

www.heathfield.net

The Heathfield Partnership have been putting in a huge investment into the www.heathfield.net website and some of the dividends in terms of new features are coming alive in March. Firstly the whole site is being upgraded in phases and secondly there is a brand new Police site and a wholly revolutionalised business site both operating from March 2008.

The Police Service provides details of, and direct communication with, PC Cathy Codling and her team of 4 PCSOs based at the Heathfield Police Station. They will run a home page with up-dates of Police News but most important of all offer a new initiative in a crime reporting system that records, the report then sets an action plan and allows for a response back to the reporter where requested. This also allows for Cathy to monitor crime reports and for representatives to have the information to ensure resources are provided to keep the community safe. The Heathfield Local Action Team which is part of the Heathfield Partnership will also ensure that this site offers strong communication between the Heathfield Police Team and the public they serve. We are currently blessed with an outstanding Police Team who are very well lead by PC Cathy Codling and she has given a great deal of encouragement for this new service.

The Business site is set to be a very sophisticated search engine for any business or service being provided within the Parish of Heathfield & Waldron. Searches by business type or stock ranges on offer will bring up all relevant options. This will then illustrate the business by map location and a photograph of the front of the premises. In certain circumstances special offers will flash up across the whole website. Direct links to businesses own websites will also be encouraged. The dynamics of this in conjunction with the recently published and attached Shopper's Guide brochure and Town Information Boards that are being installed should help promote Heathfield businesses and raise footfall for all of our shops. The combined efforts to protect the town's free car parking has also been very effective for the foreseeable future and all told our commercial sector will, I am sure, have enjoyed the support they are getting. We have had a lot of support from the Chamber of Trade especially from Chairman Trevor Goldsmith and his consultation of his members has informed the direction we have taken.

Later in the year more of the main website will be modernised and new features such as a Youth site will be brought on live. Heathfield.net is fast becoming Heathfield's strongest communication medium and should be able to provide information on any local event or service. Future sites being programmed are Tourism and History of the Town where already outstanding photographs are available on the home page. A lot of credit must go to 21st Century, an outstanding international company based in Cross in Hand and Director Nick Potter who have given immense technical help and leadership in the drive forward of this initiative.

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