

Rother District Council – January 2025 Report

Dear Clerks, Councillors and Residents,

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year, lets hope 2025 is a good one .

At the time of writing this report, we are waiting for the PCSO's reports, so a verbal report will be given at the Parish meetings.

There has been a lot of media attention regarding the car parking proposals for the car park in Northiam.

We are still exploring various ways to see if we can stop the charges happening. But in the meantime, please continue to complete the survey which closes on the 10th of January 2025.

A full council meeting took place in December, various issues were discussed, and the minutes of the meeting can be found on Rother's website.

One motion put forward was for Rother to ask the government to reinstate the winter fuel allowance, due to the high proportion of elderly residents living in Rother. Unfortunately, the motion was defeated in a recorded vote.

SOLAR PANELS

THE installation of solar panels will help cut Rye Sports Centre's energy bill helping to improve sustainability and safeguard the future of the facility.

It is anticipated that as much as 40 per cent of the centre's energy will be supplied by solar panels fitted with the help of more than £140,000 of Government funding secured by Rother District Council.

The Sports England Swimming Pool Support Fund is designed to support public leisure facilities with swimming pools which have been adversely affected by rising costs, leaving them vulnerable to closure or significant service reduction.

Contractors DMA Maintenance Ltd fitted 180 solar panels to the Freedom Leisure-run centre in The Grove, Rye, last week.

Cllr Hazel Timpe, portfolio holder for neighbourhood services at Rother District Council, said: “Swimming has huge benefits on both physical and mental health and can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities, and the funding and installation of solar panels should go some way towards securing the sport centre’s future for years to come.

“As well as reducing energy costs, the solar panels will help reduce the centre’s carbon footprint and support the district’s net zero efforts.”

Rye swimming pool was forced to close temporarily in 2022 due to soaring energy costs and didn’t reopen until October 2023.

Cllr Timpe added: “With the Sports England funding giving the centre a welcomed boost, we are continuing to lead this work with East Sussex County Council, Rye Town Council and the Rye Recreation and Well-Being Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to find a longer-term sustainable future for the pool.”

This work follows on from the previous successful funding application for £128,000 from stage one of the Swimming Pool Support Fund which supported Rye Sports Centre and Bexhill Leisure Pool to remain open by funding some of the utility costs.

The plan below sets out what Rother would like to do. This will might not take place if the government’s proposals for a mayor for Sussex are approved.

[Four-year plan to guide council’s work approved](#)

A PLAN which sets out a vision for the district and will guide the council’s work over the next four years has been approved.

At its meeting on Monday (December 16) Full Council considered the Council Plan 2025-2029, which will ensure that existing and planned work is aligned with the authority’s vision.

The document identifies the challenges and opportunities the district faces, and links to the council’s three key objectives of creating and maintaining a thriving local economy, improving health and wellbeing, and protecting the environment.

Cllr Doug Oliver, Council Leader, said: “I was pleased to see the Plan gain approval at Full Council. It is vital that the council has a clear direction and purpose in which to

meet residents' needs and to run efficient and effective services - even more so given the financial pressure we continue to face due to increased cost and demand.

“The Plan will help us build on the successes of the past four years and looks forward. It will also support the council in its effort to grow the rural economy, improve business resilience, and attract more visitors to the area for longer stays.”

He added: “We have so many wonderful opportunities to improve our district, and this plan will support our efforts to realise its potential and ensure we are in the best place to meet future challenges and service demands.”

The Plan looks forward to more than £120 million worth of innovative projects planned to deliver better facilities and services for residents including Barnhorn Green GP surgery and business spaces development, the De La Warr Pavilion regeneration project, 200 new homes at Blackfriars in Battle, Heart of Sidley Community Hub, Camber Welcome Centre, and the King Offa housing and leisure centre.

It includes actions that will need to be delivered by partners, with the council committed to working with communities and partners to achieve these. It also identifies ways in which success will be measured.

The agreed Council Plan 2025-2029 can be viewed at <https://rother.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s11404/Appendix%20A%20Council%20Plan%202025%20-%202029.pdf>

Kind Regards

Cllr.Tony Biggs Cllr Tony Ganly

Northern Rother