

FOCUS



Fairlight, Guestling, Icklesham, Pett.

Andrew Mier - A Voice FOR the Villages



The Conservatives aren't listening. They are not listening in Parliament: they're certainly not listening in Rother. In 2017, 93.5% of Bexhill residents who voted called for a Town Council. The Conservative Rother District Council refused to honour the vote. If the people of Bexhill took care of their own business, as we do on our Parish Councils, Rother would have the time to devote to its wider needs. Our villages need a strong voice to balance the Conservative/Bexhill dominated Council. In my years on Fairlight Parish Council I've provided this; it is now time to take the fight to Rother, where we must have councillors free from the Conservative whip.

3 REASONS TO VOTE FOR ANDREW ON 2nd MAY.

1) Rother is dominated by Bexhill and the Tories. Half of the councillors, but more than half of the money and time go into Bexhill. The villages need a Voice.

2) We listen to the people of Rother District Across the country & the district the Tories are no longer listening to us nor speaking for us.

3) Andrew has fought for appropriate and sustainable housing. He has opposed the Wakehams Farm development in Fairlight.

COUNCIL TAX BLUE RINSE

The Tories are being economic with the truth when they compare Council Tax between Lib Dem Eastbourne, Hastings & Rother. Those towns do not have parishes, who carry out many of the services across Rother. Add on the parish precept to the Tory claims, and there's very little difference (except in what you get for your money) - see over



HASTINGS & RYE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

ANDREW MIER - A VOICE FOR THE VILLAGES

WAKEHAMS, PLANNING AND HOUSING

When I first put myself forward for Southern Rother, I stressed my opposition to the proposed Wakehams Farm development. I have been surprised at how much this issue has been raised on the doorstep in Guestling, Icklesham, and Pett, as well as Fairlight. Even Rother's proposed use of the site for 30 houses is not justified as it is outside the existing development boundary and within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Developments of this kind need to take account of any demonstrable local need, the available infrastructure and future sustainability. Rother should respond to real local housing needs, and only real local housing needs. It should not force one-size-fits-all solutions onto the villages to meet



wider quotas or just because a landowner wishes to develop. We are lucky to have Five Villages House in Icklesham. Small developments catering for the needs of our high and growing proportion of elderly people would be helpful.

The other planning issue that has frequently been raised is Hastings Borough's ill thought-out plans for a solar farm on the Country Park. For the record, I've opposed this along with Fairlight Parish Council. It is issues of this kind where we need a strong voice.

COUNCIL TAX

The Conservatives claim that Rother has the lowest Council Tax in East Sussex, but what most of us are interested in is the total amount we pay. Rother indeed keeps its share of the total low... by devolving many costly services to the parishes.

So, whilst Rother accounts for £219 (Band E Council Tax) once the parish precept is added the figure for Fairlight is £292, Guestling £235, Icklesham £330 and Pett £278. When you now compare this with Liberal Democrat Eastbourne's £302, you see there is not much difference, except perhaps in the levels of service provided. Furthermore, the overwhelming bulk of your Council Tax bill comes from a Conservative County Council and a Conservative Police Commissioner.

But look where Rother's money goes... it is hard to find details of individual councillors' pay and allowances on Rother's website (a lack of transparency there) but the difference between Eastbourne & Rother is substantial. Last year Rother's Council leader was paid £17,202 and the basic allowance for Councillors was £4,388. In Lib Dem Eastbourne the equivalent figures were £7,020 and £2,803! Liberal Democrat Eastbourne consults on its annual budget; a Liberal Democrat Rother would do the same. Those who know Andrew from Fairlight Parish Council can testify to his financial rectitude – spend where it matters, be economical where it does not.

VOTE FOR ANDREW MIER, LIBERAL DEMOCRAT ON MAY 2nd