

Northern Rother District Councillors' Report September 2023.

Although the month of August saw all meetings in RDC and parishes put on hold, we have continued to engage with residents over various issues that they have had and have been in contact with the relevant departments to try and solve these issues.

We met up with Northiam Parish councillors and the management team of Northiam football club to discuss how to move forward with a new village community changing room pavilion. Discussions took place with regards to the design and how to secure funding to help with the construction and planning of the new pavilion.

The Dog consultation project has now closed, and we will be monitoring the situation to see what is being put in place regarding the areas dogs are allowed to go.

We have continued to liaise with highways and our ESSC Paul Redstone regarding the road the road situation at Horns Cross, Junction Road and the Rye road between Northiam and Beckley that passes Clayhill.

We received a report from PCSO Rachael Scott regarding any crime that had taken place in her area of Northern Rother For August. There were only two and they were in Staplecross . A residential property has been burgled; this is currently under investigation. The second incident Number plates were stolen from a vehicle in the second incident.

The Spaces Improvement Fund.

Rother District Council will launch a new community capital grant on the 1st September:

This funding comes from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) and will fund projects which create and improve community green (land) and blue (outdoor water) spaces in Rother. The total funding pot is £100,000. Please note: Due to the funding parameters set by government Bexhill is outside the scope of this funding as it is designed to support rural places. However, the Rother Community Grants Scheme will be opening in October and that is open to all.

Projects could include: community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces. All projects must demonstrate positive improvements for nature.

The first round opens on the 1st September will be open for applications until the 30th September with a second round of funding opening in Spring 2024. The maximum amount which can be applied for is £20,000 with 20% match funding in place.

Further details and eligibility can be found on the Rother District Council website Rural Community – Grant Funding Information – Rother District Council. The application form is now live.

Budget Monitoring Quarter 1 2023/24:

The forecast outturn at Quarter 1 2023/24 is a deficit of £2.811 million, which is £0.59m higher than the approved planned use of Reserves.

Community Grants Scheme:

Little Gate Farm:

The application by Little Gate Farm in Horseshoe Lane, Beckley for a grant of £30,000 g has been deferred. Little Gate Farm's purpose is to place adults with learning disabilities and autism into sustainable paid employment in Rother and the surrounding areas. They are requesting a grant of £30,000 to acquire a new diesel minibus with an accessible wheelchair ramp.

Councillors Tony Ganly and Tony Biggs.