Please see our report for November.

The full District council is meeting on the 6th of November and various issues are being discussed.

In our report some of the items below are on the agenda.

Also we have a report from our two PCSO’S

Bodiam

27/10 – RTC Van v Bridge Wall – Elderly male was trapped in vehicle – no serious injuries – road was closed for 3 hours.

22/10 – Graffiti reported at Bodiam Castle. Shapes carved into wall. Unfortunately, no CCTV or witnesses to follow up. PCSO Holter aware and is in contact with National Trust regarding this.

05/10 – Car vandalised Park Farm Campsite – Bodiam, appears to be a one off, targeted act of vandalism.

Ewhurst, Staplecross, Cripps Corner

15/10 – Sus male reported near to school – extra patrols undertaken; male not found.

16/10 – Ellenwhorne Lane – Reports of poaching – nothing seen but has been passed to our Rural Crime Team to look at.

25/10 – Ellenwhorne Lane – Stolen quad bike, overnight from Farm, fencing removed to get bike out.

Northiam

23rd October – Graffiti on Northiam Parish door

18th October – Van broken into in High Meadow, power tools stolen.

Beckley – Nothing to report

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CAR PARKING FEES

Car park charges are going up between 27 % & 30% subject to cabinet approval.

An example of the charges at Camber.

For 2024-25, the following Camber tariffs are proposed for the summer 2024 season:

Duration Current

Summer 2023

Charges Proposed Central

and Old Lydd

Road summer

2024 charges Proposed

Western summer

2024 charges

Up to 1 hour £4 £5 £4

1-3 hours £8 £12 £8

3-6 hours £16 £24 £16

6+ £20 £30 £20

Car Parking Tariffs (all car parks excluding Camber summer tariffs)

1.191 Most car park tariffs have remained the same since 2015. It is recommended that they are increased in line with inflation from that date, which means that tariffs will increase by an average of 27% to 30%, for 2024-25. Permit fees have been increased by a similar amount, except for annual permits, to which an increase of 20% is proposed, to encourage take up.

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GARDEN WASTE BINS

The cost of Garden waste bins is due to be raise if the Cabinet agree to the proposals.

At £55 per annum per subscription, Rother District Council currently has the joint lowest charge for garden waste collections within East Sussex alongside Wealden District Council. It is recommended to increase the garden waste subscription to £73 in 2024-25 in line with Hastings Borough Council’s charges. It is, however, acknowledged that many properties require more than one garden waste bin, and that the costs to the council for the collection of additional bins is less than for the first bin; consequently, a charge of £60 for additional bins is proposed.

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Rother District Council has set up a Frequently Asked Questions page on the website about the trial closure of some of the public conveniences. This will be the central point of information and will be updated daily. Please direct residents to this page or attach a link to it on social media posts.

Here’s a quick link to the main page and there’s a shortcut to it from the ‘Ask the Leader’ page: https://www.rother.gov.uk/transport-roads-and-parking/street-care-and-cleaning/public-toilets/public-toilets-to-close-on-a-trial-basis-over-the-winter-months/public-toilet-trial-closure-faqs/

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------TENNIS COURTS

Tennis courts in Egerton Park are to get a new lease of life thanks to Government and LTA investment of more than £100,000.

Rother District Council has agreed a partnership with the LTA to renovate five tennis courts at the park, helping ensure that quality facilities are available for the local community.

The project is part of a nationwide investment by the UK Government and LTA Tennis Foundation, delivered by the LTA, to refurbish public tennis courts across Great Britain, and open up the sport to many more people.

This investment will see thousands of existing park tennis courts in poor or unplayable condition transformed for the benefit of communities across the country through renovation works, and improved court accessibility with new gate-access technology and booking systems.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to ensure our courts are fit for the future, continue to provide valuable opportunities for our residents to stay active and can be booked with ease.

“Whilst the council is not in a position to make any financial capital investment, we fully support the project and will cover the ongoing costs of operating the gate system and court maintenance.”

“We are grateful to the LTA for supporting our application and recognising the value of the courts to our community and in enabling initiatives such as Tennis for Free to be successful.”

Park tennis courts are vital in providing opportunities for children and adults to get active, delivering significant physical and mental health and wellbeing benefits to participants. Accessible facilities in parks are particularly critical to opening up the sport to those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and women and girls.

