

The usual business updates have been covered in this latest edition but of particular interest has been our visits to various businesses, farms and pubs during the last few months. This has provided us with the opportunity to engage more closely with our businesses to look at ways of providing further help and support.

If you think we can provide your business with further help or assistance, please contact us by email to: regeneration@wealden.gov.uk or by telephone: 01892 602886.

Contents

Attracting Investment:	Ashdown Business Park Locate East Sussex - development showcase
Business Engagement:	FSB Small Business Awards 2018 for South East Tour of LEADER funded projects Tour of local farms Pub Is The Hub visits more Wealden pubs Sussex Food & Drink Awards 2018 Wealden business breakfasts and networking
Business Finance:	Business Incubator and Upgrading Commercial Property Funds East Sussex Invest 5 (ESI5) European Structural Development Funds £15m innovation funding for East Sussex South East Business Boost (SEBB) WARR Partnership – funding for rural businesses Wealden & Eastbourne Small Business Loan Scheme (WELF)
Business Support:	Business East Sussex General business support Locate East Sussex Low cost office furniture and equipment Make your business dementia friendly The Association of Business Mentors Wealden Business Support Leaflet
Community News:	New running track for Crowborough
Skills and Training:	eDEAL Pro-actions Street Learning Sussex Chamber of Commerce training events Sussex Downs & Hastings College merger
Tourism News:	JCJ Pottery National Trust commission Journey through Wealden video Nutley Windmill Off The Line Vineyard Top Twenty TSE awards – Ashdown Park Hotel & Bluebell Walk Wealden Do Sussex Attractions Guide 2018
Wealden Local Plan:	Progress update
Young People:	Wealden Works Careers Fair Young Entrepreneurs from Diverse Backgrounds

Attracting Investment

Ashdown Business Park

Work began during August on the new headquarters for Uckfield firm Gunnebo which will be next door to the John Lewis distribution centre at Ashdown Park, Maresfield. Find out more at: <http://www.ashdownbusinesspark.com/>

Locate East Sussex – Development Showcase

Wealden's development sites are showcased in the latest Development Showcase update from Locate East Sussex:

Ashdown Business Park – development site adjoining A22 and A272 Maresfield/Uckfield bypass

Pine Grove, Crowborough – Business hub in the town centre

Ridgewood Farm, Uckfield – 45,000 sq ft of business and employment space planned

Swallow Business Park – Business park on the A22, outskirts of Hailsham

For more information: www.locateeastsussex.org.uk

Email: enquiries@locateeastsussex.org.uk or telephone: 0300 3435749

Business Engagement

FSB Celebrating Small Business Awards for South East – Open for entries now



<https://fsbawards.co.uk/entry/south-east>

Tour of LEADER funded projects

On 1 August 2017 members of the Wealden and Rother Rural (WARR) board visited four rural businesses which have successfully received LEADER funding grants. The tour was organised by Plumpton College and visited the following projects:

- Sheep handling equipment: weighing of lambs – Eridge/ Stuart Fletcher
- New production line: Christina May Limited - soap manufacturer, Horam
- Farm shop and café: Tottingworth Farm, Heathfield
- New pie production facilities at Buster's Farm Shop and new Oast, Salehurst



Visiting Stuart Fletcher - grant funding has provided new sheep handling equipment

The WARR Partnership covers the rural areas of Wealden and Rother districts. Under LEADER, Local Action Groups (LAGs) can allocate grant funding to projects which create jobs and

benefit the rural economy. LEADER is part of the Rural Development Programme for England and is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. Most of rural Sussex, Kent and Surrey is covered by a LAG. Also see under Business Finance.

Tour of local farms

On Thursday 12 October, WDC Members and officers undertook a tour of two local farms organised by James Osman, County Adviser, National Farmers' Union (NFU).

Members were fascinated by the range of agricultural activity, the extensive knowledge of local farmers, the technical capability of modern equipment and the innovative diversification in the Wealden area.



The first visit was to Sturmer Farm, Chiddingly which is a beef farm producing a large number of cattle for the supermarket and restaurant trade.



