

## NORTHERN ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT MAY 2026

### **CPR AND DEFIBRILLATOR**

Tony B attended a training course organised by Beckley Parish Council on the use of CPR and defibrillators. It was very informative and if other Parish were able to offer this training to their residents it would be a good experience and could save someone's life. It only takes between half an hour and an hour to undertake this training.

### **PCSO'S reports**

Ewhurst and Bodiam

Not great news, we are having other areas hit too atm, all the rural villages, some damage to doors but also lots of insecure premises.

28/03 - Northiam Road - Annex entered - lock broke - nothing stolen.

30/03 - Lordine Lane - Theft of lawnmower from locked storage.

07/04 - Staplecross Cricket Ground - door to church damaged.

07/04 - Herdman Playing Field - Burglary to outhouse/grounds man hut - garden tools stolen.

12/04 - Lordine Lane, Ewhurst – Burglary to shed- items taken, electric drill etc- shed unlocked

14/04 - Village street-Ewhurst- Burglary to shed-tools taken & inflatable paddle board-garage door damaged.

All have been visited & crime prevention advice given. Extra patrols will be done in the evenings.

Northiam and Beckley

Waiting for reports will give verbal one at the Parish meetings.

A free Health and Wellness event is taking place on 6th May between 10am. and 2pm. at the DE LA WARR PAVILLION. Organised by the Bexhill Primary Care Network (PCN) and working alongside your local GP surgeries, this event brings together over 50 community groups to offer practical advice, support and information to help you live well and stay well.

Please join us to meet the team and connect with the many services available in our community. Whether you're looking for health advice, community resources, or simply want to learn more about what's on offer locally—there's something for everyone. Please feel free to forward this invitation to colleagues or contacts who may also be interested in attending.

### **Budget Monitoring 2025/26:**

The Revenue Budget is currently forecast to be £15.581m at year end, compared to the approved budget of £15.716m. £344,000 of this sum was anticipated to be funded from flexible capital receipts, leaving the forecast service underspend as £479,000. The agreed budget already anticipated a draw from reserves of £694,000. In addition to this, adverse variances of £769,000 were anticipated which related to financing costs and an error at budget setting on government grants. The combination of these variances meant the Council was forecast to draw £1.075m from reserves rather than the budgeted £694,000.

### **King Offa - Proposed Sale of Land**

In July 2025, Cabinet agreed that officers should progress options for the sale of residential land at the King Offa site in Bexhill for affordable housing tenures. Officers prepared Sales Particulars and sought offers from six Registered Providers (RPs) who operate within the district at this scale and with this type of project.

The RP would seek planning permission once contracts were exchanged and, following a grant of satisfactory planning permission, the RP and the Council would then complete the purchase of the site according to the terms contained within the Agreement. It was proposed that a budget of £30,000 be approved for the legal agreements required for this element, to be funded from capital receipts, as legitimate costs incurred as part of the disposal.

There was a risk that any unspent Brownfield Land Release Funding (BLRF) provided by One Public Estate (OPE) and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, awarded to the Council in relation to the King Offa site would need to be returned; however, some of this funding had been used to prepare the site for development, so not all would be lost. The Council had been in continual contact with OPE regarding the BLRF, who had agreed that the remaining BLRF could be retained if the timescales within the July 2025 Cabinet paper were met.

It was noted that whilst an open market sale would likely generate a higher offer, the proposed disposal was considered a very credible offer from a RP who was well positioned to deliver on the commitments made. The proposed sale would facilitate the delivery of approximately 45–49 additional Affordable Homes, alongside a financial payment for the land. It was acknowledged that, this payment would likely be made to the new unitary authority, as given the timescales involved in submitting and achieving planning permission, it was unlikely to be within two years. Cabinet was pleased to agree that the offer, taking the combined benefits of affordable housing and a capital receipt, without the planning risk, represented the best consideration reasonably obtainable and therefore complied with the Council's obligations under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 in terms of best value.

**Disposal of Land at Hoads Wood & Mountain Field, Fairlight.**

Cabinet considered the confidential report of the Director of Resources that sought approval for the Council to act as guarantor for the Council's Housing Company, Rother DC Housing Company (RDCHC), for the Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Warranty.

LABC had confirmed that, due to the limited financial strength of RDCHC, they were not able to offer a 10-year warranty without the Council, as 100% shareholder and funder, acting as guarantor. Having the warranty in place would enable RDCHC to transfer and sell the 200 homes and repay the funding owed to the Council.

Members were satisfied, on balance, that the proposed recommendation represented the most responsible and pragmatic course of action. It offered a clear path forward that supported the Council's strategic objectives whilst being mindful of the challenges ahead. It was therefore resolved that the Council act as guarantor for the Rother DC Housing Company Local Authority Building Control warranty required to be put in place for the development at Blackfriars, known as "Tapestry".

Kind regards,

**Cllr. Tony Ganly & Cllr. Tony Biggs.**