

Our Hailsham

FEBRUARY 2024

TOWN COUNCIL SETS BUDGET FOR NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR

The Town Council has adopted the recommendation put forward by the Finance, Budget & Resources Committee for the next financial year (April 2024 to March 2025) and agreed a budget of £1,582,898, with this being the precept amount being requisitioned from Wealden District Council.

This means that council tax for a Band D property in Hailsham will be £204.87, which represents just a 73p per week increase on the previous year.

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.

"The Town Council has agreed to increase its share of the council tax for the next financial year," said Councillor Gavin Blake-Coggins, chairman of the Finance, Budget & Resources Committee. "Nobody likes to see an increase in the Town Council's share of the precept, but a 73p per week increase I think represents value for money when you consider all the things that we do, as well as increased running, administrative, contract and other costs.."

"The Town Council continues to deliver value for money, and I think the budget proposal for the next year will enable us to continue to do that and go some way towards making a significant difference for the residents of Hailsham."



Some key changes which have affected the Town Council and justified an increase in its share of council tax include heightened utility costs at most sites, an increase in grave-digging, horticultural and grass cutting cost, as well as recent price increases pertaining to IT and computing costs, tree surgery contract services, the expansion of Hailsham Youth Service, the reinstating of annual grants to local community organisations, the provision of expenditure for the outcome of a recent staff review, and other new or increased costs expected.

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.



COMMUNITY GRANTS REINSTATED

The Town Council is pleased to announce that grant application forms are available for non-profit organisations, registered charities or other local agencies intending to request funding for new or improved facilities, activities or projects from Hailsham Town Council's 2024/25 grants budget.

The announcement follows a decision made by town councillors last year whereby the community grants scheme was put on hold, one of several proposed cost savings to ensure a minimal increase in its share of the council tax and precept.

Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins, Chair of the Finance, Budget & Resources Committee said: "Our grant scheme is the main way in which the Town Council provides funding and support to the voluntary sector. Small grants such as these can make a considerable difference to community groups when planning and funding a worthwhile project. Such organisations are assets to town."

"Any group that has a constitution, a non-profit ethos and are of benefit to the local community of Hailsham may apply for a grant for the 2024/2025 financial year."

Town Clerk, John Harrison commented: "By reinstating the grants scheme, we can be proud once again to offer




small-scale support to help local community groups, volunteers and charities with their projects, events and other valuable work in the community."

All grant applications will be considered by the Finance, Budget and Resources Committee in late March and notification of the decision on applications will be released soon thereafter.

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

The deadline for grant aid applications is Friday 8th March 2024.

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
9AM-11AM | MAYOR'S PARLOUR
(Council Offices, Market Street)

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

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

RESIDENTS INVITED TO ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

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

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 Cllr Paul Holbrook commented: "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 to the Annual Town Electors' Meeting 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."

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 3rd May. Residents can also turn up and ask questions on the night.



HAILSHAM POST OFFICE HELPING TO REDUCE IMPACT OF FORTHCOMING BANK BRANCH CLOSURES

The Town Council is taking action to raise awareness of the availability of post office banking services for residents and businesses, as more bank branches are scheduled to close, including two in Hailsham this year.

Information has recently been released confirming that the Lloyds and Halifax branches in Hailsham will both close later this year, however, the Town Council wishes to assure customers that normal bank transactions can be carried out in branch at the town centre Post Office located at 10 High Street, including business deposits.

The National Federation of Sub Postmasters (NFSP) believes post offices can play a pivotal role in ensuring people and businesses experience as little detriment as possible from these bank branch closures.

Hailsham 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.



"Many banks tell us that changes in customer behaviour have been the driving force and principal reason for bank branch closures," said John Harrison, Town Clerk and Postmaster of the Hailsham High Street Post Office.

