



Battle Town Council

The Almonry, High Street, Battle, East Sussex, TN33 0EA

www.battletowncouncil.org.uk T: 01424 772210

enquiries@battletowncouncil.org.uk

 @BattleTownCncl

 Battle Town Council

Parish Assembly

27th April 2017

Battle Memorial Halls

7.00 for 7.30 pm

Annual Reports are inside and the
Town Council Financial Statement is online.

(Printed copies will be available at the Parish Assembly)

Inside this edition:

Mayor's Message (page 2)

Town Council reports (pages 4 to 8)

District Councillor's report (page 12)

County Councillor's report (page 13)

Town Competitions (page 3)

Message from our MP (page 9)

Community Focus (pages 9-11)

Mayor's Message

What a year 2016 was, with the 950th Anniversary commemorations, when the world's eyes were on our wonderful town. Can I say on behalf of the Council our sincere thanks for all the volunteers and organisers who made the event so special and inclusive. We are fortunate in having so many wonderful groups who contribute so much to the community and foster excellent community relations.

Battle Town Council has had an exceptionally busy year, making much needed improvements to our estate. Our thanks go to all the staff of Battle Town Council who have worked so hard.

Plans are well advanced to turn roadside verges and other suitable land that the Council owns into wild flower meadows. I would like to thank all agencies and volunteers for their enthusiasm and hard work.

Transport issues, in particular parking, are a constant cause of complaint for our residents. Although our Council unfortunately has no jurisdiction over these issues, rest assured that we are doing all we can to put pressure on Rother District Council to address these problems. We will also continue to work tirelessly to encourage visitors to our Town, providing a clean, safe and environmentally friendly destination and will continue to support local businesses and the Chamber of Commerce.

All this work is being done against a background of continuing reductions in funding received by the Council and the need to increase our reserves. This has led to an increase of 60p a week in the precept for D band housing. Although this rise is regrettable, the Council took the view that it was essential in order to keep our town a wonderful place to live in and to be proud of.



Finally, The Neighbourhood Plan, that will shape Battle in the future, will be open for public consultation. I urge you to take time to look at this document and give feedback.

David Furness, Mayor

Parish Assembly Agenda

Welcome from Cllr David Furness, Chairman of Battle Town Council
Answers to written questions from the public to Battle Town Council
The Battle Neighbourhood Plan – Introduction by Maurice Holmes
Presentation of Civic Awards
Questions to individuals or groups in receipt of BTC grants in 2016/17
Presentations from District and County Councillors

Forthcoming Council Meetings

April

Tue 04 – Full Council

Wed 05 – Planning & Transport

Tue 18 – Environment

Wed 19 – Planning & Transport

Tue 25 - External Relations & Town Development

May

Tue 02 – Finance & General Purposes

Wed 02 – Planning and Transport

Tue 16 – Annual Council Meeting

Wed 17 – Planning and Transport

These meetings will be held at The Almonry and start at 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

If you would like to join the Council, please have a chat with Carol Harris, the Town Clerk.

Battle in Bloom Competition

Whether you have a tiny garden, a massive garden or something in between, there is a category in the Battle in Bloom Competition that could be suitable for you. If you haven't entered the competition before, there is a special category for you, so why not give it a go? Entry forms will be available from The Almonry and various places around the town.

1066 Writing Competition

The title this year is 'Magic Battle'. The Adults' Competition is open to residents in the Battle Town Council community who are 16 years old and over. The closing date is 31st July 2017, so please interpret 'Magic Battle' as you like, then start writing 1066 words in prose, poetry or a play.

Children in 1066 Country can enter the competition through their school.

Allotment Competition

Each year, trophies are presented to the winners of the Best Large Allotment and the Best Small Allotment. There are also prizes for the runners-up and for the tenant of the Most Improved Allotment.

Allotments in all four sites in Battle are judged in late June/early July. Marks are awarded for appearance, composting, rain capture, utilisation of space and the variety, continuity, quality and labelling of crops. There will also be marks for pizzazz!

Environment and Nature Conservation

Battle is leading the way in making its roadside verges and other suitable areas into conservation sites in order to attract wild flowers. East Sussex Highways will install special mowing regimens that will enable wild flowers to grow and flourish. It is hoped that other parishes and towns will follow our lead.



Following a call to the public for suggestions, the following areas have been chosen: east and west end of Virgins Lane; Oakhurst Road; Whatlington Road; Caldbec Hill; North Trade

Road and areas of the Hastings Road. The roundabout at the north end of the High Street will also be laid with wild flower turf.

Pupils at Battle and Langton School will be invited to enter a competition to design posters to advertise these areas.

