

Northern Rother District Councillors' Report March 2023.

Village Halls Project.

The Village Halls Energy Project will identify and address areas of energy inefficiency and high carbon emissions in local village and community halls. The project is a key initiative for the authority and links directly to council's objective to reduce carbon emissions Rother wide and move towards a low carbon future. A total of 37 halls across the district will benefit from a share of a £500,000 funding pot to finance energy assessments, decarbonisation and energy efficiency improvements.

The money was awarded to the project from the council's Community Infrastructure Levy Climate Emergency Bonus Fund last June.

Energy assessments will be undertaken at each site over the coming weeks by LASER Energy with bespoke carbon Net Zero plans provided to halls by April this year.

Funds will then be distributed from the scheme to address the highest areas of concern. It is planned to carry out as many improvements as possible by May 2024. Hall committees will also be offered assistance to apply for additional funding and grants from local and national schemes.

Our village halls provide extensive economic, social and cultural benefits to our communities and we are committed to protecting and supporting them.

This project will identify and address energy inefficiencies found in many of our local halls, helping hall committees save money on energy bills and reduce their carbon footprints as well as securing their future in our communities."

More information on the project can be found on the council's website at www.rother.gov.uk/strategies-policies-and-plans/climate-emergency/village-halls-energy-project/

Please be aware that the following works will be carried out:-

<u>A28 Station Road, Northiam</u>	
<u>Temporary Road Closure</u>	From outside the Caravan Park to the county border, a distance of approximately 245 metres.
<u>03rd March 2023 to 05th March 2023</u>	Works will take place continuously from 20:00 Hours 03 rd March until 24:00 Hours 05 th March.

	Anticipated 3 days to complete.
To allow Hailsham Roadways to carry out level crossing repairs.	

Diversion via: A268 (Kent) – A229 (Kent) – A21 (HE) – A28 Westfield Lane, Church Lane, Main Road, Brede Hill, Cackle Street, Northiam Road, Well House Hill, Hastings Road and vice versa.

<u>B2244 Junction Road, Staplecross</u>	
<u>Temporary Road Closure</u>	From the junction with the B2089 Swailes Green to the junction with the B2165 Cripps Corner Road, a distance of approximately 30 metres.
<u>17th April 2023 to 19th April 2023</u>	works anticipated to take 3 days to complete.
To allow South East Water to carry out engineering works.	

Diversion via: - B2089 Swailes Green -B2165 Cripps Corner Road and Vice versa .(please see map attached)

Advance warning signs will be placed on site advising of actual date of works

Bexhill jobs & Apprenticeships Fair:

. This will take place at the De La Warr Pavillion, Bexhill on Friday 10 March. It is generally regarded to be extremely useful in that every exhibitor must have a job available (so it is actually a jobs' fair rather than a careers' fair). This is the link:

[Bexhill Jobs & Apprenticeships Fair - DLWP, The De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill, East Sussex](#)

Community Led Housing. The housing service was very pleased to see the completion of the first Community Land Trust led scheme in East Sussex in 2022. The 15-unit scheme at Orchard Close, Ickelsham is now fully occupied. The scheme provided 12 homes for social rent, together with a further three homes for affordable home ownership for local people. The scheme came to fruition thanks to the Icklesham Parish Community Land Trust (IPCLT) supported by the work of the Sussex Community Housing Hub (SCHH) which the Council funds in part. Having delivered this scheme, IPCLT are again working with the SCHH to identify a second site in the parish to bring forward for community led housing. The SCHH are also supporting Bexhill Community Land Trust (BCLT) with the acquisition and redevelopment of Cemetery Lodge, Turkey Road to provide affordable housing for local people. Alongside this, the SCHH are engaged in early stage activities in Burwash; Beckley; Rye; Pett, Guestling and Fairlight (Marsham CLT). These activities are supported by the housing team and early stage funding for housing needs surveys and other initial works provided through the Council's Community Housing Fund (CHF). The CHF is now almost spent. To complement this work, the Housing service recently sought and obtained Member approval to use s106 obligation funds to pay for community led housing related costs, namely at Cemetery Lodge. It is the intention of the housing service to continue to use this pot to support revenue bids for CLH schemes across the district.

Improving the quality of housing in the private rented sector .

In 2021/22, 94 inspections were completed (including 32 temporary accommodation dwellings). From 1 April 2022 to December 2022, there were 13 further inspections. These inspections have included three temporary accommodation dwellings. The Warm Home Check service provides energy efficiency advice and financial advice around heating. The scheme is run by East Sussex County Council and households are encouraged to self-refer to the scheme. This scheme is promoted and discussed during the HHSRS inspections. Numbers of households that self-refer are difficult to be certain of but are believed to be around 99 for 2020/21. 21.

Councillors Tony Ganly and Martin Mooney.