The second visit was to Priesthaves Farm, Pevensey which is an arable farm and diversifications including business lets and renewables (the three wind turbines near the A27 are on this land).

For further information, please contact Helen Markwick, Community and Regeneration Manager helen.markwick@wealden.gov.uk

Pub is the Hub visits more Wealden pubs

Pub Is The Hub (PITH) is a not-for-profit organisation founded in 2001 by HRH the Prince of Wales and is an organisation of specialist voluntary advisors for rural pubs and licensees who are thinking of broadening their range of services.

On Wednesday 11 October, Anthony Miller from PITH joined Sarah King from the Council's Community & Regeneration Service on a tour of Wealden pubs who had expressed an interest in finding out more about PITH and other pub supporting initiatives.



pub is the hub

Following on from the launch of PITH and their support provided to Wealden pubs in 2016, a number of Wealden pubs with a food hygiene rating of four and five were given a further opportunity to find out more about PITH www.pubisthehub.org.uk as well as the 'Inn Crowd' www.inncrowd.org.uk and 'Tea & Teach' with Barclays Digital Eagles: www.barclays.co.uk/digital-confidence/eagles.

Four pubs responded to be visited on this day with others keen to meet PITH on another occasion. The pubs visited included the Blue Anchor (Crowborough), The Lamb Inn (Wartling), Ye Olde Smugglers Inne (Alfriston) and Yew Tree Inn (Chalvington). All four pubs wish to take up the opportunity to host an Inn Crowd performance and a Tea & Teach session. A programme is now being developed which will be promoted in the near future. In addition, PITH is now liaising with The Lamb Inn in connection with a national initiative the pub is involved with entitled 'The Great Inns of Britain', and has also provided an update to the Wealden area MP, Nus Ghani.

For further information please contact the Community & Regeneration team (Economic Development) on 01892 602886 or email: regeneration@wealden.gov.uk

Sussex Food and Drink Awards 2018: <http://www.sussexfoodawards.biz/>

Over 11,000 votes have been received for the entrants in this year's Sussex Food and Drink Awards. The aim is to congratulate the best food and drink producers, farmers, butchers, and places serving and selling local produce.

The Sussex Food Shop of the Year sponsored by Wealden District Council, presents a delightful spread of both new and old from across the region, each offering its own unique take on bringing plough to plate. The top 10 in this category are:

- Barley Sugar artisan deli, Eastbourne, East Sussex
- Crates Local Produce, Horsham, West Sussex
- Eggs to Apples, Etchingam, East Sussex
- Holmansbridge Farm Shop, Barcombe, East Sussex
- Judges Bakery, Hastings, East Sussex
- Oast Farm Shop, Buxted, East Sussex
- Plaw Hatch Farm Shop, Sharpthorne, West Sussex
- Rushfields Farm Shop, Poynings, West Sussex
- The Sussex Produce Company, Steyning, West Sussex
- Veasey & Sons Fishmongers, Forest Row, East Sussex

The winners and runners up will be revealed at a BAFTA-style ceremony hosted by awards patron Sally Gunnell OBE and Danny Pike from BBC Sussex in February 2018.

Wealden business breakfasts and networking

The next joint Wealden and Federation of Small Businesses business breakfast event is being held:

- When: Wednesday 29 November 2017
- Time: 7.15-7.30am Arrival/registration/networking with tea & coffee
7:45am: Breakfast served
8.10am: Welcome/Business introductions/Presentation/Q and A
9.15am: Main event ends/continue networking
9.30am: Event closes
- Where: Buxted Park Hotel, Station Road, Buxted. Uckfield TN22 4AY
- Topic: **Keeping Your Business Connected: Road, Rail & Broadband**
- Speaker: Rupert Clubb, Director of Economy, Transport and Environment (East Sussex County Council)
- Cost: £11 per person including booking fee
- Bookings: Please book and pay online by 12 noon on Tuesday 28 November 2017.
<https://wealdenbusinessbreakfast29nov17.eventbrite.co.uk>

For event related enquiries please email: regeneration@wealden.gov.uk
or telephone 01892 602886 (Mon-Wed) or 01892 602757.

