

Dear Clerks,

## **OUR MONTHLY REPORT FOR MARCH 2025.**

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February the full council met to discuss this year's budget. A discussion and debate took place and the budget was approved. It did not contain the car park charges to various rural car parks, so the car park at the doctor's surgery at Northiam will continue to be free parking. We would like to say thank you to everyone that took the time to reply to the survey all 850 of you well done.

We have continued to engage with Parish councils, regarding affordable housing, tourisms, recreation playing fields, biodiversity, and planning applications. Residents have contacted us for advice regarding certain issues within Rother and we are in contact with officers at Rother.

We will give a verbal report about any incidents in Northern Rother, once we have received information from our PCSO's

## **Last Chance for Free Home Energy Assessments**

Dear Resident,

In order to help households in rural Rother improve energy efficiency and reduce energy bills, Citizens Advice 1066 are offering free home energy assessments for eligible households, as part of the government-funded Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD). This project ends on 31 March, so time is running out to find out if you can get a free assessment.

If you live in a rural part of Rother District and are a homeowner, landlord or private tenant then you may be eligible to participate in this project. Anyone who is in a 'hard to reach' demographic or a 'hard to treat' home, such as older buildings and those not on mains gas, can be included. If you know someone else who may be eligible, feel free to pass details on to them too.

For further information on the scheme and eligibility requirements, please visit the [Citizens Advice 1066 website](#), or phone [01424 869 352](tel:01424869352) and leave a message mentioning LEAD.

**A micro wood has been planted in Rother to commemorate the King's Coronation.**



Rother District Council organised the planting thanks to grant funding from DEFRA's Coronation Living Heritage Fund which was established to mark the Coronation of King Charles III.

The council was awarded £27,149 from the fund to plant micro woods in Battle and Rye.

Planting for the first micro wood took place at Coronation Gardens in Battle on Thursday, February 6.

A total of 11 volunteers from Wild About Battle, Battle Area Green Drinks, environmental consultants Temple Group, and Battle Town Council joined two district council officers and two staff from Idverde, the council's grounds contractors, to plant the 1,000 trees.

A micro wood, also called a Miyawaki Forest, involves densely planting a variety of native tree and shrub saplings on an area around the size of a tennis court, in a process pioneered by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki.

This replicates the natural process of forest regeneration, promotes fast growth, increases resilience and reduces the need for ongoing maintenance.

Many thanks to the 11 volunteers and the council staff who worked so hard to plant 1,000 trees in record time to establish the Battle micro wood.

This micro wood will not only help to tackle climate change in our district but will also provide more habitats for our local pollinator species and other wildlife.

The Coronation Living Heritage Fund was established so more trees could be planted in non-woodland locations and close to where people live, providing a visible and lasting tribute to the King's Coronation in local communities.

Signage will be erected near the newly planted trees in due course to explain the micro wood concept and to dedicate the site to the Coronation of King Charles III.

The second micro wood is due to be planted on Mason's Field in Rye in the coming weeks.

## Housing Development Strategy Consultation

**The council is consulting on our new housing development strategy from 7 February to 31 March 2025. We welcome your views on our plans to encourage and support new housing developments that meets local needs.**

We have been working on a new strategy. Rother needs more new homes for its population, both affordable and for the wider housing market. The council wants to encourage new developments that will meet local needs. The council wants to support local and regional businesses and organisations that all play a part in bringing forward new housing developments.

We have reached the point where we have a draft strategy ready for final feedback and comments.

We would like to hear from local residents, businesses, the building industry and organisations involved in the housing sector who might benefit from the strategy. We would most like to hear from:

- Residents aged 25 to 50
- Residents over retirement age
- Residents who need social housing
- Affordable and social housing suppliers, housing developers and builders
- Public services that might be impacted by new housing developments
- Town and parish councils
- Organisations that work with residents at risk of homelessness, on low incomes
- Local businesses that might be impacted by new housing developments

Our draft strategy is the result of a lot of consultation with a range of local and regional stakeholders in the housing market and related organisations. We have had a lot of conversations, exchanged information and held a conference in 2024.

The housing development strategy is about how the council will work, adopting priorities, and what the council wants to do to encourage and support new sites.

We would like to hear your views on whether we have the right priorities and if this strategy will improve the delivery of future housing developments.

Please read the draft strategy on our website before answering these questions.

Note: the council has separate strategies for homelessness, regeneration and economic development, climate change and the Local Plan for specific sites and infrastructure, planning permission, etc. All of these documents will have their own consultations. This strategy is for encouraging new housing developments and is not intended address homelessness, economy, specific sites, etc.

## How to take part

Please take part in our consultation by reading the strategy

**[Housing Development Strategy \(pdf\)](#)**

Complete our online questionnaire

**[Housing Development Strategy Consultation](#)**

Questions about the consultation and written submissions can be emailed to **[consultations@rother.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@rother.gov.uk)**

Written submissions can be posted to

Housing Development Strategy Consultation  
Rother District Council  
Town Hall  
Bexhill-on-Sea  
TN39 3JX

This consultation closes on 31 March 2025.

Kind Regards,

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