

## Wealden Cabinet News 7 September 2016 DRAFT

### [Helping Generation Rent & Generation Stuck](#)



CABINET IS CONSIDERING setting up a Council-owned Housing & Regeneration Company which would target the development needs side-lined by commercial developers. It would look to provide good quality smaller homes for sale or shared ownership near the centre of the District's villages which can help older households looking to downsize but who still want to be close to their local communities. These frustrated downsizers are known as *Generation Stuck*. It would also look to provide properties for first-time buyers, *Generation Rent*. Another focus would be town centre regeneration, providing purpose-built properties with retail downstairs and residential upstairs. "It not

trying to replicate what the Housing Revenue Account does," said Councillor Bob Standley. "It's about delivering need to our communities which the HRA can't deliver." Cabinet is to explore options for such a company with members before bringing a final report to its October meeting.

*For further information, please contact Amanda Hodge, Head of Policy & Community Services.  
Tel: 01323 443364 or email: [amanda.hodge@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.hodge@wealden.gov.uk)*

### [Corporate Plan on course](#)



THE COUNCIL CONTINUES to deliver on its Corporate Plan with Cabinet monitoring the ongoing success in achieving the key indicators set to monitor the Council's progress. Recent successes have included the refurbishment of the retirement living court at Buxted, the excellent Environment Agency rating for the beach at Pevensey Bay, the contributions made by Coffee, Cake, & Computers events, the My Alerts service and support for the first community hub under the Drive to Digital initiative, the launch of the Wealden Dementia Alliance, increased recycling rates, and continued progress with the first Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS) provision near Crowborough.

*For further information please contact Malcolm Harris, Policy Officer.  
Tel: 01323 443744 or email [malcolm.harris@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:malcolm.harris@wealden.gov.uk)*

### [East Sussex Stay Well This Winter Fund](#)

A new small grants fund has been launched by East Sussex County Council with Sussex Community Foundation to help people in East Sussex stay warm and well this winter. An estimated 21,500 – or one in ten – households in the county is living in fuel poverty. The East Sussex *Stay Well This Winter* Fund has £12,000 available for projects which raise awareness of services to tackle fuel poverty, offer practical assistance, advice and support or run activities to help people stay warm and well. It will allow local groups and charities to play a greater role in supporting older and vulnerable people. The deadline for applications for grants of up to £5,000 is October 7, and successful projects must complete their work by March 2017.

*For further information please contact The Sussex Community Foundation.  
Tel: 01273 409440 or email: [info@sussexgiving.org.uk](mailto:info@sussexgiving.org.uk)*

## Planning News

### [Progress with the Hailsham Area Action Plan](#)



Seven months after the first meeting of the Hailsham Area Action Plan steering group, a picture is emerging of the improvements and new facilities the Hailsham area may see over the next 20 years. At its July meeting, the Hailsham Area Action Plan Steering Group heard that GPs and the Eastbourne, Hailsham & Seaford Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) were working with Wealden and developers to actively progress a health facility as part of a combined effort to improve facilities for the town. The possible location would be close to the town centre on land set aside for this purpose in the Burfield Valley. The September Steering Group meeting heard that additional help is being sought through the East Sussex Better Together initiative to ensure that the area is a more attractive location for GPs to move to. The provision of new facilities will assist this. Stage one of a transport study looking at the A22 and A27 including re-routing the A22, new junctions at Polegate, Willingdon and Polegate train station had been completed and a report will be given at the November meeting. Widening the A27 within Wealden District is also being considered and remains an important part of the Plan. East Sussex County Council and Wealden District Council are working together to identify ways of meeting the identified need for new primary school places from 2018-19. The steering group is made up of representatives from local councils, schools, the clinical commissioning group, businesses and statutory service providers.

