

Wealden Cabinet News

Cabinet's next meeting in 12 July, 2017. You can watch it online at <https://wealden.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

New funding to help householders tackle flooding



Grants of up to £2,000 are being made available to households in Alfriston, Forest Row, Hellingly and Uckfield to help install flood protection measures, thanks to a £100,000 grant secured by Wealden District Council from the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Flood resilience awareness work carried out by the District Council in partnership with East Sussex Fire and Rescue, the Environment Agency, the National Flood Forum and East Sussex County Council was able to identify and advise households most at risk from the effects of flooding in these areas. Some 57 properties received a free Property Flood Resilience survey paid for by Wealden District Council. Measures - such as flood doors, barriers and air brick covers – will be paid for through the grant provided by the Regional Flood and Coast Committee, with Wealden providing initial funding of £36,000. “It is estimated that the preventative work these households can carry out could result in savings of over £1.5 million in repair and restoration costs if there was a flooding event,” said Councillor Claire Dowling, Wealden Cabinet member for Public Health and Community Safety. “We hope these measures will never be tested, but the uncertainty caused by climate change means households need to be aware if there is a potential flood risk to their property, and the damage it could cause.”

*For further information, please contact Lucy Dixon-Thompson, Policy Officer.
Tel: 01323 443183 or email: lucy.dixon-thompson@wealden.gov.uk*

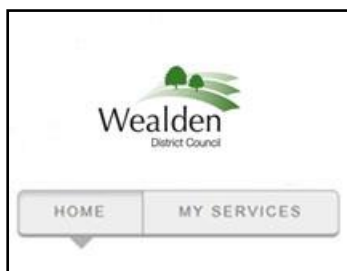
Two fly tippers punished by the courts for crimes in Wealden



One fly tipper, Hailsham man Jamie Tanner (25) of Woodacres was jailed for 12 months after a fly-tipping spree which left large amounts of renovation and house clearance waste across six locations in Wealden during 2015: at Pick Hill, Chiddingly; Michelham Priory Road, Hailsham; Tanyard Hill, Waldron; Deanland Road, Ripe; Squab Lane, Magham Down and Common Lane, Selmeston. Another, Lee Mallows (23), received a 6 months' prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, for three fly tipping incidents during 2015 and 2016 at Station Road, Hellingly, Ailies Lane, East Hoathly, and Station Road, Hailsham. Both men changed their plea to guilty late in the proceedings. If anyone witnesses fly tipping, please do not intervene or approach the offenders but take the details of any vehicle involved along with a description of the suspects and pass this to Wealden's Street Scene Team on 01892 602735 or street.scene@wealden.gov.uk . Please do not touch or tamper with fly tipped waste for health and safety and investigative reasons. Householders should ensure that only registered carriers are used to take away waste, and should check by asking to see their licence.

*For further information please contact Kelvin Williams, Head of Planning & Environmental Services.
Tel: 01892 602484 or email kelvin.williams@wealden.gov.uk*

Online services: better, quicker, simpler



Wealden District Council has revolutionised the way that residents can access its services with *MyWealden*, a personalised online portal. Last year more transactions were made via the Wealden website than by residents phoning the Council. More than half of these customers used a mobile device “The launch of *MyWealden* is a big step in our commitment to a digital future,” said Trevor Scott, Deputy Chief Executive at Wealden District Council. In the long-term all of our services that possibly can be, will be available to access online via *MyWealden*. This will make it quicker, more convenient and simpler for our residents to contact us. So register your account at <http://my.wealden.gov.uk> now.” As well as letting customers carry out a range of tasks including reporting missed bins alongside other waste enquiries, requesting removal of graffiti, reporting pollution, property name changes and registering an address; *MyWealden* incorporates new functions and technology to provide a better service. It will make reporting locations easier and more accurate as well as simplify making payments. As the development of *MyWealden* progresses, you will be able to track the progress of your requests, receive automatic updates and easily look up your account information for services such as Council Tax or Housing Benefits. *MyWealden* has been designed specifically to be easy to use via smart phones or other mobile devices.

