

## **Northern Rother District Councillors' Report January 2021.**

**The parish of Bexhill-on-Sea** and a Parish (Town) Council will be created with effect from 1 April 2021. Set-up costs of the establishment of the Council will be paid by Rother District Council ie. Rother, not just Bexhill, taxpayers. An interim Parish (Town) Council administrator will be appointed for up to seven months with effect from 1 January 2021.

**The Joint Waste Partnership** has been run by Rother District Council as the Administering Authority since the inception of the Partnership in 2011. With the departure of Dr. Tony Leonard RDC no longer has the expertise required to perform this role which will now be carried out by Wealden District Council. As a result, RDC will lose £45,000 administration financial contribution towards accommodation, ICT and associated support costs as well as losing the prestige of being the Administering Authority of the Partnership.

### **Draft Revenue Budget 2021/2022**

The Revenue Budget is on the Cabinet Agenda on 11<sup>th</sup> of January with a recommendation to Overview & Scrutiny Committee setting the maximum increase without the requirement to hold a referendum of £4.94 to £189.04 with a potential yield for the year based on properties at Band D, of £7.109m.

The Council no longer receives any Revenue Support Grant and is wholly reliant on revenue from Business Rates, Council Tax Specific grants, charges for services and income generation in meeting its net budget.

The financial risks are great with additional increases arising in Homelessness which for 2020/21 was overspent by £430k with a further provision having to be made of £299k in 2021/22.

**Covid 19 Impact:** Support afforded to Commercial tenants and expected voids in the uncertain future, whilst not provided for in the Budget will have to be kept under constant review.

**Leisure, Swimming and Cultural Services:** Support already extended to these services already has to be underpinned by a further commitment for 2021/22

The draft Budget for 2021/22 utilises £2.9m of reserves in order to support revenue expenditure. The total earmarked reserves by the end of March 2022 is estimated to be £7.1m including the General Fund balance. Over the 5-year financial forecast these are predicted to fall to a minimum of £3.2m.

**A radio-controlled car racing track** is proposed at St. Mary's Recreation Ground, Sidley for exclusive use by 1066 Racing, an off-road radio-controlled car racing club founded in 2013. The track would be developed on small, under-used part of the Recreation Ground and the club hopes to have the scheme up and running this Spring.

**District Councillors Tony Ganly and Martin Mooney.**