"An increasing number of people bank online and consequently make far fewer visits to branches. 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, not only Barclays Bank customers who lost their local branch a couple of years ago and taking into account the forthcoming closure of the local Lloyds and Halifax branches, but with transactions for customers of other banks and building societies too."

This year marks the 6-year anniversary of the Town Council acquiring the franchise for and ultimately saving the town centre post office from closure. Subsequently, the Town Council took over the lease of the premises located at 10 High Street, before arranging a complete refurbishment of the new post office and official opening in July 2019.

Hailsham Town Council is believed to be the first council in the UK to operate a post office.

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 May

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 May. Residents can also **turn up** and ask questions on the night.



TOWN COUNCIL PROMOTING HEALTH AND FITNESS IN THE COMMUNITY

Hailsham Town Council is to take further steps to enhance its parks and public open spaces recent findings gathered as part of the 'Health Parks' project', designed to give suggestions for improvements to parks and open spaces and maximise community benefit from such spaces in terms of health and well-being.

The Health Parks project report focused on current facilities available at three key sites - the Western Road Recreation Ground, Maurice Thornton Playing Field and Hailsham Country Park - as well as potential features which could be available and promotion of those activities both currently and potentially in the future.

Suggested projects include the replacement of outdoor gym equipment at the Western Road Recreation Ground (to be carried out this year); new peripheral pathways, shaded seating areas and a zip wire facility at the Maurice Thornton Play Field site (the latter having recently been completed); and additional seating and the creation of a picnic area and fitness trail proposed at Hailsham Country Park.

Additional informational signage at the three sites has recently been installed as advised and the development of the Town Council's website has reflected this with the inclusion of a dedicated web page focused on leisure facilities in the town - including links to organisations practicing sports and promoting health and fitness.

Explaining the rationale behind the decision to carry out the recent and proposed future improvements to Town Council maintained parks and open spaces, Town Clerk John Harrison said: "We agreed to participate in the Health Parks project,



which is designed to maximise community benefit from green spaces in terms of health, fitness and well-being. The purpose of this document is not to analyse that process but to pull out the salient points and present them, showing where there is potential for asset development to the benefit of the local population."

Mr Harrison added: "It goes without saying that parks and green spaces provide a variety of health benefits by promoting physical activity, connection to nature and opportunities for community engagement. Furthermore, they create environments that not only support active lifestyles, but improve access to exercise opportunities into the bargain."

The recent installation of information signs is just the beginning of a separate campaign to introduce further exterior signage at Town Council-maintained parks and open spaces this year. Other sites where signs will be installed include Hailsham Country Park, the Common Pond, allotment sites, children's play areas, Orchard Park and Hailsham Cemetery.



HAILSHAM STREET MARKET: INFORMATION FOR SHOPPERS AND TRADERS

Hailsham Street Market, managed by the Town Council and recently reopened following a break in January, is calling 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 takes place on Saturdays from 8.30am to 1.30pm and features stalls selling a range of locally produced items such as food, gifts, crafts, jewellery, flowers, beauty products, confectionery and more.

"I'm delighted that Hailsham Street Market continues to operate," said Deputy Town Clerk & Business Enterprise Manager Mickey Caira. "It goes without saying that we have seen some growth in terms of the number of new traders last year, which is good news all round."

"We are on the lookout for more stallholders to add to the already wide selection of vendors selling high quality locally produced items, and we're keen to support local businesses and give new traders the chance to sell their goods in the town centre at our street market."



"We have a flexible structure in place to offer opportunities to stallholders who are unable to commit to hiring a stall at every market event. So please do get in touch with us to book a stall at the next available opportunity."

New traders who wish to sell their products at the market are being invited to contact the Town Council to discuss eligibility. The cost of a market pitch is currently £15 if traders require a gazebo, supplied by the Town Council - and free of charge if traders supply your own gazebo.

To book a stall or to discuss trader eligibility criteria, call **01323 841702** or email kaylee.butcher@hailsham-tc.gov.uk. For access to market trader application forms, visit www.hailshamstreetmarket.org.

