This magazine contains important information regarding your home and tenancy.
Spring is here…yippee…isn’t it great to see the daffodils and crocuses coming into bloom!

This spring edition of Threshold has lots of really useful articles, which I hope you will read. We’ve as usual listed our estate walkabouts and it would be great to see new faces at these or any residents meetings. I’m really pleased to see the new Tenant Scrutiny Panel up and running and am very proud of the Sheltered Housing team and the residents and all the wonderful work they do (which is highlighted on pages 6 and 7).

It is with regret that I see two residents’ groups have said they feel that they do not trust us. We all work hard on your behalf to ensure decisions are made so that we can continue to provide a good service. Unfortunately, difficult decisions have to be made and there are differences of opinion. We hope that during the year the tenant groups work with us to understand the limits we have within the Housing budget.

As always I’m keen to hear feedback about Threshold. Do you enjoy reading it, would you prefer a different format? I’ll be sending you a survey with the next edition, to learn more about your views, but in the meantime feel free to drop me a line at the Council offices, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, BN27 2AX or email me: amanda.hodge@wealden.gov.uk

Amanda Hodge,
Head of Housing and Property Services.

If you, or someone you know would like the information contained in this document in large print, braille, tape/CD or in another language, please contact Wealden District Council by any of the methods listed below.

Cover Picture:
View towards High Hurstwood.

To contact your Council:
In person – Council Offices, Vicarage Lane
Hailsham, BN27 2AX
By Phone – 01323 443322
Website – www.wealden.gov.uk
By email – info@wealden.gov.uk
Making the budget balance

You will be aware that as part of the budget consultation WRAG and SHRG lobbied hard on your behalf to keep the rent increase as low as possible. The first budget consultation suggested a rent increase of 5% (average increase of £4.37 per week).

After listening to the tenant groups, Councillor Graham Wells agreed a reduced figure of 3.7% (£3.46 average increase per week) for the majority of tenants (not at target level). He also set up a rent discount scheme which means nobody will pay more than a maximum of a £5 per week increase. Most tenants will have a rent increase of £3.46 per week.

For those tenants on the higher Affordable Rents in our new build properties, or those already at target level, your rent will increase by 2.2%.

I know that WRAG and SHRG were hoping all social rents would increase by 2.2% and we are sorry that we couldn’t agree to that proposal as we need to make sure the overall budget balances.

In order to make the budget balance, we’ve had to make some adjustments in programmes such as replacement times for kitchens, bathrooms and windows. If you want to know when any of these items are due on your property, please log onto the tenants portal (see page 11 for more info). We’ve managed to keep the Community and Environmental Budget, but it will be reduced to £100,000 for the next couple of years.

Despite all of the budget changes we’ve had to make, our homes are in very good condition. We will continue to get the best value we can on contracts to ensure we have more funding to invest back into your home.

How are we performing?

The Council has exceeded our target for the number of affordable homes built in Wealden, meaning more people who needed housing now have an affordable home.

The number of days taken to re-let an empty Council house had been steadily improving; however, this has been affected by issues with the contractor. The amount of rent collected this year is more than at the same point in previous years and is higher than the collection target we set.

If you have any questions on the Housing Service’s performance, please contact the Housing Options and Strategy Manager:

housingoptions@wealden.gov.uk

01323 443267

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Minimum number of affordable homes delivered</th>
<th>2014/15 (Target)</th>
<th>2014/15 Quarter 1</th>
<th>2014/15 Quarter 2</th>
<th>2014/15 Quarter 3</th>
<th>On Target</th>
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<th>Maximum number of households living in temporary accommodation (snapshot, quarterly)</th>
<th>2014/15 (Target)</th>
<th>2014/15 Quarter 1</th>
<th>2014/15 Quarter 2</th>
<th>2014/15 Quarter 3</th>
<th>On Target</th>
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<td>32</td>
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<th>Maximum average days taken to re-let an empty council home</th>
<th>2014/15 (Target)</th>
<th>2014/15 Quarter 1</th>
<th>2014/15 Quarter 2</th>
<th>2014/15 Quarter 3</th>
<th>On Target</th>
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<tr>
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<td>22.88</td>
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<th>Minimum percentage of rent collected.</th>
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<th>2014/15 Quarter 1</th>
<th>2014/15 Quarter 2</th>
<th>2014/15 Quarter 3</th>
<th>On Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98%</td>
<td>97.4%</td>
<td>97.7%</td>
<td>99.2%</td>
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</table>

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<tr>
<th>Number of households on the housing register</th>
<th>2014/15 (Target)</th>
<th>2014/15 Quarter 1</th>
<th>2014/15 Quarter 2</th>
<th>2014/15 Quarter 3</th>
<th>On Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>–</td>
<td>1080</td>
<td>1028</td>
<td>989</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Is your family too big for your home?

