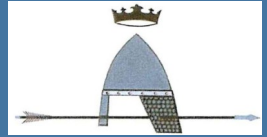


Battle Town Council Annual Report



Battletowncouncil.gov.uk

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2020-2021

Parish Assembly 2021 Postponed

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 Parish Assembly has been postponed. Once restrictions have been lifted, and it is safe to hold the event, we will notify residents of the details.

Call to Residents

Battle Town Council would like to **hear from residents** as to how we can continue to improve the Parish to benefit the community.

We have included a number of **requests for feedback** in this year's annual report and encourage residents to provide their views:

- ideas for the **CIL Funds** on page 12;
- **do you own an electric vehicle** on page 13;
- ideas for **road names** on page 14;
- what do you want from a **Community Pavilion** on page 16.

Council meetings are currently being held online via zoom. Members of the public are welcome to attend and a Public Question Time is held prior to the formal meeting. Please contact the Town Clerk by noon on the day of the meeting for the access code. See www.BattleTownCouncil.gov.uk for full list of meeting dates.

Your Councillors

Marley Ward

Cllr Andrew Brown
CllrABrown@battletowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Vikki Cook
CllrVCook@battletowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Claire Davies
CllrCDavies@battletowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Margaret Howell
CllrMHowell@battletowncouncil.gov.uk

Netherfield Ward

Cllr Hazel Sharman
CllrHSharman@battletowncouncil.gov.uk

Telham Ward

Cllr Margaret Kiloh
CllrMKiloh@battletowncouncil.gov.uk

Watch Oak Ward

Cllr Glenna Favell
CllrGFavell@battletowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Jill Gygell
CllrJGygell@battletowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Chris Hartley
CllrCHartley@battletowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Allan Russell
CllrARussell@battletowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Dale Wheeler
CllrDWheeler@battletowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Caroline Would
CllrCWould@battletowncouncil.gov.uk

Contact Us

01424 772210

enquiries@battletowncouncil.gov.uk

Chairman's Report

As Council is half way through its term, you may be interested to know how we are performing against our **4-year Plan** (published on the Council website):

Tourism - A Council Grant paid for the design of a template to enable the production of seasonal tourist information leaflets. **A Tourist Information Point** will be included in works to improve **The Almonry** that will hopefully begin this spring. Beautiful Battle volunteers have continued to provide colourful floral displays throughout the pandemic.

Services for Residents - A one-stop-shop for Town Council and District Council enquiries was set up at The Almonry, which will be further developed when the building works are complete. A process to assess local projects suitable for **Community Infrastructure Levy funds** is being developed and I urge residents to respond to the **Call for Need** on page 12. Card payments can be made at the Council office; however it was decided that BACS payments have replaced the need for a direct online payment method.



**Cllr. Glenna Favell,
Chairman**

Crime and Policing - Council considers the reduction of crime in its decision making. **Positive links with the local PCSOs** facilitate the sharing of information. We continue to report vandalism on Council property, providing CCTV evidence whenever possible.

Highways and Transport - We have met with transportation partners and continue to look for land for car parks. We are working towards compiling a case for the **reclassification of the A2100 through Battle Parish** in order to **reduce pollution and congestion**.

Leisure - Through partnerships, the Rec is developing into a landscaped sport and leisure area; the Battle Health Pathway and Cycle Skills Area is in place and the **gym equipment will be installed this year**. Funding for a replacement skate ramp near the Statue Roundabout has been secured. Plans to rebuild the pavilion are moving forward again.

Communication - Council produces **quarterly newsletters** and has set up a **Town Forum**. We are consulting on future projects and there are requests for your opinion further on. It is not yet appropriate to set a date for the 2021 Parish Assembly, but we hope to arrange it **for a Saturday to encourage attendance by a wide range of residents**.

Housing and Planning- **A referendum** on whether to adopt the **Neighbourhood Plan** will hopefully be held in May (see page 11). **Our community will benefit greatly if the Plan is adopted**, so the Council encourages you to vote 'YES'. Council has had constructive talks with developers to obtain good facilities for residents. Council considers our heritage, sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when reviewing planning applications.

We are making good progress.