The courts are undergoing extensive work to ensure viability for years to come, including repainting, new fencing, new nets and posts and a new gate system. All courts will be available to book at www.lta.org.uk/play/ with the new booking systems and gate access technology making it easier to get on court by booking in advance to guarantee availability.

Rother District Council and a local coaching provider will also work with the LTA to deliver a range of activity at the site. This will include weekly organised Tennis for Free sessions for all ages, playing levels and experience where equipment is provided, meaning that people will not need someone to play with or their own racket. Local Tennis Leagues will also provide friendly, sociable, opportunities to get active through local competition.

The LTA has set up a dedicated webpage for residents to learn more about how they can support on the delivery of these events. This can be found at www.lta.org.uk/roles-and-venues/parks-support-toolkit/free-park-tennis/

Julie Porter, Chief Operating Officer at the LTA, said: “We are delighted to be working with Rother District Council to improve their park tennis facilities and provide more opportunities for anyone to pick up a racket and get active. This investment is part of the UK Government and LTA’s Parks Tennis Project and will mean that courts will be available for people to use for years to come.

“We will also be working closely with Rother District Council to ensure that the local community has a range of accessible opportunities to get on court and open up our sport to many more people.”

Work is scheduled to begin in early November with work expected to be finished towards the end of the year. Final line marking of the courts will not be completed until early spring 2024 when the weather is more suitable, but there will be temporary line marking in the interim.

Once work is finished, all courts and sessions at Egerton Park will be available to book online via the LTA website www.lta.org.uk/play making it easier to find and book a court or activity.

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TOILETS

A DISTRICT Council chief is urging the Town Council to continue to work with his authority to ensure the future of public toilet provision in Bexhill.

Councillor Doug Oliver, Leader of Rother District Council, says the District Council and Bexhill Town Council have been discussing the issue for 18 months, but the Town Council has not been able to agree to run the service.

Councillor Oliver says he understands the Town Council’s concerns over the transfer but believes an agreement can be reached as both councils want to do what’s best for the residents of Bexhill.

“I believe everything is in place for Bexhill Town Council to provide public toilets in the town,” said Councillor Oliver. “The Town Council has already raised £150,000 from local taxpayers to run the service in 2023/24, the District Council has offered £218,000 of Community Infrastructure funding to support renovation works, and on top of that we’ve offered 99-125-year leases in line with toilet services already successfully devolved to other parishes.

“I know that the Town Council wants the deal to include the transfer of buildings, but we have a duty to council taxpayers to get the best value for them. A fact now even more important as we face a budget shortfall next year of £3.8 million pounds.

“I firmly believe the Town Council wants exactly the same outcome as the District Council – an agreement for them to provide public toilets in Bexhill. That’s certainly what residents want so I urge the Town Council to continue to work with us to reach a deal,” added Councillor Oliver.

Contact Information

Saffron Phillips

07762 409961

saffron.phillips@eastsussex.gov.uk

RUGBY

Early Years rugby in Rother District

A NATIONAL rugby play programme, supported locally by Rother District Council, is available across Rother.

The council is supporting Rugbytots, a nationwide initiative for pre-school and primary school age children, to encourage local youngsters to participate in rugby-themed activity sessions across the district.

The structured play sessions teach children how to catch, pass, kick, run with the ball and play as part of a team in a fun, safe environment.

Funding from the council enabled the printing of a Rubytots rugby activity book, which was distributed to local schools prior to the Rugby World Cup 2023 to encourage interest in the sport and the play programme.

As a result, children across the district will soon be enjoying rugby sessions at their schools and nurseries delivered through the Rugbytots programme in their PE classes.

Rugbytots weekend courses are also currently available at Rye Rugby Club and the Hastings and Bexhill Rugby Club with additional weekend classes due to start soon to meet increased demand.

The council is committed to promoting and encouraging physical activity amongst our local children.

“Exercising and taking part in sport is not only vital for our young people’s physical health, it helps build their confidence and self-esteem too.

“Working in partnership is one of the key principles of our proposed Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and I am delighted we have been able to support the Rugbytots programme in Rother. And who knows, maybe a future Rugby World Cup star will emerge!”

For more information on Rugbytots, including local classes, visit www.rugbytots.co.uk.

Ends

Contact Information

Saffron Phillips

07762 409961

saffron.phillips@eastsussex.gov.uk

Kind Regards,

Cllr. Tony Biggs & Tony Ganly

Northern Rother