**James West
Community Centre**
BRUNEL DRIVE • HAILSHAM • BN27 3FY

A multi-purpose venue for residents, businesses and community groups in Hailsham.



**MODERN AND WELL-EQUIPPED HALL IDEAL FOR SPORTS
EVENTS & TRAINING, MEETINGS, PLAYGROUP SESSIONS,
YOUTH ACTIVITIES, FAMILY FUNCTIONS AND MORE!**

**TWO MEETING ROOMS SUITABLE FOR GROUP MEETINGS,
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Booking/enquiries:
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enquiries@hailsham-tc.gov.uk
www.jameswestcommunitycentre.org

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for commercial and
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voluntary organisations

Includes access to small
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BOOKING & MORE INFORMATION:
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enquiries@hailsham-tc.gov.uk



TOWN COUNCIL PART FUNDING 'STAND PROUD IN HAILSHAM' EVENT

Further plans have been made for the town's first 'Stand Proud in Hailsham' event, which will take place at the White Hart in Horsebridge in support of Pride Month this June.

Project organisers, including some town councillors and The White Hart pub will be hosting a special family-friendly event with festival vibes on Saturday 22nd June from noon to midnight, featuring a variety of live entertainment from music act Moss, drag act Fonda Cox and a magic show from Brad Monks (a.k.a. Very Magic), as well as a Pride-themed bingo and grand raffle draw.

The Town Council is supporting the event by part-funding the project. Entry is free and there will also be activities for children on the day, including face-painting.

"I am delighted to be part of the Stand Proud In Hailsham event this summer," said event co-organiser and town councillor Mary Laxton. "I'd encourage people from Hailsham and beyond to mark the date in their diary and go along to the Stand Proud in Hailsham event in June to celebrate



diversity and stand in solidarity with our LGBTQIA+ community and enjoy the various food, drinks, activities and entertainment available on the day!"

Cllr Laxton added: "By hosting events such as this, we are all underlining our commitment to being an inclusive town and we hope to see lots of people joining in with all the fun as we all come together to celebrate Pride and equality."

HAILSHAM ACTIVE RUN 2024: LATEST UPDATES

Following the success of the inaugural Hailsham Active Run held last May, wheels are in motion for the planning of this year's event, of which members of the public are encouraged to register now and take part.

Taking place on Sunday 19th May, organisers are confident that the next run will be bigger, even better and top the success of last year's event, where over 500 people participated in 10k, 5k, 3k or all-inclusive 1-mile runs.

The Town Council, which part-funded last year's event, will be supporting the run this year by sponsoring the 5K race and is again partnering with Hailsham Active and specialist management company, Sport Systems, to co-organise and promote the event. Full details of individual races, entry fees and how to register are available via hailshamrun.co.uk.

"We are delighted to again be organising the Hailsham Active Run, complementing our mission to create a healthier Hailsham community," said joint project lead for Hailsham Active and town councillor Mary Laxton. "Of course, like last year's inaugural race, this will again be a prestigious event that will bring in runners and clubs with their families from across the area - in turn benefiting our local economy and town centre trade on the day."





INCREASED HIRE CHARGES FOR THE JAMES WEST COMMUNITY CENTRE

It is with much regret that the Town Council has made the decision to increase hire fees by £1 per hour for use of the James West Community Centre in Brunel Drive, effective from 1 April 2024.

This is the first price increase for six years with the last review having taken place in 2018 and it is hoped that that hirers will understand that, with the increased costs to run the facility, the Town Council has been left with no option but to review its hall hire prices for users.

The Town Council would like to thank the community for their continued bookings of the James West Community Centre and looks forward to welcoming new bookings in the future. All current regular users have been informed of the amount of their hourly increase, however, anyone who hasn't received any notification should contact the Town Council Offices for an update.

