

Chairman's Report 2016

As my two years as chairman of the Forum come to an end I look back on a period of immense progress and achievement, but also forward to seeing the Forum take even greater strides towards becoming a true voice for ALL the people of Bexhill, as well as being the best possible source of information and communication that can be achieved.

I know that this committee has gone a long way to enabling the Forum to be what our residents need; I know this because so many people have told us so, and the surveys we have undertaken have resoundingly confirmed it. This committee has provided a sound basis for the next one to build upon and so take the Forum to the next level.

We have:

- Democratically extended the Forum's reach to all of Bexhill, ensuring that those who are unable to attend meetings are no longer excluded.
- Efficiently managed the finances provided by Rother District Council to make sure that council tax payers get the best benefit from their money.
- Run five forums per year covering the topics that we have learnt matter most to Bexhill. These have included:
 - Local governance
 - House building
 - North access road
 - Education
 - The environment
 - Wetherspools
 - Planning
 - Dog parks
 - Flood risk
 - DLWP
 - The Chamber of Commerce

Almost four hundred Bexhill residents have attended forums over the two years and I am proud to know that they have participated in well-informed events covering topics that matter to them. This was made possible through the willing support of so many professional people who gave their time - even travelling from as far as the West Midlands - to provide input. My special thanks goes to them.

I conclude, therefore, by thanking the committee for its hard work and excellent achievements. There will be two new members, Christine Bayliss and Peter Walker, who will replace Sylvia Sigfusdottir and Theresa Stanbridge, and I know that the reformatted committee will continue to work hard over its next two years under the leadership of its new chairman.

Alan Peirce

Chairman, Bexhill Town Forum

Finance Report, 2015 to 2016

We have continued to manage the Forum's finances efficiently.

You will be aware that the Council offers up to £4000 of support per year to the Forum but we have not needed to draw on the full funding. We started 2015 -2016 with a balance brought forward of £1544 and took another £2000 from that year's allowance. So far, this year we have taken £1000 of the allowance.

(Note: other income in the 2015-2016 account is from tombola takings and a room hire refund. The tombola takings were donated to the charities represented on the relevant days.)

Our key expenditure has been:

- **Printing:** After some experimentation we established the source of printing that is the most cost-effective, as well as best fitting our needs. The early costs have now been substantially reduced.
- **Advertising:** We experimented with placing an advertisement in the Observer but found it to make no difference, this cost is therefore unlikely to be repeated.
- The costs related to stalls covers mostly the one-off purchases of the gazebo and its fittings, plus display materials.
- Public liability insurance and room hire are the only other high expenses; both are essential although room hire is now reduced due to the kind provision by Hastings Direct of a room for committee meetings.

As has been mentioned in the past – the overall reduction in costs for running the Forum has been achieved mainly through the provision of support, free of charge, by committee members.

In summary:

- We have £207.23 in the bank with two invoices due for the 2 September forum.
- There are £3000 of Rother funds still available from the 2016-2017 budget

Financial Statement

Year ending 30 March 2016		1 April to 30 June 2015	
Balance at 1 April 2015	£1544.40	Balance at 30 March 2016	£787.54
Income	£2253.90	Income	£1000.00
Outgoings:		Outgoings:	
Room hire	£699.50	Room hire	£140.00
Printing	£1258.88	Refreshments	£279.95
Website	£104.58	Printing	£449.64
Stalls	£285.63	Website	£85.00
Stationery	£26.64	Stationery	£5.25
Postage	£56.40	Surveys	£130.00
Public liability insurance	£394.21	Miscellaneous	£490.45
Miscellaneous	£184.92		
Total outgoings	-£3010.76	Total outgoings	-£1580.29
Balance at 30 March 2016	£787.54	Balance at 1 July 2015	£207.25

Committee for 2016-2018

The forum is very lucky to have a full complement of eight members willing to take it forward from September 2016. The members are:

Chrissy Foote

Hugh La Trobe

Christine Bayliss

Peter Walker

Stephen Westlake

Jackie Bialeska

Roger Gillett

Alan Peirce

The committee will elect its officers (chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer) as soon as possible.