

## **Press Release**

# **Improvements To Be Made To Community Sensory Garden In Hailsham**

Hailsham Town Council has announced that part of this year's Hailsham In Bloom budget is to be used to undertake extensive improvements to the Dennis King Memorial Sensory Garden.

The creation of the combined orchard and sensory garden located at the Grovelands Farm site near Gleneagles Drive, focused on transforming a piece of land from an unused grassy area into a sustainable combined orchard and sensory garden for all members of the public to enjoy.

Officially opened to members of the public last summer, the £3,000 scheme was designed to allow blind, partially-sighted, deaf and disabled visitors the opportunity to explore plants and flowers by touching, tasting, smelling and hearing. Funding for fruit trees was provided by Hart Reade Solicitors and Hailsham Lions Club donated over £800 towards the project.

The new changes and improvements to the park proposed by the Hailsham In Bloom Committee are aimed at providing more information and interpretation provision that can be more easily accessible to the garden's visitors. The installation of interpretive signage in Braille, indicating plant species and other information, is due to be carried out by volunteers in the coming months.

The planting of additional shrubs, grasses and herbs is also due to commence soon, in addition to a general tidy-up of the garden by local residents and Environment Hailsham in time for the late spring.

'In Bloom' chairman Councillor Jeff Bentley-Astor said, "Creating this garden has been a fantastic challenge for everyone concerned, and, once the various tweaks and improvements have been implemented and additional shrubs planted, the finished product will be well received by the public and provide lots of enjoyment in years to come."

Adds Councillor Bentley-Astor, "We will continue to make improvements to the Dennis King Memorial Sensory Garden as and when necessary and continue to work closely with businesses and voluntary organisations to achieve this objective."

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