*For further information please contact Trevor Scott, Deputy Chief Executive.
Tel: 01892 602524 or email: trevor.scott@wealden.gov.uk*

2017 – The Year of Walking



Walking is one of the easiest ways to keep fit as you grow older; and through a walking group, it is a great way to socialise. To encourage more residents to stay healthy through walking, Wealden is making 2017 The Year of Walking. An inaugural walk was held in Uckfield, and a new website, www.wealdendosussexwalks.co.uk, has been created to list the wide variety of walking events taking place this year. As well as guided walks and self-guided walks, the *Wealden do Sussex Walks* website provides information on wheelchair walks, the health benefits of walking, walks with buggies, inspirational walks, walking with dogs and Nordic walking.

A further initiative is ***Beat the Street*** - a new walking game which uses near-field communications technology to allow players to tag various locations as they walk, cycle or scoot around their neighbourhood. Lamp posts in Polegate, Stone Cross, Hailsham, Uckfield, Crowborough, Mayfield and Heathfield have been fitted with Beat Boxes which will allow individuals and teams taking part to record and compete as the exercise. There will be prizes for the winning team and lucky tap prizes, which can be won by any player taking part. You can find out more here: beatthestreet.me/eastsussex.

*For further information please contact Sophie Hepworth, Community & Regeneration Officer.
Tel: 01323 443208 or email sophie.hepworth@wealden.gov.uk*

Draft Housing Strategy 2017-20 Consultation

Wealden’s Housing Service has just published its Draft Housing Strategy and is consulting on it until 14 August 2017. The draft strategy sets out the Council’s housing priorities until 2020, feedbacks on previous achievements and identifies what we will be doing to tackle priorities. We are keen to hear the views of Parish and Town Councils. The [draft Strategy and online survey](#) can be found on the [Consultation page](#) of the Wealden website.

*For further information please contact Nicola Levett, Housing Policy Officer.
Tel: 01323 443384 or email nicola.jane.levett@wealden.gov.uk*

Five more Wealden apprentices graduate



Five more Wealden District Council apprentices have completed their Apprenticeships in Business Administration and IT Professional qualifications. Working in partnership with Sussex Downs College, Wealden District Council has continued to play its part in providing young people with skills to help with future employment. The apprentices have gained a breadth of experience during their 13 month apprenticeship, working in Wealden's Property Services, Finance, Waste Management, Building Control, IT and Planning Policy teams. They have also helped at events such as Coffee, Cake and Computers, the Wealden Careers Fair, Safety in Action, Elections, Dementia Action Alliance, Summer Activity Days and National Apprenticeships Week. They have undertaken qualifications in partnership with Sussex Downs College. For a first hand testimony of how the apprentices have found their time with Wealden, watch the ["Being an Apprentice at Wealden District Council"](#) interview with them on the Wealden District Council YouTube page. Wealden District Council will be advertising new apprentice vacancies shortly. For the latest news on this and other opportunities follow Wealden District Council's [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

*For further information, please contact David Palmer, Head of Business Services.
Tell 01323 443229 or email: david.palmer@wealden.gov.uk*

New Grants Programme for voluntary and community groups



Partners across East Sussex have launched a new grants programme to help transform health and social care outcomes for local people through East Sussex Better Together (ESBT). It will also contribute to growing stronger communities. The grants are available for one year and are aimed at smaller groups and organisations (parish councils may not apply) and dedicated support is available from the local Council for Voluntary Services, 3VA, to help put together funding applications, and to bring projects to life once a grant is received. Awards of up to £1,500 are available to communities and groups with an income of up to £50,000. The grant is intended to help communities grow and build on their own strengths and talents. Groups do not need to be formally constituted to apply for funds – they will be offered support by 3VA. It could apply to a group of neighbours who want to start some community activity in their area. [Full details of the range of grants available, qualifying conditions and areas](#) together with an application form and guidance notes can be found on the East Sussex County Council website.

