

# Hailsham Matters

News from Hailsham Conservatives

**WORKING HARD FOR A BETTER HAILSHAM**

Promoted by Bob Standley on behalf of Hailsham Conservatives, all at Woodclyffe, Buxted TN22 4JT. Printed by SoloPress, Unit 4, 11 Stock Road, Southend-on-Sea SS2 5QF

## Working to achieve a more efficient town council

### Delivering on our promises

**Conservatives on Hailsham Town Council are working, on your behalf, to improve the efficiency and financial management of the town council. Current measures we are actively pursuing:**

- Continue to challenge all waste of taxpayers money, with a view to savings residents hundreds-of-thousands of pounds;
- Working hard, through our position on the Hailsham Finance committee, to argue for a zero increase in your town's Council Tax next year;
- Helping to set-up and lead the Warm Bank initiatives across Hailsham;
- Working with our county councillor and the Highways Dept to overcome parking issues, such as in Welbury Meadows and The Grange;
- Supporting local efforts that will help to secure better facilities for Hailsham United and other local sports clubs;
- Working with council officers to adopt new, much-needed recreational facilities in the town after years of delay.



“Over the last year we have fought a number of by-elections on the platform of restoring financial discipline and management to Hailsham Town Council and improving staff relations,” says long-standing town councillor **Richard Grocock**. “We continue to do so on your behalf.”

Former Mayor, Councillor **Nigel Coltman** says: “Our local priorities are value-for-money, road safety and parking, tackling anti-social behaviour, better local infrastructure, and opposing inappropriate development.”



Councillor **Kevin Lawrence** observes: “Despite an atmosphere of denial among some opposition councillors, Conservatives are working hard to persuade other town councillors to make decisions based upon what is financially sensible, best for our community, and not influenced by political self interest.”

“Although we cannot control the overall council, we continually fight hard to keep your town council tax as low as possible and obtain better value.” says Conservative town councillor **Jenny Cook**



Town councillor **Chris Bryant** says: “We cannot work miracles, but where you elected Conservatives, we pledged to work hard for you on community issues, and that is exactly what we have done.”



Finance Committee Chair at the town council, Cllr Steve Keogh says: “I have been very active, using my business skills, to help ensure that the town council gets better value-for-money from our £1.25 million of council tax, by:

- Addressing financial issues;
- Working hard to ensure that the council-run post office increases its profitability;
- Preventing further waste through poorly-costed and ill-conceived projects;
- Opposing unnecessary building against the Neighbourhood Plan;
- Focussing the Town Council on freezing council tax for 2023/4.

“Where you have elected us, we have worked hard on YOUR community issues, from the quality of fibre upgrade installation, to liaising with the local police over knife-crime and anti-social behaviour, to addressing road safety, dangerous parking, and opposing over-development.”

[WealdenConservatives.com](http://WealdenConservatives.com)

If you support us, join us: [www.conservatives.com/join](http://www.conservatives.com/join)

**Hailsham Conservatives**

## EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

UPDATE BY Cllr GERARD FOX

In May 2021, residents re-elected me for a second term as Hailsham's Conservative county councillor (New Town). I campaigned on a platform of raising spending on our roads and improving our local infrastructure. Since then, Conservative-run East Sussex CC has:

- Set a £453 million budget delivering an increase in services while other local LibDem/Labour and Green-run councils cut theirs;
- Supported the opening of Ropemakers Academy and expansion of Hailsham Community College as part of £42.8 million being spent on Hailsham's schools;
- Brought forward road junction improvement plans for South Road, Ersham Road, Diplocks Way junction;
- Submitted a £35 million Major Road Networks bid to deliver nearby junction improvements on the A22;
- Won £41.4 million from Government (DfT) to improve local bus services;
- Allocated an additional £5.8 million to road patching, pavements and safety improvements;
- Raised road maintenance, spending by 15%, or £31 million, for the next decade;
- Worked with partners to deliver the East Sussex Economy Recovery Plan, mobilising £170 million in investment

### TACKLING POLLUTION

County councillor, Gerard Fox, says: as promised, I've worked with cross-party district councillors to press Southern Water to improve local sewage management. And as chair of the E. Sussex Pension Fund, an infrastructure investor, I've brought pressure on Southern Water's investment fund owners to demonstrate responsible stewardship in pressing Southern Water management to resolve these local problems.



Cllr Gerard Fox works hard on Hailsham issues

I HAVE been active in pressing County Highways to resurface substantial parts of the Ersham Road (scheduled for this coming spring), and to address the state of the South Rd Bridge (significant intervention promised this year). I continue to argue for better-connected cycling and walking, as a part of local infrastructure projects, and have persuaded County to commit to update the local MASHH infrastructure plan.

I've liaised with PCSOs, residents and local councillors on multiple road-safety and anti-social-behaviour issues. I helped *Hailsham Live* to secure permissions to hold their very successful event in 2021 and *Hailsham Active* in advancing negotiations to get the Maurice Thornton Playing Fields lease extended by Wealden. My wife and I were thrilled to sponsor the Stringers' game versus Selsey in March 2022. I was pleased to support local employer JLC when they hosted Climate Change Minister Alok Sharma.

Follow my news: [www.gerardfox.org.uk](http://www.gerardfox.org.uk)

As Chair of the East Sussex Pension Fund Committee, Cllr Gerard Fox collected the *Fund of the Year 2021* award on behalf of the team.



## District Update by Cllrs Richard Grocock and Nigel Coltman



New medical centre poised

Conservative-run Wealden District Council is moving ahead with plans for the new **Hailsham medical centre** and is in discussions with the Sussex ICS and local GPs over their needs.

The new **leisure centre** associated with this development is planned to include an eight-lane competitive-standard pool, plus a learner pool.

The **Knights Farm East Community Sports Hub** project is in its detailed design stage and is expected to proceed to planning in the Spring, subject to any environmental impact constraints. We also continue to explore options for a new Business Park nearby on the A22, and preliminary work has commenced.

Wealden District has offered a lease extension on the **Maurice Thornton Playing Fields** to the Town Council. This will hopefully assist with accessing external sports funding.

The £309,000 in Government funds



that were secured by Wealden for the **Hailsham Safer Streets Initiative** have helped us to target problem areas in the town and to devise smart strategies to make future criminal activities more difficult.

In the past six months, Hailsham Town Council has received over £677,000 of funds from Wealden District Council to support Community Infrastructure.

GET IN TOUCH: EMAIL: [hailsham@wcca.uk](mailto:hailsham@wcca.uk)

[www.wcca.uk/hailsham](http://www.wcca.uk/hailsham)

Got ideas and want to get involved in bringing positive change to the quality of life in our town? We'd love to hear from you.