

## **Press Release**

### **Launch Of New Youth Council In Hailsham**

In an exciting new venture, Hailsham Town Council will be re-launching their Youth Council this autumn.

An open afternoon will take place at the Square Youth Café, 1 Market Street on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September (from 3.30pm) to invite potential members of the new Youth Council to present their views and make provisional arrangements for the official launch later this year. Young people are invited to attend and should contact Andy Joyes to book a place by sending an email to [info@squareyouthcafe.com](mailto:info@squareyouthcafe.com).

The Youth Council, composed of 11-19 year olds from Hailsham and surrounding villages, will provide a forum for young people to input their ideas and engage with town officials, impact local government policies and strengthen their leadership skills.

Meetings will take place on a monthly basis to discuss youth involvement in local government and general issues they feel are important, which will be reported to the Town Council for consideration.

Youth project coordinator, Andy Joyes, said:

"The new Youth Council provides young people with a direct voice in local decision-making and recognises their needs and ambitions. Furthermore, it will help develop the Town's youth to take on leadership roles today and offer them the necessary skills and encouragement to take an active role in democracy for the rest of their lives."

"The views of young people are just as important as those of our older residents, and for this reason, we need to make sure young peoples' voices are acknowledged."

Cllr Nick Ellwood, Chairman of the town council's Finance, Policy & Resources Committee, said:

"The new Youth Council will be an excellent opportunity to bring together all of the local organisations working with young people to discover how we can work together in a way that involves our youth more and gives them the credit they deserve."

"To add to this, we can ensure that we are providing the right services to residents of Hailsham and make young people feel part of their community."

For further information regarding the new Youth Council, contact Andy Joyes (Youth Project Coordinator) on 841702 or email [andy.joyes@hailsham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:andy.joyes@hailsham-tc.gov.uk).

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