Business Incubator and Upgrading Commercial Property Funds

For more details on these funds which are all still available, please visit Locate East Sussex: www.locateeastsussex.org.uk or email: enquiries@locateeastsussex.org.uk or telephone: 01424 205085.

For all funding opportunities make sure you keep up-to-date by visiting:

www.locateeastsussex.org.uk and www.eastsussex.gov.uk/business/developing/finance/grants

East Sussex Invest 5 (ESI5)

East Sussex County Council's economic intervention and capital funds programme ESI5 is now available and includes a new round of its Scheme Enabling Fund (SEF), incorporating the Catalysing Stalled Sites Fund (CaSS).

For more information visit: <http://www.locateeastsussex.org.uk/>

And <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/business/developing/finance/grants/>

European Structural Development Funds

<https://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds/research-and-innovation-call-in-south-east-rolling-call-oc30r17p-0507>

Calls for applications remain open until 12 January 2018. Please click on the following links for the detailed call specifications relating to the three SELEP European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) priority themes:

- [Research and Innovation](#) (priority axis 1) - up to £9,600,000 of funding available
- [SME Competitiveness and Growth](#) (priority axis 3) - up to £17,500,000 of funding available
- [Supporting a shift towards a low carbon economy](#) (priority axis 4) - up to £6,980,000 funding available

Please contact the ERDF Technical Facilitator – Jo Simmons jo.simmons@eastsussex.gov.uk or 07701 394521 to discuss your project at the earliest opportunity.

£15m funding for innovation projects that will shape the future

East Sussex companies can still apply for a share of up to £15m for innovation projects that will inspire the products and services of tomorrow.

UK government body, Innovate UK, is backing projects that stimulate new products and services through emerging and enabling technologies. Schemes are expected to last between six months and three years and range in size from £35,000 to £2m. For all the details please visit:

<http://www.locateeastsussex.org.uk/news-15m-funding-for-innovation-projects-that-will-shape-the-future.aspx>



South East Business Boost (SEBB)

SEBB is an 'enhanced' business support service for SMEs, providing in-depth, specialist business support activities tailored to meet the individual needs of different business communities. The programme will offer targeted and bespoke 1:2:1 and 1:2:many support activities, workshops and events, provision of a grants programme and the

development of 'super local' business networks.

This is an ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) programme. Growth grants are available to eligible SME trading businesses (maximum employees: 250) of between £1,000 and £10,000 based within the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SE LEP) area, including Wealden.

The grants can fund up to 30% of the total cost of goods or services related to increasing sales, improving productivity and increasing profitability.

For more information: <http://southeastlep.com/european-funding/erdf> and <http://www.bussinesseastsussex.org.uk/south-east-business-boost/>

WARR Partnership continues to welcome applications from rural businesses in East Sussex

LEADER Grants are still available to rural East Sussex based small businesses, farmers, foresters and communities towards capital projects that create jobs and boost the county's economy.

Projects funded so far have included a new farm shop and café, mobile sheep handling and performance monitoring equipment, a grape press, timber harvesting equipment, farm diversification projects, a farm shop extending into the wholesale production of pies and pasties and a new machinery production line for a soap manufacturer.

Hamish Monro, Chairman, Wealden and Rother Rural Partnership, said, "We are continuing to see a wide range of expressions of interest, outline and full applications. If you are a rural business or community organisation seeking support to expand your business with a good capital project that will create employment then please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Government has committed funding to March 2019 and so we will be accepting applications until 31st December 2018 – it really is a matter of use it, or lose it".

LEADER funding, which forms part of Defra's Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), typically offers grants of between £2,500 and £50,000 for funding of up to 40% of the cost of capital projects to rural enterprises. The usual maximum grant for Wealden and Rother Rural Partnership has just been increased to £100,000, in recognition of the significant projects coming forward.

Full details are available online at www.warrpartnership.org.uk or by calling Don Cranfield on 01273 892031 or by emailing leader@plumpton.ac.uk.