We are looking for volunteers to monitor these sites and report on the different species of flowers that are growing. If you would like to assist in this task please contact the Town Clerk, Carol Harris.

Parish Assembly

Change of date

The Parish Assembly will now be held on Thursday 27th April, 2017 at 7.30 pm at Battle Memorial Halls.

The Assembly is a chance for the residents to hear from the Council what they have been doing and raise any issues causing concern. Your County and District Councillors will also be in attendance.

Written reports from the Town, District and County Councillors can be found in this publication.

Please submit your questions for Councillors in advance to the Town Clerk. Questions must be received by close of business on Monday 24th April 2017 in order that full answers can be provided at the meeting.

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan group will introduce the plan and invite your questions.

There will also be a presentation of the Civic Award(s).

Councillors look forward to meeting you from 7 pm.



Finance & General Purposes Committee Report

The Committee is responsible for the Almonry building, both in terms of efficient use and the maintenance of the facilities. The building is in need of some general repairs and the Council has agreed £10,000 from its budget be used to carry out essential work as soon as possible. The offices are all now fully let and the meeting room is used on a regular basis by many groups from the town.

Advice has been sought from an historical building professional and an independent architect regarding a project to improve the ground floor usage and reinstate the traditional feel of the Almonry. This has resulted in positive information to enable the Committee to take this to the Planning Authority for approval. This is an exciting development that will enable residents and visitors to enjoy the building.

During the course of the year various grants have been awarded to local groups and organisations that work hard to entertain and provide facilities for local people.

Town Clerk's Report

I am honoured to say that I have been employed by Battle Town Council for 18 years. My role and hours have varied over the years and it was only 5 months ago that I successfully applied for the position of Town Clerk. There have been many changes during my period with the Council: the Abbey Green has been changed from a pay and display car park to a pleasant seating area to admire the town; the Almonry meeting room was a café, managed firstly by the Council and then by outside businesses; and the roundabout had cordyline trees as its feature to name a few. Many of us will have a view on whether these changes are all improvements, but I know that the Council has always considered carefully the town's best interests, often seeking public consultation, before acting.

The Council should consist of 17 Councillors. We currently have 13 dedicated Councillors working very hard, voluntarily, to maintain and improve the environment in which we all live and/or work. My admiration for these individuals is immense and I thank them for their support and commitment.

In relation to staff, we have 3 members responsible for the outside areas. Gary Champion, now our lead staff member for the upkeep and sensitive treatment of the cemetery. He has overseen the extensive work carried out this year to enhance the facilities available. Gary started as a summer season worker before becoming full-time in 1999. In charge of maintenance and care of our recreation grounds and general areas is Adrian Blunden. Adrian has now been with the Council for 11 years and will often be seen driving between work sites in the new utility 'Mule'. The responsibility of allotments, tree work and street furniture is Michael Deboick who has been part of the group for 3 years. He has taken on extensive tree work training to enable this work to be undertaken in-house, thereby ensuring significant savings to the budget.



Gary, Michael & Adrian



Carol and Jane

Our newest staff member is Jane de Garston, trainee Deputy Town Clerk. Although only in post for one month, Jane is already proving to be an invaluable part of the team. She is the point of contact for any queries relating to the cemetery, allotments or street lighting and will happily try to answer any other issues too!

Carol Harris, Town Clerk

External Relations & Town Development Committee Report

2016/17 was an unforgettable year for this Committee, of course, as the 950th celebrations were held and Battle was the centre stage nationally and internationally. A 50p coin was minted promoting the Battle of Hastings and visitors and residents alike enjoyed the festivities.



Not forgetting the normal part of the Council activities during 2016 we arranged for a new defibrillator in Battle which is located at the Memorial Hall entrance on the High Street. Others are located at the fire station entrance on the High Street and Claverham Community College. In 2017 we plan to install one at the Netherfield Stores and others in Marley Lane Stores area and at Telham in a location to be decided. Frustratingly, we tried to facilitate a forum to get all local working groups to work together in Battle. Although this was not a success, we are not giving up on this as we believe communication is the key to increasing productivity in the area and for all the local groups working together to create a better Battle.

We have representatives on the Battle Marketing Group and on the 1066 Country Executive Board which drives the tourism/event/attraction and accommodation industries in the 1066 area. A new logo and brand identity has been created for 1066 Country and Battle is centre stage of this. A new website and social media platform has been created for Battle Town Council with far more open access and disclosures plus historical minutes and loads of other features promoting Battle including an events diary. We have actively lobbied local and central government for the increase in Broadband speed and 4G access in Battle. This has got much better recently in the Town although remains patchy outside the Town area.

