

**Rother District Council and Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council**  
**Leader and Mayoral meeting**  
**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024 2pm – 3pm**  
**Committee Room, Rother District Council Town Hall.**

Sent to: Cllr Paul Wilson; Cllr Memish Huseyin; Cllr Doug Oliver; Cllr Christine Bayliss;  
Cllr Teresa Killeen; Lorna Ford; Anna Evett; Andrew Vallance

**AGENDA**

**1. Updates on action points from the last meeting**

- a) The Changing Places Toilet in Egerton Park – AE will forward details to the Clerk so that devolvement/recharging can be considered by the Asset Transfer Committee (now Amenities Committee).

**Carried forward from last meeting.**

**Update – it was noted that the town council has decided not to fund the toilet in Egerton Park.**

A discussion took place about the decision of the council not to fund the toilet and it was suggested that the Town Board might take this on.

**2. ASSET TRANSFERS – TO DISCUSS ANY UPDATES:**

- a) WCs - DVSQ refit quotes being obtained by the Town Council. CVE lease being progressed to town council's solicitor.

It was noted that CVE toilets are currently closed due to the pipework flooding the basement and this is being repaired. As its subterranean this is not a straightforward repair. The toilet won't be handed over until it is repaired therefore the lease legal discussions are on hold.

It was noted that signs have been placed on the toilets to inform users of the reasons for closure however they are regularly removed by unknown persons. It was discussed that this causes further anger and confusion with residents over the toilets but is difficult to police.

**AE ACTIONS: Speak to Deborah Kennelly about a plan for signage and comms when toilets are out of order, RDC to make sure website is up to date and lease work will continue once repairs are done.**

- b) Parks and Open Spaces – to discuss.

It was discussed that Cllr Wilson could raise a motion to the town council to start the debate about the future maintenance of parks and open spaces. It was discussed that the reduction in specification of open spaces maintenance may impact on Bexhill, so RDC need to communicate this to the town council so that it can understand the added value tasks required to keep Bexhill looking tidy.

It was suggested that Marina Gardens and war memorial could be a joint project that the town council and RDC could work together on. Town councillors will consider motions to get these items onto an agenda for discussion.

- c) Museum – to discuss.

It was noted that the town council could take this on in the future, revenue savings are being made by RDC and this will be part of the RDC approach to the town council in the near future.

- d) To receive any updates on new Asset Manager of RDC's review of all assets including closed toilets.

Assets have been valued by RDC with alternative use values also given to meet the "Best Value" requirements. Social value benefits could help reduce the advertised cost if public toilets are being provided within the existing buildings.

The policy will be considered by RDC Full Council in December then information will be passed to the town council.

- e) Pebsham Recreation Ground – to receive any updates.

RDC will provide a letter of intent to the town council to allow the grant applications to be made for Pebsham Play Area.

### **3. NORTHEYE – to receive any updates**

There is no further news on the future of the site.

### **4. GLYNE GAP ROUNDABOUT – to receive any updates.**

It was noted that the town council is investigating options now that a design has been informally agreed.

### **5. QUESTIONS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS**

There were none raised at the last Full Council meeting,

### **6. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE**

It was noted that both councils had received an approach from a tabloid journalist concerning the perceived issues between the councils in Bexhill. RDC is preparing a press release and the town clerk is liaising with the press team at RDC.

Parking in the town was discussed and it was noted that Jempsons have noticed a marked reduction in Bexhill footfall, which they believe is down to the parking charges. RDC are preparing some work on this.

The press coverage around Post Office closures was discussed and it was noted that RDC are issuing a press release.

The unauthorised lighting of the beacon at Remembrance was discussed, and the seriousness of this offence will be highlighted to Lorna to seek prosecution of the individuals involved. Councillors discussed that the event could have had fatal consequences. The attendance of town and district councillors at the lighting was discussed as problematic, and it was agreed that this gave the impression to the public that the event is an authorised and safe event when it is not. It was agreed that code of conduct complaints should be pursued.