



Preliminary artwork showing how the proposal may look

Once in a lifetime proposal to regenerate Vicarage Field

WEALDEN'S Cabinet has given the go ahead to start consulting about exciting new proposals to regenerate the Vicarage Field area of Hailsham town centre.

"This is only an initial draft," said Council Leader Bob Standley. "We are open to ideas and input from all sources so we can understand what will work best here for the town and surrounding countryside.

"We know that towns are changing and retail is changing. Retailers are under pressure from online shopping. People are now shopping more online, but equally there are now more households shopping on a daily basis, particularly in villages. We need to make the most of these changing habits.

"This will be a big project. We are talking millions of pounds. There are lots of decisions to be made, and it is important we get this right. A joint venture of

some kind would seem to be the obvious way forward but that has not been decided.

"Infrastructure and car parking will be important," Councillor Standley added. "Particularly important will be the success of the town's existing small traders. Niche traders are important to the success of small towns. Hailsham is noted for this."

Wealden's ambitious proposals have been welcomed by Hailsham Mayor, Councillor Nigel Coltman:

"As a long time-resident, I applaud Wealden's draft suggestions for the redevelopment of the town centre," said Councillor Coltman. "Hailsham has a long history as a successful market town, but councillors, retailers, and residents realise that for that success to continue, bold steps have to be taken.

What could be achieved:

- A new retail format for the Vicarage Field Shopping Centre, opening out to the High Street and attracting the next generation of shoppers to the town.
- Cafes, restaurants and entertainment venues to grow the town's night-time economy.
- New leisure facilities to promote exercise and health within the community.
- Cohesive pedestrian access to the town centre's main destinations.
- Improved views of the town's historic assets including the C15th church.
- New facilities for the Hailsham Club and Charles Hunt Centre and Hailsham Bowls Club.
- Up to 280 new apartments and town houses attractive to a mix of buyers and tenants.
- A new multi-storey car park to satisfy parking requirements in the town arising both from existing car parking requirements and the increased density of development.
- New civic offices providing accommodation for a range of public and community services making them more easily accessible.

Time to spring clean Wealden



WEALDEN District Council has pledged its support for this year's Great British Spring Clean, run by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy.

The campaign, which runs from 22 March to 23 April, will see up to half a million people joining in cleaning up streets, parks and beaches across the UK

The Great British Spring Clean brings together individuals, community

organisations, businesses and councils to make a difference to the environment. Last year 37 groups across the District collected some 2.5 tonnes of litter in their local communities.

"The Council has purchased a supply of litter-picking equipment including litter picks, gloves and bag hoops," said Councillor Roy Galley, Cabinet member responsible for Waste Management.

"Our waste contractor Kier is also helping out by donating some of the equipment and providing a special waste collection service. Many groups already have their litter-picking equipment from previous events.

So until the end of February, priority will be given to new groups. After February, equipment

will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. Waste sacks and collection services are available to all groups."

To find out how you can take part in the Great British Spring Clean in Wealden, visit www.wealden.gov.uk/springclean, email springclean@wealden.gov.uk or telephone 01323 443322.

Proposals to regenerate Vicarage Field

Continued from Page 1

"The recent rebuilding and reformatting of the town centre roads were a beginning," added Cllr Coltman.

"The imaginative new vision outlined will include many services that Wealden's fastest-growing town needs. These could include a new sports centre, town centre housing, and new parking facility.

"Hailsham Town Council and residents look forward to working with Wealden District Council to develop a revitalised Hailsham centre that works for everyone."

The next phase of the regeneration proposals will include an engagement exercise with the town centre's stakeholders and members of the public to hear their initial reaction and learn what they would like to see incorporated in the town centre.

This is expected to begin in February.

It also involves commissioning architectural and consultancy services to look at design options, highway works and conservation implications.

A further study will assess likely energy demands arising from the scheme to help formulate a green energy strategy.

It will look at harnessing modern energy technology to create a District Energy Scheme.

Cabinet also agreed to look at putting forward a bid to the Government's Future High Street Fund.



Plan showing a possible configuration of the site

The Government is making £675 million available to support the transformation of Britain's high streets to enable wider economic growth.

The Cabinet report can be read on the [committee papers pages](#) of the Council's website.



