

FACTS & FIGURES

- Over 1300 completed questionnaires returned at over 20 collection points.
- Over 5,000 written comments submitted.
- Over 400 people attended one of the Have Your Say events.
- People of all ages and from all parts of Bexhill took part.
- All aspects of daily local life covered.
- Community members helped with data analysis.
- New website created to communicate results and gather feedback.

CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

- This 'Version 1' of a Local Action Plan for Bexhill provides a foundation for positive action across the town over the coming years.
- Communities and agencies have the opportunity to work together in a positive and proactive manner to ensure that these priorities, identified by local people, are taken forward.
- The positive spirit demonstrated by those taking part in the consultation process needs to be followed up with practical action.

FULL DETAILS ON:

www.bexhilllocalactionplan.co.uk

Reference copies of the detailed results and plans will shortly be available at:

- Bexhill Library; Little Common Library
- RDC Customer Help Point (Amherst Road)
- Rother Voluntary Action (Buckhurst Road, above CAB)
- SidleyVoice Community Forum
- Central & Sackville LAP Group

INFORMATION

For further information contact:



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TO JOIN THE DEBATE ONLINE:

See the blog:
www.myloft.co.uk/bexhill

Our Facebook group:
Bexhill Local Action Plan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- Central & Sackville LAP Group
- SidleyVoice Community Forum
- Bexhill Town Forum
- All those who have positively supported the process
- Rother LSP for funding the LAP process



BEXHILL

LOCAL ACTION PLAN VERSION ONE 2010

This is a brief summary of the key findings from the consultation process to create a Local Action Plan for Bexhill. Full details of the results and the process are available on the website:



"Bexhill is a lovely place to live but parts do need a little TLC."

"This is a welcome effort to get local residents' views."

"This town needs to celebrate the wide breadth of community age."

"To the ones who decide these things - Listen to the people!"

"Bexhill is nice, but let's not forget young people live here as well as the elderly."

"It is good that we have this opportunity - well done. I hope something good comes of it and we can see the results."

"Bexhill is a lovely town to work in. But it appears to 'die' at night. It needs an organised, co-ordinated approach to encourage people to socialise there in the evenings."

"It is good to have our say but it is vital that we receive feedback as to what will happen & when."

"Action please, not just filing away everyone's ideas."

"Bexhill is a good town to live in and grow up in - let's keep it that way."

"More action to respond to what local people want. Make this Action Plan WORK!"

Summary of some of the top priorities in Bexhill



Theme: Business & Local Economy, Young People

Issue: Lack of training & job opportunities across the town.

Evidence: 91% agreed (45% strongly) that more local training & apprenticeship opportunities are needed.

Suggested Action: More pro-active support for job creation & training. Support for the establishment of a Volunteer Bureau in Bexhill.

Theme: Communication, Community

Issue: Lack of knowledge of local events, facilities & amenities.

Evidence: 90% want better information about events. 88% want better information about local services & facilities. Many regret the loss of Bexhill's Tourist Information Centre.

Suggested Action: New Information Centre (for locals & visitors) in the town centre. Improved communication networks.

Theme: Community, Young People

Issue: Lack of local identity and feeling of community.

Evidence: 81% want more events to strengthen local identity. 68% want Bexhill to have its own local food festival. 60% of young people would like to see more festival events.

Suggested Action: Create a community-led group to organise local events & festivals.

Theme: Community, Leisure, Environment

Issue: Better use of green spaces.

Evidence: 89% want better protection & community use of green open spaces (44% strongly).

Suggested Action: Clear policy to protect green open spaces. Increase amount of communal spaces available for exercise and enjoyment.

Theme: Environment

Issue: It is difficult for Bexhill residents to recycle cardboard.

Evidence: 77% want better recycling facilities (41% strongly). Numerous comments about lack of cardboard recycling provision, both at present recycling centres and from doorstep.

Suggested Action: Better systems for recycling cardboard.

Theme: Environment, Local Facilities

Issue: Poor public toilet facilities around the town.

Evidence: 90% want more or improved public toilets (59% strongly). Many comments on the current poor state of public toilets.

Suggested Action: Well-publicised programme of refurbishment and re-opening of public toilets.

Theme: Environment, Business & Local Economy

Issue: Numerous issues related to the 'look & feel' of Bexhill town centre.

Evidence: 83% want an improvement in town centre ambience. 79% want more litter bins. 70% want alternative uses for empty shops.

Suggested Action: Co-ordinated approach to the 'look & feel' of the town centre.

Theme: Roads & Transport, Environment

Issue: Poor state of pavements, including litter & dog-fouling.

Evidence: 81% want increased police on-the-spot fines for littering. 81% want a better system for pavement repairs (40% strongly). Numerous comments about dog fouling.

Suggested Action: More pro-active approach to improving pavements and public spaces.

Theme: Transport, Leisure,

Issue: No recognized, connected cycle track along the seafront.

Evidence: 73% want (41% strongly) a cycle track along the seafront. Strong support among young people for a seafront cycle track, in particular enabling them to cycle safely to Hastings.

Suggested Action: Partnership, including local cycling groups, to develop a linked cycle track along the whole of the seafront.

Theme: Transport

Issue: Perceived high cost of public transport for young people. Insufficient local bus services.

Evidence: 67% want an improved Bexhill community bus service. Numerous complaints about insufficient local bus services and routes.

Suggested Action: Improved publicity of Bexhill Community Bus Service. Co-ordinated approach to local route provision.



Theme: Well Being & Health

Issue: Bexhill residents have to travel to Hastings for minor health treatment.

Evidence: 89% agreed (54% strongly) to the introduction of a Minor Injuries Unit in Bexhill.

Suggested Action: Open a Minor Injuries Unit in Bexhill.

Theme: Young People

Issue: Lack of places for young people to meet and socialise safely.

Evidence: 81% want more Youth Club and drop-in facilities. 70% of young people feel there is not enough for them to do. Strong support for a cinema or similar.

Suggested Action: Provide an accessible young people's drop-in facility, cinema and youth café in the town centre.

Theme: Young People

Issue: Negative attitude towards young people.

Evidence: 68% of young people do not feel enough shops in Bexhill cater for them. Numerous comments that local shops, cafes and public transport staff are not welcoming, and are often openly hostile to, young people. Only 6% of young people feel that their voice is heard by people who can make things happen.

Suggested Action: Businesses and service providers to become more young people-friendly.

