

THE NEW Healthy Wealden website has been launched to help residents stay healthy and active. [The website](#) provides tools and resources needed to embark on a healthier lifestyle.

Visitors are encouraged to explore the outdoors using an interactive map. This lists the many parks and open spaces available in the District. Thanks to help from town and parish councils, it includes details of the facilities available at each location.

In addition, there is advice on how to get active and live well, a directory of leisure centres and details of self-guided walks and health walks.



## Recovery Fund grants to ensure community groups continue to provide vital local support

GRANTS between £500 and £5,000 are now available to community groups and village organisations in Wealden to help them continue during the ongoing Covid pandemic.

“The Recovery Fund will help ensure that our community groups remain strong, despite changes forced by the pandemic,” said Councillor Philip Lunn, Wealden Cabinet member Community & Public Health.

“Many have already played an important role, supporting residents through the Wealden Community Hub. We hope they will again be able to help in the future, if needed.”

“Grants will also help groups accommodate the new social distancing measures so that they can carry on over the coming months. This may involve alternative ways of delivering a service. The grants could cover the cost of new equipment and software.

“The Recovery Fund is also

available to local sports clubs and other organisations to encourage physical and mental well-being. These are factors which have been shown to be increasingly important in recent months.

“The support we are offering could provide a lifeline to many local groups.

“If they have any questions about eligibility, please contact our Partnerships and Funding Support Officer who will be pleased to provide assistance.”

The grants need to be spent before the end of March 2021.

The closing date for applications is 1 November. We hope to be able to start releasing funds in December 2020.

An editable pdf application form can be downloaded by searching for the [Community Grants Programme](#) on the Council’s website. There are also further details of how the grants can be used.

Wealden’s Partnerships and Funding Support Officer Michelle Namurach can be contacted for advice by emailing [communitygrants@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:communitygrants@wealden.gov.uk) or telephoning 01323 443520.



### Fly tip prosecution

A successful prosecution by Wealden District Council resulted in a Hailsham woman being fined a total of £372 for failing to carry out the necessary Duty of Care to make sure her waste was correctly disposed of by an approved waste carrier.

# Time to refresh your volunteer lists

AS CONCERNS about the renewed increase in Coronavirus cases continue, we need to ensure adequate provisions are in place to support those households who need to self-isolate.

We are asking Towns and Parishes to look again at their original volunteering list from earlier this year to see who remains available to volunteer. It is important we identify if there is a need to recruit additional volunteers should the infection continue to spread.

Members of the public continue to contact the Wealden Community Hub but the numbers remain low. Town and Parish Councils remain a key part

of the infrastructure in ensuring we can respond to demand from some of the most vulnerable members of society and to a second spike in cases should it come. More information about current infection rates can be found on [the Government's Coronavirus data pages](#).

Don't forget that the Community Hub is able to obtain priority delivery slots and give advice on access to food if residents are struggling. We will continue to keep you updated about Council services and the latest Government Coronavirus guidelines through [the Covid -19 pages](#) on the Wealden website.

## The importance of the QR code

THE new Test and Trace legislation means that from 24 September, services providing social, cultural and recreational activities must display a NHS QR code and collect data for Test and Trace.

This includes **community centres, youth and community services, and village halls.**

If you have not yet registered your village hall for an NHS QR code, you will need to do so here:

<https://www.gov.uk/create-coronavirus-qr-poster>.

Any third party hiring a village hall must also have registered with the NHS for their own QR code. People using the village hall for parish or town council business would be required to scan the QR code linked to the village hall. However, if they are organising a separate activity, such as yoga classes, a club or society function, a blood donor session etc; the organisers should have registered and downloaded their own QR code and provide it to their participants for this purpose. Further details can be found [on the Government website](#).

Village halls and event organisers should also be able to collect contact details manually for people who do not have a smartphone. The data collected must be recorded and kept for 21 days and in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations, GDPR. A privacy notice must be displayed either at the premises or on your website setting out what the data is used for and the circumstances in which it might be accessed by NHS Test and Trace.