*For further information, please contact Jenny Watson, 3VA.
Tel 01323 639373 or email: jenny.watson@3va.org.uk*

Wealden vs Dementia



The Wealden Dementia Action Alliance has celebrated a year since its launch with 17 events at locations across the District to coincide with National Dementia Awareness Week. It included a special event at Hailsham Civic Community Hall to highlight some of the activities taking place. These include training Wealden staff in Dementia Awareness, support for local Dementia forums across the District and the launch of Dementia-Friendly film screenings at Hailsham Pavilion. Further information about available local support for people with dementia and their carers can be found on the [Wealden Dementia Action Alliance pages of the Wealden District Council website](#). The work being done by the Wealden Dementia Action Alliance featured at a recent conference: *Dementia – The Modern Day Cholera*; held in London by the District Council's Network.

*For further information please contact Debbie Peters, Equalities Officer
Tel: 01323 443204 or email debbie.peters@wealden.gov.uk*

Countryside and Heritage brings in visitors



Wealden's biggest attractions are its countryside, heritage and scenery – that is the conclusion from visitor research carried out by NGI Solutions, a business research company. Tourism brings in some £250 million a year to the District and provides jobs for 7,000 local people, the recent *Wealden Do Tourism* conference at Herstmonceux Castle learnt. When visitors were asked what they liked about the District, they said it was the ability to walk and take in the landscape around them. "People love what is here," said NGI consultant Ian

Thomas. "They do not want to see huge development which is going to spoil it. They want to make the most of the assets that are here." Some 75% of the visitors came on day trips, and most came from within 90 minutes driving distance: There is a huge potential in growing the over-night market to ensure people stay longer and come from further afield. Wealden recent produced a short video, *A Journey through Wealden*, to encourage visitors to the District – [you can watch it on our YouTube channel](#) .

*For further information please contact Jane Kilby, Tourism Officer
Tel: 01892 602881 or email jane.kilby@wealden.gov.uk*

New homes for Town Farm



Work has begun on Wealden District Council's exciting new housing project in Town Farm, Hailsham, which will create 17 new council homes on the site of the former Elizabeth Court. The Council has appointed Eastbourne-based contractor Trinity Homes to build the new homes. The scheme, costing around £2.3million, will provide a mix of 12 flats and five houses which will be made available for rent to local people. The development is expected to take just over a year, and be ready for occupation in September 2018. This project is part of

the second phase of the Council's New Build programme and closely follows the Council's 12 home development at Leap Cross in Hailsham, which was also built by Trinity Homes. Work is underway at the former Grants Hills House in Uckfield which will increase the number of retirement living apartments from 42 to 67.

*For further information please contact Hayley Frankham, Housing Development Team Leader.
Tel: 01323 443278 or email hayley.frankham@wealden.gov.uk*

Safety in Action brings it all home



For the first time, home-educated children were among the children from 50 Wealden primary schools will be taking part in Safety in Action .Two weeks of Safety in Action learning from experience sessions have been held during June. One was at Bowles Outdoor Centre, near Crowborough, and the other at Herstmonceux Castle, allowing for 1,300 children to take part. Now in its 26th year, Safety in Action has been adopted across East Sussex and is organised by East Sussex Fire & Rescue. Last year it provided hands-on safety training to over 6,000 children in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. In April, East

Sussex Fire and Rescue Service won a Gold Award for Safety in Action in the Fire & Rescue Project category at the public sector Improvements and Efficiency Awards in London. The following agencies were involved: Sussex Police, South East Coast Ambulance, East Sussex Fire and Rescue, UK Power Networks & ESFRS, Southern Railway, Freedom Leisure, NHS school nurses and Wealden District Council. Each child will be presented with a workbook to help reinforce the safety messages. Uckfield Lions Club is sponsoring the main prize for the winning school, and Servomex in Crowborough is sponsoring the road safety award. Funding for this event has been awarded by the Safer Wealden Partnership.

