

Rother District Council Annual Parish Report 2024



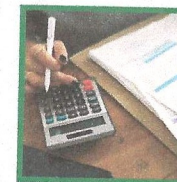
Housing Development Conference

We held our first conference with a focus on promoting new development projects in Rother, bringing together local partners and key parties.



Council Tax e-billing campaign

We launched an online campaign that has seen 462 households sign up to our electronic Council Tax bills.



JANUARY

FEBRUARY

Local Plan consultation

Our Planning team ran a series of workshops as part of the consultation on our new draft Local Plan, which went on to receive 3,708 comments!

Increased funding for Temporary Accommodation

Cabinet agreed an extra £12 million of budget to invest in Temporary Accommodation.



Levelling Up confirmed

£19 million was awarded to Rother to fund exciting projects that aim to address inequalities and support the local economy.

APRIL

MARCH

Rother Community Lottery celebrates its second anniversary

Since its launch in April 2022, over £60,000 has been distributed to local charities, not-for-profit community organisations, and voluntary groups.



We celebrated our 50th birthday!

RVA hub approval

Members supported the allocation of funding for a new Community Hub, to be delivered by Rother Voluntary Action.

Budget formalised

Council approved the 24-25 budget, with more than £15 million to be spent on services across our district.

MAY

JUNE

Improved park facilities

New accessible play equipment was installed in Fair Salts, Rye, and the renovated tennis courts in Egerton Park were opened.



Police and Crime Commissioner Election

Following a count over the Bank Holiday weekend, Katy Bourne was re-elected as the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner.

80th Anniversary of D-Day

Organised by Wealden District Council with contributions from authorities including Rother, Members and officers attended a memorial event at Pevensey Castle.

General Election

We processed 47,938 ballot papers and at 4.30am on Friday 5 July, Dr Kieran Mullan was declared the new MP for the Bexhill and Battle constituency.



Affordable homes at Blackfriars, Battle

The Council supported a new option for the development of affordable homes at Blackfriars, Battle to provide quality housing for residents in need.



JULY

AUGUST

We received Bronze Carbon Literacy status, in recognition of our training to help reduce carbon emissions.

Pension Credit campaign

We highlighted the importance of checking Pension Credit eligibility in a series of articles, and our Customer Services team used Lift tracker software to contact those eligible.

Launch of Rother Business Crime Partnership (BCP)

We held a launch event for the new Rother BCP scheme, bringing together local businesses and the police to help tackle shoplifting crime.



Sidley scheme progression

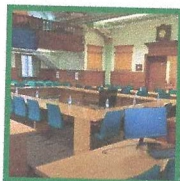
Cabinet approved proposals to lease the Sidley football pitch and new Community Hub to the Heart of Sidley Community Association, enabling the community benefits of Levelling Up funding to be fully realised.

OCTOBER

SEPTEMBER

Parish Conference

We invited reps from Rother's 34 parishes to our annual Parish Conference, where we updated on our budget and Planning.



Budget consultation opened

Residents were asked for their views on the budget for 25/26, which outlines proposals to address the financial challenges we face.

Adoption of key strategies

Council agreed the adoption of a new Council Plan, which sets our strategic direction for the next 4 years, as well as our new Digital and Customer Services Strategy.

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER


All Staff Event fundraising

We held our annual staff event and raised £150 for Bexhill & Battle Foodbank, thanks to the generosity of our colleagues.



Northeys announcement

The Council Leader welcomed an announcement that plans to use the former Northeys site in Bexhill to house asylum seekers will not be progressed.



2025 and beyond...

2024 was a busy year for Rother, as we continued to operate in an extremely challenging economic environment while experiencing increased demand on our services. That said, we achieved so much in the past 12 months thanks to the support of our colleagues and partners across all tiers of local government.

As we look ahead to 2025, we recognise that the Government's White Paper proposals will hugely impact the way in which we work. Although it's too early to say how Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation will affect Rother, we are committed to working with town and parish councils to ensure our voice is heard.

Financial challenges will also continue to affect our work. To address these issues, and to support a culture of openness, we will monitor and report key information through our Committees, including updates on risks, performance data, and our financial position.

We have exciting milestones to mark in the coming year, as we hope to develop and adopt new strategies that will shape our work across Housing Development, Economic Development, and Homelessness & Rough Sleeping. We are also progressing our key projects across the district, including development at Blackfriars, Battle and the new Welcome Centre at Camber.

In this period of change and uncertainty, our focus is on delivering a brighter and more resilient future for Rother. We look forward to sharing updates with you as they unfold over the next 12 months.