Cllr Glenna Favell, Chairman

Town Clerk's Report

As with so many people, this year has been full of **new experiences for Councillors and staff**. We have adapted to Zoom meetings and I must express my admiration for those who had no desire to learn this new way of communication, but have risen admirably to the challenge.



Staff: Nicola, Steve, Carol, Jane, Adrian, Shania

Although it was disappointing that the traditional Battle events had to be cancelled, we are fortunate that we have been able to progress with **two projects on the recreation ground** which have been even more necessary for the physical and mental wellbeing of our residents. We look forward to returning to the much missed Battle events as soon as safe to do so.

We must **thank the group of residents and the volunteers** that immediately coordinated a number of volunteers to deliver food and prescriptions to those who were unable to leave their homes. During this latest lockdown, we are pleased to note that a majority of residents have found their own solutions; although we are happy to assist when necessary.

Council grounds staff have continued to carry out their usual tasks, following Government guidance, ensuring that the town's estate is properly maintained for the enjoyment of residents. Following the retirement of a staff member, and a short delay due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we welcomed Shania Arnold to the team. She is responsible for the cemetery and we have already **received many positive comments on our beautiful cemetery**. Following successful completion of his training in December, Dan Jenner is now seeking appropriate work with the skills he learned and we know he will prove an asset to a future employer.

At the end of a six month contract of the Marketing & Town Development Officer, and following a review of Council's requirements for Officers, it was agreed that a part-time **Deputy Town Clerk/ Town Development Officer** should be appointed. In January, Nicola Boarer joined our team, albeit via virtual means, and is currently working on ensuring communications are improved. This Annual Report is testament to her encouraging start with us.

In accordance with Government instruction, Jane de Garston, the Assistant to the Town Clerk, and I have **worked between the office and our homes** and this has its own trials. I thank Jane for her continued efforts to ensure residents' queries are responded to efficiently.

I am privileged to report that throughout this challenging year, your **Councillors have continued to dedicate much of their time and energy to discuss and move forward projects** for the benefit of the town and its residents.

An additional expression of gratitude must be recorded to the members of the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group who, after 5 years of hard work, are nearing the end of their task. **I sincerely hope residents of Battle will appreciate the benefit of this Plan and support it in the Referendum.**

Please do contact me if you would like any information on who, how or what being a Town Councillor involves.

Carol Harris, Town Clerk

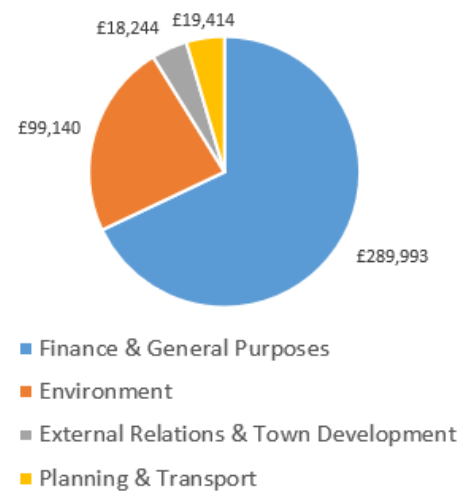
Finance & General Purposes Committee Report

Committee Members: Cllr Glenna Favell; Cllr Margaret Kiloh; Cllr Vikki Cook; Cllr Jill Gyngell; Cllr Hazel Sharman

One of the two principal objectives of the Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GP) is to **ensure that Council business is conducted in accordance with best practice**. Battle Town Council is extremely fortunate to be able to seek sound guidance from our excellent Town Clerk, Carol Harris. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Carol's outstanding commitment to the Council and to thank her for the support she has provided during this difficult year.

One of the Committee's tasks is to recommend a **budget and precept** to Council for consideration in the autumn. The Committee was determined to keep any increase to less than 3%, but also felt that each Standing Committee had put forward a good case for their particular projects to be funded. When Council discussed the recommendations, Members agreed to adjust the budget in order that there would be **no increase in the precept**. However, the projects will still go ahead, though some will be delayed, some reduced and others will be funded from either the Community Infrastructure Levy or general reserves.

