



UPDATE FROM YOUR SIDLEY WARD COUNCILLORS

Cllr Fazlul Chowdhury & Cllr Sam Coleman

THERE IS MUCH HAPPENING IN SIDLEY!

Since Sam's election in 2019, the goal has been to transform Rother's attitude towards Sidley. Now, we are very pleased to see more and more projects being brought forward to transform and enhance our village. Councillors and staff at RDC no longer see Sidley as a spare wheel to Bexhill, something to be forgotten about. Instead, it has become the first place people think of when looking for funding or developing a project. Part of that is because Sam, and now Fazlul, have been so vocal in championing the village, but also thanks to the enhanced socio-economic data that was highlighted through the Anti-Poverty Strategy Sam led on last term. This data along with the work of groups like Heart of Sidley, The Pelham and others demonstrates that Sidley is in need of investment and support, making it very attractive to grant funders, including the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

There is the new Heart of Sidley Community Hub being developed on Sidley Rec with a portion of the first Levelling Up funding. This was a project that was first considered back in 2021 by Heart of Sidley to sit alongside our fantastic Skatepark and BMX track where the old toilet block is near Canada Way and it is great to see that it is able to be delivered thanks to this new Government funding. There are new events planned for the upcoming year such as the Sidley Festival on 15 June 2024, organised by 18hours (who did the fantastic Sidley Seamagic day last summer) alongside Heart of Sidley. There are newcomers to our highstreet, including Lewis at the New Inn who has already hit the ball rolling with plans for live music, sports screenings, a 'Sid-Fest' event and lots more. There is also the Young Pollinators, a climate-focused group of young people organised by Community Supporters, who have taken on a shop in Sidley High Street. Our sports clubs are doing well with the Cricket Club and the RC racing club preparing for a fun summer on St Marys, the BMX club running events on Sidley Rec and various other sporting events being planned for the year ahead.

We've been busy with Council business too, both Sam and Fazlul have been dealing with an increased number of housing issues recently which is very concerning. The cost of living also continues to play a factor in Sidley life at the moment. Thankfully, we have groups like Bexhill Family Collective, Heart of Sidley and the local churches to help support residents here in Sidley but we are still receiving lots of calls and emails from people in need. As well as RDC business, we've also been liaising with Bexhill Town Council to see if they can re-open Sidley's Public Toilets. Currently the Town Council have not fully taken on the toilets contract, despite budgeting to do so last year, due to a disagreement on the type of lease. We hope this issue can be resolved soon as the most important thing is getting the toilets back open ASAP.



**Get in touch
with Fazlul**

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