

East Wittering and Bracklesham

A Vision Steering Group for East Wittering and Bracklesham has been set up, with the main focus having been to consider a project for landscape enhancements within the area, along with the development of a consultation programme to help to determine the future priorities.

Parish representatives were asked for feedback on the Vision process and priorities, with the following provided:

The Vision projects will have much greater significance and positive impact on tourism next year. 2020 will not be a good year. Traditionally sea side resorts conduct enough trade in the summer and over bank holidays to support them in the winter months. Revenue from two major bank holidays has already been lost, and there is concern that even if restrictions are lifted social distancing and a reluctance to go out will impact the forthcoming summer holiday season. Many local pubs and restaurants are small, making social distancing difficult and compounding the issue.

Another issue is the type of work dominant in coastal areas. This is mainly seasonal, short term work in hospitality, and there are also a high number of self-employed covering a variety of sectors.

2021 is anticipated as being a good year for businesses in East Wittering & Bracklesham. It is likely that people will still be wary about travelling abroad for holidays, therefore an increase in staycations is likely to provide a much needed boost to the local economy. However there are a number of issues that will come to the fore once the initial Covid-19 wave has passed. The BREW Vision will address some of these issues, but there will be a need for additional help to support the other issues. The areas affected and proposed solutions are outlined as follows:

1. BREW Vision: projects of most help in boosting the visitor economy in 2021 will be those affecting the seafront and village centre. Improvements to Booker Green (seafront) and East Wittering village centre are a priority.
2. Employment support: finance for a Full Time post for two years to support the unemployed in the hospitality sector, the self-employed, and people formerly businesses supporting the visitor sector. A Selsey Worx model will be ideal, in which the community support person will build and maintain a community support network locally. This can include a one stop shop approach enabling people to access the following services:
 - a. CDC services - Benefits support, employment information, pay council tax bills, parking tickets, sorting out wheelie and waste bins, disabled parking badges.
 - b. WSCC services - bus pass renewals
3. The current crisis has engendered a huge amount of positive community effort, and cross working between many individuals and organisations in professional and voluntary capacities. The parish want this to continue. EWB aim to fund a Part Time post for one year to build a community forum to provide businesses and local groups with the means to access local support when necessary. The role will initially create the forum and identify

funding moving forward. EWB funding is likely to be from the New Homes Bonus. It would help if CDC would also consider a contribution.