

# Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council

Draft Five Year  
Strategy 2022-2027





# The vision for Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council

Our five-year strategy sets out our vision and how we will make Bexhill a better place to live, work and visit.

We will work on behalf of our residents and businesses to improve economic development, well-being, and our natural environment.

The council's vision is to be a Town Council that:

- demonstrates ambition, aspiration and imagination
- gives Bexhill a clear and unique identity as a town
- acts as a voice for Bexhill, both locally and in the wider community
- is an advocate for residents in matters of public interest
- works in partnership with the community
- celebrates, supports and facilitates all aspects of Bexhill life
- enhances and empowers the people

We will make a positive impact on the community

# Our vision is divided into six key themes:

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**Governance and Accountability**

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**Environment and Climate Change**

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**Music, Culture and the Arts**

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**Wellbeing and Community**

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**Tourism and Events**

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**Transport and Accessibility**

# YEAR ONE

## GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY



## WELL-BEING AND COMMUNITY

- ❑ Establish a grant scheme for sports and fitness trainers to upskill in how to keep older residents fit and healthy
- ❑ Install five noticeboards across the area, to improve public engagement
- ❑ Introduce ‘Happy to Chat’ benches to tackle loneliness.
- ❑ Recruit customer service staff and operate a ‘drop-in’ desk at new premises
- ❑ Organise a Community Awards scheme to recognise residents achievements



# YEAR ONE

## TOURISM AND EVENTS

- ❑ Organise a health and well-being event for COVID recovery
- ❑ Consider taking on the maintenance of the public toilets in Bexhill to improve tourism reputation
- ❑ Be responsible for the organisation of Remembrance Day parades in Bexhill, to assist the Royal British Legion.



## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- ❑ Organise a Climate and Nature Panel event to feed into the Climate and Nature Action Plan
- ❑ Fund additional grass cuts to verges to smarten up the area
- ❑ Replace 'Welcome To' signs to define Bexhill's borders and create a positive entrance
- ❑ Take on the management of the allotments and consider bio-diversity policies
- ❑ Work with local groups to achieve renewal of Fairtrade Status for Bexhill



# YEAR ONE

## MUSIC, CULTURE, AND ARTS

- ❑ Consider how the council can engage better with young people
- ❑ Maximise Mayoral attendance at local music, arts, and theatre events and publicise



## TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

- ❑ Work with dementia charities to achieve Dementia Friendly town status
- ❑ Support the 'Bexhill Hub to Support Ukraine' organisation to integrate refugees in our community
- ❑ Pilot a dementia friendly coffee morning to help patients interact within the community



# YEAR TWO

## GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- ❑ Recruit a finance officer to prepare accounts and reports for the analysis of spending
- ❑ Develop a staff handbook and workspace policies
- ❑ Work with local and national press and media to promote the work of the Town Council and Bexhill generally
- ❑ Finalise the ownership of the Town Coat of Arms



## WELL-BEING AND COMMUNITY

- ❑ Consider adding further CCTV for security and to give reassurance to residents
- ❑ Introduce 'Happy to Chat' in cafes to combat loneliness
- ❑ Install further noticeboards across the area, increasing engagement
- ❑ Start to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan
- ❑ Prepare an emergency response plan
- ❑ Support local well-being events, such as Running Space 'Midnight to Midnight'
- ❑ Continue to use the Bexhill Flag to create a sense of community

*Crazy*

43 WESTERN ROAD



# YEAR TWO

## TOURISM AND EVENTS

- ❑ Consider transfer of Christmas Light funding from Rother District Council to the Town Council and agree a funding strategy across the area
- ❑ Investigate indoor or outdoor cinema events



## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- ❑ Consider taking on the maintenance of parks and open spaces to improve the appearance of public areas
- ❑ Address littering, street cleansing, overgrown footpaths, and graffiti issues
- ❑ Finalise Climate and Nature Action Plan for Bexhill
- ❑ Work with environment groups to plant trees
- ❑ Continue to lobby for change to the sewage discharge system affecting Bexhill





# YEAR TWO

## MUSIC, CULTURE, AND ARTS

- ❑ Consider activities for senior citizen social engagement
- ❑ Consider tackling graffiti using art projects with Wave Arts and other local groups



## TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

- ❑ Improve disability access across the area, starting with Town Council facilities
- ❑ Start working with Rother District Council, East Sussex County Council and other agencies on a vision for town centre pedestrianisation; cycling routes; retail; local business and hospitality; and train connections
- ❑ Investigate funding additional pothole and pavement repairs and work with East Sussex County Council to maintain a priority register of repairs
- ❑ Further support Speed Watch groups to target speeding hot spots



# YEAR THREE

## GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- ❑ Develop use of the Town Regalia
- ❑ Consider staffing for culture, youth and events
- ❑ Review the effectiveness of grants and donations policy

