

Statement – Bexhill Town Centre Steering Group – 26th March 2018

Members of the steering group received an update from Council officers on the East Beach project; an application is being drafted in partnership with the Bexhill Sea Angling Club to be submitted to the next round of Coastal Community Funding. The submission will be made subject to approval from the Overview and Scrutiny Meeting on the 23rd April.

Please refer to Cabinet papers of 12th March for background information on the East Beach project: <http://www.rother.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=29801&p=0>

Each of the four project teams updated on activity and progress against the actions within the Bexhill Town Centre Strategy:

Branding and Vitality:

- The 2018 Jobs and Apprenticeship Fair was held on the 2nd March, despite the bad weather over 50 exhibitors attended, welcoming over 350 delegates. Initial feedback from exhibitors has been positive with attendees noticing a broader age range of delegates.
- 2018 Summer of Events Campaign will include an events postcard and a train poster campaign, both of which will be signed off shortly.
- The PR campaign for Bexhill will also include some familiarisation visits, blogs and social media campaign. Officers are working with partners on the campaign to be launched in the next few months.

Built Environment, Traffic Management and Public Realm:

- Members received an update from ESCC on a number of projects currently being worked on:
 - The South East Local Enterprise Partnership accountable body approved the business case for the Bexhill & Hastings Movement and Access Programme in February
 - The development of the cycle network for Bexhill is included within the Bexhill and Hastings Movement and Access programme – 7 primary routes will be developed, supported by a series of secondary routes.
 - London Road brief has been submitted to East Sussex Highways – work will be carried out in 2018/19 to include feasibility and preliminary design work on measures for the corridor.
- The Council's Planning Enforcement Team gave an update on the work being undertaken along London Road following some communication with property owners.

Investment and Development:

- Western Road Covered Market – Officers are in discussions with the new owners of the property regarding their future plans for the site

- DLW Heights – further consideration of this property will be given by the project team
- Colonnade - work has started on the interior fit out and the restaurant should be open by the summer

S106 Funds

- The remaining s106 funds total £25,054
- The £20,000 ring fenced for public realm works may be called upon to pay for the replacement of some ornamental lights along De La Warr Parade.

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