

## **Sackville ward town councillors update: 21 July 2021**

### **Meet the councillor events**

Cllr Baldry and Cllr Gibson have held two “meet your councillor” outdoor events in Sackville ward. The first was on the East parade on the seafront, where we were accompanied by musician [Kevin Terrell](#) who was raising funds for [Macmillan Cancer Support](#).

We spoke to residents who had some great suggestions, from putting printed seascape film in empty shop windows to brighten up the town centre, to cycling competitions on the front and keep fit events in the newly renovated bandstand. They also flagged concerns with us around parking.

The second event was in Penland Wood where we again met with a variety of residents including the leader of the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme. We gave out a leaflet with information on how to report the most common problems we are hearing about, including potholes, parking, pavements, litter, graffiti, verges, and lighting problems.

Suggestions from Penland Wood residents included having a noticeboard at the entrance to the woods. Residents also asked us to investigate retrieving a bench that had been removed from Ridgewood Gardens by RDC. The town clerk is looking into both on our behalf.

Concerns raised at this meeting included abandoned trolleys from Ravenside shops and after feeding this back to the town clerk, she has determined the best way of reporting this issue through the Trolleywise app: [www.wanzl.com](http://www.wanzl.com) It's very easy to use – you simply take a photo using the app alerting the nearest Trolleywise collection team, and they retrieve the trolley.

### **Working with local business**

Cllr Baldry and Cllr Gibson spent a morning introducing ourselves to most of the businesses in Sackville ward. We gave them a Sackville newsletter and listened to their concerns.

A common one was again parking – especially the parking in Sea Road, where in a short space on the road the parking varies from free for one-hour and free for two-hours to parking for residents only. Businesses believed this had led to customers inadvertently getting parking tickets which they felt would put customers off from shopping in the area.

The lack of disabled parking was also flagged as an issue – particularly for one shop owner in the ward who is disabled and has nowhere to park. We have advised them to raise their concerns in the parking reviews and have flagged them with councillors at RDC and ESCC.

### **Working with RDC, ESCC and our MP**

Cllr Baldry and Cllr Gibson have had a first meeting with Cllr Terry Bryne from RDC and Cllr Ian Hollidge from ESCC, discussing how to work together so that we can deliver the best service to residents and businesses in the ward. Cllr Hazel Timpe was also invited but was unable to attend. Another meeting is planned for the Autumn.

Cllr Baldry has also met with Huw Merriman MP where he listened to some of the concerns we've heard from residents and offered his support to those who are struggling to get their problems resolved.

### **Supporting the community**

Cllr Baldry met with the [Bexhill Over 55s club](#), had a tour of the club and heard about how difficult it had been for the club during the Covid-19 outbreak, and their plans for the future.

In her deputy mayor capacity Cllr Baldry attended an event at Heathdene Nursing Home where school children entertained elderly residents with their singing and dancing. Again, in her deputy mayor role, Cllr Baldry attended the opening of the new Warming Up the Homeless retail premises.

Cllr Gibson spent a morning with the homeless charity [HUG](#) on Sea Road, finding out about the range of services they provide and what support they need. Cllr Gibson has also been briefed by Know Dementia about the [Memory Moments café that](#) has recently started in our ward at BLODS Hall. Both Cllrs agreed that they will visit the group in person soon. And Cllr Gibson has also reached out to offer support to [Pat's Chat room](#), a new bereavement support group that started at St Barnabas Church on Thursday 15 July. These groups are open to all residents in Bexhill.

Both Cllr Baldry and Cllr Gibson have met with [Lyretta Mckeown](#), the new community champion at Tesco's, in Sackville ward. We discussed issues that residents have raised with us, including Tesco's stopping their free bus service, which will inconvenience some customers in our ward. Cllr Gibson accompanied Mayor Plim to one of the [Bexhill food bank](#) days at Tesco's, to show support for the charity and meet some of the fantastic volunteers.

### **Residents' concerns**

Cllr Baldry and Cllr Gibson have had individual appointments with ward residents to hear about their concerns, especially around housing and anti-social behaviour. As directed by the town clerk, we have shared these concerns with the town clerk and she is advancing them.

### **Next steps**

Cllr Baldry and Cllr Gibson have a meeting booked with [Citizens Advice](#), in Sackville ward, to discuss best ways of working together. As advised by the clerk we will share learnings with her so that she can inform the whole town council about how they work,.

We are also planning a repeat visit to local businesses to update them on our ward work and inform them about how they can get involved in Bexhill Day on Sunday 22 August.

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

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