Rother Citizens Panel Newsletter 21
citizenspanel@rother.gov.uk Twitter: https://twitter.com/RDCconsult **March 2016**

Coastal Environments: East Parade Heritage Project

We reported in the last newsletter that the next big hurdle for the project was the bid for funding from Heritage Lottery.

In early March, that funding application was sent to Heritage Lottery. You can read most of the bid's contents on the project webpage on the pages about the project's aims, programme, consultation and background. We won't hear a decision until the end of June 2016.

We are looking for other grant funding that might be available. This project, if the bid is successful, will be almost entirely paid for by grants. The Council has put in a little bit of money for research, public consultation and some staff time to write grant applications.

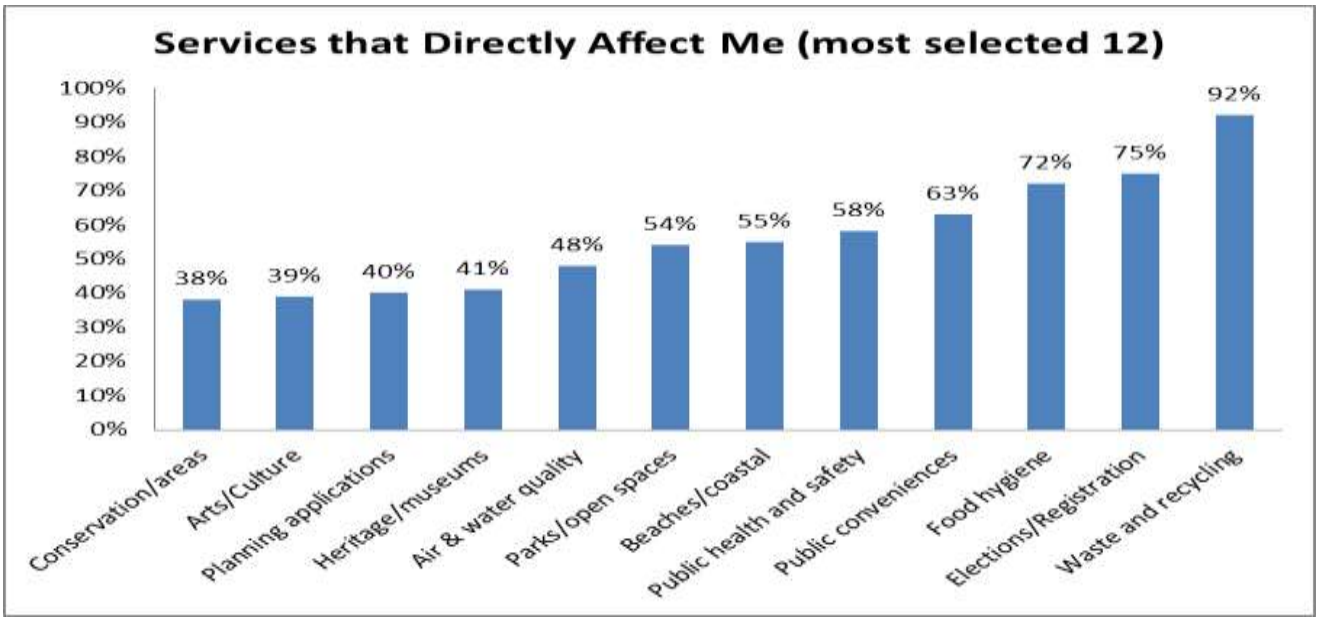
The project is coming to the end of the first phase or pre-project development. If the application is successful, the project will move into the second phase of project development. There will be more opportunities for you to get involved and have your say in the second phase.

Council Budget 20161/7

Thank you to those of you who took part in this consultation. The results were debated at full Council on 22 February 2016. The Council approved the draft budget for 2016/17 and raised the Rother District Council part of the Council Tax by 1.94%.

