

Bexhill Town Board

Since I was ratified as the Bexhill Town Council external representative for the Town Board I have not been able to update full council as there has not a full council

To date we have had 2 Town Board meetings. The first one predominately dealt with the Terms of reference and some of the secretariat arrangements. There were however a couple of pushbacks that are detailed within the minutes of the Town Board and on their Website

Firstly, all other elected bodies were able to send a deputy if their Board Member wasn't available apart from BTC. This has now changed that if for any reason I am unable to attend then my Deputy will be able to

Secondly, was that the map that covered areas of Bexhill where funding could be applied for was challenged and it was agreed that the map should be for all areas within the 9 voting wards of Bexhill.

All of the information regarding the Town Board is available and on the website www.bexhilltownboard.co.uk

There was significant time spent regarding community engagement and making the arrangements for ideas from Residents and Businesses to be sent into the email address bexhilltownboard@rother.gov.uk

The second meeting moved onto some of the detail that was coming forward from residents. Some of our expectations have been slower than expected mainly because of the Pre Election protocol meaning that DLUHC (Department of levelling had been less communicative)

Having said that RVA had been progressing with engagement and the Chamber of Commerce had arranged some workshops of which some Town Councillors attended. A great way of expressing what vision was looking like

We were updated by Anne Rathbone the Levelling Up Partnership Manager resented a progress RAG update showing we were on target to be in a position to present to DLUHC by the end of July subject to further examples coming forward from all the community engagement that remains ongoing

We were also presented with the interim findings from company called Marshall Regan. They had been appointed very early on to prepare some quantitative evidence data. This is essential to support the application process to prove the rationale which projects we are suggesting should be supported. It drilled down into all sorts of data that is available but not in the one place. I wont go into the detail save to say it was very interesting

I also highlighted that sport had been omitted from the Town Board. Oddly DLUHC observed the same. I will be, with the assistance of Anne Rathbone making arrangements for a workshop for any sports that are carried out in Bexhill. The date planned is 8th July. Watch out for that being announced. I suggest if you know people involved in sport to advise them

Due to the very tight timescales that I have already mentioned to Full Council I had wanted to call an EGM but was advised against this.

Having said that the huge amount of work that Cllr Brailsford put into the High Street Task Force of which most of us had the opportunity to have our own input to will be moved into the Town Board Areana

To make things simple there are 3 themes under this funding. They are :-

- Safety and Security
- Highstreets, Heritage and Regeneration &
- Transport and connectivity

So all ideas / vision needs to link into these 3 themes but to be fair these headings cover the vast majority of things

Eventually there will be working groups under these 3 headings which will, longer term work up the ideas that come from community engagement. It hasn't been decided how these will be formed but I suspect that people who take the time to submit ideas could be involved.

For now the Town Board has to create a 10 year vision of how the Town of Bexhill wishes to progress with this funding. That is defined as a 250 word document so would need to be quite precise

By the 3rd week of July The Town Board also need to put forward a relatively light touch document of how the first 3 years of funding is to be used based on 75% Capex and 25% revenue

So, The Town Council does have an opportunity which our Clerk has been briefed on around how we see the next 3 years and which projects that the Town Council could support to shape the next decade

Some of you may already have put forward your ideas to the e mail address above but this Full Council meeting is more than likely to be the final chance to .

Regrettably, I will not be at the full council meeting but my guidance would be ideas need to be realistic, visionary, connected with regeneration and projects that all of our residents have been asking you for.

In advance of the Full council meeting you might like to watch the video from Abi Newbury, Chair of The Bexhill Town Board. Its on Social media on Bexhill Unwrapped. For those that don't use social media perhaps ask someone to e mail it to you