*For further information please contact Sophie Hepworth, Community & Regeneration Officer.
Tel: 01323 443208 or email sophie.hepworth@wealden.gov.uk*

Enjoy a walk in Walshes Park



Wealden's new open access countryside area, Walshes Park in Crowborough, is now open following the completion of nearly 3kms of all-weather track. The 70 acre High Weald pasture will also include a further 3km of cut grass track. Further work is scheduled for summer clearing the vegetation around the moated remains of what is believed to be the original medieval Walsh Manor. It is already proving popular with local people. "Residents are delighted to have this facility on their doorstep which benefits many members of the community," said Jo Stonebrook, chair of Alderbrook Residents' Association. "Parents

enjoy using it with their children as a fantastic place to play - a real adventure the whole family can use. Dog owners can make the most of the different fields whilst those wishing to keep fit find the layout useful for walking and running." It is an important part of the infrastructure of the north of Wealden. Walshes Park providing an alternative recreational venue to Ashdown Forest, so helping to protect the flora and fauna of this internationally important heathland. In planning terms it known as a *Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space* (SANGS), and is being paid for through contribution for housing developments taking place in the area. A short video showing an aerial view of Walshes Park can be seen on [Wealden's YouTube channel](#).

*For further information, please contact Colin Thompson, Asset Manager Coordinator.
Tel: 01323 443361 or email: colin.thompson@wealden.gov.uk*

Wealden's Disability Involvement Group is looking for new members



The Group meets every month and advises the Council on how to make services accessible to our residents with disabilities. Membership includes a varied range of disabilities and transport can be provided for representatives and their carers to attend the afternoon meetings. "WDIG provides a valuable opportunity for Wealden District Council and other public service organisations to ensure our services meet the needs of everyone in the community," said Councillor Nick Collinson, Cabinet Member for Community

Leadership. "The insight provided by the Wealden Disability Involvement Group has led to a number of improvements to access, signage and how we organise local facilities." Meetings last for two hours, with an informal discussion and presentations from Council officers and other public services. They include refreshments and usually take place in the Civic Community Hall at Hailsham. If you would like to find out more about the Wealden Disability Involvement Group, or know of anyone who would be interested in joining the Group, please contact Wealden District Council's Equalities Officer Debbie Peters: telephone 01323 443204 or email debbie.peters@wealden.gov.uk.

*For further information please contact Debbie Peters, Equalities Officer
Tel: 01323 443204 or email debbie.peters@wealden.gov.uk*

Money to drive local innovation, growth and a low carbon future

Funding applications are being invited for projects in the in the South East which feature Research and Innovation, Competitiveness and Growth (for Small and Mediums Sized Enterprises) or the Shift to a Low Carbon Economy. There is up to £34 million available from the [European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\)](#) which is being managed by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Applications are invited from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership area until 12 January 2018 with reviews taking place in July and October this year. Organisations considering applying for European Regional Development funding are advised to make contact with the ERDF Technical Facilitator Jo Simmons at jo.simmons@eastsussex.gov.uk or 07701 394521 to discuss their project at the earliest opportunity.

*For further information please contact Jo Simmons, ERDF Technical Facilitator..
Tel: 07701 394521 or email jo.simmons@eastsussex.gov.uk*

Help provide shelter for vulnerable Syrian refugees



Two refugee families have already successfully settled in Wealden but more properties are needed to help Wealden meet its aim of providing homes for up to 40 Syrian refugees over the next five years. Private landlords and property owners are being asked to help Wealden play its part in answering the desperate need of vulnerable Syrian refugees. Alongside all the other local authorities, Wealden District Council is looking to provide homes for Syrian refugees and their families currently living in unsuitable housing conditions in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Egypt. "We are looking for self-contained

privately rented properties with reasonable public transport links so that these families can start to rebuild their lives which, through no fault of their own, have been shattered by six years of civil war," said Graham Wells, Wealden Cabinet member for Housing. Properties must be of family size with exclusive use of kitchen and bathroom facilities, available for at least 12 months and within, or very close to, local housing allowance rates. The Council will provide help and advice to the landlord. A programme of support is in place to help the refugees, many of whom come from professional backgrounds. Landlords who are already helping with the scheme up and down the country have described it as a rewarding experience. If you can help, please contact housingoptions@wealden.gov.uk.