We have established a bi-monthly newsletter which is available at various outlets in the Town. It is also in printed format and digitally available to download from the website. In 2016 we created a yearly writing competition to promote creative writing in the area. The theme for the first year was "Battle in 2066". There were many interesting entries received and the winners have been notified and have received their awards. My personal favourite was a dreamy poem we received from a college student. Perhaps we can all dream what we would like Battle to be like in 2066 and work the plan.

Moving forward into 2017/18 we have many plans in place to try and create "Brand Battle" in association with 1066 Country and other national organisations. There is no need to highlight the fact that the commerce side of Battle is struggling outside the key players so there needs to be an action plan to drive the business growth in Battle. The Council has plans to try and do this with traders and retailers alike. Innovation and use of technology is very important but the biggest thing is encouraging people and groups to work together and follow a plan whereby the Town grows as a whole and everybody benefits.

There is also an Arts Trail planned for the Town financed by a winning bid to the National Lottery Fund. The statue is in situ on the roundabout at the top of High Street and will be lit up during 2017 with low level lighting. We are also planning a regeneration project where the Council encourages landowners and property owners to make their assets look as good as possible which can benefit the town in general and

create a feel good factor. The Council will take over the Christmas lights for 2017 and there are plans for a new small Tourist Information Point. There has been an increase in foreign tourists to Battle during 2016 especially from Belgium, Holland and Germany who found it difficult to obtain local information. New Town maps and event cards have been created within the Battle Marketing Group. There is so much more Battle can be in the future and the Council are planning this within the remit it has. Let's do it!!

Andrew Ratcliffe, Chairman

Events Sub-Committee Report

This is a new Committee set up in November 2016 with the remit to agree and plan regular and one-off events for the Town Council. It reports to the External Relations and Town Development Committee.

The article you are now reading in the Town Magazine is part of an initiative to disseminate the work of the Town Council more widely and encourage attendance at the Parish Assembly, which is an important aspect of this new Committee's work.

The number of voluntary organisations that work tirelessly for our community is one of the great assets of the town. We are liaising with the Beautiful Battle Group to improve the publicity for our domestic garden and allotment competitions and to give a higher profile to the presentation of awards to the winners in July 2017. We will also be supporting Beautiful Battle in our entry to the South East in Bloom competition.

The Battle Twinning Association is another example of a group of volunteers that have enriched the town culturally. The Events Committee are planning to support their work by raising the profile of the annual reciprocal visits between Battle and St Valery - sur - Somme and to seek closer civic contacts between the two towns.

The Mayor's Charity has now been established as a regular feature and the Committee will now meet regularly with the incumbent to consult on their plans for future fund raising events.

Allan Russell, Chair

Environment Committee Report

A detailed Action Plan is reported on at each Committee meeting and six-monthly reports are reviewed at Full Council meetings. The Action Plan is a living document, subject to periodic amendment, but it is reviewed and approved at the first Committee meeting following each Annual Council meeting.

The Committee's Terms of Reference require the members to develop and regularly review a 3 year strategic plan for the estate and, in particular, a maintenance regime to ensure that the estate is kept in a good and safe state of repair.

One of our actions was to produce a Management Programme that lists the activities that need to be undertaken in each area of the town's estate throughout the year. The allotments are benefitting from the programme and the sites are improving year on year.



Given the economic climate, the Committee is seeking to improve the leisure and recreation facilities in the town, which are free for residents to use. Having sought the views of the children at Battle and Langton School, a castle themed play structure for under 12s is planned for the area in front of the Pavilion in 'the Rec'. Battle Muffins have offered a donation towards the installation of a play horse nearby for toddlers. An accessible toilet in the Pavilion is now open to the public during the day.

The students at Claverham Community College have responded to our questionnaire about what facilities teenagers want in the Rec. The overwhelming response (69%) was somewhere to buy drinks, snacks, ice creams etc. Half of the respondents wanted somewhere to chill out and a third of them want to do fitness training. Asked to record the one facility they most wanted to be provided, 263 of the 580 students who responded wanted a café, 131 wanted an outdoor gym and 50 wanted a chill out area/

seating. It is reassuring that the Committee's 2016/17 Action Plan for the Recreation Grounds, which includes a community run Café, outdoor gym equipment and a shelter with seating, reflects the needs and desires of the town's youth. Support from volunteers and grant funding is being sought to help to facilitate and finance the planned improvements at the Rec.

The Committee continues to work with Battle Baptist Football Club to improve the football pitch. In the next financial year, we will be working with the club to improve the changing facilities in the pavilion. It was decided not to construct an informal cycle bumps area at the bottom of the Rec because the



Committee is collaborating with the Battle Health Pathway project group to extend the facilities, the plan for which includes a cycle skills area. The Committee is planning to facilitate the construction of a bridge in the south-east corner of the Rec to allow access for all from the footpath by Mansers Shaw. Various ways to deter parking in the Rec car park by people not using the facilities are being trialled.

