

MAJOR STEP FORWARD FOR NEW SIXTH FORM

A new sixth form college for Haywards Heath has moved a step nearer following a recent decision by the Government to accept the case put forward by Sir Nicholas Soames MP and the District & County Councils that provision should be re-established following the collapse of Central Sussex College.

It has been announced that the Chichester College Group is the preferred provider who will now work with local Councils and the Government to bring the site back into use.

Central Sussex College closed in 2017 following the college taking on debts of £25 million which it was unable to sustain.

Sir Nicholas Soames MP said: "This is a really important step forward. As the district grows, it is essential that there is a good quality sixth form for young people. It is terrible to see the Harlands Road site sitting empty and young people having to travel long distances to get to colleges outside the district".

Local Councillor Garry Wall said: "We have been determined to get the Harlands Road site back into educational use as it is essential that we have an excellent sixth form in Haywards Heath. There is still a long way to go but it is brilliant news that the Education Minister has accepted the case".



Safer roads for Franklands

County Councillor Stephen Hillier writes...

"Improving safety on our roads and pavements is a constant and time-consuming task but an important one to us, and residents if my "postbag" is much to go on!

Fox Hill / Hurstwood Lane

I continue to work across the local authorities, alongside Councillors, to campaign for an improvement at this junction when the Hurst Farm development happens. We strongly feel that there is an opportunity here to provide traffic lights and a pedestrian crossing that will assist the predicted increase in traffic wanting to turn up Fox Hill and to also provide a sound engineering solution to the known problems of speeding on both approaches to this junction. I shall keep you updated on progress.

Pavements

I am lobbying hard at the cash-strapped WSCC for improvements to our pavements, particularly on Beech Hill and the footpath that runs around the balancing pond in Northlands Avenue to Hoblands. We have been fortunate in the amount of investment we have received in this area over recent years and I shall continue to press for more where it is really needed.

Get involved

If you spot something that needs attention such as excessive weeds/vegetation, a pothole or pavement in poor repair, please use the excellent "Love West Sussex" app or web reporting tool at www.westsussex.gov.uk. Finally, if you are interested in volunteering for speed watch activity, please get in touch".

A new Country Park: the first new park in Haywards Heath for decades

Plans are now advancing to create the first new park in Haywards Heath for decades. The Country Park, which will be maintained by the Town Council, will be located in Hurstwood Lane along with new allotments.

Ideas being considered include woodland trails, wildflower planting, a picnic area and an adventure play area.

Cllr Rod Clarke says; "This is a really exciting project which will benefit the whole of Haywards Heath. Creating more public parks and green spaces is essential to help protect and improve the quality of life in Haywards Heath".

Working for you all year round - not just at election time!

FRANKLAND'S CONSERVATIVE TEAM

Can we help you? Please get in touch.



Garry Wall, Rod Clarke, Mike Pulfer, Stephen Hillier, Emma Clayton and Christopher Evans are here to help.

Phone: 01444 452590
Email: info@msca.org.uk

Follow us on social media for updates on local issues:



@Mid_Sussex



fb.me/HaywardsHeathConservatives

More cash for local schools

Schools across West Sussex have begun the new academic year and, as a result of the efforts of the county's MPs, many have seen cash increases in their budgets this year.

The new funding formula, once fully implemented, will result in an **additional £28 million being spent on education in West Sussex**.

Mid Sussex MP Sir Nicholas Soames said: "This issue remains a high priority for West Sussex MPs and we will continue to stand up strongly for our local schools".

More school places for Haywards Heath are also on their way with outline planning now granted for a new primary school to meet local need.



Councillors have used funding from the Franklands Ward budget to resurface a footpath in Walnut Park which was in a state of disrepair to help residents access the shops and GP surgery. If you have a community improvement you would like to see funded from the ward budget, please get in touch.

Post Office to relocate to WH Smith

Following the intervention of Mid Sussex MP Sir Nicholas Soames, the Post Office has consulted on plans to relocate the crown Post Office in Haywards Heath to WH Smith following the decision of the Co-op to close their shop in South Road. It will open in its new location in February.

Councillor Emma Clayton says: "This relocation will protect the Post Office services in the town centre which are vital for local residents. I'm amazed that Labour Councillors in West Sussex have opposed this move by the Post Office".

Northlands Wood surgery to expand

The Northlands Wood GP surgery has received £55,000 from infrastructure funds paid by developers to expand the practice. The money will pay for an additional consulting room for a GP or nurse to use.

Cllr Mike Pulfer says: "We know that medical provision is a big concern for many people so it's great news that the Council has allocated money from developers for these improvements. With a growing population, it's essential that we have the services and facilities needed".



Franklands news updates

Listening to local residents all year round

Local Councillors work hard to understand and represent the views of the over 4,000 residents living in Franklands Ward, including through surgeries and meetings residents. Please get in touch if you would like to raise an issue or concern.

The next ward surgery will on **Wednesday 6th February at 7pm** at Northlands Wood School.

Just tap it!

Contactless payment cards are now being accepted in Council-run car parks across Haywards Heath following the work of local Councillors to modernise services and give residents more choice of how to pay for parking. Cash is still being accepted in every car park.

Bus perches?

We know that the bus service through the ward is a lifeline for many residents and that for many the wait for a bus is uncomfortable. If you know of a bus stop where a 'perch' would be appreciated, let us know and we will try and ensure it is worked into future budgets.

800 more police officers for Sussex

Recruitment has begun for 800 new police officers over the next four years, with the first of the new recruits already undergoing training. The move is possible following the decision of Police & Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne to ask local taxpayers to contribute slightly more to the police's share of Council Tax. Find out more about Katy's work and sign up for her newsletter at www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk

Lewes Road

Seeing the danger to children and parents walking along the north and south footpaths between Birch Avenue and the Birch Hotel, Town Councillors have trimmed back a number of overhanging hedgerows so that pedestrians are not forced into the carriageway.

Salt bins and dog bins

Franklands Ward has a high number of salt bins which will be prepared for use in severe weather. Two more dog bins have also been installed in the ward.