

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT March 2020.

Homeless shelter.

RDC is part funding a Night Shelter from 27 February and will run until mid-March. It is situated at St. Barnabus church crypt, Cantelupe Road, Bexhill and is open from 7.30 pm. to 8 am. daily.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday the cafe area upstairs is open 6 pm. to 7.30 pm. so guests can come earlier and adjourn downstairs after eating. There is food available downstairs on the other nights. Guests have to book in by 10.30 pm. if they wish to stay the night.

The Great British Spring Clean 2020.

In partnership with Biffa RDC can provide equipment, give advice on how to hold a clean-up event and help with the disposal of the waste collected. In 2019 300 sacks of litter were collected across Rother which was a great effort but this year we would like to do even better. If you would like to arrange a litter pick in your area we are keen to hear from you. Please email springclean@rother.gov.uk or contact Andrew Mead at Contract Services 01424 787 511.

"Call-in" Cabinet decision on the proposed new Bexhill Leisure Centre.

The chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee has "called in " the decision by Cabinet to delay this project for the following reasons:

- i. a new Leisure Centre is a corporate plan priority project;
- ii. concerns that the contract extension will not have enough time to be sorted out by legal and the current contract has been extended twice before, due to the expectation that a new contract will come with a new facility;
- iii. delays to the purchase and any compulsory purchase plans will cause further delay and cause additional costs;
- iv. failure to replace the existing leisure facilities (some over 30 years old) will hamper the Council's commitment to reduce its carbon output due to the existing facilities inefficient buildings and plant; and
- v. the Council may miss out on possible grant streams to fund the new leisure facilities due to the removal of the Community Information Levy funding.

The following additional comments and rationale for the call-in request were made by Members opposed to the Cabinet decision:

- concern was raised that land ownership issues were still prevalent and that access rights were still to be settled;

- the whole project and, in particular, the housing element had, as a consequence of the decision been delayed by Cabinet's decision to defer the recommendations detailed at Appendix C in the original report. The Council's lack of a current 5-year supply of land for housing was significant and cause for concern;
- further delays opened the project up to increased costs and risks.

The OSC committee agreed with the chairman and decided to ask Cabinet to reconsider its decision and reinstate the project as proposed.

Northern Rother Councillors Tony Ganly & Martin Mooney