*For further information please contact Nigel Hannam, Director of Planning Policy & Economic Development  
Tel: 01323 443230 or email: [nigel.hannam@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.hannam@wealden.gov.uk)*

### [Community Grants Scheme now open](#)



Grants are available from Wealden's **Small and Capital Grant Schemes** to help local groups and village organisations continue the valuable work they do for the community. The closing date is **30 November 2016** so that awards can be made for the 2017/18 financial year. Small grants can offer up to £3,000 for equipment and programmes run by clubs and societies; Capital grants offer up to £10,000 for improvements to community buildings and sports grounds. Last year Wealden made awards totalling £23,000 through the Small Grants Scheme and £76,000 through the Capital Grants scheme to 41 local organisations. Grants have to be match funded, but this can be entirely 'in-kind' through volunteer time. A limited number of 40 minute pre-application advice sessions will take place on:

- Uckfield - Tuesday 11 Oct (am)
- Crowborough - Friday 14 Oct (pm) and Monday 17 Oct (am)
- Hailsham - Thursday 20 Oct (am) and Wed 2 Nov (pm)
- Forest Row – Tuesday 1 Nov (am)

Sessions must be booked in advance and are to discuss a drafted application for your organisation. They should be pre-booked on 01323 443520 or email [communitygrants@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:communitygrants@wealden.gov.uk). Organisations that cannot attend a session can submit a draft application form by 15 November, and we will provide feedback to help to strengthen the application, although it cannot guarantee success. More information about the application process can be found on [the Wealden website](#).

*For further information please contact Michelle Gray, Partnerships & Funding Support Officer  
Tel: 01323 443520 or email [michelle.gray@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.gray@wealden.gov.uk)*

## 60 Coast & Country walks to choose from



The Sussex Coast and Country Walking Festival, organised by Wealden District Council and Eastbourne Borough Council, runs from 24 September to 2 October and features over 60 different walks catering for strollers and enthusiasts alike. One of the features is a series of nine walks using Nordic walking sticks which help increase upper body activity, widen the range of muscles used and increase cardiovascular activity. This year also includes six wheel-chair friendly walks taking place in Pevensey Bay, Eastbourne Old Town, Hampden Park, Hailsham and Eastbourne Shinewater Country Park. Many of the Festival walks feature historical themes, including *Venit at Pevensae*, a 5 mile walk to commemorate the landing of William the Conqueror on what was Wealden's hidden Saxon coast 950 years ago, *Burning, Looting and Pillaging* which looks at how the Normans treated Saxon settlements like Hooe and the surrounding countryside once they had arrived, and to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first publication of Winnie the Pooh, there are walks featuring AA Milne's *Winnie the Pooh Places on Ashdown Forest*, and a short one mile *Winnie the Pooh Anniversary Amble* in Ashdown Forest. More the [Coast and Country Walking Festival website](#).

*For further information please contact Sophie Hepworth, Public Health Specialist.  
Tel: 01323 443275 or email [sophie.hepworth@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:sophie.hepworth@wealden.gov.uk)*

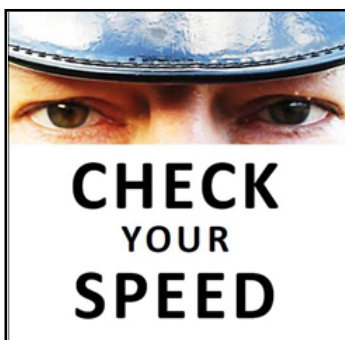
## Wealden Works Careers Fair



Wealden District Council is holding the third *Wealden Works* Careers Fair at the East Sussex National Hotel in Uckfield between 9:30am and 3pm on Monday October 3. The Fair is free and open to everyone under 25 and features some 40 exhibitors including 15 who are attending for the first time. Employers from the public sector, local and national companies, charities and further education organisations will offer help and advice on potential careers, training and apprenticeships. All secondary schools from across Wealden have been invited. Alongside the exhibition, Wealden District Council is working with East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service to highlight important aspects of road safety as part of their current campaigns with young drivers. The careers fair is sponsored by Sussex Downs College and Waitrose.

*For further information please contact Zoe Clarke, Community & Regeneration Officer.  
Tel: 01323 443266 or email [zoe.clarke@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:zoe.clarke@wealden.gov.uk)*

## Action to improve road safety



The number of older drivers and passengers killed or seriously injured on Wealden's roads has increased. Dr Jeremy Leach, reporting on Road Safety to Wealden's Overview and Scrutiny committee, said the number of over 60s killed or serious injured had risen from 18 in 2012 to 34 last year. The number of people aged 16-24 killed or seriously injured in the past two years has declined from 35 in 2013 to 22 in 2015. While the safety of young drivers still remains a serious concern, Dr Leach highlighted the increasing number of drivers aged over 80, and the concerns of families in rural area when advising elderly relatives on giving up driving. According to figures released in July 2016, the number of people killed or seriously injured on Wealden's roads so far this year is 81, six more than for the same period last year. The speed of motorists continues to be a factor undermining safety on local roads and the Safer Wealden Partnership has recently purchased more hand-held radar guns which are available to Speed Watch groups across Wealden to help them monitor speeds. The need to keep within speed limits is being reinforced by the Check your Speed poster campaign by Sussex Police.