Wealden and Eastbourne Small Business Loan Scheme

If you're a micro business based in the Eastbourne and Wealden area, with 10 or less employees and are ready to grow, but unable to access commercial finance you need to achieve growth, this scheme will help you to access the capital you need to take your business to the next stage.

<http://www.letsdobusinessgroup.co.uk/wealden-eastbourne-small-business-loan-scheme.aspx>

Business Support

Business East Sussex

For three hours of FREE quality business advice from a friendly and experienced team which could help your business meet its true potential, visit the Business East Sussex Growth Hub website for more details and to check out the business events coming up:

<http://www.bussinesseastsussex.org.uk/introducing-business-east-sussex-growth-hub-team/>



General business support

For information on all aspects of business support which is available for our Wealden businesses, please visit our webpages:

http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Business/Business_Support_and_Advice/CAR_Business_Support.aspx



Locate East Sussex has secured a new three-year contract to deliver the county's inward investment service and expand support for high-growth, innovative firms.

Funded by the district and borough councils (£30k pa per local authority) in East Sussex as well as by East Sussex County Council (£60k pa), Locate East Sussex will now benefit from additional support from the European Union. For the next three years, Locate East Sussex will in part be funded by the 2014 to 2020 European Regional Development Fund Programme, as part of a wider South East Invest project (£1,795,463) that involves Essex County Council.

Since Locate East Sussex was launched in 2014, over 820 new permanent jobs have been created in the county. Locate East Sussex has delivered some £5.8million in grants and loans from East Sussex County Council to growing businesses in the County through an associated business support programme. This financial support has been matched by over £24.8million from local companies, representing a total boost of £30.7million to the East Sussex economy.

The Locate East Sussex team is based in Ocean House, St Leonards and offers free, objective advice on business growth, commercial property decisions and access to funding for growth acceleration.

Locate East Sussex will also be supporting the delivery of East Sussex County Council's 'ESI5' (East Sussex Invest 5) business funding programme and is now welcoming applications from companies interested in accessing grant or loan funding to support business growth.

Locate East Sussex is part of the Let's Do Business Group : www.locateeastsussex.org.uk/

For further information please contact Sarah King, Community & Regeneration team (Economic Development) on 01892 602884 or email: regeneration@wealden.gov.uk

Low cost office furniture and equipment



Sussex businesses of all sizes now have a low cost, environmentally friendly route to kitting out their offices across the county. Now! Charity Group Ltd provides high quality, low cost office furniture and equipment to local businesses which are starting up, home offices or businesses that are expanding or just wanting to modernise their surroundings.

This service also helps to reduce waste as thousands of tonnes of office furniture get dumped each year. Why not pay their showroom a visit and set up your office for less!

Unit 2a Britland Estate, Northbourne Road, Eastbourne, BN22 8PW.
01323 887199.

Opening hours are: Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm. www.nowcharity.org.uk

Make your business a dementia friendly business

Dementia Champions have led Dementia Friends' sessions for employees and volunteers at Bridge Cottage, Manor Park & Hempstead Field Residents' Association and Tesco in Uckfield in order to work towards becoming dementia friendly businesses.



Businesses and organisations can make a big difference for people with dementia and their carers by making a commitment to become more dementia friendly. Becoming a dementia friendly business is not only a socially responsible step but can also bring economic benefits. Research shows that 83 per cent of people with memory problems have switched their shopping habits to places that are more accessible (Alzheimer's Society, 2013). Becoming dementia friendly will enable businesses to retain existing customers and attract new ones.

A dementia friend learns a little bit more about what it's like to live with dementia and then turns that understanding into action. Sessions run for one hour.

For more information on how to work towards becoming a dementia friendly business please download: [Becoming a dementia friendly retailer: A practical guide \(PDF online link\)](#)

or contact Kat Jenner, Community and Regeneration team on 01323 443266.

The Association of Business Mentors

<http://www.associationofbusinessmentors.org/>

The Association of Business Mentors (ABM) was founded in 2011 by previous small business owner Kerrie Dorman when the lack of standards and validity in business mentoring became glaringly apparent.

