

News Release

For Immediate Release
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The future of our town centres

This week sees the start of consultation into Bexley's new Town Centres Strategy. It looks at how the centres can continue to successfully meet the needs of local people, visitors and businesses.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Growth, Cllr Louie French said: "Town centres nationally are seeing rapid and significant change, driven by a combination of economic pressures, technology and consumer behaviour. The strategy is our response to these changes.

"It has been developed following extensive research to build a picture of the strengths and weakness of the town centres and what opportunities and threats they face in realising their potential. These are your town centres – to live, shop, work and enjoy – I encourage you to have your say about their future."

The strategy is designed to provide a framework for the development and management of Bexley's town centres over the next five years, to help guide the activity of the Council and key partners in enhancing their vibrancy and economic success. It is focussed on the five larger town centres: Bexleyheath, Crayford, Erith, Sidcup and Welling. These are home to the most jobs and are also the most vulnerable to trends involving national retailers.

The consultation and a copy of the Strategy is available at www.bexley.gov.uk/consultation. Paper copies of the Strategy are also available in Bexley libraries.

Consultation is open until 12 May.

The Town Centres Team will be holding the below drop-in consultation sessions in each of the town centres -

- Wed 24 April, 3pm – 7pm: Crayford Library
- Thu 25 April, 3pm – 8pm: Erith, in 68 Pier Road
- Fri 26 April, 10am – 2pm: Welling Library
- Wed 1 May, 10.30am – 3pm: Bexleyheath Broadway Shopping Centre
- Tue 7 May, 10am – 12noon and 3pm – 5pm: Bexleyheath, Central Library
- Wed 8 May, 3pm – 7pm: Sidcup Library

They are also available to meet community or business groups to discuss the strategy. The team hope as many people as possible will come along to share their thoughts including what they feel makes each of our centres special and unique.

For further information, please contact towncentres@bexley.gov.uk or call 020 8303 7777 and ask for the Town Centres Team.

Please contact: Jane Parson on 020 3045 4868
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