Gilbert Drive, East Dean



Windmill Place, Cross in Hand

Council Housing for Wealden villages

TWO new council housing schemes have come on-line, providing affordable rented accommodation in the villages of East Dean and Cross-in-Hand.

The 11 new homes have been purchased from new developments taking place locally, and represent a £1.9 million investment in affordable rental housing by Wealden District Council.

“We are pleased to see these two ‘off the shelf’ purchases complement our current new build programme,” said Councillor Graham Wells, Cabinet Member for Housing.

“As part of the Council’s planning policies, 35% of new developments of a certain size should be affordable.

“By buying these newly-built homes, we are able to offer affordable rental options to local people through Sussex Homemove.

The East Dean development at Gilbert Drive consists of 2 one bedroom flats, a two bedroom house and a three bedroom house.

The Cross-in-Hand development at Windmill Place consists of 4 one bedroom flats, 2 two bedroom houses and a three bedroom house.

Corporate Plan consultation

THE response to the public consultation on the [2019-23 draft Wealden Corporate Plan](#) has been welcomed by Cabinet.

Two thirds of the public response to the Plan’s main priorities of Communities, Environment and Local Economy were positive, and the Plan scored highly on its use of language, with no negative comments.

Infrastructure, parking and concerns about the effects of Universal Credit on local people were all issues raised in the consultation, which was through the Council’s website. The Corporate Plan was also discussed by the Wealden Disability Involvement Group.

Helping residents save on their energy bills

THE Wealden Energy Desk has been operating in the public foyer of the Council’s Vicarage Lane Offices on set days over the past two months to provide advice to householders who may be having difficulty paying their energy bills.

Our Home Energy Efficiency Officer, Justin Bailey, has helped people find better deals for their heating and lighting needs.

By checking utility bills, we can help ensure you are getting the best rate from your energy supplier, and review your current payment methods. We can also help by making your home more energy efficient. It means you are saving yourself money, and doing your bit for the environment. We can also offer help and advice, and

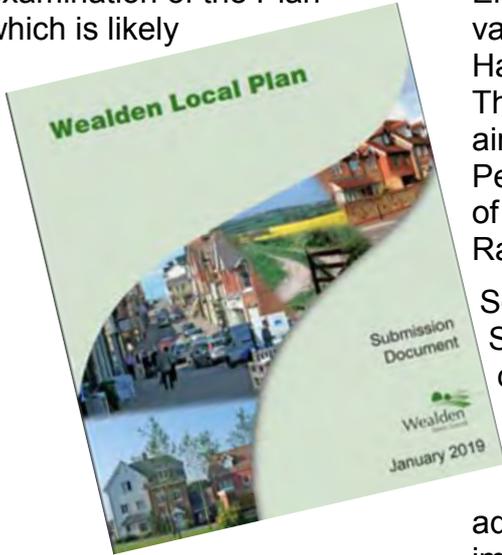
check eligibility for Warm Home Discount. Some may be eligible for other services including the Priority Services Register. The Energy Desk is open on **Wed 13 & Wed 20 February, 10am—12pm our office in Hailsham. No need to book. Just bring us your most recent energy bills.**



Local Plan submitted for Examination

WEALDEN District Council has completed the next phase of its Local Plan process.

This is the submission of the Wealden Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate. It will then carry out a public examination of the Plan which is likely



to take place later this year.

Also submitted were all the consultation responses received including the 2,043 representations received from 372 members of the public and organisations.

These will be looked at by the independent Planning Inspector, when appointed. All the Local Plan documents can be viewed online in the [Wealden Local Plan Submission Library](#).

Following advice from Natural England, the Council has updated various aspects of the Plan's Habitat Regulation Assessment. This includes information on the air quality impacts on the Pevensey Levels Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar Site.

So far as the Pevensey Levels SAC and Ramsar Site are concerned, the submission version of the Habitat Regulations Assessment concludes that there is no adverse effect from air quality impacts of the Wealden Local Plan alone and in combination with other plans and projects (without the need for mitigation).

This marks a change from the proposed submission version of the Habitat Regulations Assessment, which concluded that

mitigation was required.

As a result certain modifications to the Plan have been submitted for consideration by the inspector.

The conclusion regarding Ashdown Forest SAC and Lewes Downs SAC has not changed after further consideration of the advice.

