

## **Northern Rother District Councillors' Report September 2021.**

**£80 million loan:** The Council proposes to borrow £80 million in order to build 335 home although, depending on cash flows, it is unlikely that the full amount will be needed. The borrowing is likely to be short term as the new homes will be disposed of to either a registered social landlord (affordable homes) or on the open market.

**Public Spaces Protection Order:** a public consultation on a proposes Public Spaces Protection Order to control anti-social behaviour. The outcome of the consultation and approval to proceed with the new Order will be reported back to Cabinet in December 2021. The existing PSPO expires in November 2021. PSPOs can be enforced by Council officers and Police officers. Since the original Order was made only one Fixed Penalty Notice has been issued although numerous written warnings have been issued to persons aggressively begging and sleeping in vehicles overnight. The Police also use the power to control street drinkers.

**Community-Led Housing Programme:** the Service Level Agreement with the Sussex Community Housing hub will be renewed for four years for £100,000 on updated terms and conditions. The CLH plays an important role in the delivery of affordable housing where housing is genuinely affordable and supported by the community and held in perpetuity for the benefit of future generations. The Sussex Community Housing hub offers a “one stop shop” for all forms of community led schemes. This is achieved through advice, support, guidance and increasing knowledge, developing skills and building capacity to realise development opportunities. One of the projects underway is St. Francis Fields, a 34 acre site acquired by Northiam Parish Council which has established a Community Interest Company (CIC) to manage the site and has commissioned the SCHH

to undertake a housing needs survey to better understand the needs of the village.

**Community Grants:** in round 1, 2021/22 a total of £115,000 will be awarded to 8 projects, mainly in Bexhill but also one in Burwash Weald and one in Sedlescombe.

It is also proposed that Parish and Town Councils and properly constituted community groups be encouraged to organise commemorative or celebratory events for **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee** on the weekend of 2 to 5 June 2022. Rother DC proposes to match fund, pound for pound, for relevant expenditure to a limit of £500 of grant funding per application. A total fund of £10,000 is recommended and would be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

**Councillors Martin Mooney and Tony Ganly.**