Following industry research by business software supplier Sage in 2016, their report concluded that business mentoring has great benefits for users, in some cases making the difference between success or failure. However only 15% of SME business owners in the UK use, or have used, a business mentor. Why so few when the benefits are so obvious?

The ABM believes there are several reasons:-

Perception - in the UK, mentoring is still seen by business owners as asking for help as opposed to tapping into lessons already learned and making use of the experience of a mentor.

Bad press - poor experience of mentors in the past - bad news travels far. The ABM is striving to change this perception.

Knowledge - knowing and understanding what mentoring actually provides and the benefits of using a mentor.

There are grey areas and often questions from clients who are unclear on the differences between coaching, consulting and mentoring. The ABM is frequently asked about the differences between these services and which is the appropriate and best form of business support. To be a mentor it is essential to have first-hand experience in business and the arena you are mentoring in.

Coaching can be taught to anyone and previous business experience is not required. The ABM believes that a healthy dose of both is now normal and most mentor training covers coaching techniques and mentoring skills.

The most important aspect of delivering all forms of business support is that the clients are working with credible providers who are 'trusted advisers'. Furthermore, the client must see success and beneficial results for their business from their mentoring sessions.

All ABM members have to go through a stringent application process so clients are assured of their credibility and experience. Affiliate members are supported until they reach the necessary level of experience.

The ABM has many fantastic case studies from its wide-ranging work with clients, providing clear information on what it does and the results its mentors deliver. It has members throughout the

UK and the south-east regional head is Chris Dowling who is based in Uckfield. Chris will be pleased to hear from any business owner enquiring about mentoring services, or from anyone interested in joining the ABM - contact details below.

Chris Dowling - Tel. 01825 701332

Email: chris@dowlingconsultants.co.uk www.dowlingconsultants.co.uk

Wealden Business Support Leaflet

The Wealden Business Support Leaflet has recently been updated for 2018 and provides all the up-to-date information on the Wealden District Council's services available for businesses. It can be downloaded from:

http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Business/Business_Support_and_Advice/CAR_Business_Support.aspx

Community News

New running track for Crowborough

On Saturday 9 September, Nus Ghani MP attended the opening ceremony of the new all-weather polymeric running track in Crowborough. Paralympian Vanessa Daobry was also present at the ceremony.

The previous running track was built in 1981 and was thought to be the last cinder running track laid in the UK. The local running club, the Crowborough Runners, has campaigned hard for many years to get the track repaired and upgraded. They have been supported in their campaign by many people, including Nus Ghani MP and Lord Coe.

The new running track will be available to local schools and athletics clubs for training.



Skills and Training



For information about training courses, business workshops visit: www.edeal.org.uk



For details on upcoming seminars visit www.pro-actions.com/events or call Leon Banks on 07818 061189.



The latest programme of free Street Learning courses is now available offering a huge range of training and advice opportunities to anyone from Wealden or Eastbourne aged 19 or over.

Courses on offer from Sept – Dec 2017 include:

**Creative Writing ● Future Focus (brush up your employability skills) ● IT 4 You
Woodworking Basics ● Get out and garden! ● Maths 4 Parents ● And lots more!**

The courses are run across Wealden and Eastbourne and are booked directly with the providers. Some can be arranged at timings to suit you.

For more information about the venues and to download the latest programme, go to www.wealden.gov.uk/streetlearning or request a copy by emailing streetlearning@wealden.gov.uk.



The Sussex Chamber of Commerce is running the following business events over the next few months:

- Payment Security 17 January
- Impact of Brexit 8 February
- Logistics and Freight Forwarding 6 March

Please visit: www.sussexchamberofcommerce.co.uk for details

Sussex Coast College Hastings and Sussex Downs College merger news

Sussex Coast College Hastings and Sussex Downs College have announced their intention to merge to form a Sussex wide college group, with effect from March 2018.