Council Expenditure 2019-20



The Council will therefore be able to continue with its plans to improve facilities for residents and visitors to our special town

The F&GP Committee is responsible for The Almonry, which is a Grade II* listed building that belongs to the town. A great deal of the Committee's time and effort this year has been spent on finalising the plans for the **improvements to The Almonry**. Last year's Annual Report included a questionnaire that asked residents' views on a variety of options and their costs. This exercise, however, coincided with the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic and a time of economic uncertainty, which raised questions about the wisdom of continuing with such a major project.



The Almonry, Battle

The plans to re-build the south wing were abandoned, but the **Council is proceeding with essential repairs, refurbishment and improvements** to include the provision of **wheelchair access, accessible toilet facilities** and a **Tourist Information Point**. Our aim is to bring The Almonry into a good state of repair and make it more accessible, usable and fuel-efficient. Work will begin as soon as funding is in place.

Cllr Glenna Favell

Environment Committee Report

Committee Members: Cllr Vikki Cook; Cllr Claire Davies; Cllr Glenna Favell; Cllr Chris Hartley; Cllr Margaret Kiloh; Cllr Hazel Sharman; Cllr Caroline Would.

The Environment Committee has responsibility for allotments, Battle cemetery, St Marys Churchyard, two recreation grounds, the Shaws, street lighting (not on major roads) and street furniture on land under Council ownership or management.

The completion of the **Health Pathway** and the **Cycle Skills Area** has been extremely timely and the **numbers of users of both facilities has been phenomenal**: parents teaching children to ride their bikes; friends walking and catching up with one another; shielded residents enjoying daily exercise; and residents making full use of the pump track where taking turns needs no rules or regulations, co-operation and courtesy needs no teaching.



Cycle Skills Area

With the assistance of a professional grant fund-raiser, we are working towards replacing the existing Pavilion with a larger, more useable facility which will include a refreshment area.

2020/21 has been a very difficult time for all our residents and the Council has regretted the necessity to close all or parts of the recreations ground facilities, as required by Government regulations. Our thanks to Mr Tony Perkins for his enthusiasm to pursue Tennis for All and his drive to raise funds and awareness for **a tennis practice wall which will be installed later in 2021**. In addition, considerations for a more accessible path to the tennis court entrance is in the early stages of discussion. The excessively wet autumn and winter has caused a few flooding issues and **plans for soft planting with more trees and hedges that will absorb excess water is in hand**.

Following agreement with East Sussex County Council on a 14 year lease for the land, we agreed to use monies from our **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds to replace the Skate Ramp**.

We are responsible for 4 allotment sites around the parish and, perhaps as a result of the Pandemic, **all the allotments are now occupied!** The Cemetery also continues to be a true asset to the town; as a place of peace, tranquillity and natural beauty.

During 2020, we reflected on our need to **work towards becoming Carbon Neutral**, and began our **litter bin replacement programme** with dual purpose bins (one side litter, the other recycling) at the Abbey Green and the recreation ground.

Despite everything that did not happen in 2020 our town looked magnificent and we are indebted to the **grounds and maintenance team** who work so hard; to the Environmental Group for their love of the wildflower verges; to Battle Yarn Bombers; and to the street cleaner who walks the town daily collecting litter and leaves and sweeping our kerbsides.

Cllr Vikki Cook

External Relations & Town Development Committee Report

Committee Members: Cllr Hazel Sharman; Cllr Chris Hartley; Cllr Vikki Cook; Cllr Glenna Favell; Cllr Margaret Howell; Cllr Margaret Kiloh; Cllr Caroline Would.

Sadly this year many events which were planned by BTC and others had to be cancelled due to Covid 19, including celebrations planned for the 75th Anniversary of VE day and VJ Day. **Remembrance Day** was not able to have the normal parade, but was still **commemorated by socially distanced groups** both on Remembrance Sunday at St Mary's Church and in front of Battle Abbey on 11th November, led by the Mayor and representatives from Battle churches.

The Committee continued to meet by Zoom and many plans were achieved. **A Post Covid Recovery Grant was set up with a number of businesses benefitting from the scheme.** One example was the photographic display around the town and on Abbey Green in the summer which certainly portrayed the life of many Battle residents during Lockdown 1. A **Post Covid Recovery Group**, also supported by Rother District Council has done **important work promoting the town** by organising banners and leaflets to keep residents informed on shops opening and measures observed in order to keep residents safe.