The Council has also updated the mitigation tariff associated with Ashdown Forest SAC and Lewes Downs SAC to incorporate employment development in line with policies contained within the Wealden Local Plan.

This has resulted in a reduction of the tariff per dwelling from £3,100 to £2,697. Approved new homes which don't replace any previous dwellings in the District are expected to pay the tariff.

This is to help implement measures to avoid and mitigate the effect increased vehicle emissions will have on Ashdown Forest and Lewes Downs Special Areas of Conservation.

Council Tax

CABINET has approved a proposed 2.7% increase in the Wealden share of the 2019-20 Council Tax.

The final decision will be taken by Full Council on 20 February when any increases for the county council, police and fire services and all parish and town councils will have been finalised.

Over the last 8 years, the average Wealden council tax increase has been kept at less than 1% per year.

Topping out takes place at the Crematorium

WEALDEN Chairman Councillor Chris Hardy laid the final stone in Wealden's new crematorium to mark the completion of the building's structure.

District and Parish Council representatives gathered with the site team who have delivered the £5 million project. They include Baxall Construction, Clague Architects and MacConvilles Surveying. The modern, multi-faith facility is located south of Horam, along the A267.

It boasts a 120 seat ceremony hall, and car parking for 150 vehicles. It will provide much needed provision for the 1,200 local people each year who choose to be cremated.

"We are incredibly proud of the results so far," said Councillor Hardy. The crematorium is expected to open in March 2019.



Fun & Safety diary dates

THREE Wealden Fun and Safety Days have been arranged for Crowborough, Hailsham and Uckfield this April.

Popular attractions include a children's entertainer, a fire engine, arts and crafts and a play zone.

The free events include *One You East Sussex*, who will be offering advice about healthier lifestyles.

Fun & Safety Crowborough is on Tuesday 9 April at the Beacon Road Fire Station.

Fun & Safety Hailsham is on Wednesday 10 April at the Children's Centre in Vega Close.

Fun & Safety Uckfield is on Thursday 11 April at the Bell Lane Fire Station.



A NEW waste, recycling, street and beach cleaning contract will start in Hastings, Rother and Wealden on 29 June.

Biffa has been appointed to provide waste and recycling collection services to all households in these areas and to provide street cleaning in Rother and Wealden.

The appointment of Biffa follows a robust procurement project conducted by Hastings, Rother and Wealden councils over the last year. It follows the mutually-agreed early exit from the current contract with Kier Environmental Services.

Councillor Tony Ganly, Chair of the Joint Waste and Recycling Committee, said: "As a specialist waste management company with a long history, Biffa's company knowledge and experience provides us with confidence they will deliver to our residents an excellent quality of service."

Wealden Councillor Roy Galley, Portfolio Holder for Waste Management, said: "We welcome the news that Biffa has been awarded the new Joint Waste and Recycling contract.

"We cannot ignore the

fact that in recent years, waste collection in Wealden has at times not been delivered to the high standard we expect, nor which our residents deserve."

The Biffa Group operates across the breadth of the waste management value chain, including the collection, treatment, processing and disposal of waste and recyclable materials.

It managed approximately 3.3 million tonnes of waste in 2017.

The councils will work with Biffa to meet the challenges of the changing waste environment and legislation.

Struggling with your computer? Don't get frustrated – help is at hand:

AS WELL as a series of courses offered by Street Learning to improve computer skills, East Sussex Libraries are providing Computer Buddies, volunteers who offer one-to-one assistance to help people get to grips with the basics of computers.

IT for You Street Learning computer courses are taking place at Hailsham, Heathfield, Uckfield, Eastbourne and Crowborough. [Download the Street Learning prospectus](#) or phone 0345 6080196 for more information. Computer Buddies are available at the following set times:

Wadhurst Library	Every Wednesday	10.30am till 12 noon	Hailsham Library	Every Thursday	10.00am till 12 noon
Uckfield Library	Every Tuesday	10.30am till 12 noon		Every Saturday	10.00am till 12 noon
Heathfield Library	Every Monday	11.00am till 1.00pm	Crowborough Library	Ring Library for an appointment.	
	Every Tuesday	10.00am till 1.00pm			

For further information about any of the articles in this Parish Bulletin, please contact Policy, Insight & Communications on 01892 602745 or pr@wealden.gov.uk