

Sackville ward town councillors update: 17 November 2021

The Big Survey 2021

Cllr Baldry and Cllr Gibson continued to promote the town council consultation The Big Survey 2021 before it closed on Sunday 31 October. Both councillors were on the town council stall at the [Bexhill Farmers Market](#) on Friday 22 October talking to residents, along with Cllr Brailsford, Cllr Drayson and Mayor Plim.

We attended a session of the [Know Dementia Memory Moments Café](#) at [Blods Hall](#) in Sackville on Thursday 28 October and helped those attending the café, their care partners, the staff and volunteers complete the survey. The café meets every Thursday from 9.30am-12.30pm. We were both impressed with the warm and welcoming atmosphere at the café, and the standard of service provided by the staff and volunteers and would recommend it to all councillors to share with residents.

Community News and Remembrance Sunday

Both councillors supported the opening of the [Bexhill Footbridge Gallery](#) on Saturday 23 October. Congratulations to all involved for the hard work that brought this creative addition to the town (and if you're passing, Cllr Baldry has a poem on the bridge called 'The Bexhill Mile' – do take a look!).

In her role as Deputy Mayor, Cllr Baldry took part in the launch of the Poppy Car on the seafront by the war memorial on Thursday 4 November. Many thanks to Stella at the Old Bathing Station in Sackville ward for her traditional and tasty refreshments after the event! That evening, also in her Deputy Mayor role, Cllr Baldry led the countdown for the fabulous family-friendly firework display at [St Peter and St Paul Primary School](#).

Cllr Baldry took part in a Fixing Fashion workshop organised by [Community Supporters](#) with Make and Mend in recognition in recognition of [COP 26](#), on Tuesday 9 November. In her role as Deputy Mayor Cllr Baldry also took part in the Armistice Day Act of Remembrance at the Memorial in Little Common and afterwards at Little Common School.

Cllr Baldry and Cllr Gibson both spent time selling poppies at the Poppy Car on the seafront in the run up to Remembrance Sunday. On Sunday 14 November, Deputy Mayor Baldry led the Remembrance Sunday parade from the [Poppy Club](#) in Little Common and laid a wreath at the memorial on behalf of the town council.

Cllr Gibson continues to volunteer regularly at the [Bexhill food bank](#) and is supporting its collection at Tesco's in Ravenside (18-20 November). She will be there from 3-5pm on Saturday 20 November. Cllr Baldry will also be there at 2pm.

Cllr Baldry has set up several fundraising events for the Christmas Lights and has taken a leading role in organising the annual Christmas Window Competition. Cllr Gibson will be part of the judging team on Thursday 2 December.

Supporting residents, clubs and businesses in the ward

Both Cllrs have helped residents with their enquiries. On behalf of residents, Cllr Gibson spoke to the council's Climate, Nature and Environment Committee about the need for a safe way – ideally a pedestrian crossing – to cross De La Warr Parade and access the seafront. The council voted to support this proposal and speak to East Sussex Highways.

We've welcomed the owner of a new retail outlet in Sackville – [Alexandra Darling Interiors](#) on Sea Road – to the ward. We are continuing with a mapping exercise of the ward to identify businesses we have not yet met with. We are getting in touch with those businesses to introduce ourselves.

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 will organise another in person catch-up and a surgery with Sackville residents for the new year.

Liaison with Citizens Advice

Cllr Gibson is the town council liaison point with [Bexhill Citizens Advice](#) and met with Lisa Gillette on Thursday 11 November to discuss current issues and upcoming developments. We will schedule monthly meetings with Cllr Gibson and Citizens Advice in 2022.

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. We've also attended Community committee meetings to begin planning for next years 1,250th anniversary of King Offa founding Bexhill.

And we've attended Finance committee meetings to agree the recruitment of a new [assistant town clerk](#), and to start work on next year's budget.

Cllr Baldry attended the CNE committee and volunteered to join the newly established Disability Access Working Group.

Upcoming diary

- **20 November:** Cllr Gibson at the Bexhill food bank, Tesco Ravenside, from 3-5pm and Deputy Mayor Cllr Baldry at 2pm.
- **2 December:** Christmas Window Judging from 10am.
- **3 December:** Light Up Bexhill Christmas lights switch on, town centre from 5pm. Cllr Baldry will be helping on the Light Up Bexhill stall.

Thank you, Cllr Elly Gibson and Cllr Claire Baldry

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