This is Our Battle Exhibition by Darren Bus Photography

Members of Beautiful Battle, have kept the town looking colourful and cared for all through the year, which has been greatly appreciated by residents and visitors.

The **Writing Competition** was again **well supported** by adults and children **with standards being very high.** Trophies will be distributed, when conditions safely allow, to **Alex Lutton, Enyd Ford and Olivia Matthews.** The **Town Forum** was able to meet by Zoom when six organisations attended to discuss the most effective ways to help Battle residents in need of support.

The Christmas lights were magnificent and, together with the imaginative displays by shop keepers, the town and Christmas trees certainly **had a positive effect lifting our spirits** during the very unusual Christmas period. **Santa's sleigh tours,** initiated by the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Committee, around the town and Netherfield were well received and we hope this may become an annual event.

A **Resilience Plan is being compiled** to cope with any future emergency. **Residents are invited to join and help in any way they can.** The application form is on the BTC website which is being constantly up-dated with all Committee meetings and policies available for public to view. A **Deputy Town Clerk/ Town Development Officer** has now been appointed to assist with the ever increasing workload of the administrative staff. A new resident's pack has been updated and those relocating to our historic town have found the information very useful.

When we emerge from Lockdown it is hoped we will all **give our full support to the many much valued local shops** so that our significant town can prosper and be enjoyed.

Cllr Hazel Sharman

Planning & Transport Committee Report

Committee Members: Cllr Jill Gyngell; Cllr Dale Wheeler; Cllr Andrew Brown; Cllr Claire Davies; Cllr Glenna Favell; Cllr Margaret Howell; Cllr Allan Russell.

The Council's Planning and Transport Committee act as consultees to Rother District Council (RDC); it is the authority's officers who decide on the merits of each application. Applications of significance are decided by RDC's Planning Committee. They can agree with the comments made by our own councillors, or completely ignore them. **Councillors undertake regular training on planning matters and strive to represent residents' views fairly.**

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. Agendas are published on the Council's website and on notice boards throughout the parish. **An opportunity to speak and give your views on any application on the agenda is given before the formal start of each meeting.** If you wish to speak, please advise the Clerk by noon on the day of the meeting. Meetings are currently being held by Zoom and the Clerk will provide you with the password on request.



Battle Civil Parish Design Guidelines has been adopted by the Council and shared with RDC to influence the form of any future development.

The guidance is based upon observations of the town's rich, historic character and is consulted when decisions are made on planning applications. There is also compliance with the Heritage Charter and High Weald Housing Design Guide.

In September parking meters were introduced in the High Street **to allow more residents and visitors to Battle to park for short periods of time at a low cost.** Parking enforcement in the town is not under the jurisdiction of Battle Town Council, but we fully support East Sussex County Council (ESCC) in this venture. Parking in Lower Mount Street Car Park is more efficient since the introduction of marked bays.

Recent lockdowns have resulted in **more people enjoying walking** and the maintenance of safe footpaths in the parish is a priority. **We are keen to promote use of the Schools' Greenway behind Battle High Street** and a Working Group is currently tasked with achieving this aim.

We regularly **respond to consultations** which may effect our community: Planning for the Future White Paper, LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans), Pavement Parking, South Eastern Railways, RDC Car Parks Electric Vehicle Charging and Blackfriars being the most recent.

Members of the Planning & Transport Committee work hard to promote good design, create opportunities to walk and cycle and protect the environment.

Cllr Jill Gyngell

A Message From Your MP

This has been **a year of unprecedented challenge** which will have impacted everyone in Battle to varying degrees. Many residents will have lost a loved one from the pandemic. Our school children and students have had their teaching and study disrupted. Jobs have been lost and livelihoods impacted. Wider health conditions, including mental health, have been exacerbated. Our freedoms, pursuits and the quality time we spend with one another have largely been curtailed. **I am very sorry for the impact which the pandemic has caused you.**