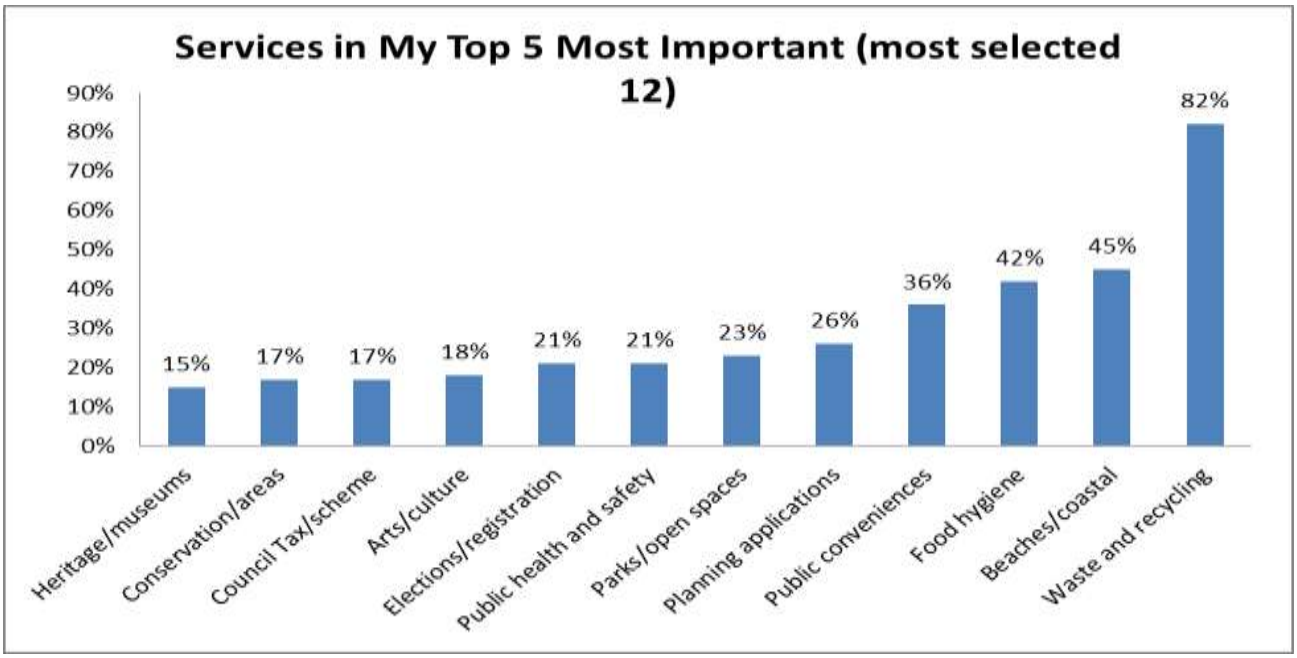
We had 324 responses by the closing date but we got two or three back after that date. A small number of people didn't answer our response form questions, mainly because they replied using social media and email.

We asked respondents which Rother District Council services directly affected them, from a selection of the main services on offer.



Services just outside the top 12 were Council Tax and the Council Tax reduction scheme, tackling noise pollution and building control. Most of the respondents that listed 'other' services mentioned services provided by either Sussex Police or East Sussex County Council. One person added car parks as another service.

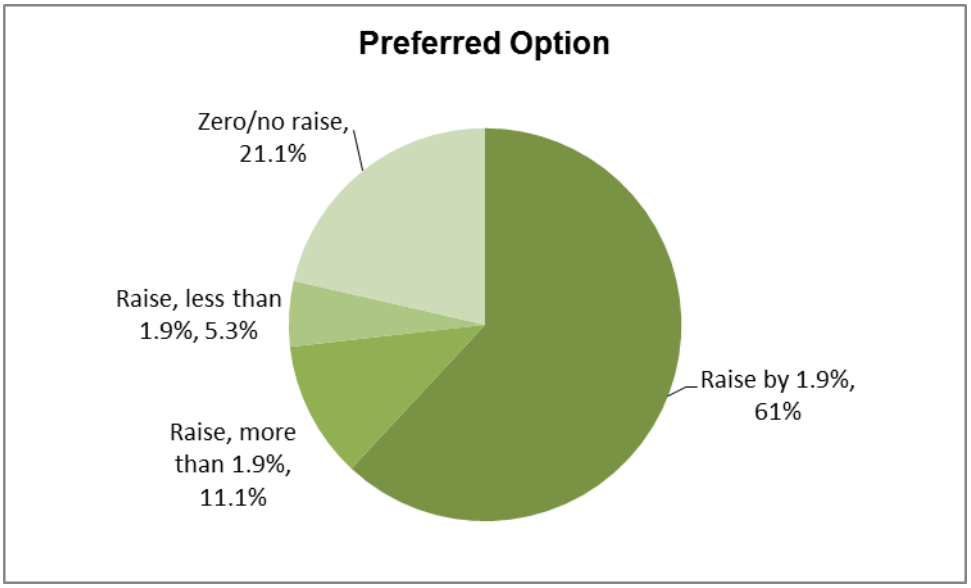
We asked respondents, out of the same list of services, which were in their top 5 for most important service. They could only choose 5 service areas.



