

Tuesday 29 November 2022: For immediate release

Bexhill town council to hold public meeting on local sewage discharges

- **Meeting will be held on Saturday (3 December) at St John's Baptist Church**
- **Residents and businesses encouraged to share their evidence and experience**

Bexhill-on-Sea town council will hold an open public meeting this Saturday (3 December) to allow residents and businesses to share their experiences of local sewage discharges.

The town council is concerned that during 2022, Southern Water conducted discharges into the sea along the Bexhill coastline on many different occasions.

These discharges resulted in beaches being closed to bathers, and considerable sea pollution. The local economy was also damaged as, despite the hot weather, tourists stayed away from the town's normally bustling restaurants and cafes.

Bexhill-on-Sea town council hopes that the meeting on Saturday will be a chance to gather evidence to put together a case to lobby Southern Water and local authorities for change.

The forum starts at 10.30am in the Victoria Hall at St John's Baptist Church on Victoria Road, and will be introduced by councillors from the Climate, Nature and Environment committee.

Members of the public wishing to contribute will be invited to stand up and speak in turn. The council will take down all the information for its evidence base.

Mayor **Paul Plim** said: "Bexhill's beaches are amongst the finest in the South East. Many of us residents and tourists alike enjoy a dip in the sea over the summer. And many of our local businesses rely on the tourist trade to help them through the colder, quieter months.

"But this year, the sewage discharges conducted by Southern Water have had a huge impact on our beautiful coastline – and on our local economy.

"We cannot allow this casual disregard for our environment to go unchallenged.

"So, please come along on Saturday and tell the town council how you've been affected. Then we can gather this information and evidence together and take it to the authorities on your behalf."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- The open public meeting is on Saturday 3 December in the Victoria Hall at St John's Baptist Church, Victoria Road, TN39 3PD.

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