Huw Merriman, MP

Some positive news; **the vaccination programme is delivering and it's the key to returning towards normality.** This has also not been without its challenges locally. Whilst the Bexhill GPs got vaccinating at the end of December, **a solution for Battle and rural Rother** took a little longer to deliver and was further from the town than we would have liked. The team at Etchingham, which includes many local volunteers, have done a magnificent job and have caught up. Across the County, and the country, over [90%] of the priority groups had been vaccinated as of mid February. This also accounts for 90% of the mortality risk. It's not just good news for the health of those most at risk but **also allows us to reopen schools, businesses and start lifting other restrictions.**

Whilst it has not been a year of many positives, **I would like to say a huge thank you to all of those who have worked so hard to keep the community going.**

The Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce have been so supportive of residents in need and have **sought to promote and protect the High Street and essential services.** I spent a great time with many Chamber members during the November lockdown when we filmed local traders who were promoting their online presence with the slogan **'Buy local, buy later, buy local online'.**

The Town Council have set up a **'Battle Covid Recovery group'**. This involves our Town, District and County Councillors, the Chamber and local traders. I am pleased to be a member in my capacity as the town's Member of Parliament. We all have roles to play and we have external bodies we can call upon to help with the restart. Fortunately, this is something which everyone can play their part in by making the following commitment; **once the lockdown lifts, support your local traders otherwise you may lose them.**

In the longer term, I hope that this pandemic brings the generations closer together. The trials and tribulations of Brexit may have caused the odd inter-generation fall-out. In contrast, the pandemic has seen those in their younger years make a sacrifice in their lives to help those of older years to remain in good health. Those of us who struggle to remember our years at school can now make a difference by **helping those who may have fallen behind in education or are finding it tough to find a job.**

A good example of better times ahead for the town is the approval given for the rebuilding of the main block at Claverham Community College. The new road at Blackfriars, which allows the unlocking of new homes for residents, is also making progress. **As the sunnier months return, let's remember the challenges but find a window for the positives which lay in store.**

Huw Merriman MP for Bexhill and Battle

East Sussex County Council Report

Once again I shall begin with the money. **The County Council portion of this year's Council Tax will rise by 3.49%.** This is made up of 1.99% of "normal" tax rise plus an extra 1.5% for Adult Social Care; we are allowed 3% for this element to be taken over two years if required and the County Council has decided to take half this year and half next.



Not surprisingly COVID-19 has taken up much of our time this year and the **County Council's staff has worked tirelessly and deserve a massive vote of thanks.** The County Council has received substantial amounts of money from the Government to help with the pandemic but to date this has not covered the cost. At the beginning of the outbreak there were delays in getting PPE to where it was required but that seems to have been dealt with and people are protected. I am pleased to say that the **vaccination programme is rolling out apace** and most people have accepted that, while not ideal, they will get to Etchingham.

It is also the case that those whom for whatever reason cannot travel have received their vaccinations in their homes.

The County's children and young people have continued to be educated although often in unusual ways. **There is real concern that so much isolation is causing mental health problems for increasing numbers of the population at all stages of life.** Cost of data for remote learning is still an issue for some families but this is being resolved as is the distribution of devices. I cannot be more specific on this topic as the Department for Education now deals directly with schools and bypasses the Local Authority. During the lockdowns schools have remained open for vulnerable children and the children of key workers. In East Sussex attendance at school has been compatible with the national average at around 13%. The County's Looked After Children continue to do well with 13 having been offered university places.

Unfortunately, we are, as ever, in need of foster carers. This is very rewarding work and the Council gives excellent training and support so if it appeals to you, please get in touch.

Like many of you since I last reported I have not been far from Battle. When I go out for my daily exercise I usually finish up in the High Street for a takeaway coffee and some shopping. **Aren't we lucky! We live in a beautiful town with friendly people and shops to supply all our needs.**

I am surprised that so far I have not been asked what is happening at **the Library**. No one can have missed the forest of poles which is growing daily. I can tell you that the building is being reroofed and it is anticipated that it will take six weeks to erect the scaffolding and that the job is expected to be complete in May.

Cllr Kathryn Field

District Council Report



When the Covid pandemic hit, Rother District Council's **resilience and emergency plans** swung into action with Officers and Councillors responding to the needs of the Community. **Councillors and Parish Councils were at the front line, and responded with community help groups, food bank support and the local link that communities needed.** All the Council's meetings are now held remotely and streamed live on YouTube. A notable major achievement was the bringing inside of all the homeless throughout Rother. A significant sum has been spent from emergency reserves on the pandemic, as well as the Council losing income.