When you first move into your home, usually the house is the right size for your family. Over time situations can change and families grow, meaning that a home becomes too small for the number of people living in it.

The Council is not under any legal obligation to offer you alternative accommodation if your family grows, however, if you are eligible you can apply to join the transfer list. The Council’s Allocations Policy states:

- Two children under 10 can share a room, regardless of gender
- Two children up to the age of 16 of the same gender can share a room
- Each single adult over 16 is entitled to their own room.

The Council only has up to four bedrooms houses, and these are very rarely available – we only have 27 in the whole of Wealden! When bigger homes are available, we would like to make sure tenants in need of larger accommodation have the opportunity to bid for a transfer through the Homemove Scheme.

If you think your family has outgrown the property you are in, and you are not already on the Housing Register for a transfer, first please discuss your situation with your Housing Officer. Please contact the Housing Support Services Team to make an appointment or see the website for more information.

www.wealden.gov.uk/housing
housing@wealden.gov.uk
01323 443269

Update on Repairs and Voids

On 3rd November 2014 Wealden District Council’s Housing and Property Services was placed in an extraordinary position with the immediate loss of our day to day responsive repairs and voids contractor, R R Richardson’s Ltd, who went into administration.

As a temporary measure Booker and Best (one of our existing contractors) immediately stepped in to assist with the urgent repairs and the Property Services Team took all the calls on the repair line. This enabled the contact number to remain unchanged minimising disruption to our tenants.

Following discussions and checks with a number of contractors Booker and Best were selected to work with us for 7 to 10 months to deliver the day to day repairs and voids contract on an interim basis. They have also been completing the outstanding works not undertaken by the previous contractor.

From 4th February 2015 all telephone calls for day to day repairs (option 1 on the menu on 01323 443375) are being taken directly by Booker and Best to ensure appointments can be made quickly and conveniently for tenants.

On Friday 23rd January 2015 the public notice was placed to commence the process of procuring a new long term partnering contractor. We hope that a new contract will be in place for 1st October 2015.

Repairs for Gas and Electrics are unaffected and continue to be provided by BSW and Barthomolews.

The Repairs Line number remains 01323 443375
Important News on Benefits - Hot off the Press…

From June if you’re single, unemployed and are eligible to claim Job Seekers Allowance and live in the Job Centre areas of Newhaven, Lewes or Eastbourne you will be claiming the new Universal Credit.

Universal Credit will be:

- Paid direct into your bank or building society account
- Paid to YOU
  You will be expected to pay your rent yourself from your Universal Credit amount (you will no longer be paid housing benefit) and it won’t be paid directly to the Council
- Paid a month in arrears from the date of your claim
- Claimed online
- Altered if you have a change in circumstances. You will need to keep the Universal Credit service centre aware of any changes in your circumstances e.g. household, housing costs, employment

If you need help setting up a bank account or managing your money, please get in touch with the Housing Income Team on: 01323 443373. We don’t want you to fall behind with your rent and they will put you in touch with agencies that may help you.

Universal Credit will be coming to other Job Centres that cover Wealden from September. Eventually anyone who needs to claim any of the benefits listed below will be moved to Universal Credit:

- Jobseeker’s Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support

For more help and advice about the benefit changes please contact:

- www.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/benefits
- benefitseastsussex@harcuk.com
- 0333 344 0681

Low Cost Computers for Rural People

If you live or work in a rural area The Arthur Rank Centre can supply a fully functioning computer for as little as £130.

Internet ready laptops and desktops come with pre-installed Microsoft software.

Order and pay by phone or by post with free delivery.

Individuals, schools, businesses, community groups… all qualify! For more information see:

- www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/companies-and-farming/computers-for-rural-people
The Sheltered Housing Team recently attended fire safety training as part of a team building day. The training included hands-on use of extinguishers and was a really useful refresher on a vitally important topic. The team was also recently praised by Sitra for its thoughtful work in updating residents’ support forms, making them easier to complete as well as more interesting.

