

Rother District Council

The Town Hall Bexhill on Sea

East Sussex TN39 3JX

FAO: Neo Georghiou: Estates Surveyor

YOUR REF: B021A Date: 20 April 2021

Dear Sir

With reference to your public notice in the Bexhill Observer to dispose of the above asset through a lease I wish to OBJECT for the reasons given below.

On 5 May 2021 Councillors for the new Parish Council for Bexhill will be elected. As part of the process of setting up the new Council, a process is required to be put in place to agree which assets will transfer to the new Parish Council from the Rother District Council. It seems likely that some if not all responsibilities for Egerton Park may be included in the asset transfer register and possibly also contracts for the maintenance of the park. It seems to me that the land subject to the notice may be a valuable asset and also the value of any lease to be signed between whichever Council holds the asset (either the RDC or the new Parish Council) with the Bexhill Tennis Club.

Given that the date of the election is so close it is in my view not appropriate at this time for the transfer to take place until any negotiations regarding asset transfers between the RDC and the new Parish Council take place or for any agreements between the RDC and the Tennis Club to be signed and sealed.

To many members of the public in Bexhill if this process goes ahead now before the new Parish Council has met and discussed the issue in public it may appear to many to be peremptory in light of probable interest in the RDC assets generally, and particularly in Egerton Park given the current discussions about the future of the Sure Start Nursery (Cygnet) Assets.

I have written to the interim Town Clerk to the new Bexhill Parish Council, Linda Butcher, who currently represents the interest of the emerging BTC. I understand that she has asked Officers of the RDC for a delay in implementing this particular asset transfer process until after the Bexhill parish council has met and is able to consider the issue.

I have however not yet heard the RDC response to Linda's letter: hence my OBJECTION today.

As an active member of the Bexhill Tennis Club it may well be in the Club's interest to acquire this land but my objection is in principle is because of the wider issues of the RDC/BTC negotiations over asset transfers.

And as a BT club member I would like to know the full and plausible implications for the tennis club of the asset transfer.