Town Hall - The pandemic has changed the way Rother works, with home working now the preference of many staff and **the Council's office requirements are being reviewed.** We are investigating the **redevelopment of the Town Hall** complex in Bexhill to bring the working conditions up to date as well as making space more flexible – also providing housing and office space for partner organisations.

Housing Company - **Rother has created its own Company - 'Alliance Homes (Rother)'** to build, sell and provide affordable homes across the District. **The first project is Blackfriars in Battle,** with the plans having received outline planning permission. The design and specification of the development is **far above what normal housebuilders are currently providing,** and the environment is at the front of everything that is being built, reflecting the Council's aims. Work starts later in the year, and there are schemes in Rye, Bexhill and Camber in the pipeline.

Civil Parking Enforcement - With the County Council taking control of on street parking enforcement, it is noted that **spaces in the High Street are now easily available.** Consequently, we are looking at **Rother car parks** to ensure their usage will be maximised. A major development already is the **reduction in season ticket rates for Battle users** who had previously been charged a premium.

Climate Emergency - The work continues apace with the **appointment of a dedicated Environment Officer.** Environmental considerations are now included with every piece of work and decision, in line with the District's Emergency.

Finance - An underlying deficit of £500k a year in income over expenditure is a top priority and **a financial stability programme has been established** to identify savings and smarter working to ensure a financially secure Council for the future.

Further Projects

- investing in **developing business space** in Bexhill for existing employers and new developments,
- looking to **improve visitor facilities** in Camber,
- investing in local **temporary accommodation** so people are housed locally rather than elsewhere
- bringing **electric vehicle charging points** to the District
- working with healthcare providers to provide **new doctors surgeries**
- establishing a **Community Lottery** for local good causes
- reviewing **Community Infrastructure Levy** from new housing to make the money work better
- instigating an external **review of the Planning department** to assist with workload and staffing

Cllr Kevin Dixon; Cllr Vikki Cook; Cllr Kathryn Field

Battle Neighbourhood Plan

The Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan was **adopted by Battle Town Council on 25th November**, and then passed to Rother District Council for their own eight week consultation.



The Plan was subsequently accepted by RDC at the Cabinet meeting on 11th January 2021. Now we await the examination by an inspector familiar with RDC, AONB and historic towns. All being well, **a referendum will then be held**, administered by Rother District Council, like any election, at no cost to Battle. This cannot be until **May at the earliest**, due to Covid -19 restrictions.

Whilst a Neighbourhood Plan has its own parameters, there are limits to what it is permitted to include. So, following on from this, the Steering Group compiled a list called “Community Aspirations”. This can be found on our website www.battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk. It is comprehensive, and includes concerns raised at the different consultations held over the years.

The main issues are for key facilities and services.

So, for Netherfield, **improved footway in and beyond the village**, with one between Darvel Down (from the Village Store) to the Village Hall and then to the church, as seen in Ambition 7. Additionally, **better electrical, water and broadband facilities are suggested**. Also, better streetlighting and electric vehicle charging points.

One of the most important provisions called for by residents is a call for **Community Facilities**, such as a **part-time Doctor’s surgery**, with a **part-time pharmacy**. Adequate recreational facilities, particularly for the young and Seniors, are yet another suggestion. Some similar ambitions are quoted for the town and Telham, such as the **re-development of the skate ramp**, and a **youth activities community centre** along with a **Senior Citizens Centre**.

For the town and Telham, a **reduction in road congestion**, both local and through traffic, particularly at peak times, is often sighted as necessary. A **Park and Ride could be one way forward**.

This is a very brief outline of the many items in the “wish list” called “Community Aspirations”. You may well wonder how this will be funded.

With a Neighbourhood Plan in place, the Town Council receives a Community Infrastructure Levy of 25%. Quite a tidy sum! Without the NP, the figure is 15%.

So **please vote for the Neighbourhood Plan at Referendum**, which would vindicate the sterling work completed by the wholly voluntary Steering group. I give my heartfelt thanks to all those individuals.