Last year the team lost long-standing Sheltered Housing Co-ordinator, Tina Adams, to a well-deserved promotion within our Housing Development Team. We were very pleased to be able to appoint Irene Rolfe to the role. Irene was promoted from her post as our scheme manager at Elizabeth Court, Hailsham, where she had been based for a number of years. In January we welcomed Dawn Whitley to the team. Dawn is managing Elizabeth Court and is a very experienced Scheme Manager.

Charity Begins at Cherry Tree Court

Pat Green, a resident of Cherry Tree Court, Horam, bought a ‘make a teddy bear kit’, and set about to raise some money for charity. Assisted by Dorrie Ostle they chose Cancer Research UK who provided a money collection tin.

The money was raised through a ‘name the bear’ competition and Pat went round to all of the residents of the Scheme and bingo players to ask if they would like to choose a name for the bear. The winning name was Rupert, which was picked by Mr Boe, who in-turn gave Rupert the Bear to Jenny Allen.

A very impressive £122.50 was raised for a very worthy cause. What a great story and a lovely generous donation to Cancer Research UK from Cherry Tree Court.

Well done to Pat and all who very generously gave up their time and made this happen.
Kitchen Upgrades at Mary Burfield Court

Residents at Mary Burfield Court, Heathfield, had a lovely surprise in the New Year when they were told the work to upgrade their kitchens would be starting in January 2015. The hobbies room and communal kitchen are also being upgraded.

They have had two choices each for work surfaces, doors, handles and flooring. All of the options have been more than acceptable, very modern and well built, and everyone is very excited and can’t wait to see their choices fitted into their own kitchens.

Many of the residents have already started to empty their existing cupboards and some are buying new cookers and fridge freezers.

The process of choosing work tops etc. has been really effective, with the hobbies room being refurbished first with examples of the options available for everyone to see.

There’s always a buzz at Mary Burfield Court, right now it’s definitely a tad louder!

Sue Grisdale – Scheme Manager, Mary Burfield Court, Heathfield.

New Bowls Equipment for Joan Hughes Court

Members of The Walnut Crackers Bowls Club, of Joan Hughes Court, Polegate, are celebrating securing funding from the Community and Environmental Budget for a new short-mat bowl equipment including a new mat and coloured bowls for visually impaired players.

The team are hoping to be able to compete competitively in the league this year, and are looking to organise inter-scheme bowls tournaments and social events with other WDC Sheltered Housing schemes.

New Social Club at Cherry Tree Court

Residents of Cherry Tree Court in Horam celebrated the Festive Season with carols round the Christmas tree and a Christmas Fayre, with all the proceeds going to the newly formed Social Club, who are looking forward to holding lots of events and activities over the next year.
Recycle more with your improved kerbside collection service!

It is now easier than ever to recycle a wider range of items at home – freeing up much needed space in your rubbish bin.

Did you know that plastic food pots, tubs, trays, plastic bottles, plastic film, plastic bags, paper, cardboard, cans, foil, aerosols, food and drink cartons, can now all go into your recycling bin?

Your glass bottles and jars can just be put into your recycling container for collection. You can even put household batteries out for collection in a carrier bag next to your recycling bin on collection day.

Please use your rubbish bin only for waste that cannot be recycled, like food waste, disposable nappies, cat litter, dog waste and general rubbish. Please do not put garden waste, builders’ rubble, soil and hot ashes into this bin.

It is important that you put the correct materials into each container to ensure that we can recycle as much as possible. Bins contaminated with the wrong material cannot be emptied and a tag will be left to explain.

If your bin is missed, please report it by 5pm the following working day as we are unable to return for missed collections reported later than this. You can do this by reporting it online via our 24/7 portal service at:

✈️. www.wealden.gov.uk/recycling
📞. 01323 443322

Electrical items or bulky household items can be taken to your local Household waste Recycling Site or can be collected through the Council’s chargeable household waste collection service.

Further information on your refuse and recycling service can be found on our website at www.wealden.gov.uk/recycling

Street Learning courses are completely FREE of charge and are available to all Wealden and Eastbourne residents aged 19 years and over. All you have to do is book a place.

Street Learning provides free training in your community at local venues. There are practical courses from cooking and DIY, to those that will help you to get to grips with computers and the internet, writing CV’s and improving your employability skills.