There is a vast number of trees in the town's estate and much of the tree surgery is now undertaken in-house. The pathway in Mansers Shaw has been extended through a generous grant from Sussex Lund. The rolling programme of coppicing in the Shaw has continued through the winter.

Abbey Green has benefitted from a facelift as a result of the 950th Commemoration activities. The Committee is working to ensure that it is a vehicle free area. All of the new fingerposts are now in place around the town. The maintenance of bus shelters and the many benches around Battle is included within the Management Programme.

A major project to extend the cemetery and renovate the chapels involved relocating the workstaff and their equipment to a modern staff room with a workshop in the Rec. The cemetery extension has been completed and the access to the Lower Cemetery has been improved so that an area for scattering Ashes could be created and a carved memorial post installed.

Once the windows have been repaired and re-installed, there will be just a few finishing touches to be made to the Chapel and the new Ceremonies Room. The Chapel now has heating and comfortable chairs. The pews have been moved to the Ceremonies Room, which contains a kitchenette and accessible toilet. An official opening by Huw Merriman MP is planned for 4pm on Friday 12th May 2017 and residents are cordially invited to join us and take the opportunity to look round Battle's beautiful, tranquil cemetery.

Glenna Favell, Chairman

Personnel Sub-Committee Report

The Personnel Sub-committee, which reports to the Finance and General Purposes Committee, determines personnel policy and makes recommendations regarding staffing and training. The members have updated the Council Officers' job descriptions and person specifications. A formal appraisal process has also been implemented for all staff. Members of staff are encouraged to undertake training to support and extend their roles.

Following the resignation of Andy Beams, Carol Harris was appointed to the post of Town Clerk from 1st December 2016 after a successful interview. This left a vacancy for a Deputy Town Clerk. The post, with an option to apply for a training post, was advertised widely and seven strong candidates were interviewed. Jane de Garston was appointed and joined the Council on 1st March 2017. This enthusiastic team are working together to deliver the service that Battle residents deserve.

Glenna Favell, Chairman

Planning & Transport Committee Report

Some confusion exists on who has the authority to decide planning applications within the Battle area. It should be noted that your Town Councillors in the Planning and Transportation Committee can only make representations as a consultee to Rother District Council – it is for that authority’s Councillors to decide upon the merits of each application. They can agree with the comments made by our own Councillors - or ignore them completely. The Rother planning website will show, where Battles’ Councillors have raised no planning objections that we ‘Support’ the application. There are times when we do not ‘support’ but can find no planning reasons for asking for a refusal even when the proposed scheme has, in our view, faults.

Similarly, parking enforcement in the town is not under the jurisdiction of the Town Council and this is very contentious with both our residents and our High Street business owners. The permissible parking period is for 20 minutes yet some of those very people seem to think that it is OK for them to park all day in the few spaces available. Others – and our own residents - seem to think that it is perfectly acceptable to partially block the High Street by parking on the double yellow lined sections of the road.



The key issues that we can have influence over include guidance in the formulation of the developing Neighbourhood Plan (NP) along with a very enthusiastic group of local residents who are devoting a considerable amount of time in bringing the Plan forward for consultation shortly. Following a ‘Call For Sites’ there have been a large number of possible development sites suggested. Each of these have been visited by members of the NP Group to assess their suitability. Many of these sites will be rejected as totally unsuitable – others will be seen to have merit and be given further consideration. The NP Group undertook a parish wide survey which suggested that smaller sites would be more easily assimilated rather than larger ones which could result in unacceptable levels of traffic generation on unsuitable roads. A public consultation will be undertaken at a future exhibition and the comments received will help influence the final suggestions that will need to be proffered to Rother and later to a Planning Inspector for approval. The Town Council has also been helping this process by giving grants to the Group to meet some of their costs. As the Plan will influence how the Civic Parish of Battle is developed for the next 15 years, this money is being spent wisely.

We can also influence the condition of the Lower Mount Street car park which has required continual pothole infilling due to the nature of its construction. The Town Council has allocated sufficient funds in the budgets for next and subsequent years for a re-surfacing programme which will be completed in the next year.

We are very happy to see residents at our Planning and Transportation meetings which are held every two weeks. (Details from the Town Council website.) You are welcome to speak before the formal start of the meeting to give your views on any application on the agenda.

Richard Jessop, Chairman

Message from our MP

Last week was a challenging one, both for residents in Battle and for those of us who work in Parliament. As in all difficult moments, and as hard as it may be, we draw comfort from communities coming together.

