

Wealden Cabinet News 19 October 2011

COUNCIL LEADER COUNCILLOR Bob Standley reported that the Council's Transformation Programme remained on course and within budget with the first of a number of proposed shared services with Rother District Council now underway. The Councils are sharing the internal audit function through a joint team headed up by Wealden's Head of Audit. Discussions are continuing with Rother, Eastbourne and Hastings on the setting up of a joint waste contract to deliver waste and recycling services; and the work on the refurbishment of Wealden's single site headquarters in Hailsham was on budget and ahead of target.

For more information contact Nigel Hannam, Corporate Services Director.
Tel: 01323 443230 or email: nigel.hannam@wealden.gov.uk

THE NUMBER OF complaints received by Wealden District Council during the last financial year fell from 65 to 55. Slightly more - 13 as opposed to 10 complaints - ended up being investigated by the Local Government Ombudsman but none of the complaints was found to be justified. Councillor Claire Dowling, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, welcomed the fall, bearing in mind that Council staff conducted over four million interactions with its customers annually. She added that complaints did provide a valuable source of information to help improve services.

For more information contact Alex McCann, Customer Relations Officer.
Tel: 01323 443173 or email: alex.mccann@wealden.gov.uk

CABINET ADOPTED THE Council's Active Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy 2011-2014 which seeks to encourage greater participation in leisure activities and maximise the community benefit of the 2012 Olympics. The Strategy targets three groups: young people, older people and people with disabilities. It puts forward an action plan to tackle a number of issues including a lack of multi-use games areas and synthetic turf pitches, difficulties experienced by residents in more rural areas in accessing leisure centres and play facilities, and general rising levels of obesity among young people. The Active Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy can be found on the Agendas and Minutes page of the Wealden website:

<http://council.wealden.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=30440> .

For more information contact Helen Markwick, Community Development Manager.
Tel: 01892 602756 or email: helen.markwick@wealden.gov.uk

THE COUNCIL HAS responded to the consultation on the Government's proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. Cllr Roy Galley, Cabinet member for Planning & Development, said it was imperative the new simplified framework recognised that sustainable development needed to be fully supported by all necessary infrastructure. The Council called for clear transitional arrangements to be put in place to ensure that Councils who were in the advanced stages of producing a Core Strategy, like Wealden, were not treated as being without an active policy under the NPPF and forced to grant permissions by default. Wealden is also requesting the removal of the requirement for an additional 20% supply to be added to provision of a rolling five year housing supply as it will hinder the ability to deliver a sustainable plan. The full details of the Council's NPPF response can be found on the Wealden website:

<http://council.wealden.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=30458> .

For further information please contact David Phillips, Head of Planning and Environmental Policy.
Tel: 01892 602587 or email: david.phillips@wealden.gov.uk

Planning News

Following the Exploratory Meeting held with the Council and other interested parties, the Planning Inspector has announced his intention to proceed with the Examination in Public of Wealden District Council's Core Strategy. The Core Strategy is a key component of the District's Local Development Framework. The Public Hearing, which is the next phase in the adoption of the Strategy, will take place in due course.

For further information please contact Lynette Benton, Programme Officer.
Tel: 07985 878623 or email lynette.benton@wealden.gov.uk

Wealden Community Grants



The closing date for applications to the Wealden Community Grants Scheme for funding over the 2012/13 financial year is 30 November 2011. There are three schemes: The **Wealden Small Grant Scheme** offers grants of between £1,000 - £3,000 to groups, clubs and associations. The **Wealden Capital Grants Scheme** provides grants of between £2,000 - £10,000 for capital work such as improvements to village halls and sports fields; and **Service Level Agreements** lasting up to three years support voluntary organisations which provide a range of valuable services. To ensure all eligible groups have the chance to

benefit from Wealden's Community Grants, a pre-application advice service has been launched and applicants are strongly recommended to take advantage of this. Sessions will be held during office hours at the following locations:

- Tuesday 8 November - Prospects House, Hailsham.
- Wednesday 9 November - Council Offices, Pine Grove, Crowborough.
- Tuesday 15 November - Council Offices, Pine Grove, Crowborough.
- Wednesday 16 November - Prospects House, Hailsham.

An appointment must be booked in advance with Wealden's Voluntary Sector Support Officer.

For further information please contact Michelle Eldridge, Grant Funding and Voluntary Sector Support Officer.
Tel: 01323 443520 or email: communitygrants@wealden.gov.uk

Community Snow Scheme



The first Community Snow scheme has been launched in Uckfield. Set up by the Wealden Local Strategic Partnership, it involves the town's Chamber of Commerce, Uckfield Town Council, Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council. Uckfield traders are encouraged to take advantage of a cut-price deal to buy salt and shovels to help clear pavements in front of shops in the event of severe winter weather. The town council is seeking volunteers to help clean pavements in front of GP surgeries and other essential services. Wealden District Council will be keeping the car parks clear and County Council will be concentrating on the principal

roads. The County's website also provides public advice on snow clearing; see: www.eastsussex.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/roads/maintenance/saltingandgritting/informationpack.htm. Towns and parishes interested on adopting a similar scheme should contact Wealden's Local Strategic Partnership via Wealden District Council. A fact sheet is available.

