



## **The Chair of Wealden District Council – Councillor Barby Dashwood Morris visits young people on work experience as part of the Tomorrow's People Heathfield Works! programme**

**For immediate release**

**7/3/16**

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, Councillor Barby Dashwood Morris, Chair of Wealden District Council joined the Tomorrow's People team to drop in on two young people participating in the Heathfield Works! rural employment programme and undertaking work experience at Newton and Frost Fencing (Ben Digweed working with the design team, modelling 3D buildings, hosted by Sally Frost) and Isenhurst Health Club (Olly Child, undertaking a range of duties to support the Health Club, hosted by Dan Sanger).

Barby said 'I was delighted to have learned more about this valuable project. It was really interesting to meet two of the young people who have so obviously benefitted from the expertise of the Heathfield Works! team. To learn that these young people have made significant contributions to the businesses they are working with was the icing on the cake'.

This successful rural employment project was developed by two charities, Tomorrows People and The Heathfield Partnership Programme, in September 2011. Since then over 150 young people have had the opportunity to develop their sense of responsibility, self-discipline and deal with the barriers that have prevented them from moving forward into education, employment or training.

Tomorrow's People is a national employment charity that works within local communities to help disadvantaged adults and young people to get and keep a job. The Heathfield Works! programme is a 10-week course that helps young people living in isolated rural areas and helps them to access the job market.

The difficulties faced by young people in rural areas are particularly complex and further exacerbated by the:

- Lack of job opportunities and links to potential employers for training/work experience
- High cost and lack of public transport to reach vital support services, attend interviews, work experience or further education
- Poor and sometimes non-existent broadband links
- Reduction and centralisation of youth support services

As part of the Tomorrow's People programme an Employer and Community Liaison Officer brokers work experience opportunities with local companies to provide personal development opportunities to participants and improve employers' confidence in young people's abilities. The Officer has also played a key role in fully informing owners of small, local businesses of the opportunities presented when employing a young person including information on financial support for apprenticeships and the benefits of young people using technology and social media to improve a business. This has led

to real job creation in the area as small businesses have invested in the growth of their business through employing young people made job-ready.

Local employers Newton and Frost Fencing and Isenhurst Health Club have provided multiple work experience opportunities and jobs for young people from their communities. These opportunities not only help young people gain a better understanding of the workplace and employers expectations, but also develop or build on their skill base and confidence going forward.

If you are a local business that could offer a job, apprenticeship or work experience, please contact Frances Conway on 07795 174055

## **Ends**

**For more information, please contact Juliet Grant, Communications and Media Manager,  
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## **Notes to the Editor**

### **About Tomorrow's People**

- Tomorrow's People is a national employment charity that works within local communities to help disadvantaged adults and young people to get and keep a job.
- Our vision is to break the cycle of unemployment and dependency in deprived communities throughout the UK. We transform lives by 're-skilling' long-term unemployed people so that they can find and keep a job.

Tomorrow's People:

- provide intensive, one-to-one support, focused on the individual
- run ground-breaking programmes for adults and young people, including working in prisons, GP practices, isolated villages and estates
- investigate the roots of unemployment and come up with new solutions
- establish the value of our work to society, by opening ourselves up to independent scrutiny and measurement.
- [www.tomorrows-people.co.uk](http://www.tomorrows-people.co.uk)