To book a place or for more information:

✉️. ehl_streetlearning@eastbournehomes.org.uk
📞. 01323 436436
or pop into our office in Hailsham to pick one up!
Located at Wealden Council Offices
Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, BN27 2AX
Mondays 9am—5pm

FREE Services available:

**CV WRITING**
A one to one design and production service

**CAREERS GUIDANCE**
The opportunity to discuss your career path and next steps with a qualified and experienced adviser

**APPLICATION FORMS / LETTERS TO EMPLOYERS**
Individual help with on-line or paper based format

**SIGNPOSTING**
Other FREE services offered at our Eastbourne office:

*Weekly workshops* – Sources of Job Leads, Application Forms and Letter to Employers, Interview Techniques

*Job Club Facilities* – free 2hr use of our computer suite with printing facilities

*One to one advice* re: Starting your own business

*Tuesday Club* – Social/network morning

*Volunteer Workshop*

*Workshop for Jobseekers aged 50+*

*Social Media Workshop*

Main Office: 17 Gildredge Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 4RU 01323 431289

www.people-matter.org.uk

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**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

**MAKE SURE YOU’RE IN**

The voting registration system has changed and even if you were registered in the past you may need to register again now.

**YOU ARE NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR REGISTERING YOURSELF IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO VOTE**

You can register to vote on-line
W: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

For help with registering to vote contact:
@. elections@wealden.gov.uk
③. 01892 602417

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER FOR THE ELECTIONS ON 7th MAY**

**Monday 20 April**
Last day to apply to be added to the register of electors. We highly recommend that any application to vote made from 1 April onward, be accompanied by a photocopy of a current passport or photo driving licence. This may help us process your application faster.

**Tuesday 21 April**
Last day to apply for a NEW postal vote or CHANGE an existing postal or proxy vote.

**Tuesday 28 April**
Last day to apply for a NEW proxy vote.

**Thursday 7 May**
Polling day.
Polling stations are open
7.00 am – 10.00 pm

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**Clean up after your dog**
Or a Fixed Penalty Notice of £75 (Maximum fine £1000)

Bag it and bin it, most people in this area do!

Wealden
Sussex Community Development Association (SCDA), Hailsham Trust and Wealden District Council are working in partnership to support diverse communities within the district. The projects they offer include:

**Sompriti**
Supporting people from the BME communities across East Sussex, helping them to use services and ensuring services are responsive to community needs. Includes bilingual support and advocacy casework, an interpretation & translation service, information and advice to communities. Contact SCDA:

- @sompriti@sussexcommunity.org.uk
- 01273 519104

**Safe from Harm**
Providing emotional and practical support to those at high risk of harm from anti-social behaviour (ASB) and hate incidents. To access the service you will need to be referred by one of the Safe from Harm partners including Sussex Police or the local housing provider.

**Summerhayes Counselling Service**
Low-cost counselling that offers clients an opportunity to discuss and explore whatever is troubling them. Contact the service:

- 01273 519108

**Employability job club**
Assisting all members of the local community to access work, learning and volunteering opportunities. Contact Employability:

- @admin@sussexcommunity.org.uk
- 08000 721774

**Shout about Health**
A community development project which promotes healthy lifestyles, using local volunteers to inspire and educate others in the community, addressing local health inequalities.

- 01273 516032

**East Sussex Good Neighbour Scheme**
The scheme offers long term support to local residents (over 18) who suffer from either loneliness, isolation or a disability. The service provides regular home visits to befriend and support. This may be a cup of tea and a chat, support in finding social groups or luncheon clubs, transport to and from appointments, or help with other simple tasks.

- 01323 446404

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**Do you want to learn about computers and the internet?**

Whether you already have some computer skills or none at all, there are lots of places in Wealden where you can gain more.

The Street Learning Programme (see p. 8) has a list of lots of different courses.

We’re also about to publish a leaflet which is focused on learning about computers, where to learn about the internet and where you can go to get online in Wealden. If you would like a copy of the new leaflet, please leave your name and address with Kellie:

- @kellie.eldridge@wealden.gov.uk
- 01323 44 33 91
Tenancy Fraud

Did you know it’s estimated nearly 98,000 social homes in England may be subject to some sort of tenancy fraud?

What’s tenancy fraud?

**Unlawful subletting**
When a tenant moves out and rents out their home without our permission, it’s unlawful subletting.