Over the coming months, the two colleges will engage with stakeholders to discuss merger plans. A public consultation document has been released to outline more detail:

https://issuu.com/sdcomms/docs/merger_public_consultation_doc

Tourism News

Attractions Guide 2018

Look out for the Wealden Do Attractions Guide due for launch in February 2018. In the same handy fold-up format, there are even more attractions to tempt visitors and residents to stay and enjoy what Wealden has to offer. www.wealdendo-sussex.co.uk

JCJ Pottery

Local pottery businesses JCJ Pottery in Hankham received a commission from The National Trust to make a commemorative charger for an exhibition of Evelyn and William De Morgan's work at Whitwick Manor in Wolverhampton.

Whitwick Manor is a treasure trove of the Arts and Crafts movement, so Sussex potter Jonathan Chiswell Jones - one of the few people in the country to be working in the same medium as William De Morgan - was delighted to be asked. The finished piece is on display at Whitwick Manor along with a short DVD of the making process Jonathan used.

Jonathan Chiswell Jones 01323 469009. www.jcjpottery.co.uk

Journey through Wealden video

Why not take a virtual trip around Wealden and see what is on offer? You will be amazed by the beauty of the area and the variety of places to visit. [A journey through Wealden](#)

Nutley Windmill

A new set of stamps was issued earlier this year depicting the mills of the United Kingdom; Nutley Windmill was chosen to represent England and can be seen on the first class stamp. The Windmill is a grade II* listed building constructed in the 16th century and has been completely renovated by a dedicated team of volunteers. It is the oldest working mill in Sussex.

This fantastic tourist attraction is maintained by the Uckfield & District Preservation Society.

www.sussexmillsgroup.co.uk



Off The Line Vineyard being environmentally friendly

Aerobic Digester – Bio Bubble Technologies

At Off the Line Vineyard in Hellingly, before deciding to build a winery, owners Kristina Studzinski and Ann-Marie Tynan carefully researched the options for winery waste water disposal taking into account the fact there is no mains sewerage system nearby.

Although it was a significant additional expense, Kristina and Ann-Marie felt that an aerobic digester was necessary and represented the most sustainable solution for the treatment of domestic and trade effluent generated by the purpose-built winery. These systems are quite common in larger wineries particularly in the New World.



Two tanks are needed - first a balance tank into which all winery waste water, solids and domestic effluent is drained and second, a reactor tank where the bulk of the treatment takes place. Bacteria which break down the solid matter are introduced making it clean enough to be released into the water table.

This system and the biological process could be compared to a compost heap where the microorganisms are fed with the oxygen they require to consume the waste. To assist with management the

Bio-Bubble system uses dissolved oxygen probes, temperature and pH probes and sludge blanket probes. A Broadband communication link is used which allows the supplier to monitor trends to enhance performance. Find out more at: www.offthelinevineyard.com

Top Twenty

Three of Wealden's popular attractions are featured in the Top 20 list of places to take the kids before they grow up <https://familytraveller.com/holiday-destinations/uk/20-uk-attractions-take-kids-before-they-grow-up/20/>

- Knockhatch Adventure Park, Hailsham www.knockhatch.com
A farm, softplay, waterpark and small theme park rolled into one.
- Groombridge Place Gardens, Groombridge www.groombridgeplace.com
An enchanted forest and award-winning gardens.
- Drusillas Zoo Park, Alfriston www.drusillas.co.uk
An extensive zoo, gigantic outdoor play area, indoor soft play and rides.

Tourism South East Awards

Large Hotel of the Year

Highly Commended

Ashdown Park Hotel & Country Club, Forest Row, East Sussex.
www.ashdownpark.com @ashdownpark

Tourism Event/Festival of the Year

Highly Commended

Bluebell Walk Partnership, Arlington, East Sussex.
www.bluebellwalk.co.uk @bluebellwalk

Wealden Local Plan

One of the key elements required to enable the Local Plan to progress is the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) and any Appropriate Assessments required as part of that for Ashdown Forest, Pevensey Levels and Lewes Downs. The draft reports on air quality for these areas require review by Natural England together with their input on the requirements, if any, for Appropriate Assessments in relation to these sites.

