

Northern Rother District Councillors' Report July 2022.

Bexhill Town Hall "Renaissance" project.

this link will give you access to the report on the RDC website:

<https://www.rother.gov.uk/business/local-regeneration-projects/town-hall-renaissance/>

The project was originally planned to be cost neutral. However, we have seen no figures or a cost/benefit analysis. It is proposed to hear a planning application for this project at the Planning Committee this month.

An interesting letter from a Battle resident published in the Observer on 17 June addresses the process under which the consultation was conducted:

"The fact that a project to do up the Bexhill Town Hall is given a fancy name should start the warning bells ringing for Rother taxpayers. But whether one supports the concept or not it is appalling that RDC should announce a "public consultation" for just one day on the scheme- only giving just 5 days notice and then only notifying a select group of people - all within Bexhill. They claim it was "widely broadcast" on the Rother website. It was not. It was not even included in the Rother Alerts email which RDC claims goes to 20,000 email accounts each week. If you can find the webpage featuring this public consultation there is a note saying the public can see the scheme details on the website from 15 June and have until midday on Sunday 19 June to register their comments. Four whole days to find, read about, consider and submit a comment on a £14 million project Rother taxpayers will have to fund! It is even more disturbing that it is not just the residents who have been given no adequate notice of this public consultation. Two of Battle's District Councillors are members of the RDC Cabinet. They were unaware of this public consultation until Friday 17 June. They have not seen the details of

the scheme. One subsequently asked for a postponement of the event. This was denied.

This begs the question: who is running Rother District Council? Where is the openness, transparency and accountability the Rother Alliance claims to espouse?

Bernard Brown, Netherfield Road, Battle."

Performance Report fourth quarter 21/22.

Out of 13 key performance indicators only three are performing satisfactorily. Recycling, Planning applications, additional income generation, Council Tax & Business Rates collection rates, net additional homes provided all fall below the level expected. Indeed, the target for "additional income generation" for 2021/22 was set at £107,000. The actual result is zero.

Contracting out of Homelessness Reviews.

Cabinet agreed to appoint a new agent to fulfil the Council's obligations to review homelessness decisions under sections 202 and 204 of the Housing Act 1966 (as amended).

Discretionary Council Tax Energy Rebate Scheme.

In February 2022 the Government announced

a Council Tax Energy Rebate of £150 to households liable for

Council Tax and reside in properties with a tax band A-D AND

A Discretionary Council Tax Energy Rebate to support households not eligible for the main scheme, including those in bands E to H.

Rother has been allocated £294,000 to fund the discretionary scheme, allowing support to be provided to an additional 1,960 households that meet the criteria:

the household is liable for Council Tax and resides in a property with a Council Tax band E-H or the household is not liable for Council Tax and reside in a dwelling with a Council Tax band A-D but are responsible for energy bills **AND** receive benefits **OR** has a net

income of not more than £257.69 per week for a single person or £384.62 for a couple and has capital of not more than £6000.

New Cricket facility for Sidley Cricket Club at St. Mary's Recreation ground.

Sidley Cricket Club has been granted a 50 year lease to develop, at the Club's expense, a cricket square and artificial wicket.

Councillors Tony Ganly and Martin Mooney.