Newsletter Edition 1

bexhill neighbourhood board.co.uk

Working Together for Bexhill's Future

Welcome to the first edition of the Bexhill Neighbourhood Board newsletter. We are pleased to share an update on the work under way to support Bexhill now and over the longer term. Since the Government first announced £20 million of funding for Bexhill, the programme has continued through a General Election, a period of pause and two name changes. This year, we have begun to receive our first project funding and this will increase from April 2027, meaning we can finally get down to delivering our first big projects. Throughout, our focus has remained on listening to local people and developing practical plans that can make a lasting difference.

The 3 themes of the programme funding:

– **Thriving Places -** improving areas such as the town centre, public locations, buildings, and systems that make up Bexhill.

– **Stronger Communities** - focusing on community building and engagement.

– **Taking Back Control** - empowering individuals and communities to shape their future



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Balancing Today's Priorities with Bexhill's Future

A central part of our work is finding the right balance between strategic, long-term infrastructure projects that can benefit Bexhill for generations, and immediate priorities or "quick fixes" that can make a visible difference now.

This means that not every project will come directly from residents' views (and we can't please everyone all the time). However, every idea goes into the mix, and we genuinely keep those priorities in view when considering where the funding can have the greatest positive impact.

The seafront fountains are a good example. Its replacement has been a leading priority since our community engagement began in 2024, and we are preparing to invite contractors to quote for the work. At the same time, we have listened to people who feel that investment in the fountains could seem like a luxury unless we also do what we can to support local businesses and improve the appearance of the town centre.





That is why we are also exploring high street regeneration. This includes investigating opportunities to improve shopfronts and the public spaces, alongside a community grants scheme planned for mid-2027. We must also ensure that Sidley benefits from the programme, as well as the town centre, because it is Bexhill's most deprived area and this is a clear expectation of the Government funding.

This is a 10-year programme, so priorities and opportunities will evolve. We cannot do everything at once, but every idea contributes to the overall picture as we work towards a balanced programme for the whole of Bexhill. Follow us on social media for announcements and email us if you would like a response.

#BringingBexhillTogether

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Listening Across Bexhill

Our engagement aims to strike a balance between reaching widely across Bexhill and having deeper conversations that help us understand possible solutions to complex and longstanding challenges.

We try to respond to community requests, visit local groups and events, and we always respond to emails. We do not moderate comments on our social media channels and therefore cannot respond to enquiries posted there; if you would like a reply, please contact us by email.

So far, our engagement, either direct or through partner organisations, has included:

- **14** focus groups
- **16** visits to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations or residents' groups
- **1,400+** contacts with residents
- **300** contacts with businesses





Bexhill Neighbourhood Board at Bexhill Carnival.

We have a community engagement plan which includes targets of:

- Quarterly newsletters
- Regular social media updates
- A residents Board panel
- Joint planning with businesses that is done in ways and at times that work for them

We know that we cannot do everything for everyone, but everyone's ideas matter to us. By combining broad engagement with more detailed conversations, we can better understand local priorities, test potential solutions and shape a programme that responds to the needs of Bexhill's different communities.

@simonsart

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Connect with Us

Bexhill Neighbourhood Board look forwardtohearingfrom you.

If you have questions, comments or ideas, please email us or send a message through our websites contact us page.

Thank you for your continued support of our beautiful town!



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Bexhill Neighbourhood Board

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