



Rother District Council
Town Hall
Bexhill-on-Sea TN39 3JX

21 July 2024

To the attention of the Chief Executive

Re: Response to Consultation for Draft Neighbourhood Plan (2020-2040)
:

Bexhill Rail Action Group (BRAG), the Rail User Group established in 2005, actively serves users' interests throughout much of the District where it is served by rail.

Under the terms of its Constitution, adopted in 2021, BRAG adheres to its Mission:

A non party-political, voluntary, group campaigning for better rail services for the Bexhill area

in delivering its Vision:

BRAG seeks to maintain and enhance local and associated rail services for the benefit of rail travellers, the wider community and visitors. BRAG fully recognises the key contribution effective rail services can make towards economic regeneration, environmental wellbeing and social inclusion. BRAG will campaign for services and facilities which are safe, affordable and accessible.

BRAG advocates the importance of connectivity both within, and beyond, the District, which importance should apply to all new development, whether it be residential, commercial or industrial.

At present, the District is served by 2 Train Operating Companies (TOCs):

- GTR (Southern), providing direct services to London Victoria via Gatwick Airport and to Ashford Int'l (for connecting Southeastern services, including High Speed 1), from Normans Bay, Cooden Beach, Collington, Bexhill, Three Oaks, Doleham, Winchelsea and Rye
- Southeastern, with direct services to London Charing Cross and Cannon Street via Tunbridge Wells from Crowhurst, Battle, Robertsbridge, Etchingham and Stonegate

The busier stations, Bexhill, Cooden Beach, Rye, Crowhurst, Battle, Robertsbridge, Etchingham and Stonegate provide ticket-office facilities, with opening-hours established according to passenger demand and numbers.

BRAG requests that RDC's Local Plan 2020-2040 include the requirement that:

- all new development comply with good connectivity with rail and bus services, and that all forms of public transport demonstrate continuous improvement within the lifetime of the Local Plan and beyond

- in conjunction with disability groups, a survey of users and an assessment of each station should be undertaken to ascertain relevant accessibility issues and provide a plan for improvement

- in the interests of improved connectivity, the local Plan should take into account any relevant content of neighbouring Local and Neighbourhood Plans, as it concerns – but not limited to
 - * the re-build/re-development of West St. Leonards (Southeastern) Station, to connect with (GTR Southern) East Coastway services
 - * the re-build/re-development of Hampden Park Station to create a fit-for-purpose major rail service interchange, at the same time addressing the current road traffic congestion caused by the frequent lowering of the level-crossing barriers adjacent to the station

Yolanda Laybourne
Chair – Bexhill Rail Action Group

21/7/2024

[Bexhill Rail Action Group](#)