**Getting a tenancy by giving false information**
This is when a tenant gets a tenancy by giving false information in their application. For example, they don’t tell us they already have a tenancy elsewhere or lie about their medical condition or own a home.

What’s the impact?
- Longer waiting lists for residents wanting to move home
- Unlawful occupants living in poor housing conditions
- Expensive repairs when the unauthorised occupant moves out

What we’ll do?
We promise to investigate reports of tenancy fraud. Fraud Officers will work with residents, local authorities, Police and our partners to ensure we’re making best use of our homes.

What can happen?
It’s a serious business and if someone has committed tenancy fraud, not only could they lose their home, they could be fined or imprisoned.

What can I do?
If you suspect someone has sublet their home or committed another tenancy fraud please contact our confidential Fraud Hotline:
@ housing@wealden.gov.uk
📞 0800 318849
Tip offs can be anonymous.

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**What’s my rent balance?**
**When is my repair due?**
**When is my kitchen due to be improved?**

Find the answer 24 hours a day
www.wealden.gov.uk.

If you ever need to know this type of information, then log onto www.wealden.gov.uk and register for an account through our Tenant Portal and you can access your personal information 24 hours a day.

New, more detailed information has recently been added to the tenant portal in January 2015, so log on to take a look!

We’re keen to expand the information available in our Tenant Portal, so if you have any suggestions then please contact our Systems Administrator Stewart Philbrook:
@ stewart.philbrook@wealden.gov.uk
📞 01323 443355
Satellite Dish Question and Answers:

**Do I need permission to put up a satellite dish?**

YES. You must seek permission in writing from your Housing Officer prior to installing a satellite dish as set out in the conditions of tenancy.

The satellite dish must be erected by a competent contractor and securely fixed.

You should ensure that your contents insurance includes Public Liability cover for any damage caused to persons or property by the installation. If it is not covered then you should have a separate policy giving Public Liability cover.

**I have a satellite dish but don’t think I have any permission for it, what should I do?**

You need to apply for retrospective permission in writing to your Housing Officer. You will need to ensure you have Public Liability cover as detailed above.

**Do I need planning permission?**

Residents are advised to double check with on the Wealden District Council Planning Portal: [www.planningportal.gov.uk/permission/commonprojects/antenna/](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/permission/commonprojects/antenna/)

Or for more information call the Planning Duty officer ☏ 01892 602011 (9.30 am – 12.30pm)

**Is an aerial or satellite dish the responsibility of Wealden District Council?**

The answer is probably not! Certain blocks of flats, such as Sheltered Housing schemes have a communal television aerial, which is our responsibility. If there is not a communal aerial, then responsibility rests with the tenant. Satellite dishes are NOT the responsibility of the Council.

**What if the dish damages the building?**

You will be liable for any repairs. Failure to carry out any work will result in the Council undertaking the work and charging you.

**What happens if the dish becomes loose or unstable?**

You will be required to immediately remove or make good the dish, failure to do so will result in the Council removing the dish for health and safety reasons and you will be charged for the work.

**What if the dish is in the way when repairs need to be completed?**

We will advise you of repairs that need to be completed, proposed start date and duration of the repairs. You will need either:

a) To dismantle and re-fit the satellite dish/cabling at your own expense to permit the works to proceed as planned.

a) Request the Council dismantles and re-fits the satellite dish and re-charges you for the cost.

b) To do nothing. Providing the work/scaffolding can be undertaken around the dish the equipment may remain but there may be a loss of signal and no liability will be held for any damage to the equipment.

If a satellite dish remains after you have left the property, the Council will remove it and charge you the cost and that of any repair work required.
What can you do about condensation?

There are easy steps you can take to tackle condensation in your home:

- Use your kitchen and bathroom extractor fans whenever you are washing/cooking.
- When you shower, close the bathroom door and open the window as soon as you have finished to let the warm, moist air escape.
- When you’re cooking, put the lid on boiling pans, close the door to the rest of the house and open the kitchen window – better still, use a microwave to ‘steam’ your veg.
- If you do dry washing inside keep it in one room and shut the door and open a window.
- Vent your tumble dryer so the moisture goes straight outside.
- Wipe around your windows each morning to get rid of the worst of the moisture and prevent mould forming.
- Open your windows for ten minutes each morning – getting rid of stale, moisture-filled air and letting in some fresh, dry, clean air.
- Keep your heating on low all the time (not less than 15ºC).
- Use a mould and mildew remover to clean any black spots and mould spores.