Cllr Margaret Howell, Steering Group Chairman

Request for recommendations for CIL projects

The **Community Infrastructure Levy** (CIL) is a tax that local authorities charge on most new developments in their area.

At present Battle **Town Council receives 15%** of the CIL for developments taking place within the Parish of Battle (local CIL), with Rother District Council receiving the remaining 85% (strategic CIL). The **funding is used to support infrastructure improvements, including social infrastructure**, that the local community will benefit from. This gives the Town Council more influence for locally popular projects if it is able to fund them using Local CIL money. As no other bodies, e.g. the County Council, receive CIL money, they could approach the Town Council to fund local improvements, such as an additional pavement or a pedestrian crossing.

A referendum on the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan (BCPNP) will hopefully take place in May 2021 or soon after. **If residents approve the Plan, the local CIL payments to Battle Town Council will be increased to 25%**, which provides another good reason to support the Neighbourhood Plan.

Battle Town Council has set up a **Working Group to develop a CIL Policy for prioritising projects** and allocating Local CIL funds. There are already infrastructure projects within the Council's published plans e.g. the reduction of traffic through Battle to decrease pollution and congestion; the replacement of the pavilion at the Rec and improvements to footpaths. The BCPNP includes an extensive list of community aspirations, including: to monitor for adequate recreational facilities; the provision of a part-time GP surgery and health facilities in Netherfield; and to improve public transport. These projects could be delivered with assistance from the CIL funding.

The **Council Plan and the Standing Committees' Action Plans** can be found on the Council's website. The **community aspirations** are detailed in **Section 7 of the BCPNP Submission Plan** visit www.battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk

Call for Need - Your Recommendations:

The Council is now asking **residents of Battle Civil Parish** to put forward any **additional ideas** of how they think the Local CIL money could be best spent to serve the community.

Battle Town Council will consider all suggestions that are feasible, are popular within the community and that it believes will **benefit residents within the Parish**.

If you would like to **make a recommendation**, please fill in the form below. Residents are able to make as many recommendations as they would like - if you are using the form below, please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Recommendation: _____

How would this benefit the community: _____

Please return all recommendations by 30th April 2021 to the Town Council office at The Almonry, High Street, Battle TN33 0EA or fill in our online form at www.BattleTownCouncil.gov.uk. The short list of potential projects will be published on the Battle Town Council website.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS IN RDC CAR PARKS

A meeting was held with Rother District Council in February 2021 to discuss a proposal for electric vehicle charging points in RDC carparks. The proposal is in its very early stage, but we fully support such an initiative.

EV chargers will ideally be **located off-street** and in **car parks** considered suitable, meeting the minimum requirement of 20 parking spaces. Consideration is being given to Mount St, Upper Market and Lower Market.

Discussions are due to take place with English Heritage and Southern Rail. EV chargers in **Netherfield** would be delivered as part of any new **housing developments** as there is no car park.



Do you own an Electric Vehicle?

In order to move forward with this joint venture, we have to establish **how many owners** of electric vehicles live in the parish:

If you own an electric vehicle please let the Council know how many **electric vehicles** (EVs) your household owns and if they are dual fuel cars, are they used as EVs?

To respond please email enquiries@battletowncouncil.gov.uk; telephone 01424 772210, via the contact facility on battletowncouncil.gov.uk or post to The Almonry, High Street, Battle, TN33 0EA

Help for Local Businesses Post Covid 19

Battle Town Council are conscious that many of our local businesses and services have suffered as a consequence of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and understand that there have been many additional costs associated with **making premises and services covid secure**.



Grants of Up To £500 Available

Council would like to remind **all local businesses** that that £10,000 has been set aside from General Reserves and is for **grants of up to £500** for **local businesses and organisations**. It is not too late to apply!

The grant is open to applicants from across the town and is intended to assist with additional expenditure incurred as a direct result of the rather unexpected COVID-19 pandemic.

Grants can also be used to provide special services designed to **benefit the residents** of our Civil Parish during the recovery period of this pandemic.

For the **guidance document and information** on the criteria required to receive this grant, please see the Information page of the **Council website**. If you feel your business could benefit from this grant, please complete the application form found online and return it by email to enquiries@battletowncouncil.gov.uk or hard copy to The Almonry, High Street, Battle, TN33 0EA.