All bookings taking place from 1st April 2024 which were already confirmed prior to the notice of the hire fee increase (by the signing of a booking form), will have to pay the new charges together with any regular bookings which have already been paid for in advance.

Community groups, businesses and other hirers are invited to use the James West Community Centre for community events, sports, business meetings, memorial services and other events, as well as private function hire and parties.

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, storerooms, toilets, changing rooms and a P.A. system.

Deputy Town Clerk & Business Enterprise Manager, Mickey Cairra said: "Since opening just a few years ago, this purpose-built centre has already begun to play a key role in enabling Hailsham to fulfil its potential as a vibrant and inclusive town and we hope it continues to be a popular community hub, offering a range of activities for local residents. This year, the centre celebrates six years since it first launched and opened to the public and, as a valuable asset

to the local community, currently has a wide range of local groups and people of all ages using the space and facilities on a regular basis."

Hirers can use the James West Community Centre for social clubs and activities, sports and games, dancing and exercise, pre-school and toddler groups, craft exhibits, after-school clubs, family functions, quiz nights and fundraising events, as well as seminars, conferences, business meetings and public consultation events.

Current regular hirers include Hailsham Table Tennis Club, Monday Youth Hub, Hailsham Active, Hailsham Voices Pop Choir, PW Performers and Baby Ballet. The centre also hosts meetings provided by Hailsham Parkinsons Society.

"Over the last six years, the James West Community Centre has been on quite a journey," added Mr Cairra. "The centre has played host to sports training sessions and tournaments, wellness workshops, keep fit classes and more - even baby ballet classes!"

"Apart from the centre being closed for much of 2020 and 2021, which was a trying period for us all on with national lockdowns and restrictions in place, the centre has attracted a good membership base and sees a lot of visits a year, although there are openings for other local clubs and groups to benefit from using the facility."

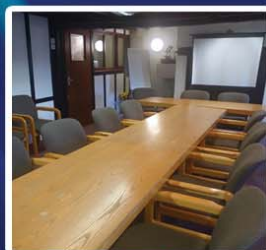
"Since opening, this purpose-built centre has already begun to play a key role in enabling Hailsham to fulfil its potential as a vibrant and inclusive town and we hope it continues to be a popular community hub, offering a range of activities for local residents."

For further information or to make a booking, contact Hailsham Town Council on 01323 841702 or by email: sherridan.harper@hailsham-tc.gov.uk



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 open space; 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;

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

ANNE BLAKE-COGGINS, SOUTH WARD

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DAVE CHAPMAN, NORTH WEST WARD

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Hailsham Youth Service

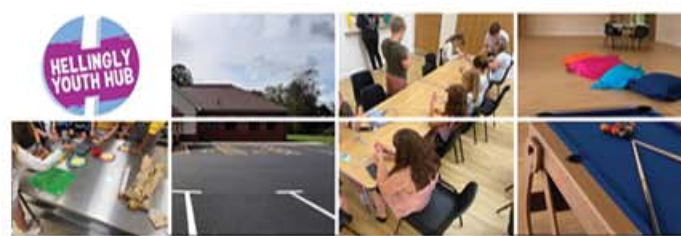


Hailsham Youth Service (HYS), managed by Hailsham Town Council, provides youth work, support services and opportunities for young people in the local area. As well as running clubs and centres, HYS provides support services for young people, in addition to organising a range of recreational outings and 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)
3.15pm-5.15pm (Yrs 6-8) | 6.15pm-8.30pm (Yrs 9-12)



HELLINGLY YOUTH HUB (Hellingly Hub, Wednesday)
6.15pm-7.30pm (Yrs 6-8) | 7.45pm-9pm (Yrs 9-11)



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



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



SAFEHUB (1 Market Square, Weekdays: 3pm-6pm)
Incorporating Sexual Health Service & Detached/Outreach



Providing things to do, someone to talk to and places for young people to go



New experiences, projects and activities for young people to take part in

07546 388180 | info@hailshamyouthservice.org

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