The services just under the top 12 were air and water quality, economic development and homelessness and housing needs.

Comparison of the two lists shows that they have the same number one service: waste and recycling. One discretionary service, beaches and seafronts, rose higher in the rankings from sixth place for direct impact into second place for importance. Planning rose from tenth place for direct impact to fifth place for importance. The majority of choices in the top 12 are on the environment in which people live.

We asked if the Council should raise Council Tax by 1.94%, to raise it by a different amount or not to raise Council Tax at all. Seven out of 10 people supported raising Council Tax by 1.94% or more. The most popular alternative for more than 1.94% was 2%. The most popular alternative to raise Council Tax but for less than 1.94% was 1%.



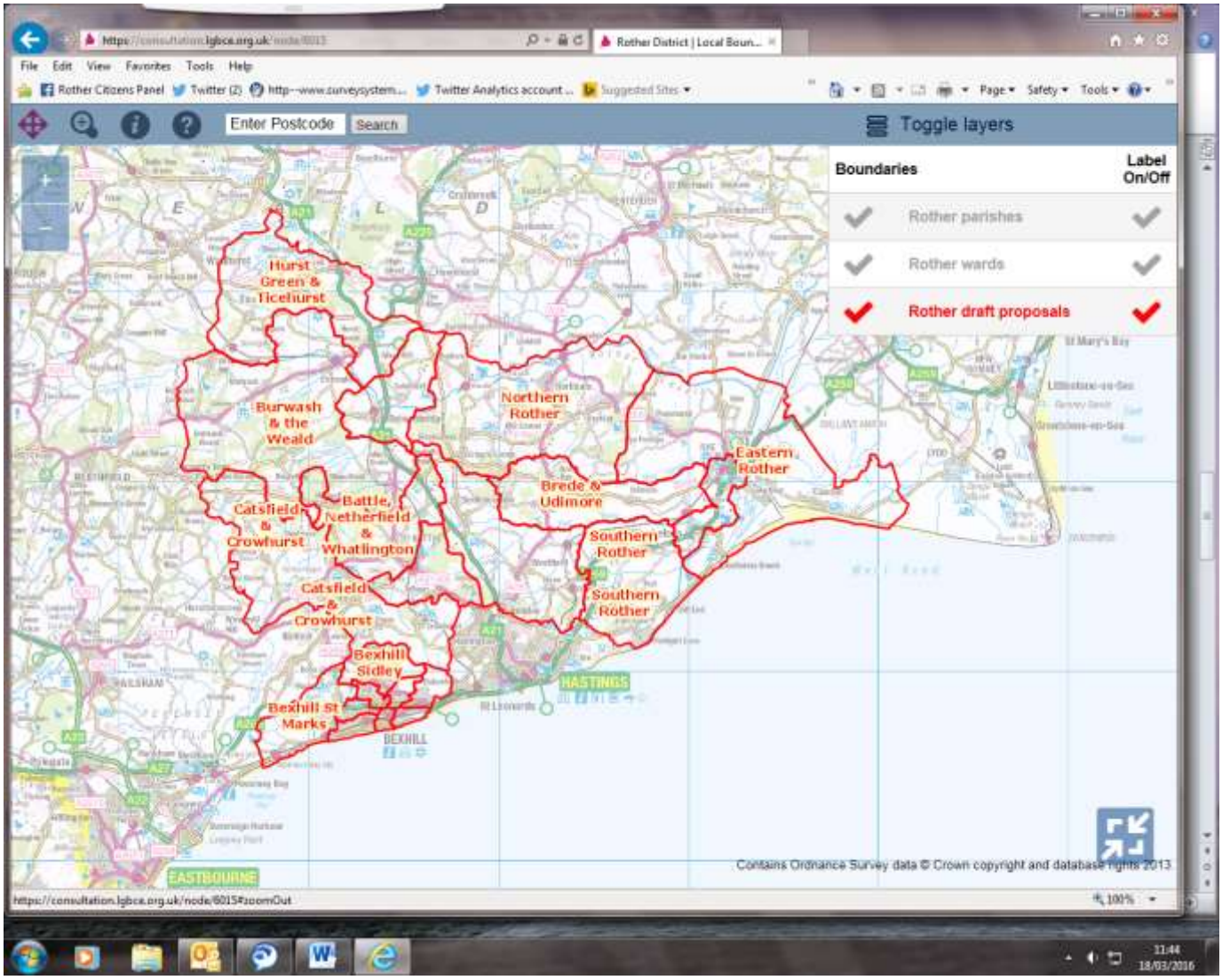
East Sussex County and Rother District Electoral Review