Do you have any suggestions for new road names?

People representing a range of Battle groups met in February to begin **generating a pool of suitable road names** in readiness for times when the Town Council is asked for suggestions or wishes to offer alternative names to those put forward by developers.

Several developments of varying sizes are planned within the parish, all needing road names. (Blackfriars is likely to be the next development to be given planning consent.) Although suggestions from developers are invited and considered, the final decision resides with Rother District Council (RDC). However, **RDC attaches considerable importance to the views of Parish/Town Councils**.

RDC favours road names that have **a proven historical connection** to the land and that preference is given to names that reflect **local natural history** or the **nature of the terrain**. Proposals relating to a person's name need to have a historical connection or be for a commemorative purpose.

Four local themes were agreed and then suggestions for names were collated for each theme:

Features: *Windmill; Tannery; Tower; (River) Brede; (River) Line; Shaw*

Connections: *St Valery sur Somme*

Flora and Fauna: *Campion; Centaury; Cleavers; Loosestrife; Mullein, Saxifrage; Twayblade; Willowherb; Woodruff; Blackthorn; Elm; Hawthorn; Hornbeam; Oak; Rowan; Nightingale; Nightjar; Woodcock; Badger; Dormouse; Pipistrelle.*

People: *Eliza Acton; Violet Akehurst; Duchess of Cleveland; Edward Cresy; William Frankland; Thomas Pilcher; Lewis Pyke; Sir Francis Ronalds; Samuel Sanders Teulon; Augustus Webster.*

There have already been additional ideas. **If you have further suggestions, please send them to the Council**, but bear in mind that road names should be meaningful and people need to understand where the names come from. A final list of road names, suggested by residents, will be posted on the Battle Town Council website in order that developers can refer to it. The list will be added to as further ideas are put forward.

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Residents' questionnaire about a new changing Pavilion, including meeting room and café at Battle Recreation Ground

The Battle Recreation Ground (the Rec) is a focal point for residents for exercise, leisure and simply enjoying nature. Battle Town Council, in partnership with local organisations, is continually upgrading the leisure offer on site for residents. Recent developments include a health pathway and cycle skills area. The Council now wishes to move on to the next phase, with a new changing Pavilion, including a meeting room for community organisations, and a community café, **funded largely by external bodies**. It wants to **consult local residents and local community organisations**, and it would be really helpful to have your views on this proposed development by completing the questionnaire below:

Please tick yes/no or add comments where optional

- 1) Are you in favour of the proposed Pavilion for use by local sports clubs for changing facilities?
Yes ☐ No ☐
- 2) Are you in favour of the proposed Pavilion Café, for refreshments and for meeting up with friends/socialising to make new friends?
Yes ☐ No ☐
- 3) Are you in favour of the proposed Pavilion Clubroom for regular meetings by local organisations and for activities such as Chess club/ other?
Yes ☐ No ☐
- 4) Do you feel the range of proposed facilities at the Pavilion would increase your usage of the Battle Recreation site?
Yes ☐ No ☐
- 5) Do you feel the proposed facilities would improve your physical and mental wellbeing, skills, or promote better community cohesion?
Yes ☐ No ☐
If yes, how? _____
- 6) How will you personally use the new facilities?

- 7) Any ideas or suggestions from you? i.e. What are the benefits for you personally of using the facilities/Do you foresee any barriers to you using the facilities?

Please complete the information below to help us with the survey. Tick one per question. Thank you.

Are you a local resident: Yes ☐ No ☐

Gender: Male ☐ Female ☐ Other ☐

Age group: U18 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65 and over ☐

Do you consider yourself a disabled person: Yes ☐ No ☐

Ethnicity: White ☐ Asian or Asian British ☐ Black or Black British ☐ Other ethnicity (inc Chinese) ☐

Please return completed questionnaires the Town Council office at The Almonry, High Street, Battle TN33 0EA, email to: DTC-TDO@battletowncouncil.gov.uk or fill in the online questionnaire: www.battletowncouncil.gov.uk **by 11th April 2021.**

Battle Town Council

The Almonry, High Street, Battle, TN33 0EA

01424 772210 enquiries@battletowncouncil.gov.uk

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