

Rother District Council

Report to	-	Council
Date	-	31 July 2023
Report of the	-	Interim Chief Executive
Subject	-	Appointment of Members to Bexhill Maritime and Rural Services Network

Recommendation: It be **RESOLVED:** That:

- 1) Bexhill Maritime be added to the Council's list of outside bodies to which formal appointments are made;
 - 2) Rural Services Network be added to the Council's list of outside bodies to which formal appointments are made; and
 - 3) Member representatives be appointed with immediate effect, up until the end of the current civic year, be subject to reappointment in May 2024 in line with all other appointments to outside bodies and to designate attendance thereat as an approved duty.
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Bexhill Maritime

1. A request has been received from Bexhill Maritime that it be added to the list of outside organisations to which a formal Councillor representative appointment is made. Bexhill Maritime is an organisation made up of residents from the local community who have been working on a project to create a Maritime Coastal Environment Centre at the far end of the Bexhill-on-Sea promenade, since 2019.
2. The purpose of the organisation is 'For the public benefit, to advance the education of the people living in Bexhill-on-Sea and surrounding area about the effects of climate change on the maritime environment, and about the marine, coastal, physical and natural environment'.
3. Bexhill Maritime proposes to be composed of two principal elements:
 - Working with Trinity House, agreed in principle, the repatriation and siting of the Royal Sovereign Lighthouse Lantern Tower on Rother District Council land at the foot of Galley Hill, immediately adjacent to:
 - a new Bexhill Maritime building and operation, incorporating the Bexhill Sea Angling Club, delivering an important maritime-focused regeneration project for Bexhill, Rother district and beyond.
4. An application for Registered Charity status (CIO association model) has been submitted to the Charity Commission, with confirmation expected imminently.
5. Preliminary work enlisting the support of key stakeholders and partners has already been undertaken and achieved. Bexhill Maritime has requested the

formal involvement and support of the Council by appointing a representative to the organisation as an outside body.

6. Councillor Hazel Timpe, the district Ward Member for Bexhill, Sackville, where Bexhill Maritime would be sited, has been actively involved in the Bexhill Maritime project since its inception. Bexhill Maritime have therefore requested that, in the interests of continuity of involvement, consideration be given to appointing Councillor Timpe as its representative.

Rural Services Network

7. A request has been received from Rural Services Network that it be added to the list of outside organisations to which a formal Councillor representative and substitute appointment are made. The Rural Services Network is a membership organisation (to which Rother District Council is currently a member of) that exists as the national champion for rural services. The organisation campaigns on behalf of its membership for fair funding for rural areas and works to share best practice and network across its wide membership.
8. Councillor Oliver is the current Councillor contact for the Rural Services Network, with Councillor Prochak as the substitute contact.
9. Full Council is invited to consider the requests to appoint representatives to these positions. It is noted that Councillor Timpe wishes her name to be put forward as the representative for Bexhill Maritime.
10. Should Council agree, the appointments are to be made with immediate effect and will be subject to reappointment in May 2024, in line with all other appointments to be made that year.

Lorna Ford
Interim Chief Executive