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England published proposals to change the ward boundaries in Rother.

The boundaries are open for consultation now on their website until 16 June 2016. The final recommendations will be published on 20 September.

All wards have been affected but particularly the rural wards. For example, Rye ward would be extended to cover **Rye** and **Winchelsea**. The existing **Ticehurst** and Etchingham Ward would be split. **Hurst Green** would come out of **Salehurst** and a new ward formed of Hurst Green & Ticehurst. **Etchingham** is put into a new ward called **Burwash** & the Weald. A proposed new ward of Northern Rother would include the half of Rother Levels including **Northiam**, the top half of **Ewhurst** & Sedlescombe ward and the part of Salehurst ward that includes **Bodiam**. **Sedlescombe** will be a ward with **Westfield** up to the boundary with **Hastings**. And so on…

Below is a map of the draft proposals from the Boundary Commission's website link



This is not a Rother District Council consultation. If you want to have your say on the proposals you need to use the response forms on the Boundary Commission's website. Sorry, but we can't find another consultation method for those not online.

East Sussex County Council Consultations

This information is provided as a courtesy to our membership and is gathered from the County Council's website. Please direct any questions to East Sussex County Council. https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/

Hastings Parking Review
The County Council are reviewing parking and waiting restrictions in Hastings until 18 April 2016. This is based on previous requests and informal consultations. There is a pdf map of proposals and an online response form on the website or for more information contact Michael Blaney, (Principal Traffic Officer) Parking Services on 01323 466244 or email parking.ESCC@eastsussex.gov.uk

Libraries Opening Hours
There is more information on the website but this consultation closes on 3 April 2016. Proposals are to save £500,000 by reducing total library opening times by 25% by opening at 10 am and closing at 5pm. This consultation is included here so that you can read background information, at least, if you missed the opportunity to have your say. For further information ring 01273 335165 or email library.consultation@eastsussex.gov.uk



Contact Us

Rother Citizens' Panel:
Twitter https://twitter.com/RDCconsult tweeting most weekdays
Facebook https://www.facebook.com/groups/rothercitizenspanel/ and ask to join group. We post regularly on any local, county and national consultations we know about
Website: http://www.rother.gov.uk/article/6213/Rother-Citizens-Panel
Email citizenspanel@rother.gov.uk (goes to organisers, not the membership)
Telephone Joanne Wright on 01424 787816 or Marie Kennedy on 01424 787864
Write to Rother Citizens Panel Organisers, Programme Office & Policy Team, Rother District Council, Town Hall, Bexhill on Sea, TN39 3JX

Other council enquiries:
Website www.rother.gov.uk
Twitter https://twitter.com/RotherDC
Facebook https://www.facebook.com/RotherDC
Email customerservices@rother.gov.uk
Telephone 01424 787000
Community help points at Market Square, Battle, Bexhill Town Hall and Rye Library.

Website Links in our Articles:
East Parade project http://www.rother.gov.uk/eastparadeheritageproject
Council on 22 February 2016 http://www.rother.gov.uk/article/11847/Monday-22-February
Local Government Boundary Commission for England https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/6015
East Sussex County Council consultations https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk
Hastings Parking Review https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/hastings-1516/consult_view
Library Opening Hours https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/copy-of-libraries-consultation/consult_view