## WELL-BEING AND COMMUNITY

- ❑ Consider bicycle hire to encourage outdoor exercise
- ❑ Hold regular police liaison meetings to tackle crime and the perception of crime
- ❑ Consider how to further support community groups that retain the unique features of Bexhill such as Bexhill 100 motoring club and Bexhill Heritage



# YEAR THREE

## TOURISM AND EVENTS

- ❑ Consider outdoor theatre performances
- ❑ Consider installation of water play or fountain feature
- ❑ Develop a retail and economic strategy for each area: Sidley; Little Common; Pebsham; Old Town; Town Centre



## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- ❑ Work with Bexhill-in-Bloom to allocate areas for wildflower meadow to encourage wildlife



# YEAR THREE

## MUSIC, CULTURE, AND ARTS

- ❑ Investigate innovative ways to utilise empty shop fronts with local groups
- ❑ Seek grant funding to assist the development of community assets



## TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

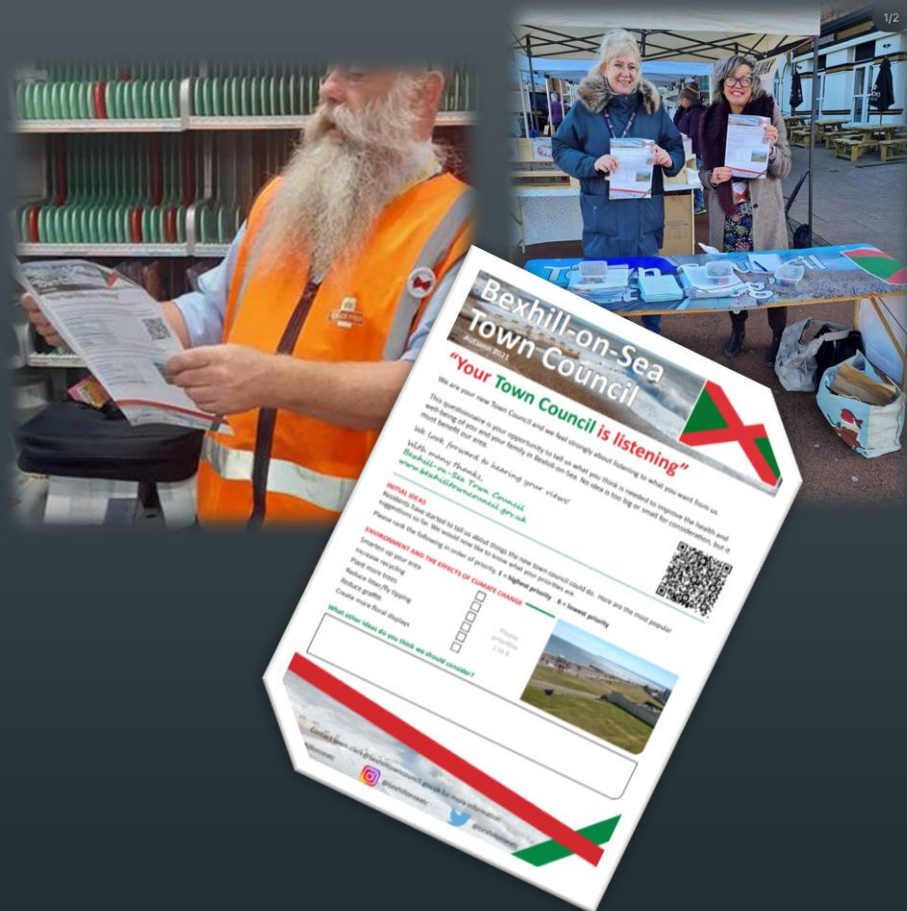
- ❑ Review the Bexhill Accessibility map for further improvements to the town's accessibility to include mental health, ADHD and autism



# YEARS FOUR AND FIVE

## GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- ❑ Carry out a new “Big Survey” to understand residents needs
- ❑ Finalise strategy for next five years



## WELL-BEING AND COMMUNITY

- ❑ Investigate supporting mental health charities and access to services via the Town Council’s premises
- ❑ Develop a healthy eating campaign



# YEARS FOUR AND FIVE

## TOURISM AND EVENTS

- ❑ Develop Galley Hill into a recreational destination
- ❑ Work with Rother District Council to improve leisure centre and swimming pool facilities



## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- ❑ Work with Rother District Council and East Sussex County Council to increase recycling provision across the area
- ❑ Improve floral displays across the town working with Bexhill-in-Bloom



# YEARS FOUR AND FIVE

## MUSIC, CULTURE, AND ARTS

- ❑ Develop a policy for improving access to music, culture and the arts



## TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

- ❑ Develop better footpath connections from Sidley to the town centre

