

Cinque Port Town of Rye

Rye Town Council

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The Editor
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By fax

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Dear Sir

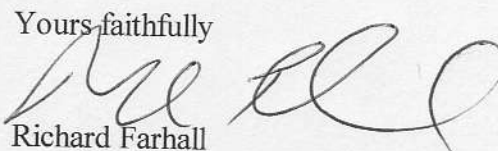
George Shackleton does indeed take the trouble to attend Town Council meetings and ask what the Council has done about various matters (Mailbag, 24 November), however, the answer he receives is never 'nothing'. All questions are responded to, including the 23 Mr Shackleton put to Councillors at the 2005 Annual Town Meeting.

It should be borne in mind that the Town Council does not have direct control over many of the issues raised, both by Mr Shackleton and also Mr Tolhurst. In these instances it can only strive to influence other decision making bodies.

Elsewhere the Council is criticised for the timing of the A259 resurfacing work. As an executive agency of central government, the responsible body in this case, the Highways Agency, can virtually do as it pleases. However, the Town Council did manage to positively influence the original (longer) proposed period of closure and, together with Rother District Council and Rye's MP, succeeded in persuading the Agency to shorten the revised schedule of works when the impact on the town became apparent.

In answer to Cliff Arkley's disparaging comments about Rye Skate Park: yes, the rare appearance of a decaying whale would attract more spectators than a skate park. The Skate Park is a sports facility, not an art installation, and unlike the whale will provide younger residents with enjoyment for many years to come.

Yours faithfully


Richard Farhall
Town Clerk