



2 December 2022

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir/Madam

RESPONSE TO WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2023-2027

Heathfield Community College students had their interest sparked by the recent Wealden District Council Corporate Plan 2023-2027.

Whilst we are aware that the window for collecting responses to the survey is now closed, our student council wanted to write and express their view on priorities for the Wealden area as under-16 residents and school goers.

Heathfield students are extremely keen that Wealden District Council recognise the need to invest in road safety and pavements in the area. In particular, students were concerned about the roads around Heathfield Community College due to the proliferation of students walking, cars and buses driving and parents collecting at peak points before school and especially at the end of the school day.

Students felt that priorities to solve issues in their immediate local area should be:

- A zebra crossing
- Bushes/trees trimmed more regularly to avoid having to walk on the roads
- Implementing double yellow lines to avoid dangerous parking
- A plan to build and provide fair and appropriate parking facilities for a school of over 1400 students (including consideration of the leisure centre space)

Our Headteacher, Caroline Barlow, appreciates only too well the points raised by students and will be talking to our student council about the work she and the Chair of Governors have done to improve the safety of roads and pavements around the College but this is not a finished job. As a rural area, more thought needs to be given to the Wealden district regarding safety for pedestrians as the roads and pavements were often not originally designed for large numbers of users.

The compassion of Heathfield students also led them to argue for Wealden District Council to prioritise the support provided for people in need. More specifically, students felt local charities should be supported in the work they do, especially those that focus



Tel: (01435) 866066 e-mail: office@heathfieldcc.co.uk

Cade Street, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 8RJ Website: www.heathfieldcc.co.uk

Headteacher: Ms Caroline Barlow B.A. (Hons)

on children as it is never a child's fault that they are born into the circumstances that they are.

The mental health of the Wealden population (not just young people) is also of great importance to Heathfield students. They felt that the council should work closely with organisations that have the know-how to improve mental health. They felt that the council should have a clear plan for improving mental health and that it should include areas such as income for those undergoing therapy for their mental health and opportunities to help young people into work (perhaps a council run work experience programme that has a full range of opportunities from being able to help teenagers into placements with law firms and the like, to those who might be more interested in traditional trades).

Whilst we recognise there will be groups of people with competing priorities and that the survey is now closed, we hope that the considerate, ambitious and thoughtful nature of the ideas provided by Heathfield students living in the Wealden area, can be reflected upon and taken into account when finalising the 2023-2027 corporate plan.

Should you wish to discuss anything raised in this letter with Heathfield students, we would be very happy to welcome members of Wealden District Council to meet with our Executive Council. Please contact us through the following email address should you wish to speak to students: khatchard@heathfieldcc.co.uk

Yours sincerely



MR K HATCHARD
Assistant Headteacher