## Waste recycling update

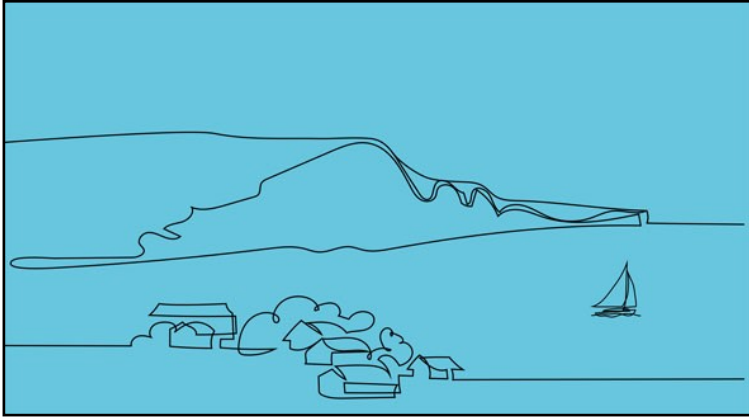
ALL waste collection services continue to operate normally.

We continue to do everything we can to maintain essential services, such as rubbish and clinical waste collections throughout the pandemic.

We will communicate with residents any changes to the waste services should rising infection rates impact on our ability to deliver some of our services again.

Biffa and the Wealden recycling team are grateful to residents for their overwhelming support for our waste crews and the heart-warming messages left on bins or displayed in windows, that continue to motivate the crews at this difficult time.

East Sussex County Council report that all Household Waste and Recycling Sites sites continue to be open to residents but with social distancing measures in place.



## Reset plan maps out post-Covid opportunities

TEAM East Sussex, working with the county's local authorities, has launched *East Sussex Reset*, a post-Covid recovery plan for the county.

It aims to use the challenges created by the pandemic to build a stronger, more inclusive and sustainable future for the East Sussex economy.

The prospectus has identified six 'missions':

1. Thinking local, acting local.
2. Building skills, creating jobs.
3. Fast-forwarding business .
4. Better places, fuller lives.
5. Cleaner energy, greener transport.
6. The future is digital.

Leading the initiative is Team East Sussex, the local federated board for the South East Local Enterprise Partnership. Its membership is made up of representatives from business, local au-

thorities, social enterprise and education.

As part of its mission to think local, Team East Sussex is setting up a Buy Local supply chain programme across all business sectors to stimulate local enterprise and launching a county-wide Good Food campaign for local food and drink producers. It also launched a Business Hothouse programme to support entrepreneurs.

The *East Sussex Reset* will target support to improve skills in specific employment sectors, particularly for young, furloughed and redundant employees. Through its Fast-forwarding Business mission, it has set up a programme to assist the tourism sector. Other complementary programmes will help businesses and freelancers adapt to the changing environment. There is a Creative Open Workspace programme to respond to the shift towards home working.

Further measures involve making use of Government funding, such as the Local Growth, Getting Building and Growing Places Funds, to manage changing demand for retail, offices and housing.

The move towards a low carbon economy is covered by Mission 5. As well as encouraging cleaner energy and greener transport, it will look to support energy retrofit schemes, promote walking and cycling, and insulation measures for home owners.

It also supports the rapid adoption of 5G technology and faster broadband speeds, which will support people working from home. Full details of the [East Sussex Economic Recovery Plan are on the East Sussex County Council](#) website.

It is encouraging businesses and organisations to get in touch with Team East Sussex to discuss their ideas.



Customer demand for appointments during the trial was low.

How to contact us:

- **Website:** [wealden.gov.uk](http://wealden.gov.uk) or use our [online enquiry form](#)
- **Email :** [info@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:info@wealden.gov.uk)
- **Phone:** Call us on 01323 443322 Mon, Tues, Thu, Fri 8:30am – 5:00pm, Wed 9:00am – 5:00pm
- **In person:** We can arrange appointments to those with a specific or urgent need.

**FOLLOWING** a 15 day trial opening of our customer reception at our Vicarage Lane offices in Hailsham, our reception will remain closed for the foreseeable future.

This is for the continued safety of residents and staff.

## No elections until May 2021

CHLOE Smith MP, Minister of State for the Constitution and Devolution, has confirmed that no elections will be able to take place before May 2021.

This decision has been made to give certainty on the timing and combinations of elections at the start of the new year.



