executive Trevor Scott to ask the county council to confirm that it has undertaken an immediate and comprehensive condition survey of the district's road network, confirm the extent of work to be carried out and set a timetable to rectify the present state of disrepair; invite relevant officers from East Sussex County Council to attend an early meeting of Wealden council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to explain the position or ongoing maintenance of the roads; and finally to urge the county council to make greater representation to the government for increased funding for road repairs.

Councillor White said, "Having travelled much of the district's highways during the recent elections we have all experienced for ourselves the disgraceful condition of the road surfaces - pot holes so large and frequent that in many cases it felt more like driving across a ploughed field than a tarmacked road; roads where the edge of the carriage way had disintegrated leaving deep ruts the size of the Grand Canyon.

“My fellow councillors may also have heard from their residents as I did from mine of broken suspensions and split tyres in some cases costing several hundreds of pounds to replace. They may also have been told of the repeated complaints lodged with East Sussex County Council and of the poor quality of the repairs carried out when workmen eventually turned up; repairs so poorly undertaken that within a matter of a day or two the pot holes reappeared often larger than the originals.

“And many will have heard of residents waiting weeks for repairs to be undertaken if at all. The county council was clearly made aware of the deteriorating state of the local road network yet failed spectacularly to respond to the concerns of residents with any sense of urgency or effective repairs.

“So bad was the condition, that my parish council received a request earlier this year from Hadlow Down Parish Council to join an initiative to take action against the county council to demand an improvement in the way in which the county and its highway stewards deal with the repair and maintenance of the road network.

“The condition of much of the road network has now deteriorated to such a state that repair is probably no longer an option and many roads will require resurfacing if not remaking in order to achieve a satisfactory finish.

“This council of course is not responsible for the upkeep of the local road network. We are however able to bring pressure to bear upon the county council and this motion seeks to bring pressure on the county council to address the concerns of our residents.”

Councillor Mike Gadd said he was pleased to support the motion and hoped the county council would respond with positive news.

**For further information please contact:**

Chris Bending  
Director of Place  
Wealden District Council  
Email: [Chris.bending@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.bending@wealden.gov.uk)

Or Annemarie Field  
Senior Media and Communications  
officer  
Wealden District Council  
Tel: 07985 812076  
Email: [Annemarie.field@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:Annemarie.field@wealden.gov.uk)



**Report to:** Hailsham Town Council

**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**By:** John Harrison, Town Clerk

**Title of Report:** Motion 183 Review of Governance Structures

**PURPOSE:**

To consider a motion put to the council by Cllr Kelly-Marie Blundell and seconded by Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins

**MOTION:**

Council notes that the Council has been supported by the Town Clerk in organising Standing Orders, Terms of Reference for Committees and the Committees system.

Council recognises that the balance of power of the Council has changed since the elections in May 2023 and as such, a review into the Council governance structures is due.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Establish a Governance Working Group with the objective of reviewing Committee Terms of Reference, the Committee System as employed by Hailsham Town Council and Standing Orders.
- Elect seven members of Council, to reflect the political balance of the council.
- The Working Group shall meet not less than once per month and report back to the Full Council at the earliest possible point.