

Northern Rother District Councillors Report for February 2024.

PCSO's report from Rachael Scott, re Bodiam and Ewhurst.

Only one incident, theft of number plates from Car park at Bodiam Castle.

PCSO's report from Becky Unicombe re Northiam and Beckley.

Northiam

10th – Digger and trailer stolen from business unit in Coppards Lane.

Actions that will help Rother District Council meet its ambitious target of becoming a net zero district by 2030 have been set out in a new strategy.



The Climate Strategy looks at the current situation, the challenges the authority faces and the actions it can take to reduce emissions and what it can do to support people and businesses across the district to do the same.

The document, agreed by Full Council, focuses on five key areas where the authority can make a difference – buildings and energy efficiency, transport, resource consumption and waste, biodiversity and land use, and energy generation.

Cllr Kathryn Field, the district council's portfolio holder for environmental, licensing, community safety and climate strategy, and joint waste contract, said: "Our ambitious target to be a net zero district by 2030 reflects just how seriously we take our responsibility to tackle climate change and to promote community action.

"This strategy gives us a clear vision of where we are and what we need to do to reach our target. It also shines a spotlight on the challenges we are likely to face and opportunities that will be available to us – both will help us develop realistic and achievable plans.

"We are all well aware of the enormity of the challenge we face, and I am proud of the steps we have already taken. We know that reaching our target will be a real community effort and I look forward to the council, residents and businesses working together to make a difference for future generations."

Since declaring a climate emergency in 2019 and agreeing the 2030 net zero target, the council has taken steps to reduce emissions and raise awareness of climate action through a number of projects;

- The council's operational emissions have reduced by around 87 per cent since 2019/20 thanks to action taken on gas, electricity and vehicle use
- The council now ensures that every property used as temporary accommodation for homeless households has a minimum EPC rating of C

- The council is working with village halls across the district to address energy inefficiency and high carbon emissions, thanks to funding of £500,000 for its Village Halls Energy Project
- An audit is being carried out on council-owned green spaces, including ecological surveys, which will help the council conserve and enhance biodiversity
- Council staff are undergoing carbon literacy training, giving them a better understanding. The aim is for the half of council to be trained by 2026, enabling the authority to be gold-certified

The Climate Strategy is available at www.rother.gov.uk/climate-emergency/climate-strategy-policies/climate-strategy/ and details of Climate Action taken so far are available at www.rother.gov.uk/climate-emergency/what-were-doing-as-a-council/what-weve-achieved-so-far/

Ends.

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THE new year brings new opportunities for keen tennis players to perfect their racket skills as refurbished courts reopen to the public.

All five public tennis courts at Egerton Park, Bexhill have benefited from resurfacing, nets and posts and a new gate system as part of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) Park Project.

The courts can now be booked via www.lta.org.uk/play/ with the new booking systems and gate access technology making it easier to get on court by booking in advance to guarantee availability.

The improvements have been possible thanks to Government LTA investment of more than £100,000

“We are grateful to the Government and LTA for recognising the importance of the courts to our community and will continue to work closely with them to take up any opportunities to encourage more people into the sport to stay healthy and active.”

Painting of the court surface and the final line marking of the courts will be completed in early spring when the weather is more suitable, but temporary line markings mean they are playable in the meantime. Enhancements to the access will also be made early in the new year.

Rother District Council is working with the LTA and the charity Tennis For Free to further deliver the range of activities at Egerton Park to encourage more residents to play tennis.

Whilst it hasn't been possible to resurface the court for informal ball games under the LTA grant, which is specifically for tennis, minor improvements will be made to the court ahead of the Easter holidays.

As a result their own successful fundraising efforts, Bexhill Tennis Club will also be resurfacing the two courts leased to them.

Council welcomes start of hospital work

Rother District Council has welcomed the start of work on a new mental health hospital in Bexhill. Construction work on the 54-bed Combe Valley Hospital in Mount View Street has officially started. The Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust facility is set to open its doors to patients next year.

Be a Nature Detective

This February half term, the Kent and East Sussex Railway are running their Kids for a Quid scheme. Trains will depart from Tenterden Town Station 4 times per day between the 10th and 18th of February (Excluding Monday and Friday), travelling through the Rother Valley, a designated Area of Natural Outstanding Beauty.