For further information please contact: James Aldred, Policy Officer.
Tel: 01323 443184 or email: james.aldred@wealden.gov.uk

Wealden Parish Conference



This year's Wealden Parish Conference on 28 September provided a full discussion of the Government's new Localism proposals including the nomination of community assets and Neighbourhood Plans. "The Localism Bill gives Wealden District Council an opportunity to further strengthen our relationship with the town and parish councils in the District," said Councillor Bob Standley, Leader of Wealden District Council. "I have always taken the view that the public are not that concerned whether it is the District Council, County Council or Towns and Parishes who deliver a service. They want the service to be delivered in the most efficient way possible." The papers from the Parish Conference can be downloaded from the Local Strategic

Partnership's website:

http://www.wealdencommunitystrategy.co.uk/parish_involvement/Wealdenparishconference2011.a.spx

For further information please contact: Gill Cameron-Waller, Policy & Partnerships Manager.
Tel: 01323 443745 or email: gill.cameron-waller@wealden.gov.uk

Cookery Leader training courses



Two free Cookery Leader Courses to train people to teach others healthy cooking skills have been organised by East Sussex Healthcare. They take place at Hastings in November and Eastbourne next February. The courses run over four weeks and provide one day's hygiene training, one day's nutrition training and two days practical and planning skills. The courses are aimed at people working with:

- Young people aged 16-20,
- Older people,
- Families with pre-school age children ,
- People with mental health issues,
- Homeless people and families,
- Those with drug and alcohol problems.

For further information please contact: Diana Taylor, Health Development Coordinator.
Tel: 01424 457108 or email: Diana.Taylor@esht.nhs.uk

HealthWatch East Sussex - Stakeholder Event



The successful passage of the Health and Social Care Bill through Parliament will result in a series of new consumer bodies being created known as Local HealthWatch. They will act as champions for users of health and social care services. East Sussex County Council has the responsibility to ensure that the Wealden area has an effective and representative Local HealthWatch organisation. Over the past four months, the County Council has worked with various individuals, groups and organisations to make initial plans. The County Council is now holding a stakeholder event, where there will be an opportunity to comment on the current findings and emerging questions regarding the future shape of the HealthWatch East Sussex.

The event will be held on 5 December 2011, 10:30 - 3:30pm at the Towner Centre, Eastbourne. Local council representatives wishing to attend should register their interest by emailing Polly Pomfrey on: polly.pomfrey@eastsussex.gov.uk or telephoning her on 01273 337028 no later than Friday 11 November 2011.

*For further information please contact Jeremy Leach, Public Health Manager.
Tel: 01323 443305 or email: Jeremy.leach@wealden.gov.uk*

Support for independent rural shops



The second round of Wealden's Rural Retailers Grant Scheme is now open. It seeks to support the viability of independent rural retailers and help them support their local communities. The maximum grant is £500 which can cover up to 50 per cent of project costs. Projects must do at least one of the following: support the local community; improve the local environment; improve the economic viability of the business or increase sales of local produce. Retailers may be located anywhere within rural Wealden but outside of the main towns of Crowborough, Hailsham, Heathfield, Polegate and Uckfield. The deadline for applications is 31 December 2011. In the first round of the scheme in 2010, 15 businesses shared a total of £7,000 between them.

*For further information please contact Sarah King, Economic Development & Tourism Manager.
Tel: 01892 602884 or email: sarah.king@wealden.gov.uk*

More spending the night in Wealden



The number of visitors staying overnight in Wealden rose last year despite a 10% drop in overnight visitor stays across the South East. They spent an extra £2.6 million - a rise of nearly 4% - while over the same period, overnight stay spending across the South East fell by £400 million. "It's great news that we are seeing an increase in the amount of money being spent by our overnight visitors. This is one of the principal aims of our current Tourism Strategic Framework 2010 - 15," said Councillor Roy Galley, Cabinet Member for Planning and Development at Wealden District Council. The number of day trips by visitors to Wealden in 2010 increased by 3% to 5.9 million and the amount spent also increased by 3% to nearly

£173 million, according to the report, *The Economic Impact of Tourism in Wealden* produced by Tourism South East. The number of full and part-time jobs supported by tourism has increased to 6,542 - 11% of the jobs in Wealden.

*For further information please contact Sarah King, Economic Development & Tourism Manager.
Tel: 01892 602884 or email: sarah.king@wealden.gov.uk.*

Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge



As part of the Diamond Jubilee celebration next year, town and parish councils across the country are being invited to protect any outdoor recreational spaces they own by nominating them as Queen Elizabeth II Fields. All kinds of spaces are eligible for inclusion in the programme from children's play areas to woodlands, bicycle trails to playing fields. Nomination also helps communities access improvement grants from Sport England, and nominated fields will receive a free Queen Elizabeth II Fields plaque and resource pack to help plan next year's celebrations. Sites must be owned by the organisation putting them forward for nomination. Nominations should be made by the end of the year in time for voting next spring. See the Queen Elizabeth Fields Challenge website, www.qe2fields.com, for further details.

*For further information, please contact Louise Clark, Community Development Officer.
Tel: 01892 602881 or email: louise.clark@wealden.gov.uk.*

Stargazing Live



The BBC is looking for groups in villages across the country to host stargazing evenings from 16 – 29 January 2012 to link up with its second *Stargazing LIVE* series. Events can be simple or more organised, but whatever the event, BBC Learning will provide a range of free *Stargazing LIVE* resources including Star Guides and Activity Cards and promotion. More details are available at: www.bbc.co.uk/stargazing .

*For further details, please contact Eleanor Gloster, BBC Learning Project Manager, South East.
Tel: 01273 320432 or email: eleanor.gloster@bbc.co.uk .*