

Photo credit: Joe Fallen

NEWS FROM POLLY GRAY

ROTHER'S GREEN COUNCILLOR

Polly is the only Green Party Councillor on Rother District Council. She was elected to represent Bexhill Old Town & Worsham in May 2019.



“ I'm happy to report that Rother District Council has recently switched to a green electricity supplier, and we're on track to achieve our carbon neutral target for energy use (heating and power) by 2030.

At a meeting with MPs Huw Merriman (Bexhill & Battle) and Sally-Ann Hart (Hastings & Rye), we discussed the cladding on the seafront Landmark flats and the horrific discharge of sewage into the sea.



I've been involved with two controversial planning issues this autumn. The Secretary of State is reviewing planning permission for a 'carbon negative' house in the AONB near Sedlescombe. Now we're considering the proposal for a 'Center Parcs' style holiday village with 200+ cabins on the Normanhurst estate in Catsfield.



At the Tree event in October, I had to laugh when my husband John was persuaded to be a flower and got pollinated by a bee!



Access to the new hospital in Mount View Street is still concerning some residents. The only vehicle / pedestrian access will be from Mount View Street.



If there's anything in your area that needs sorting out or any Green issues you'd like to raise with the Council, do let me know and I'll try to help. ”

Councillor Polly Gray

Email: cllr.polly.gray@rother.gov.uk

Facebook: @CouncillorPollyGray

WARM HOMES EVENT

The rising cost of home heating and the worsening Cost of Living Crisis has prompted us to organise a public event on how to keep your home as warm as possible.

Learn about some relatively cheap things you can do to reduce your heating bills such as insulation, draught-proofing and smart thermostats.

Hear from experts: **Ken Davies** (architect and insulation expert)

Dominic Manning (architect) and **Kate Meakin** (Energy Advisor at Energise Sussex Coast). And take home some freebies!



Monday 21st November

7pm until 8:30

St. Stephen's Church,

Newlands Avenue, Bexhill TN39 4HA.

Open to all Free of charge

(optional donations for refreshments)

TIPS FOR WARMER HOMES

In case you can't make the event, Rother Greens recommend:

- add insulation to your house, in particular the loft, get specialist advice
- have your boiler serviced annually and replace it if it's inefficient
- ensure you have good central heating controls, ideally a smart thermostat, and use them
- turn radiator thermostats right down in rooms you're not using and shut the door
- draught-proof gaps around doors, windows, loft hatch, skirtings & chimney
- thermal curtains on your windows will make a noticeable difference
- look out for information about Warm Spaces in Bexhill.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Big thanks to the amazing team of members, friends and supporters who deliver our leaflets every few months. If you could help with deliveries in your street, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Caroline on info@rother.greenparty.org.uk



GREENS WIN IN MARESFIELD

Greens get elected! Another District Council seat in East Sussex has 'gone Green'. On 22nd September, Ian Tysh was elected to represent Maresfield ward on Wealden District Council, with over 60% of the votes in a 2-way contest with the Conservative Party. Some of our Rother members went over to Maresfield to help with the campaign.

Councillor Tysh, a retired solicitor, has already persuaded the council to oppose Gatwick expansion, and says his priorities are:

- Helping people with the cost of living crisis
- Car speeding and road safety
- No building without proper infrastructure
- Stopping the discharge of sewage into rivers and streams



The Greens now hold **four** seats on Wealden District Council.

Greens make a difference!

COULD YOU REPRESENT YOUR AREA ON THE COUNCIL?

Do you want to make sure that the people who run your area are properly looking out for both people and the planet?

YOUR NAME		
------------------	--	--

Rother Green Party will soon be selecting candidates for the May 2023 elections for **Rother District Council** and **Bexhill Town Council**. Rother already has one Green councillor, Polly Gray, who sadly won't be standing again. Next year we want to have two or three Green councillors. If you'd like to see a **fairer society and a greener world** and think you might be interested, please get in touch with Nicky via elections@rother.greenparty.org.uk

There will be a **briefing event for prospective councillors** at the Town Hall on Monday 14th November 6.30-8.30pm. See RDC website for more info.

COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING DAY AT BEXHILL DOWN
FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER
10AM - 3 PM @ BEXHILL DOWN

Join Trees for Cities for a day of tree planting to help create a beautiful, long-lasting green space for all the community.

FREE HOT LUNCH & ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

SIGN UP: WWW.TREESFORCITIES.ORG/BEXHILL/BEXHILL-DOWN
Or contact our Community Engagement Coordinator at danielsnell@treesforcities.org or 07825 514430



Join Rother Greens at a **community tree planting event on Bexhill Down on 2nd December**. Hot lunch provided. Trees for Cities has made planting plans in consultation with local residents and groups (including Friends of the Down) and now it's time to plant. They'll be planting around 1,800 young trees in Bexhill, providing some much needed additional tree-cover for Bexhill which is below the national average. St Stephen's Church has

kindly offered to open the church kitchen and loos for volunteers.

Sign up at <https://www.treesforcities.org/bexhill/bexhill-down>

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



Dan, William, Jim and Sue help out at Combe Valley Country Park.



Adrienne and Julie help clear-up at Combe Valley Countryside Park in August.



Arren and his family do a litter pick with Community Supporters



Ilona, Sue and friend take part in a Strandliners beach clean in September.



Ros, Joe, and Sue did a beach clean with BEG on 28th October

Do you know a road that needs a visit from our Litter Squad? Please get in touch with sueburtongreen@gmail.com

WATER!

Despite the terrible weather, Rother Green Party members and friends supported the



Human Wave event on Sunday 2nd October at Bexhill Beach. Over 300 people made a 'human wave' to show we are truly unhappy about the discharge of raw sewage into the sea near Bexhill and were featured in national TV news. For much of the long hot summer, Bexhill beach was declared "not safe" for sea bathing which reduced visitor numbers and our busy summer traders lost money. And water pollution isn't the only problem; despite the recent wet weather, our area is in fact classified as 'semi-desert', which means we use more water than falls in our area. Rainfall is decreasing, so water supply is a problem too.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Join in any protests and sign any petitions that you can, to force Southern Water to take notice.
- Use as little water as possible: shower for a maximum of 4 minutes and turn the water off when you're not rinsing.
- Make sure any hard surfaces outside your home can let water through, so water goes back into the ground and not into the drains.
- Vote for a party you can trust to look after our water. In June 2022, the Conservative government voted *against* a law to stop water companies from pumping untreated waste into our rivers and seas. Southern Water has no plans to stop storm sewer pollution.
- The Green Party says water should be managed by people whose core interest is water not money. The money we pay through our bills should be spent on: fixing leaks; building new pipes and pumps; and keeping our water safe (not on bonuses).

POLLY & THE GREENS: WORKING HARD FOR YOU ALL YEAR ROUND

