

NORTHERN ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT March 2026

We recently attended a zoom meeting with other district councillors where we had the opportunity to discuss policing in Rother with Chief Inspector Yeats. Various issues were discussed, one of which was visible police patrols in our villages. There was a graph showing how much time was spent by police patrolling in villages. Unfortunately, our villages were not shown, so we have asked for a copy to see how long officers are in our villages.

CI Yates was quite adamant that officers should be seen walking in the villages and that driving through a village does not count as a visit.

Also, it is a policing guideline that every 3 months officers should be present in the village so residents can approach them with any queries. It was pointed out that it is no good them parking up their car in the village car park if residents are not aware they are there.

We put forward a suggestion for our villages that there is coffee mornings, COS lunches, senior gatherings and it would be better if they attended these as more people attend and it is a good way to meet residents. He fully supported this idea and said the 3 months is not set in stone so there is flexibility. We will be discussing this with our PCSO's. Becky, our PCSO for Northiam and Beckley will be attending coffee morning on the 27th of March at Northiam village hall.

Council Tax.

Parish and Town Councils

The Parish and Town Council Precepts (including Special Expenses for Bexhill and Rye) for 2026/27 total £4,978,213 (2025/26 £4,135,044). The increase results in an average Band D Council tax figure of £124.31 (£104.19 for 2025/26).

East Sussex County Council

6. East Sussex County Council set its precept at £78,500,401 (£74,095,560 in 2025/26) for the area of Rother. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £1,960.29 (£1,867.05 in 2025/26). This includes the Adult Social Care Precept of £329.31 (£292.05 2025/26) at Band D.

Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner

Sussex Police and Commissioner set its precept at £11,289,170 (£10,592,564 in 2025/26) for the area of Rother. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £281.91 (£266.91 in 2025/26).

East Sussex Fire Authority

8. East Sussex Fire Authority set its precept at £4,704,922 (£4,464,267 in 2025/26) for the area of Rother. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £117.49 (£112.49 in 2025/26).

The Secretary of State has indicated that for 2026/27, the maximum amount that a district council can increase its Council Tax is the higher of either 3% or £5. Cabinet has recommended that Rother District Council's basic amount of tax for 2026/27 be increased by £6.30 (2.99%) to £216.95 (£210.65 2025/26), which is within the Secretary of State's guidelines and is therefore not excessive. This represents a Council Tax requirement of £8,687,828 (£8,359,835 in 2025/26).

Cash boost for projects that strengthen the community.

COMMUNITIES across Rother have been given a boost after 15 worthwhile projects shared grants worth almost £100,000. A total of £98,913 was given to support projects ranging from lunch clubs and community pantries to energy improvements at village halls, as part of Rother District Council's Community Grants Scheme. The scheme, which gives grants annually, supports grassroots projects that strengthen communities, promote a thriving local economy, improve wellbeing, and protect the environment.

Each year organisations are invited to apply for grants or up to £10,000 to support a project, and up to £20,000 for building work and refurbishment.

The scheme is made possible with the help of funds raised through the Rother Community Lottery, with the initiative contributing almost £50,000 between 2021 and 2025.

From every £1 ticket sold 60p will go to good causes in Rother district. Local organisations receive 50p as directly chosen by the lottery's participants and the remaining 10p goes towards a general good cause fund which is distributed to local organisations through the council's grants scheme.

To find out more about the Rother Community Lottery and to buy a ticket, residents can visit [Rother Community Lottery: Easy online fundraising for good causes - Rother Community Lottery](#)

The community grant scheme will reopen for applications in 2026 and anyone who thinks their project can benefit can find out more by visiting [Community Grants Scheme – Rother District Council](#)

Successful grant scheme applicants for 2025 were.

Sussex Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrcephalus - £1,000 to support services
Rye Cricket Club - £2,000 for the maintenance of the cricket square and outfield
Marsham Older People's Club - £2,000 to support a lunch club for elderly people
The Mildred Trust - £2,500 to support the expansion of the Community Pantry
Sara Lee Trust - £5,000 for therapy for people with cancer and life-threatening illnesses. The Good Company People - £5,500 for the launch of Monday Company Club. Beckley Village Hall Trust - £6,913.80 for installation of storage batteries
Sussex Outreach Support - £7,000 for IT equipment for new rural outreach mobile unit. Battle Memorial Hall - £8,000 to replace boiler with an air source pump

Brightling Village Hall - £9,000 for installation of solar panels and roof work
Bexhill Foodbank - £10,000 to develop Bexhill Foodbank Advice Service. Rother
Voluntary Action - £10,000 to support for key areas of need identified through the
Rother Food Partnership. Warming up the Homeless - £10,000 to support provision of
basic need items. Pelham CIO - £10,000 for the installation of solar panels
Bexhill Amateur Boxing Club - £10,000 to help purchase a more economical minibus.

Local Plan Exhibitions in Rye, Battle and Bexhill

The Local Plan is the blueprint for how Rother will grow and develop over the coming years over the period 2025 - 2042. This draft version of the new Local Plan identifies proposed sites throughout the district, which could accommodate new housing and employment development in the future.

The exhibition is part of an 8-week consultation on the draft Plan, closing on 23rd March 2026, which will help to ensure the final version reflects the views of local people and businesses.

Bexhill:

Date: Tuesday 3rd March 3pm - 7pm

Location: The Pelham Community Hub, Holliers Hill, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 2DD

Rye:

Date: Friday 6th March 3pm - 7pm

Location: Tilling Green Community Centre, Mason Road, TN31 7BE

Battle:

Date: Tuesday 10th March 3pm - 7pm

Location: Battle Memorial Hall, 81 High Street, TN33 0AQ

Bexhill:

Date: Thursday 12th March 3pm - 7pm

Location: St Marks Church Hall (Little Common), Green Lane, Bexhill TN39 4BZ.

For more information, please visit www.rother.gov.uk/draftlocalplan2026

Cllr. Tony Ganly & Cllr. Tony Biggs.