*For further information please contact Andy Vincent, Head of Housing & Property Services.
Tel: 01323 443364 or email andy.vincent@wealden.gov.uk*

Wealden Works on 2 October



Local employers are invited to reserve a free space at the Wealden Works Careers Fair, taking place at East Sussex National on Monday 2 October, to promote their business to young adults from across the District. All secondary schools and colleges from across Wealden have been invited, which last year saw nearly 500 young adults attend. It's a valuable opportunity for local businesses both from a recruitment and public relations aspect which the Council is providing free whilst there are still spaces available. Businesses taking part will also be able to meet and inform key influencers, including teachers,

parents and professionals from across business, the third sector and government as well as network with a diverse range of visitors. Exhibitors are asked to consider running an interactive 'have-a-go' element to their stands to give attendees a practical demonstration of what they offer. If you work for or run a local businesses and would like to register your interest in exhibiting or have any questions, please contact Kat Jenner on 01323 443266 or regeneration@wealden.gov.uk.

*For further information please contact Kat Jenner, Community & Regeneration Officer.
Tel: 01323 443266 or email katherine.jenner@wealden.gov.uk*

Pop-up shop provides Hailsham opportunities



Hailsham & District Chamber of Commerce has secured funding, through the Wealden Strategic Partnership – Strong Resilient Communities Fund, for a Pop-up Shop in Hailsham High Street as part of a project to help small business owners trial a high street presence in a low cost, low risk environment. A lease has been secured at 41 High Street Hailsham which will be available until April 2018 for a minimum of one week and a maximum of two weeks at a discounted price. Tenants will be required to sign a short term tenancy agreement at a rent of £100 per week (inclusive of utilities).

*For further information please contact Jacky Hinton, Ross & Co.
Tel: 01323 441041 or email hailsham@rossandco.co.uk*

Nutley windmill gets stamp of approval



Nutley windmill has been given pride of place on a new first class stamp issued today by the Royal Mail. Built in the mid-1500s, and moved location in 1830, it was restored again to working order in the 1970s. Nutley windmill's national first class billing has been welcomed by local Wealden District Councillor Roy Galley, who has Cabinet responsibility for tourism: "This year the Council awarded £6,078 to the windmill, from a contribution by Kier, to help with its upkeep," he said. "The money will be used by Uckfield and District Preservation Society for electrical and restoration work at the working windmill which is a popular local visitor attraction. It was a one of a number of projects to benefit from the Capital Grant Scheme which is providing

£80,000 to support community buildings and playing fields in the District." The Capital Grants are part of Wealden's Community Grants Scheme. The Royal Mail's special edition of stamps features Nutley Windmill, East Sussex; New Abbey Corn Mill, Dumfries and Galloway; Ballycopeland Windmill, County Down, Northern Ireland; Cheddleton Flint Mill, Staffordshire; Woodchurch Windmill, near Ashford, Kent and Felin Cochwillan Mill, Gwynedd.

*For further information please contact Michelle Gray, Community & Regeneration Officer.
Tel: 01323 443520 or email michelle.gray@wealden.gov.uk*

Exhibition commission for Wealden potter



Hankham potter JCJ Pottery has received a commission from The National Trust to make a commemorative charger for the exhibition of Evelyn and William De Morgan's work being held at Whitwick Manor in Wolverhampton. Whitwick Manor is a treasure trove of the Arts and Crafts movement and Wealden-based potter Jonathan Chiswell Jones is one of the few people in the country to be working in the same medium as William De Morgan, the designer and potter who was a colleague of William Morris. - The finished piece is on display at Whitwick Manor along with a short DVD of the making process Jonathan used. The showroom at [JCJ Pottery](http://www.jcjpottery.com) is open every day except Sundays and bank Holidays, and visitors may see the work being made.

*For further information please contact Jane Kilby, Tourism Officer.
Tel: 01323 442881 or email jane.kilby@wealden.gov.uk*



Keep up to date with what is happening at Wealden by signing up to [our weekly MyAlerts](#), following us on Twitter [@wealdendistrict](#), or on Facebook. Previous issues of the Wealden Parish Bulletin are on our website www.wealden.gov.uk

