

Rother District Council

Report to	-	Council
Date	-	18 September 2023
Report of	-	Chief Executive
Subject	-	Petition Received from the No to Northeye campaign group "We Demand Rother District Council OPPOSE Northeye Asylum Seeker Centre Proposals"

Recommendation: It be **RESOLVED:** That the petition be debated in accordance with the Council's adopted Petitions Scheme.

Introduction

1. The Council's Petitions Scheme states that if a petition contains more than 1,500 signatures it will be debated by full Council (unless it is asking for a senior Council officer to give evidence at a public meeting) and that the Council will endeavour to consider the petition at its next ordinary meeting.
2. The Council has received a petition from the campaign group No to Northeye demanding that Rother District Council opposes the Northeye Asylum Seeker Centre Proposals and requests that the petition be debated by full Council. The petition contains approximately 2,050 signatures and whilst it is considered that not all of those who have signed the petition reside, work or study in the Rother area, the majority, and certainly more than the prerequisite 1,500 do meet these criteria; under the Petitions Scheme, it is therefore eligible for debate at full Council. The actual petition will be available for inspection by Members at the meeting.

Petition Details

3. The petition received from the No to Northeye campaign group requests the following:

Why this petition matters

*Started by
Nigel Jacklin*

Sign our petition to stop the housing of 1,200 asylum seekers in Northeye, Bexhill. We need Rother District Council to say NO to the camp NOW.

Last year local residents first heard that the ex-UAE military training base at Northeye could be used to house 1,200 asylum seekers. In March this year the Home Office confirmed these proposals.

Despite strong local opposition Rother District Council have yet to discuss Northeye in Full Council or in Cabinet. Please sign this petition and ask them to act on behalf of local residents and OPPOSE the camp.

We collected over 300 signatures on a paper version of this petition in just over three hours last month. We need to increase these numbers by the beginning of September to get Rother DC to accept this petition.

If you live in Bexhill or greater Rother please sign and spread this petition to get Rother to act in the interests of residents. We do not want the camp.

No donation required; we will not receive any of the money donated to Change.org (although it will get used to promote the petition). If you live in Rother and would like a copy of the paper petition form please email Support@TheDemocraticNetwork.org.

Action to be Taken

4. The petition organiser, Nigel Jacklin, has confirmed that he will attend the Council meeting and under the Petition Scheme he will be given five minutes to present the Petition, following which Council can debate the matter for a maximum of 15 minutes.
5. Under the Petition Scheme, at the conclusion of the debate, dependent on the nature of the Petition, Council may decide to take the action the petition requests, not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee.

Lorna Ford
Chief Executive