Condensation

Condensation is mostly a problem in winter when the walls are colder than the air inside your house. The air in your home contains a lot of moisture – just breathing creates water vapour! When warm water vapour hits the cold surface it condenses – making water droplets.

Opening your windows for 10 minutes or so every morning can help to tackle the problem – letting the stale moist air out and some fresh dry air in means that there’s not so much moisture to condense on your walls. And dry air takes less energy to heat than damp air, so you’ll spend less keeping your house warm through the rest of the day.

How much moisture is there in your home?

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Moisture (pints)</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bath or shower</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washing clothes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drying clothes</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ironing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Switch your energy supplier and save

There has never been a better time to become an energy shopper and switch your energy (gas and electricity) supplier. Many people can save around £300 a year the first time they switch. Switching online is simple and fast taking around 20 minutes. You will need the following information to hand; this can be found on your latest fuel bill:

- Your postcode
- Details of how you pay your fuel bills (for example direct debit)
- Current gas and/or electricity supplier
- The name of the tariff you are on
- How much money you spend on your fuel bill or how much energy you have used in kilowatt hours (kWh). A kilowatt hour is the unit which measures how much energy you have used
- Bank details if you decide to switch

After you have entered this information into an online form the switching website will bring up a list of some of the best deals on the market. If you get stuck most of the switching sites have helplines. The time it takes to switch has now been reduced from 5 weeks to 17 days. There has never been a better time to switch and save money. You can visit https://www.ofgem.gov.uk and follow the link to switch your energy provider.

Top tips

- Read reviews on the energy company you want to switch to. This will help ensure you get good customer service
- Submit meter readings to avoid an estimated fuel bill. You can submit meter readings online or over the telephone
- If you are of pensionable age, registered disabled, have a hearing or visual impairment, or have long term health issues use your energy suppliers Priority Services Register

The Priority Services Register

Each energy company has a priority services register which offers free services to help vulnerable people. Some of the help which might be available include:

- Bills and meter readings in braille, large type or audio
- Moving your meter free of charge so it is easily accessible
- Free quarterly meter readings to avoid estimated bills
- Alternative arrangements for cooking and heating if your power supply is interrupted
- Arranging for your bills to be sent to a carer so they can be checked
- Having controls or adaptors put in place to make your meter or appliances easier to use

If you have separate suppliers for your gas and electricity you will need to sign up to each suppliers Priority Services Register Separately.

Would you like to be more involved?

Did you know there are lots of different ways you can get involved in helping to improve your local area by joining your local Community or Residents Association or taking part in an Estate Walk-about? You can also play a part by scrutinising the service that the Council offers – helping us to help you!

You can also join a reading group for Threshold and Community News to help ensure that these and other publications are clear, easy to understand and contain useful information.

To find out more about the ways of getting involved please contact the Tenant Participation Team.

@. tenant.participation@wealden.gov.uk  ①. 01323 443511
Free Fun and Safety Days

Wednesday 1st of April 10.30 – 1.00,
Uckfield Fire Station, Bell Farm Lane, TN22 1BA

Wednesday 8th April 10.30 – 1.00
Crowborough Fire Station, Beacon Rd, Crowborough, TN6 1AF

Everyone Welcome

Penalty shoot out competition
Children’s entertainer
Community Safety
Fire engines
Art and crafts
Refreshments

Sorry, no parking on site

Children aged 8 years old and under must be accompanied by an adult

This is a community partnership project. For more information please contact Wealden District Council on 01892 602757

Follow us on
Twitter.com/@WealdenETC
Facebook.com/Active Wealden

Fire Safety

Following our annual Fire Safety Risk Assessment, Wealden District Council have made a decision to review its Fire Safety Policy in blocks of flats where there are communal areas. The Council is committed to working with tenants, leaseholders and other agencies to ensure that the risks of fire are kept to a minimum whilst recognising the desire for individual expression within these areas. Of paramount importance is the safety of everyone using the building, whether tenant, resident, visitor, contractor or member of staff. Over the next few weeks, final inspections will be made before we begin the consultation and decide how to manage these areas. Any items left or stored in communal areas will be subject to risk assessment of their hazard for fire and/or obstruction.
Children’s Centres offer all families with children under five a range of services, information and support in their local community.