As residents will know, a tragic incident occurred on the High Street. My heart goes out to the family who have lost a mother and wife. I met with the Divisional Police Commander following the incident, I know that the emergency services did everything they could and will continue to offer their support. Visiting the High Street with your Parish Council Chairman, David Furness, on Saturday I was struck by the strength of the community of Battle. On Mothering Sunday, I was back in the town to attend a morning service where prayers and support were offered. A lunchtime service was held on the same day dedicated to the family. The community has rallied around, as one would expect of Battle, and I join with them in offering a solid foundation of support which the family can rely on in the times ahead.

In the same week, four people, going about their business in or near Westminster, sadly lost their lives. One was a police officer serving Parliament. Being locked in the House of Commons for five hours gave me cause to consider how unfortunate we had been with this incident but how privileged we are to have our brave security and emergency services. Our response must be that we recommit ourselves to going about our business and, in the memory of those who have left loved ones behind, strive even harder to ensure that democracy is upheld.

Huw Merriman MP



Community Focus

Battle Health Pathway

There has been some exciting progress! After a number of fundraising events and some successful funding applications, Battle Health Pathway Project Group was able to commission a design by a Landscape Architect. These Concept Design Drawings are back.



The plan takes the gradients on the recreation ground into account and all the other features and uses that the area has. Space has been allocated for a picnic area, some adult health activity equipment and a cycle skills area. Some

wild flower planting has also been included, which is in keeping with the town's environment and nature conservation scheme.

If you would like to get in touch with the project team, our email address is battlehealthpathway@hotmail.com. Any offers of help or ideas would be most welcome.

Battle and District Arts Group

Currently the group consists of approx. 200 members, artists and art lovers of all styles and levels of ability, we meet every third Saturday at 2:30 pm at Battle Memorial Halls for informative demonstrations and talks by invited professional artists (visitors £3.00). Details are on the notice board in the Memorial Hall and on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BDAGpage> or if you wish to find out more, please email bdag@hotmail.co.uk. Come along to a meeting or speak to our chairman on 01424 775434.

In the meantime, indoor painting every Thursday afternoon, at the Battle Methodist Church, Emmanuel Centre, Harriet Lane, Battle. From 2 pm. £2.00 per session, payable 5 weeks in advance.

Art Exhibition & Sale of Paintings Wed 2nd August to Sat 12th August 2017 Battle Memorial Halls

Battle Memorial Halls

Battle Memorial Halls in the High Street are the equivalent of the village hall in rural communities. As such the building and its facilities are available for a wide range of community uses.

The Halls are part of a larger building known as Langton House, originally built in the 16th century as a two storey half timber building. Subsequently another storey was added, the building extended and, finally, shop fronts added in the 20th century. In 1957 the whole building was bought by a member of the Rotary Club of Battle, David Shephard, hence the name of one of the rooms. His intention was that it should be used for the benefit of the town and, having disposed of some parts, he sold the remainder to the Town Council who, having converted it for use as a community space, gave it over to be held for charitable purposes as a Memorial Hall. The responsibility for overseeing the management of the building therefore rests with a group of Charity Trustees. The day to day business is handled by the Halls' manager, Amy Cornish.

Over the years, many improvements have been made, particularly in terms of equipment, which now enable a wide range of activities to take place. The main focus remains on community groups such as dance and fitness groups, weight watchers, historical and horticultural societies, the arts and photographic groups and blood donor sessions. From time to time entertainment groups hire the main hall and the building is, of course, the home of Battle Light Opera Group who put on performances each year. Entertainment is also provided by the community cinema on the last Wednesday of each month. Increasingly the building is seen as an ideal venue for private parties. **For further information about booking arrangements and charges contact Amy Cornish on 01424 772044 or email battlememorialhall@outlook.com.**

As indicated above the Halls are managed by a Committee of Trustees made up of elected members and representatives of those groups who use the building and its facilities. Individually, Trustees can bring specific skills and experience such as financial management, marketing and building maintenance. The Committee is always looking to strengthen the team and is keen to hear from anyone interested in the management of the Halls. It also wishes to employ a part time (6 hours per week) caretaker/handyman to assist with the repair and maintenance of the building including the equipment used by hirers such as microphones and projectors. If this would be of interest to you please contact the Halls' Manager.

Finally, the Committee wishes to dispose of about 60 metal framed chairs which became surplus to requirements when tiered seating was installed and which remain in good condition. Enquiries to the Halls' Manager.

Battle Photographic Society

Battle Photographic Society will hold its Annual Exhibition on Saturday, 24th June 2017 between 10am and 5pm and Sunday, 25th June between 10am and 4pm in Battle Memorial Halls, where Members' prints will be on display. Entry is free and light refreshments will be available all day.