# Reassuring local shoppers

A PUBLIC information and communications campaign to reassure the public about using Wealden's local shops during the pandemic will be launched later this month.

Using the Government's [Reopening the High Street Safely Fund](#), Wealden District Council has commissioned Prowse PR to manage a consumer-facing information campaign. It will explain to residents what changes are being made to local high streets and shopping areas in Wealden to ensure a safe shopping experience.

The campaign will be delivered over a number of different channels, including both online and offline communications.

The *Reopening the High Streets Safely Fund* will also support the appointment of temporary Information Officers who will be working with the businesses on the high streets in Wealden to provide advice and information to businesses with regards to operating safely during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Council has been carrying out a survey of local residents and shoppers to find out how they feel about shopping locally during the pandemic. The survey will run until 16 October and can be viewed on the [Council's web-site](#).

The project is receiving up to £143,302 of funding from the



England European Regional Development Fund as part of the [European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020](#).

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is the Managing Authority for European Regional Development Fund.

Established by the European Union, the European Regional Development Fund helps local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, and create jobs.

## Worried about paying rent? Talk to us

WEALDEN District Council is urging its 3,000 council house tenants to get in contact if they are unable to pay their rent, or are getting into arrears. Private tenants concerned that they could face eviction should also contact the Council.

“We recognise that some of our own council house tenants will have experienced financial hardship as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and this could potentially lead to a rent arrears situation,” said

Councillor Ray Cade,  
Wealden  
Cabinet  
member for  
Housing

“We would like to reassure all residents who have fallen into arrears between

March and August 2020 that we will continue to manage arrears cases sympathetically.”

This means the Council will not systematically resort to court action when the protection from eviction regulations end on 20 September 2020. Provided residents make an agreement with us to clear the rent and service charge arrears when they are able, and that this agreement is consistently maintained, we will not seek possession of the property.

This protection does not apply to tenants who were in arrears before the lockdown period or tenants who have not made any rent payments between March and August 2020.

Wealden's Housing Team can be contacted on 01323 443322 or [rents@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:rents@wealden.gov.uk)

Tenants renting in the private sector who are concerned about their landlord seeking to take possession action, or who have been served a notice which may result in them being made homeless, should contact our Housing Options Team on 01323 443322 or [housing.options@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:housing.options@wealden.gov.uk).



## Talk to the Fire Service about home safety

AS A result of Covid-19, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service has temporarily introduced virtual phone visits to talk to households about fire safety in the home.



It is particularly important at this time of year, when electric blankets are brought out, clothes are left on heaters to dry and plugs get over loaded. It is also important to make sure your smoke alarms are working

During a virtual phone visit, a fire officer will talk to you about the fire risk in your Home. After that they can then:

- Post you further information.
- Post you smoke alarms to fit yourself.
- Or if the fire risk is high and no one in your home is able to fit a smoke alarm, it will take protective precautions and fit smoke alarms for you.

To book a free telephone assessment, ring 0800 177 7069 [or complete a home safety visit request form from the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service's website.](#)

WEALDEN'S Housing Services are asking for views about its new **Maintaining and Improving Neighbourhoods Policy**. The draft policy is open for consultation until 2 November 2020 . The effective management of neighbourhoods is built on the success of shared responsibilities of both tenants/residents and landlords. This policy is key to ensuring the external areas around Wealden District Council's homes and shared communal areas are safe, attractive and well-maintained places to live.

The Council is also seeking feedback on its Draft **Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Strategy 2020-23**. This consultation is open until 11 November and includes a greater focus on rough sleeping and includes a Temporary Accommodation Policy. Further information can be found at: [www.wealden.gov.uk/housingconsultations](http://www.wealden.gov.uk/housingconsultations) .

## Have your say on housing matters



## Digital waste calendars for 2021

FOLLOWING the successful introduction of digital waste and recycling calendars last year, Wealden residents will again be asked to download a copy of the 2021 waste and recycling collection calendars.

They can also see receive free weekly reminders of waste and recycling collection by email through *MyAlerts*. *MyAlerts* also includes information about local planning applications and council news.

No longer sending printed calendars to all households saves £1,000s of taxpayers' money and reduces paper waste by the tonne.

Collection calendars for 2021, including the Christmas and New Year schedule, will be made available to download from our website from mid-December. Details will also be sent to town and parish councils.