The support varies according to local needs but most centres offer the following:

- advice during pregnancy and when your baby is born
- home visiting
- family drop-ins
- parenting support
- information about your child’s health needs
- training courses to improve your life skills or help you back to work
- help finding specialist groups and services.

Centres work closely with other local organisations, so if there is something we can’t help you with, we will usually be able to give you details of an organisation who can.

Your nearest Children’s Centre:

**Crowborough Children’s Centre**
Beacon Community College
6th Form Site
Green Lane
Crowborough TN6 2XB
①. 01323 464380

**Heathfield Community Centre**
Sheepsetting Lane
Cross In Hand
Heathfield
TN21 0XG
①. 01323 464580

**Shinewater Children’s Centre**
Milfoil Drive
Eastbourne, BN23 8ED
①. 01323 464170

**Hailsham East Children’s Centre**
Hailsham East Community Centre
Vega Close
Hailsham, BN27 2JZ
①. 01323 464340

**Langney Children’s Centre**
Redford Close – next to Langney Primary School
Eastbourne, BN23 7EA
①. 01323 464540

**Uckfield Children’s Centre**
1 Manor Close
Uckfield, TN22 1DL
①. 01323 464300

For more information:
①. [www.eastsussex.gov.uk](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk) and search for Children’s Centres.
Jobcentre Plus will be offering support to all Wealden residents age 16+ through the outreach service delivered by a Jobcentre Plus Personal Advisor.

You can be supported with:

- Jobsearch
- Advice about application forms
- Work Experience
- Finding out about Jobseeker’s allowance
- Information about other organisations that can provide CV’s, interview techniques, other support, training etc.,

Every Monday
- Wealden District Council Offices, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham BN27 2AX. 9.30am till 4pm

Last Thursday of the month
- Uckfield Volunteer Centre, High Street, TN22 1AS 1pm till 4pm

First Friday of the month
- Heathfield Library, High Street, TN21 8LU – 10.30am till 1pm

Last Friday of the month
- Crowborough Library, Pine Grove, TN6 1DH – 9.30am till 1pm

For more information please contact the Community and Regeneration Team:
①. 01892 602757
②. communitydevelopment@wealden.gov.uk

Introducing the new Tenant Scrutiny Panel

You may be aware that in the last edition of Threshold we called for recruits to join our Tenant Scrutiny Panel. I’m pleased that we now have a panel up and running.

All panel members had to apply and sit an interview to become full members. The panel is a mixture drawn from sheltered and general needs tenants and members are: Sylvia Teale, Derek Lee, Jennie Moon, Chris McMahon, Malcolm Palfrey, Tracy Bond, Brenda Hill, Rod Harmese, Lawrence Keeley and Sue Palfrey.

The panel have been meeting with Wealden Housing Service senior officers to agree a work plan and their first area of the service to review. New tenants moving into their home often have few possessions and may benefit from any carpets or other possessions that may have been left behind. The Scrutiny Panel wants to look at the Councils Abandoned Belongings Policy and the service new tenants get when they sign up for their new home.

If you have any experiences to share about becoming a new tenant please contact Sylvia Teale who is the lead for this first scrutiny review:
②. sylvia43729@gmail.com

We are still looking for new Tenant Scrutiny Panel Members. Being a panel member is an opportunity to learn about Wealden runs its services and gain Training and useful experience of investigating what works and what doesn’t. All your expenses will be paid. If you are interested or you would like more information.

Please contact David Gibson, Tenant Involvement Officer.
②. david.gibson@wealden.gov.uk ①. 07985 878729