*For further information, please contact Jeremy Leach, Principal Policy Advisor.  
Tel: 01323 443305 or email [jeremy.leach@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:jeremy.leach@wealden.gov.uk)*



## Your right to vote

Wealden District Council is carrying out its annual canvass of electors. All households in Wealden will have received their annual voters enquiry form which helps make sure the information the Council holds on the Electoral Register is up-to-date so residents can take part in future elections and referendums. Residents who have not already responded are asked to do so now as the Council will be hiring canvassers to visit households in October which have not replied. Residents can respond in several ways, either:

- Online at [www.householdresponse.com/wealden](http://www.householdresponse.com/wealden)
- By returning the form using the reply-paid envelope provided
- If all the details on the form are correct, you can phone 0800 197 9871 or you can text 80212

Any residents with questions can email [elections@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:elections@wealden.gov.uk) or phone 01892 602417.

*For further information, please contact Heather Blanshard, Electoral Services Manager.  
Tel: 01892 602416 or email: [heather.blanshard@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:heather.blanshard@wealden.gov.uk)*

## Discovering new activities this summer



This year 1701 children attended the five Wealden summer activity days held at Crowborough, Polegate, Heathfield, Hailsham and Uckfield. These events aim to encourage all members of the family to become more active and enjoy playing together. Sport taster sessions introduced children to the different activities that are available in their area. These sessions included hockey, bowls and cricket, racquet sports, competitive and giant outdoor games, fun exercises and soft play. Other activities included cookery workshops with Olly Dawson, stocks and sponges with Booker & Best, badge making with East

Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, storytelling, meeting the emergency services, bubble making with Jo Oakley and arts and crafts with Radiator Arts. In addition hearing tests were provided by East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre, health advice from the Health Trainers and financial advice from East Sussex Credit Union. Comments made by parents afterwards were: “Well organised - good to have a go at different sports”, “Really good mixture of things to do.” “Great to try new things” and “Brilliant! All volunteers are very happy and friendly people.”

*For further information please contact Sophie Hepworth, Public Health Specialist.  
Tel: 01323 443275 or email [sophie.hepworth@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:sophie.hepworth@wealden.gov.uk)*

## High Street improvements make a difference



The final touches are being carried out to the major improvement scheme which has transformed Uckfield town centre. Contractors Colas are expected to leave the site by the end of September. The project has included widening and upgrading the pavement with high quality York stone paving, new street lights, upgraded traffic signals and tree planting to alleviate surface water flooding. The improvements to the High Street, between Bell Lane and Church Street, are the second stage of the Uckfield Town Centre Highway Improvement scheme, funded by around £3 million of developer contributions. It has

been overseen by a project board made up of representatives from East Sussex County Council, Wealden District Council and Uckfield Town Council. Board chairman Cllr Claire Dowling said: “It’s fantastic to see the major part of the work completed and the difference it has made in creating a more attractive town centre for everyone to enjoy. Crucially, it will allow Uckfield to continue to be a thriving and prosperous town, and to cope now and in the future with increased traffic resulting from all the new housing developments we’ve seen.”

*For further information please contact Nigel Hannam, Director of Planning Policy & Economic Development  
Tel: 01323 443230 or email: [nigel.hannam@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.hannam@wealden.gov.uk)*

## Freedom Leisure shows how it is done



Freedom Leisure, operator of Wealden District Council's four leisure centres, has reduced its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 90 tonnes since signing a new contract with the Council in 2012. This volume of CO<sub>2</sub> is enough to fill 20 Olympic swimming pools. The four leisure centres, at Crowborough, Hailsham, Uckfield and Heathfield, have reduced their energy consumption over the past four years as well as cutting their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 5 % each year. Low carbon activities in Sussex generate around £2.7 billion in sales each year and support 21,000 jobs and 1,550 businesses. A lot of Freedom Leisure's carbon emission savings have been achieved through good housekeeping. All

leisure centre staff attended a workshop which explained how small changes in working practices can make a real difference to both carbon emissions and economic efficiency. Each leisure centre also drew up its own travel plan encouraging staff to use public transport and bicycle racks were installed to encourage more people to cycle to work. Freedom Leisure has invested in smart building management systems, replaced the lights in the sports halls at Crowborough and Uckfield with energy-efficient LED lighting and introduced sensors to ensure lighting is not left on when not required. More efficient programming of classes was introduced, allocating exercise rooms on the basis of the optimum temperature required for the activities.

