

Rottingdean Parish Council – what do we do, what does the City Council do and what do neither of us do?

Context

Rottingdean Parish Council is the local government body representing the Parish of Rottingdean, situated in the City of Brighton & Hove. It was created by the Local Government Commission following the decision in 1996 to establish Brighton & Hove City Council as a Unitary Authority combining Brighton Borough Council and Hove Borough Council. The Unitary Council took over the functions provided previously by the two former Borough Councils. Rottingdean Parish Council is the only Parish Council within the city. Nine Councillors are elected to the Parish Council for the same four year timetable that applies to the City Council. The Councillors do not receive a salary and do not claim allowances or expenses.

So what does Brighton & Hove City Council do?

Brighton & Hove City Council, as a Unitary Council, is responsible for the following functions and services:

- Council Tax (setting and collection)
- Economic Development
- Education including all primary and secondary state schools
- Environmental Health & Licensing (taxis, street trading, public entertainment and alcohol)
- Fire and Public Safety (in co-operation with East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service and Sussex Police)
- Housing
- Leisure & Culture including libraries & museums
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Planning (local and strategic planning, planning applications and conservation)
- Public Toilets Management
- Social care
- Trading Standards
- Transport (highway maintenance and management (except trunk roads and motorways such as the A27), parking on and off street, public transport and street lighting)
- Waste Management (rubbish collection, recycling and disposal)

The functions of a Parish Council **CAN** include the following:

Allotments*

Bus Shelters - management and maintenance *

Community Centres - management *

Consultations - on planning applications in the Parish

Investments in major and minor local projects

Grants to local organisations

Neighbourhood Planning

Play Areas and Playground Equipment - management*

Parks and open spaces - management*

Within the City of Brighton & Hove, the functions denoted by a * above are currently provided by Brighton & Hove City Council. Elsewhere, in East and West Sussex and across the country, some of those functions have been transferred or devolved to the Town or Parish Council.

So what does Rottingdean Parish Council currently do?

Rottingdean Parish Council does not manage any of the *services and functions listed above, which are provided by Brighton & Hove City Council. Instead, it works in a 'partnership' agreement with the City Council, to discuss and help shape the way in which these services are provided and delivered.

In addition to this, Rottingdean Parish Council provides the following specific functions/services:

Consultation on planning applications

The Parish Council is classified as a statutory consultee on all planning applications in the village of Rottingdean, irrespective of the size of the application. It consults with the Parish and submits views to the City Council. However, the Parish Council **does not** and **cannot** determine or approve planning applications. This is the responsibility of Brighton & Hove City Council, as the Planning Authority, and its elected Councillors. Rottingdean Coastal Ward elects three Councillors to Brighton and Hove City Council.

Beacon Hill Windmill and Nature Reserve

The Parish Council work with the Friends of Beacon Hill and the City Council in the management and maintenance of the nature reserve.

Investments in major and minor projects and grants to local organisations

Rottingdean Parish Council budgets each year to provide grants to local organisations and to invest in local initiatives that benefit the Community and improve the village environment.

Neighbourhood Planning

The neighbourhood plan becomes a statutory part of the development plan for the Parish, and carries significant weight in how planning applications are decided by Brighton & Hove City Council. The Plan should guide development proposals to benefit the local community while aiming to protect the special character of the Parish. One advantage is that it can identify potential sites within the Parish that it is felt could be developed bearing in mind these two criteria. Another is that Parish Councils can receive 25% (rather than 15%) of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments made by potential developments in the Parish to help deliver the infrastructure needed to support them.

Community Liaison

The Parish Council works directly and indirectly to support the development of the Parish with the aim of achieving a sustainable and resilient community. We work across the board with village organisations and groups including the Rottingdean Preservation Society, the Local Action Team, schools, Visit Rottingdean, local health services, and churches. We participate in the Annual Village Fair and support Rottingdean Arts and Rottingdean in Bloom, as well as supporting initiatives such as the Beacon Hub and making Rottingdean plastic-free. We monitor how any problems or deterioration in the fabric of the village impact upon members of the community. If action is necessary, we resolve issues ourselves where they fall within the remit of the Parish Council, or refer them to Brighton & Hove City Council for resolution.

So what major issue falls outside of what Brighton & Hove City Council and Rottingdean Parish Council do?

NHS England and its Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) are responsible for commissioning National Health Service (NHS) services. NHS England's priorities are set out in its document 'Next

Steps on the NHS Five Year Forward Review', dated March 2017. Brighton and Hove's Clinical Commissioning Group is led by a group of local doctors and nurses, and brings together all GP practices in the city as CCG members. It commissions hospital, community health and voluntary sector services, including Accident and Emergency, mental health and maternity, care for older people and those with long-term conditions, such as diabetes, dementia and heart disease.