Sylvia Teale – Lead Scrutiny Panel member.
## Estate Walk-abouts – come and join us in your area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estate / Area</th>
<th>Dates of Walk-abouts</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Meeting Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid District – Housing Officer Jayne Bravery.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newtown Uckfield</td>
<td>16th June 8th Sept</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Junction of Vernon Road and Vernon Close</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry Cottages &amp; Chestnut Cottages Fletching</td>
<td>22nd April</td>
<td>9.30 am &amp; 10.00am</td>
<td>Car park at entrance to estate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dacre Road Hustmonceux</td>
<td>28th April</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Meet at the end of the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks Meadow, Ninfield.</td>
<td>12th May</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Meet at the end of the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millfield, Ninfield</td>
<td>12th May</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Meet at the end of the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Marks Lane East Hoathley</td>
<td>5th May</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Meet at the end of the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabethan Cottages, Hooe</td>
<td>12th May</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Meet in car park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toll Wood Road Horam</td>
<td>19th May</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Meet at the end of the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southmead Close, Mayfield</td>
<td>26th May</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Meet at the notice board at the end of the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queens Mount, Five Ashes</td>
<td>26th May</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Meet at the end of the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Lane Hadlow Down</td>
<td>10th Aug</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Meet in car park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Coombe Uckfield</td>
<td>16th June 8th Sept</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Margaret House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northfield Cottages, Isfield</td>
<td>2nd June</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Meet at the end of the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leeses Way, Leeses Close, Thorney Close, Waldron Thorns and Newnham Way Heathfield.</td>
<td>9th April</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Outside Mary Burfield Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North of the District – Housing Officer Debbie Tyrrell.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alderbrook Crowborough</td>
<td>9th June 8th Sept 8th Dec</td>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td>Alderbrook Close Notice Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jarvis Brook Crowborough</td>
<td>12th June 11th Sept 11th Dec</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Corner of Bracken Close</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queens Cottages &amp; Snape View Wadhurst</td>
<td>17th June 16th Sept</td>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td>Outside Fazan Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parklands Maresfield</td>
<td>17th June 15th Sept 10th Dec</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Outside the play area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South of the District – Housing Officer Samantha Astbury.</td>
<td>26th May 28th July 29th Sept 24th Nov</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Hailsham East Community Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Farm Hailsham</td>
<td>26th May 28th July 29th Sept 24th Nov</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Hailsham East Community Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swan Road, Bowley Road, Arbery Walk &amp; The Stringwalk, Hailsham</td>
<td>23rd July</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Meet at the end of the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Fridays, East Dean</td>
<td>23rd July</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Meet at the end of the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Holt and Meadow Road, Hailsham</td>
<td>23rd July</td>
<td>11.30am</td>
<td>Meet at the end of the road</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Estate walk-abouts are an excellent way to meet other local residents, the Housing Officer and Estate Warden in your area and are an opportunity to identify bits of land or places where improvements can be made. In some cases other agencies including Local Neighbourhood Policing Teams, East Sussex Highways and Town and Parish Councillors also attend, leading to effective partnership working.

Times and dates were correct at the time of going to press, however in bad weather please contact the relevant Housing Officer to confirm a walk-about is still going ahead. If you wish to contact your Housing Officer, please see the email addresses detailed on the table.

@. housing@wealden.gov.uk  01323 443363

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estate / Area</th>
<th>Dates of Walk-abouts</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Meeting Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adesfield, Wilminton</td>
<td>23rd July</td>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>Meet at the end of the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southfields, Northfields and Farmlands</td>
<td>27th Aug</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Meet at the end Southfields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russetts Close, Polegate</td>
<td>27th Aug</td>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td>Meet at the end of the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkcroft, Towermill Mews and Watermill</td>
<td>27th Aug</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Meet at the end of the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridgend &amp; St Nicolas Close Pevensey</td>
<td>11th Aug</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Meet at the end of the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Crossways, Stone Cross</td>
<td>11th Aug</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Meet at the end of the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hobney Rise and Pellham Close, Westham</td>
<td>11th Aug</td>
<td>12.00pm</td>
<td>Meet at the end of the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saffron Gardens, Alfriston</td>
<td>7th May</td>
<td>10.00pm</td>
<td>Meet at the end of the road</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Say NO to doorstep traders

This double sided window sticker has been launched in partnership with Sussex Police and Trading Standards across Sussex to help East Sussex residents deal with the activities of unwanted cold calling doorstep traders.

This warning sticker makes use of the wording of the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008. This means that residents who live outside the current No Cold Calling Zones will be able to use the sticker to say “no” to doorstep traders.

You can cut out and place this on your door or window with the warning side facing outwards.

Official visitors should always arrange an appointment beforehand. If you’re not expecting them and you are alone then ask them to call back later when you have somebody with you – they will always be happy to do this.

If you are cold called by a doorstep trader then please call Trading Standards:

①. 03454 04 05 06

Never deal with doorstep traders

Report all incidents of cold calling:

Trading Standards:
08454 04 05 06

Sussex Police:
101 | In an emergency dial 999