

## **Sackville ward town councillors update: 19 January 2021**

### **Community News**

On 20 November, both councillors supported the Bexhill Food Bank day at Tesco's in Ravenside. Cllr Baldry helped collect donations while Cllr Gibson helped on the stall.

On Thursday 2 December, Cllr Gibson was one of the judges of the 2021 Bexhill Christmas window competition, organised by Cllr Baldry and Friends of Bexhill Events. 32 shops and businesses across Bexhill town centre decorated their windows for the annual competition. This year the theme was 'Christmas across the world', and Vintage at 25 in Sea Road scooped the top prize.

On the same day, Cllr Gibson – with Cllr Winter and Mayor Plim – was interviewed about the town council by BBC Politics South East, for a package which appeared on BBC One on Sunday 19 December.



Both councillors supported the festivities for the Christmas lights on Friday 3 December.

On Saturday 18 December, Deputy Mayor Cllr Baldry along with Mayor Plim opened a new Bexhill Heritage plaque on the East Parade. Cllr Gibson also attended the ceremony.

### **Working with RDC and ESCC**

Cllr Baldry and Cllr Gibson remain in regular contact with Cllr Terry Bryne and Cllr Hazel Timpe from RDC and Cllr Ian Hollidge from ESCC. We are holding a surgery for residents this Friday (21 January) at 11am-12noon in the conservatory of the Sackville Bistro. This is our second joint surgery all together, and Cllr Baldry and Cllr Gibson's 4<sup>th</sup> surgery since election.

### **Supporting residents, clubs and businesses**

On Friday 10 December, Cllrs Baldry and Gibson visited businesses in Sackville ward to deliver personalised Christmas cards. We spoke to shop and café owners about how they are faring against the challenges present by the Omicron virus, and Covid-19 more widely. We also delivered cards to doctors, dentists, gyms and care/residential homes in our ward.

Both Cllrs have continued to help residents with their enquiries. On behalf of residents, we have addressed our concerns about the vacant premises at 21-23 Sea Road to RDC, and Cllr Hazel Timpe is taking this issue forwards.

We have also assisted residents with a range of concerns including faulty traffic lights, planning proposals, and broken street signs.

### **Committees and working groups**

Both councillors have visited potential premises as we continue to search for and secure a suitable headquarters for the town council. And we've attended Finance committee meetings to finalise next year's budget.

Cllr Baldry is on the Asset Transfer Committee and together we are conducting a mapping exercise of all the assets in Sackville ward. We can then marry this with the results of the Big Survey 2021 to understand which assets Sackville – and Bexhill residents more widely – would like the town council to take on.

And Cllrs Baldry and Gibson are both part of a new events group committee which will work alongside the town council and organise events, including celebrating the 1250<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year of King Offa founding Bexhill.

### **Upcoming diary**

- **21 January:** 11am-12noon, surgery with RDC Cllrs Terry Bryne and Hazel Timpe, and ESCC Cllr Ian Hollidge, Sackville Bistro.
- **26 January:** 6.30pm, Climate, nature and environment committee meeting.
- **9 February:** 6.30pm, Community committee meeting.

**Thank you, Cllr Elly Gibson and Cllr Claire Baldry**

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