Meetings are held weekly from September to May in the Shephard Room at the Memorial Hall starting at 7.30pm. Presentations are given by some of the best photographers in the area. Competitions are held frequently, some for specific subjects, and entries can be for prints and projected digital images.

Photo-workshops are held frequently, when members can learn and experience the various techniques of photography, including digital imaging processing skills and take part in print critiques. Informal outdoor photoshoots involving groups of members are organised regularly.

More contact details are on the website: www.battlephotographicsociety.co.uk

Saxonwood Women's Institute

Do you now find you have time on your hands have you ever thought of joining the WI? In June Saxonwood WI will be celebrating its 50th birthday with lunch at a local restaurant.

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Shephard Room, Battle Memorial Halls, where we enjoy a wide range of speakers. Besides the monthly meetings we have a Book Club. We meet in the Upper Room of the Battle Book Shop to discuss and exchange books we have enjoyed reading that month. Some of the ladies come with the Battle Lunch Club to Leeford Place once a month and enjoy a two-course meal at a very reasonable price. If they do not drive, the Battle Community Bus transports them there. The last Monday of the month sees us meeting at the Memorial Halls for Chat and Craft (more chat than craft). Our ongoing project is knitting blankets, baby jackets and very small bonnets for the Premature Baby Unit in the Conquest Hospital. Recently we have been knitting Twiddle Muffs for a Nursing Home in St Leonards.

During the year we have numerous outings to various places of interest and the next one is the ACM meeting in Eastbourne. In this area there is the W I Rother Group six villages WIs join together twice a year for a meeting. Each WI takes it in turn to organise the speakers and refreshments for that meeting. Belonging to the WI gives members the opportunity to join the ESWI courses such as science days, crafts, golf, bowls and days out. Saxonwood have a taster afternoon of bowls in August. Denman, the WI college, offers a great variety of residential courses.

Battle is one of the very fortunate towns to still have the Country Market that started as the WI Market in the Memorial Halls on the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Friday of the month and the 3rd Saturday 9:45-11:45. All the produce is home made so come and see our savouries, cakes, and biscuits etc. The jams, marmalade and chutney are made using the fruits in season. The vegetables are all locally grown not all the producers are WI members, so if you grow too many vegetables why not join the market and become a producer? The craft section has a very good variety of baby and adult knitted and crochet items all worth looking at for that unusual gift. Food and craft hampers can be made up to order and delivered locally.

For more information please contact 01424773745

District Councillor's Report

- Since 2011, the Government has cut its grant to Rother District Council by a total of £5.4 million, including a cut of £600,000 for 2016/17. The Government general grant will be cut by a further £620,000 in 2017/18. In 2016/17, the grant was £1.07 million therefore in 2017/18 Rother will only receive £450,000. By 2020 the Government will not pay Rother any general grant.
- The latest forecasts show Rother expect a shortfall in our income over the next five years of around £2.4 million. This calculation takes into account other changes to our spending and income generated from other sources. Rother has balanced its revenue budget for 2017/18 by securing savings and additional income of around £1.2 million.
- Demand for some of Rother's services is rising, particularly in the area of housing and homelessness. For example:
 - Homelessness applications were up by a third and households accepted as homeless were up by 74% in the first six months of the financial year.
 - Complaints of disrepair for private sector landlords were up 59% on last year.
 - 54% more investigations of reported abandoned vehicles to see if the vehicle has to be removed by the Council, comparing an average month last year to this year.
 - 25% more complaints about food safety and 40% more licensing applications.
 - It should also be recognised that ESCC funding has also been significantly reduced by over recent years and the strain on their services is likewise leading to increased pressure on our services.
- Despite these funding cuts and the measures RDC have put in place in terms of innovative working solutions we can advise that our services continue to perform well, for example:
 - 100% of major developments planning applications were determined on time (in either 13 weeks or an agreed date with the developer).
 - 105 new affordable homes built in 2015/16 in Bexhill and Rye; the highest number for the last 10 years. A further 71 were finished in 2016 in Bexhill and Brede and we expect around 80 by the end of the financial year.
 - 29 arts and cultural events and 19 health and sporting events supported by the Council with small grants, staff time and other resources from April to December 2016.
 - Only an average of 1% of public land and highways were found with unacceptable levels of litter when surveyed.
 - Our website was available 99.99% of the time and website use is up by 6%.
 - Over 28,500 residents receive a My Alerts email and we've had about 100,000 clicks through from a My Alerts message on to a website for more information.
- Looking at the next three years ahead, in order to minimise service losses to the public and our residents the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Sustainability and Efficiency Plan will seek to work with town and parish councils, along with community groups, in devolving non-statutory functions.
- There are several consultations underway at the moment including the Development and Site Allocations Plan, Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Plan and Bexhill Community Governance Review
- The Overview and Scrutiny continue to look at the issue of Civil Parking Enforcement to bring back control of parking on the streets

