

Bexhill Heritage

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Caring for Bexhill's past,
present and future.

May 14th 2020

Dear Mr Hickling

Rother Draft Environment Strategy – Consultation Response Reply

We were pleased to see the draft and support the thrust of the document, the three policy themes and the Vision. The element of the Vision of which we are particularly supportive is the sentence which reads

“The natural and built environment will be enhanced and protected for current and future communities.”

There are a few “Action Plan Priorities” on which we comment as follows

Car Free/Restricted Access to Town Centres – Bexhill.

This offers the possibility of several worthy initiatives for improving townscape and quality of life linking to other aspects of the draft – in particular the creation of “social meeting places” with improved floorscapes; better settings for existing buildings; additional tree planting; better air quality and improved footfall for nearby commerce.

Tree Planting on Public Land

This should enable a further push to be made for more tree planting in the Town Centre, the street planting which has already been done is most welcome, more would be a further enhancement of the townscape. It should be extended to East Parade open space to relieve the somewhat forlorn appearance towards Galley Hill – a point we have previously made in response to the public realm consultation. There are species that will survive the harsh seaside environment.

Vehicle Charging Points

These should be required on all new developments and individual new dwellings. They should be prominent and easily accessible from the vehicle. If the exact configuration of the sockets cannot be resolved because of ongoing technical changes the supply at least should be laid in and appropriately safety blanked for the time being. This will avoid disruptive changes to street and buildings subsequently.

Car Dependency Reduction

We support this idea as it will reduce the adverse effects on townscapes brought about by extensive hardened areas in the streetscape in front of buildings.

Walking and Cycling friendly new development

There would be a beneficial side effect from the implementation of this new policy. If residents became used to walking and cycling, which might well encourage others, the living environment in the Town Centre would improve. This could lead to more confidence in investment in property,

maintenance, and improvement in the Town Centre to the benefit of the Victorian and Edwardian heritage.

We hope you find our observations useful and encouraging.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Beales". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D'.

Planning Consultant to Bexhill Heritage