

MONTHLY REPORT FOR NORTHERN ROTHER. – November 2024

We attended a zoom meeting regarding Rother's Capital Programme where the finance is set out. One of these suggestions is that the doctor's surgery car park in Northiam will be a paying car park, where they hope it will raise 8000 pounds a year. Anyone using the car park will have to use Ringo to pay for parking. We did question the reason behind it, knowing that Rother have 500,000 pounds of uncollected debts. On asking further questions we have been told a consultation will take place asking residents of their views. We hope that residents of the 3 surrounding villages adjacent to the surgery are included in this consultation.

PCSO REPORT

Northiam

24th – Trailer stolen which was attached to a lorry in Dixter Lane. Happened between 05:30 – 09:30hrs.

Beckley

30th – Landrover Defender stolen from Ludley Hill overnight.

We also had a report from the PCSO who covers Eastern Rother her report states : If you are not already aware, please note that we have seen a dramatic increase in vans being broken into, with tools being stolen. Also we have seen a couple of Landrovers being stolen along with quad bikes.

We have not received a monthly report from our PCSO for Ewhurst or Bodiam, we will give a verbal report if we receive one before our meetings.

COUNCIL TAX

Residents across Rother could be eligible for a reduction in their council tax via a scheme being promoted across the County.

Rother District Council is joining with other district and borough councils in East Sussex to highlight the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

The local authorities want to make it easier for eligible families and individuals to better manage their household budgets.

Eligibility depends on:

- where you live
- your circumstances, such as income, number of children, benefits, residency status
- your household income – this includes savings, pensions and your partner's income
- if your children live with you
- if other adults live with you

Residents can check if they are eligible via the Citizen's Advice website

CONSULTATION PARKING CHARGES.

At the meeting of the Lead Member for Transport and Environment on 14 October 2024, it was agreed to hold a public consultation on proposed changes to parking and permit charges in Rother. The agenda, report and minutes of the meeting are available online at <https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=177&MId=6023&Ver=4>

As part of our commitment to reduce harmful vehicle emissions across the county and encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport, the proposed permit prices will take into consideration engine size and emissions. Residents with lower-emission vehicles would pay less than those with higher-emitting vehicles. The proposed charges for resident permits will be in line with Lewes, Eastbourne and Hastings (the three other areas of East Sussex which have civil parking enforcement).

Residents can check their vehicles emissions by visiting: <https://www.gov.uk/vehicle-tax-rate-tables>

If implemented, we think these changes to parking and permit charges would help manage growing demand for parking, promote more sustainable forms of transport and improve the air quality in our towns.

The consultation will be open from 8 November to 29 November 2024.

Details of the proposals and the consultation will be available online at <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/rother-tariff-consultation>

Any residents who do not have access to a computer or smart device can take part in consultation by contacting us on 01323 463643 and we will post a copy to them. We are unable to take responses to the consultation by telephone. They must be made online or by returning a copy of the consultation by post.

If the proposals are agreed, we expect the changes to come into effect in April 2025.

RYE SPORTS CENTRE REFURBISHMENTS

The Council had been successful in receiving a £650,000 grant from the Levelling Up Partnership (LUP) to refurbish Rye Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre facilities. This funding was allocated by the former Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) (now known as the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government). The freehold for the sports centre and the car park was held by East Sussex County Council (ESCC); Rother District Council (RDC) held a Licence/Management Agreement with ESCC for the swimming pool. The dry side was subject to a Joint Use Agreement between ESCC, Rye Academy and RDC. The Council's current contractor, Freedom Leisure (FL) operated both the swimming pool and dry side until 31 March 2026. Prior to this date, the operation of the Sports Centre could be handed over to Rye Recreation and Wellbeing Charitable Incorporated Organisation (the CIO). Rye Town Council (RTC) had also agreed in principle with ESCC officers to take on a lease of the Sports Centre and car park, subject to formal approval by ESCC, and in turn RTC will sublet to the CIO once all is agreed. The final scope of refurbishment works was to be agreed with ESCC as the freeholder and completed in consultation with , RTC and the CIO as potential future operators. DMA Maintenance Ltd, a local consultancy firm, had conducted a series of high-level

surveys that had identified areas that needed attention to make the facility fit for purpose and provided a strong foundation to begin planning the LUP funded refurbishment.

Kind Regards,

Cllr. Tony Biggs Cllr. Tony Ganly

Northern Rother

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