Kevin Dixon

County Councillor's Report

As usual the budget has taken up much of the Council year with lower funding leading to more cuts and East Sussex's part of the Council Tax rising by 5% of which 3% is to help with Adult Social Care

New computer terminals have been installed at all of the county's 24 **libraries**, improving the Council's network of free to access PCs and enabling people to use the internet and email, search for jobs and look up a wide range of information. Among those benefitting from the upgrade are users of the IT For You scheme which offers advice and support on using IT to prepare a CV and apply for work

There were positive **educational results** reported in the summer, including improvements in GCSE and A level results. At Key Stage 1, the percentage of East Sussex pupils achieving the expected standard was higher than the national average in reading, writing and mathematics. At Key Stage 4 our Progress 8 score was +0.04, significantly higher than the national average of -0.03. 87.1% of primary schools are judged to be good or outstanding, an increase of 10.1 percentage points since August 2015. 77.8% of secondary schools and 100% of maintained special schools are good or outstanding against national averages of 77.6% and 93.2% respectively.

A new integrated service bringing **health visiting and children's centres** together was launched in June 2016. The new service aims to help families be self-sufficient in their communities by providing appropriate early intervention and support, and keep children aged 0-5 safe and healthy by providing accessible, comprehensive, high quality services, promoting social inclusion and equality and respecting diversity.

The percentage of court proceedings, to ensure timely decision making about long term **care for children**, completed within 26 weeks has increased from 22% in April 2016 to 63% in December 2016.

East Sussex County Council will receive £8.2 million for the East Sussex Strategic Growth Project to create new employment developments in areas including Bexhill and Eastbourne. £5 million has been granted towards a £44 million redevelopment of the Devonshire Park area including a new conference complex. More than 1,000 **new jobs** are expected to be created as a result which will benefit all residents in the County.

East Sussex County Council is one of seven local authorities which have agreed to form a partnership called **Transport for the South East (TfSE)**. The vision for this new body is for strategic transport planning for the whole area, unlocking economic growth and improving lives for residents. To begin with, TfSE will run in shadow form as it develops its strategy and operation, consulting with transport operators, businesses and the public. With government agreement, TfSE could move to full operation from 2019.

A new seven-year contract for the provision of **highway services** in the county began on 1st May 2016. The contract with Costain CH2M replaced the existing arrangement of three separate contractors being responsible for highways, street lighting and traffic signals. The new contract has seen the introduction of a new website and online system for people to report highways issues; www.eastsussexhighways.com. In the first 6 months of the contract East Sussex Highways completed over 220 planned road works, 10,000 minor works, laid 64 miles of tarmac, answered 26,000 calls and progressed major works in areas such as Hailsham and Uckfield.

The e-Sussex project to rollout faster **broadband** in previously isolated areas has improved access to services, jobs and education. Over 66,000 premises have been connected to improved broadband speeds in the first phase of works and the second phase to connect a further 5,000 of the hardest to reach premises in the county is underway but difficulties are still being experienced in homes and businesses which have not been able to gain access to improved broadband speeds.

Kathryn Field

Paid advertisements in Battle Town Council publications in print, online or in other electronic formats, do not constitute an endorsement by Battle Town Council. Any information supplied in advertisements is based solely on material received from advertisers. To advertise in future editions, please contact the Town Clerk Carol Harris on 01424 772210 or via email carolharris@battletowncouncil.org.uk

Battle Building Company
Restore Refurbish Repair

Jeremy
 Director

1st Floor, The Almonry
 High Street, Battle, E Sx. TN33 0EA
 07752 801509
 01424 870761
jemeldridge@hotmail.com




*Curtains &
 Interiors
 by Rae*



The Crafty Norman

Where artists materials meet creative hands.

9 High Street Battle TN33 0AE 01424 773453

Heringtons
 SOLICITORS
 INCORPORATING MENNEER SHUTTLEWORTH

“Here to Help”
Specialising in helping plan for later life
Residential and Commercial Conveyancing
Advising on Family matters
Assisting with civil disputes

Battle – Bexhill – Hastings – Eastbourne - Rye
Tel: 01424 772401 heringtons.net

F. Jempson & Son
 Your local funeral director

*Our caring and professional team are here to guide
 and advise you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.*