## Brighton students experience work at Wealden

BEFORE Covid struck, Wealden District Council was able to provide five Business and Marketing students from University of Brighton with the work experience they needed to successfully complete their qualifications.

Working with Council officers between January and May 2020, the students had to produce a report to evaluate the Council's current marketing strategy. The work they did was then submitted as part of their final degree. Their recommendations have also been used by the Council to review our own marketing practices.

The placement allowed the students to practise their presentation skills with Council staff.

"Organisations should be encouraged to help young people

understand and contribute to the world of work with realistic projects," said Cllr Roy Galley, Cabinet Member for Human Resources.

"We are delighted that we were able to help these talented students complete their studies whilst benefitting from their growing marketing expertise. We have been mightily impressed with their dedication and professionalism. We wish them all the best for a bright future in business."

Jasmin Ellis, one of the five University of Brighton students who worked on the Wealden project, said: "Working with Wealden District Council gave me valuable insight into the business environment. This enjoyable experience greatly helped to strengthen my professional marketing and communications skills.

"The opportunity helped all of us to achieve our university grades and prepare for future workplace situations, something I would recommend to all university students."

The Council's partnership with The University of Brighton comes before the Government's recent announcement to help young people into work to boost the economy.

With 700,000 young people set to leave education and enter the job market this year, the [Kickstart scheme](#) wants employers to offer six month placements to 16-24 year olds which are 100% funded by the Government. Businesses of all sizes can apply.

Photographed are students Lucie Crump, Joshua Williams, Jasmin Ellis and Michael Esposito.

**Let's generate renewable energy and save it**

Residents in Wealden are coming together as a community to boost the supply of local renewable energy.

They have been taking part in a group buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage in their homes. The scheme closed on 5 October.

Wealden District Council is supporting the [Solar Together scheme](#) which uses the power of group-buying to secure significant savings. The scheme is being run in conjunction with iChoosr Ltd, and

other Sussex councils. By buying solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and battery storage at reduced prices, residents can save on the electricity bills and cut their carbon emissions.

iChoosr has already helped many Wealden residents save money on their energy bills through the Big Wealden Switch.



# Community groups make Wealden a cleaner place

WEALDEN'S streets and lanes are looking a whole lot cleaner thanks to the determined efforts of the Great September Clean's volunteer litter picking groups.

Working individually or in small, socially-distanced teams, they have been able to remove more than 1.5 tonnes of litter thrown away by some of our less considerate residents.



"This year it has been a clean-up campaign like no other," said Councillor Roy Galley, Wealden Cabinet member responsible for waste. "It was supposed to be a Great British Spring Clean. But Covid-19 turned it into a Great British September Clean.

"Up to 20 groups organised clean-up sessions in their villages and neighbourhoods over the past month. Working in groups of up to six, and maintaining social

"We really appreciated how much beautiful it was, and what it means to us.

"Keeping it litter-free is as important to us as to the animals and plants that we share the countryside with."

Wealden District Council, together with its street cleansing contractor Biffa, provided bags, gloves and litter picking tools to help local groups. The gloves and litter pickers can continue to be used throughout the year. We

are grateful to our service partner Biffa, who kindly arranged for the disposal of the collected litter bags.



distancing at all times, they have picked up more than 200 bags of litter across the District. Added to the haul was a large amount of metal objects, including an old moped, which was retrieved from the River Medway in Forest Row.

"I would like to thank them all for this amazing effort in helping keep Wealden clean."

Litter picking events in some Wealden towns and village are now a regular fixture, with groups like Brighter Heathfield and Brighter Crowborough organising regular clean-ups through-out the year.

"During lock-down earlier this year, many of us took renewed interest in the environment around us," said Councillor Galley.

## Supporting residents who have hidden disabilities

WEALDEN District Council has teamed up with Wealden Dementia Action Alliance to support a project to help people in Wealden feel more confident going into the community again.

The [Hidden Disabilities Sunflower project](#) helps those who have disabilities that are not immediately obvious to others. This could include people with learning difficulties, those living with dementia or poor mental health, as well as mobility, speech, visual or hearing impairments.

