

## **Appendix 1 District Report from Cllr David Greaves – Long Man PC - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

### **1) Business Support Programmes**

Two programmes providing support and training to local businesses are available in East Sussex.

Called 'Ready to Grow' and 'Big Ambitions' there is £447k available within East Sussex. The 'Ready to Grow' programme is for early stage business owners who have been trading for less than 3 years. There are workshops and masterclasses, one to one support and networking opportunities.

The 'Big Ambitions' programme provides up to 18 hours of expertise to businesses who are growing and likely to need to employ extra staff in the next 6 to 12 months and includes one to one action planning and specialist support.

The programmes are being managed by ESCC on behalf of local authorities. Delivery is through a business support company called Digital Islands and the programmes will run until March 2025

The first event will start on Weds 20<sup>th</sup> March in Lewes

The free Content Event is an opportunity for early-stage businesses in the Lewes district to access expert marketing advice. Visit [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ready-to-grow-free-content-event-lewes-tickets-840221293507](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ready-to-grow-free-content-event-lewes-tickets-840221293507) to find out more and book a free place.

More information about the 'Ready To Grow' and 'Big Ambitions' programmes and how to sign up can be found online at [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/business/support/organisations](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/business/support/organisations).

### **2) Fly Tipping Intervention Grant**

The Council have been awarded £20,000 to fund an engagement project to ensure that residents are well informed about the use of unlicensed waste carriers. We should see information coming through in this respect in due course.

### **3) Cliff Collapses**

The Council have issued warnings about the dangers of people going close to cliff edges along the South coast. Local Councils have teamed up with HM Coastguard and landowners to launch a campaign reminding people of the risk posed by unstable chalk cliffs. The risk is not just with the cliff edges but also at the base of the cliffs.

The joint campaign to raise awareness of cliff dangers is being promoted by HM Coastguard, The National Trust, South Downs National Park Authority, Sussex Wildlife Trust, East Sussex County Council, Seaford Town Council, Wealden District Council, Eastbourne Borough Council and Lewes District Council.

#### **For further information contact:**

Stacey Robins  
Head of Planning & Environmental Services  
Wealden District Council  
Email: [Stacey.robins@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:Stacey.robins@wealden.gov.uk)

### **4) Climate Change**

Wealden District Council have released surveys to find out residents' opinions on climate change. This is with a view to creating a new climate change strategy and action plan based on those opinions.

To complete the surveys, visit [Climate Change | Let's Talk Wealden](#). The survey will be open for eight weeks and closes at 12 p.m. on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024. For more information residents can contact the Climate Change team at [sustainability@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:sustainability@wealden.gov.uk)

## **For further information contact:**

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## **5) Food Waste Collection grant**

Wealden District Council have received a grant of £1,637,844 to support Food Waste collection (capital) costs from 2023-24.

## **6) Postal Votes**

Changes took effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024:

- Ban on political campaigners handling postal votes (there are certain exclusions but also strict controls)
- Limits on the number of postal votes that can be handed in at a polling station (limit to be 5 plus their own)
- Completion of postal vote documents form (incomplete forms = postal vote rejection and the voters will receive a letter following the election telling them why).
- Handing in postal votes to the Returning officer - same restrictions as above. Any such votes must be handed in personally at the Elections Office (in Hailsham).
- Secrecy requirements apply as per requirements at Polling Stations

Anyone dealing with Postal Votes needs to check out the new requirements to ensure compliance with the Elections Act 2022.

### Note:

In the recent elections the new arrangements for receiving postal votes seemed to work well as did the need for people to provide photographic evidence.

## **7) Net Zero workshops**

Wealden District Council have partnered with Brighton University to deliver one-day courses to help businesses across the District to cut their carbon footprint and save money on energy and waste bills.

The session is to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> June at the Horsted Place Hotel near Uckfield and are open to micro, small and medium sized businesses including not for profit businesses and charities.

## **8) New funding available to help community spaces and facilities**

The Wealden Community Infrastructure and Spaces Funding Programme to help partners improve local rural green spaces and community infrastructure within the district is being launched by Wealden District Council.

The council is inviting organisations such as Not for Profit organisations and town and parish councils to apply for grants between £1,000 and £20,000 for projects that will help Wealden residents improve and enhance green spaces and community assets, and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups. A total funding pot of £120K is available.

This will be a rolling programme and applications will be processed on a first come first served basis. The fund closes in autumn 2024, or sooner if all funds are allocated.

The funding programme has been made available through the government's Rural England Prosperity Fund. The England-wide initiative is a new £110million, two-year capital fund from the Department for Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs, complementary to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund - run by the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities. It will enable the council to support projects in rural areas of the district.

Further details about the grant scheme and information on how to access the application can be found at <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/information-for-businesses/economic-development-and-growth/rural-england-prosperity-fund/wealden-community-infrastructure-and-spaces-fund/>

For organisations wishing to register their interest, please contact the council via email on [communitygrants@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:communitygrants@wealden.gov.uk).

**For further information please contact:**

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**9) Change in Wealden Council Leadership**

At the Annual Meeting of the Full Council on 15th May there will be an election for Leader of the Council (Alternating Leadership is a feature of the Alliance agreement). There will also be an election for the Chair and Vice-Chair.

**10) Cuckoo Trail**

Outdoor gym equipment is being installed on the Cuckoo Trail in the stretch between Polegate and Hailsham. Completion is due by 17<sup>th</sup> May.

**11) Hailsham Swimming Pool**

Work to replace the pool surround is underway - to be completed 20th May

**12) NHS Health Checks**

'One You East Sussex' is offering free NHS Health Checks to residents living in Wealden after the popularity of a similar programme delivered last year.

One You provides a free holistic lifestyle service for residents of East Sussex, helping people make simple changes that can lead to a longer, healthier, and happier life. The service delivers NHS health checks to residents, helps residents to lose weight, be smoke free, move more, eat well and drink less.

Residents need to book their NHS health check in advance as spaces may not be available on the day, by contacting:

[sam.bentley@oneyoueastsussex.org.uk](mailto:sam.bentley@oneyoueastsussex.org.uk).

Appointments take between 30-40 minutes and your results will be discussed with on the day.

**Local Date and location**

- Thursday 30 May - Hailsham, Vicarage Lane car park

**David Greaves**

**13<sup>th</sup> May 2024**