Wealden District Council is sponsoring the prize for the Most Sustainable Business at the 2016 Sussex Business Awards. The winners will be announced at an award ceremony at The Grand Hotel Brighton on Thursday 1 December 2016. Find out more about the competition at the Sussex Business Awards website: [www.sbawards.org.uk](http://www.sbawards.org.uk).

*For further information please contact Helen Markwick, Community & Regeneration Manager  
Tel: 01892 602756 or email: [helen.markwick@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:helen.markwick@wealden.gov.uk)*

## Financial help for small businesses



The Wealden and Eastbourne Loan Fund (WELF) has just received a boost of £300,000 to its small business loan fund. The initial fund of £100,000 was set up by eDEAL Enterprise Agency in 2015 with support from Wealden District Council and Eastbourne Borough Council. The Let's Do Business Group has added £100,000 to the pot and secured a further loan of £200,000 from Unity Bank making a total of £400,000 available to East Sussex businesses. The WELF is aimed at small businesses who have struggled to raise finance from their bank and comes with access to fully-funded business support and

mentoring from eDEAL and the Let's Do Business Group for those in the Wealden and Eastbourne areas. Funding will be awarded for innovative products or processes, job creation and/or growth. If you think you could put a loan of between £3,000 and £15,000 to good use, please contact eDEAL on 01323 641144 or email [info@edeal.org.uk](mailto:info@edeal.org.uk).

*For further information, please contact Sarah King in the Community & Regeneration Team.  
Tel: 01892 602884 or email: [sarah.king@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.king@wealden.gov.uk)*

## Business in the future

Now in its third year, the BEST4BIZ conference, organised by ACES (The Alliance of Chambers in East Sussex) in collaboration with East Sussex County Council and local businesses, is taking place at the De La Warr Pavillion, Bexhill on Friday 14 October from 9am to 3.30pm. This year's theme is *Business in the Future* and there are some terrific keynote speakers as well as fellow entrepreneurs to network with. The Conference agenda can be found on the [ACES website](#). In addition, the Best of the Best East Sussex Business Awards will be taking place at the De La Warr on Thursday 13 October at 7pm. Please contact ACES for details – Tel: 01323 641144 or email: [info@edeal.org.uk](mailto:info@edeal.org.uk).

*For further information, please contact Sarah King in the Community & Regeneration Team.  
Tel: 01892 602884 or email: [sarah.king@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.king@wealden.gov.uk)*

## Homes needed for the Syrian Resettlement Scheme



Wealden District Council has committed to resettle up to 40 Syrian refugees over the next five years for those currently living in refugee camps and insecure accommodation in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt and Syria. The Council is working with Hastings, Rother, Eastbourne and Lewes Councils and East Sussex County Council to provide homes. Over the summer, a co-ordinator and support worker have been seconded to drive the programme forward, supported by Wealden in a shared management arrangement with Hastings

Borough Council. We had hoped to welcome the first Syrian family in the autumn, but difficulties in obtaining accommodation have delayed this. We hope to be in a position to accept a family later in the year. The decision has been taken to accommodate arrivals within the private rented sector, as opposed to social housing, where possible. However, this approach will rely heavily on landlords in the private rented sector coming forward with offers of accommodation that are self-contained, available for at least 12 months and within or very close to local housing allowance rates so that they are affordable. If you are an owner or landlord with a suitable property to let in Wealden, or you know of someone who is, please contact our Housing Options and Strategy Manager on 01323 443267 or [gemma.forshaw@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:gemma.forshaw@wealden.gov.uk). If you would like to offer other goods, services or support to refugees in Wealden, please also get in touch with us on the above details, or go to <https://www.gov.uk/help-refugees>.

*For further information Gemma Forshaw, Housing Options and Strategy Manager.  
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