Natural England has indicated that they should be in a position to provide draft comments back to us on these aspects by the end of December. In the meantime, it is our intention to publish the air quality work that has been undertaken in relation to Ashdown Forest, Pevensey Levels and Lewes Downs and we aim to do that by early November. In publishing these reports all stakeholders will have access to the most recent evidence that Wealden District Council has undertaken to inform its Habitats Regulations Assessment for the draft Wealden Local Plan.

Once we have the views of Natural England on the air quality, ecology and appropriate assessment requirements for these sites, we will further develop the HRA for the draft Wealden Local Plan. Timescales for this and the subsequent progression to full Council for approval to proceed with the Representation stage will obviously depend on the timing and content of the input from Natural England. However, it is our intention to aim for a full Council in March 2018 to seek approval to proceed to the Representation stage if we possibly can.

The need to have a comprehensive and complete evidence base including a robust HRA and overall plan is paramount. Failure to have this in place before proceeding with the plan will be counter-productive and ultimately lead to a longer process with less predictable outcomes.

The Council will continue to update landowners, agents, developers and builders on a regular basis through the Agents Panel, Developers East Sussex, the House Builders Federation and the newly formed Ashdown Forest Stakeholder Forum. In addition Town and Parishes and neighbouring Councils will continue to be kept informed through the Parish Planning Panel, the Ashdown Forest Officer Group and other means.

Ongoing regular updates will continue to be provided as further information becomes available. Keep up to date by visiting the Local Plan Page on www.wealden.gov.uk

Young People

Wealden Works Careers Fair

This year we hosted the Wealden Works Careers Fair at East Sussex National Hotel on Monday 2 October 2017. Just under 400 students from Wealden schools, colleges, sixth forms and academies benefitted from networking with over 40 exhibitors. A range of exhibitors attended on the day including the Army, Brighton Film School, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, Freedom Leisure training, Ashdown Hotel and many more. The East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service and the ambulance service also displayed safety demonstrations.

Planning for the 2018 event is now taking place. If you wish to express an interest in attending the Wealden Works Careers Fair 2018, please contact: regeneration@wealden.gov.uk.

Young Entrepreneurs from Diverse Backgrounds

Innovate UK has launched its new Diversity & Inclusion campaign 'Young Entrepreneurs from Diverse Backgrounds'.

Infocus is the brand for Innovate UK's work on diversity and inclusion. Jointly in partnership with the Prince's Trust, the well-established charity working with disadvantaged young people, we are running a nationwide innovation programme to identify and support up to 200 potential

entrepreneurs (aged 18-30) who, for whatever reason, have fallen through the net of the conventional education and business support systems. Participants will be inspired through visiting and talking to successful local innovators. They will be supported to develop their new business ideas.

Recruitment to the programme starts in October with a closing date for expressions of interest early December. Participants will be sourced via a new Prince's Trust online platform. Selected participants, up to 20 per region, will commit to a two-day programme in the New Year. All participants in the regional programmes will be invited to submit their ideas for business innovation with prizes for those showing greatest potential. The awards will provide support to validate ideas and make them a success. We will champion all our award holders as role models to encourage more young people to strive and succeed and think about business innovation as an opportunity. Award holders will be celebrated at a national event in March 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/innovate-uk-diversity-and-inclusion>

Dates For Your Diary

Wealden Business Breakfast: 29 November 2017 www.wealden.gov.uk

Small Business Saturday 2 December 2017 www.smallbusinesssaturdayuk.com

National Apprenticeship Week 5-9 March 2018 www.gov.uk

For details of business events in your area, visit the business pages:
www.wealden.gov.uk

Need help or information?

If you can't find it on our [business pages](#) telephone **01892 602886** or [email us](#).

If you no longer wish to receive Wealden Business e-Focus [click here](#)

DISCLAIMER:

Wealden District Council aims to provide accurate, up-to-date information, however details may be liable to change and Wealden District Council cannot accept responsibility for alterations, errors or omissions and it does not endorse any company featured in this publication.



Facebook Active Wealden



@WealdenETC

✉ Wealden District Council
Vicarage Lane
Hailsham
BN27 2AX

📞 01892 602886 / 01892 602757
@ regeneration@wealden.gov.uk
🌐 www.wealden.gov.uk