One objective of the Council's [Restart and Recovery Plan](#) is to continue to provide support, where needed, to the most vulnerable. Lanyards are can be obtained free of charge from:

- Forest Row Community Centre.
- Crowborough Town Council offices.
- Uckfield Civic Centre.
- Polegate Town Council.
- The Sussex Community Association, Hailsham.





# An uplifting experience....

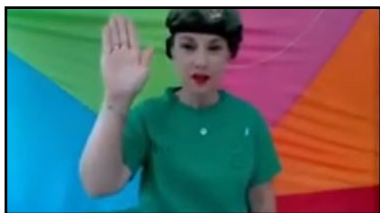
## ...in uncertain times

Wealden Chairman Cllr Pam Doodles' chosen charity, Dementia Support East Sussex, has continued to deliver inclusive activities for people with dementia, while maintaining social distancing.



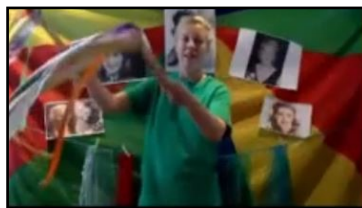
SUMMER weather has allowed Dementia Support East Sussex to entertain and interact with local people living with dementia while maintaining Covid-19 social distancing guidance. Suzanne Proctor of DSES takes up the story:

“During these very testing times DSES have still been managing to deliver some of their singing/movement sessions to those in our community who are living with dementia. We have been visiting various care homes and clients' gardens at homes throughout the Wealden area.



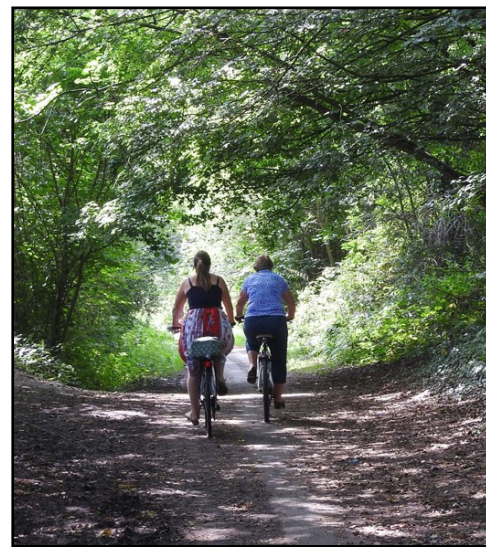
“We've been singing many of the old favourites and dancing to anything from Elvis to *You Are My Sunshine* and Carmen Miranda to *She Wore An Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini*, which always goes down a storm!

“There was a particular session in a garden in Heathfield, where a neighbour got out his ladder, climbed it, popped his head over the fence and joined in. “Luckily the weather has been very kind to us over the last few months with the sun shining for many more days than usual. It has been such an uplifting and positive experience for all involved in these very confusing times.



“Just to see a smile from a client who has not been able to visit their usual day care centre; a client in full voice remembering a song from their past, or a client telling you a story about how she had her first dance with her husband to the song you are currently dancing to!”

“Everyone at DSES is hoping that we can soon start to return to centres and care homes, continuing to can reach out to all our clients and carers during these unusual times,” adds Suzanne. “But, in the meantime, we will continue to take our sessions to where ever we are able. *For further information and to help Dementia Support East Sussex, contact Suzanne Proctor on 07799 886856 or email [suzannedses@gmail.com](mailto:suzannedses@gmail.com) .*



## Making the most of the Cuckoo Trail

WEALDEN District Council is working with [Resources for Change](#) to better understand who visits the Cuckoo Trail and how their experience can be improved.

Users can help the Council to shape future activities and improvements by completing [a short online survey](#).

“The Cuckoo Trail is one of Wealden's most treasured assets,” said Councillor Philip Lunn, Cabinet Member for Community and Public Health.

“We're keen to find out why, how and when the trail is used. This will help us to better understand and meet the needs of everyone who uses it, from commuters and dog walkers to cyclists and horse riders.”

The online survey is part of a wider consultation involving a pop-up stall along the Trail to gather users' opinions. Events took place in August and further pop-up sessions will take place later this month.

For further information about any of the articles in this Parish Bulletin, please contact Policy, Insight & Communications on 01892 602745 or [pr@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:pr@wealden.gov.uk)