

**Embargo: 00.01hrs Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

# 9<sup>th</sup> Bexhill Cub Scouts Council Chamber take-over!

- **9<sup>th</sup> Bexhill Cub Scouts become local councillors for the evening**
- **Motion for debate – why spend billions on space exploration when we should be saving our own planet**

Bexhill-on-Sea town council welcomed the 9<sup>th</sup> Bexhill Cub Scouts to the Council Chamber on Wednesday evening to experience local democracy first hand.

Members of the public in attendance not only consisted of parents and carers of the Cub Scouts but a group of residents from the Belmont residential complex in Terminus Road, who had some weeks earlier had expressed an interest in visiting the Town Hall.

The youngsters put together a motion for debate and spent the evening considering if the money spent on going into space should actually be spent on saving our own planet.

Everyone contributed to a lively discussion, with ideas such as saving money by restricting space travel to give to the poor or to increase space exploration to provide more jobs and improve the economy.

When it got to the vote it was a close one, with the final decision being that the group felt it is not right that we spend billions on space exploration when we need to spend so much money fixing our own world.

After the debate, the cubs had the opportunity to ask the Mayor and Councillors about what it's like being an elected representative. The Mayor fielded some interesting questions, including how long was the longest meeting so far, how much the town regalia is worth and if he is friendly with the Queen!

**Mayor Paul Plim** said: "well, I must say I am very impressed with these young people having the courage to debate such an important subject. As chair of the council and of this debate, I only hope I can keep up with the thrust of the arguments placed before me.

It just goes to show that the young of Bexhill have not only the local community in mind but can see the bigger global picture.

I will ensure that should the motion be carried; I will present the view agreed on to the Full Council for ratification.

It is vitally important that we let the youth speak on such matters as it is they that are going to be effected for longer than any of us adults."

It also goes to show just how concerned 9<sup>th</sup> Bexhill Cub Scouts are about such matters. This kind of debate should be encouraged and as a Town Council I am sure that we would support any other youth organisation in debating any other issues they wish within the

chamber. Any interested groups should contact the Town Clerk to discuss such opportunities. We are here to listen to our young people.”

**Cub Scout Leader Joanna Ansermoz** said “We all had such an enjoyable evening and ticked off quite a few of stages towards our badge work by taking part in this debate. We’d like to thank the town council for teaching us about local decision making and inspiring future councillors.”

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to editors:**

- 9<sup>th</sup> Bexhill Scout Group starts as young as 6 years old in Beavers, from 8 years old in Cubs, from 10 years old in Scouts and 13 – 18 and a half years old in SENLAC Enterprise Explorers.  
<https://www.senlacscouts.org.uk/>
- Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council meets on the third Wednesday of every month in the Council Chamber at Bexhill Town Hall.  
[www.bexhilltowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bexhilltowncouncil.gov.uk)

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