- Pre-paid Funeral Plans • Memorial Masonry • Floral Tributes

38 High Street, Battle, TN33 0EA 01424 772 029
www.jempsonfuneraldirectors.co.uk




THAI ORCHID
 AUTHENTIC THAI CUISINE
 23 High Street, Battle,
 East Sussex TN33 0EA
(Near of George Hotel)
www.thaiorchidbattle.com
 01424 777344
 Monday - Saturday 11am - 3pm & 5pm - 11pm
EAT IN OR TAKE AWAY




Paid advertisements in Battle Town Council publications in print, online or in other electronic formats, do not constitute an endorsement by Battle Town Council. Any information supplied in advertisements is based solely on material received from advertisers. To advertise in future editions, please contact the Town Clerk Carol Harris on 01424 772210 or via email carolharris@battletowncouncil.org.uk



aurelie & rose
Beautiful and Vintage Accessories

OPEN ALL BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND!

- Beautiful clothes
- Homeware
- Gifts & cards with a vintage twist

Visit our boutique by Battle Abbey, call our order line on **01424 775331** or shop online at www.aurelieandrose.co.uk

Aurelie & Rose, 3 High Street, Battle, TN33 0AE



The Bull Inn, 27 High Street, TN33 0EA 01424 775171
info@thebullinnbattle.co.uk
www.thebullinnbattle.co.uk
Freehouse, Real Ales, Fine Wines
Good home cooked food, Accommodation
Live music, special food theme nights
Karaoke Acoustic Jammin

Arthur C. Towner Ltd
UNDERTAKERS & STONEMASONS
family owned and run since 1875

We have moved from Market Square.
NEW PREMISES: 43 High Street, Battle TN33 0EE
Telephone (24 hours) 01424 775515
Also at St Leonards and Bexhill

Full information and prices online:
www.towners.co.uk




COUNTRY MARKETS
COOK • CRAFT • GROW

**DISCOVER
REAL
HOMEMADE
LOCAL PRODUCE**

BATTLE COUNTRY MARKET
BATTLE MEMORIAL HALLS, HIGH STREET,
BATTLE
1ST, 2ND, 4TH AND 5TH FRIDAYS
9.45 – 11.45AM

3RD SATURDAY 9.45 – 11.45AM

Tree Surgery
Fencing
Land Clearance
Logs
Hedge Cutting
Stump Grinding
General Garden Maintenance



WOOD'S
ARBORICULTURE & FENCING
LIMITED

Fully Insured
NPTC and Lantra Qualified

07758 221065 - 01424 774236
woodsltd@hotmail.com

Café at the Pavilion

Converting the kitchen and foyer of the Pavilion into a café is being progressed as a result of the feedback from the Community Consultation that took place over a year ago for the Battle Health Pathway project.



After researching various options, the committee has agreed to develop the café as a Community Cooperative, run by the community for the benefit of the community. Any profits would be put towards further improvements to the Recreation Ground.

The Environment Committee needs to know how residents and visitors to Battle may want to use the café, so if you haven't already completed a questionnaire, please let the Council know your views by post, email or via the Council's website.

Pickleball

Pickleball is a fun racquet sport which combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping pong. It originated in the USA in 1965 as a family game but has now become one of the fastest growing sports.

The game can be enjoyed by people of all ages and athletic ability. Many people take up the sport in their retirement, but it is also played by school children and top athletes. It is an easy sport to learn and most people can play the game after just a short time of hitting the ball back and forth across the net.

In England, mainly because of the weather, Pickleball is played indoors on a badminton court with a lowered net using a paddle and a ball with holes (like a whiffle ball).



A Pickleball Club in Battle could be a great way to learn a new sport, meet people and have some fun. If you are interested, please contact Heather Badcock on 01424 774168 for further information.

Councillor contact details

Marley Ward

Cllr Claire DAVIES	01424 775540
Cllr Margaret KILOH	01424 773360
Cllr Andrew RATCLIFFE	07837 725702
Cllr Jo REEVES	01424 774138

Netherfield Ward

Cllr John BORYER	01424 838651
------------------	--------------

Telham Ward

Cllr Margaret HOWELL	01424 830473
Cllr Maurice PALMER	01424 775737

Watch Oak Ward

Cllr Glenna FAVELL	01424 774954
Cllr Paula FISHER	01424 774679
Cllr David FURNESS	01424 772657
Cllr Jill GYNGELL	01580 880692
Cllr Richard JESSOP	01424 773187
Cllr Allan RUSSELL	01424 775270

Staff contact details

Town Clerk

Carol Harris	01424 772210
carolharris@battletowncouncil.org.uk	

Trainee Deputy Town Clerk

Jane de Garston	01424 772210
janedegarston@battletowncouncil.org.uk	

Battle Cemetery

The extension will be opened on **Friday 12th May 2017 at 4 pm.**

Residents will be most welcome.