

Cinque Port Town of Rye

Rye Town Council

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By fax

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Dear Sir

In reply to George Shackleton's question about the point of Rye Town Council gaining Quality Council status (Mailbag, 7 September), I would suggest that the process of acquiring Quality Status is, perhaps, more important than receiving a certificate.

To attain the status the Council had to significantly improve the way it communicates and engages with the community. As a result the Council now has a web site, a regular 'newsletter' within *Rye Fixtures*, an annual report and monthly Councillors' surgeries.

Whilst there is, currently, little funding Quality Councils can access exclusively, the passing of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill this autumn should see such councils given the general power to promote 'well-being'. In theory this means that they will have, subject to certain restrictions, many of the powers available to district and borough councils.

Regarding Mr Tolhurst's suggestion that Monkbretton Bridge should remain open for motorists only during repairs, where would this leave pedestrians and cyclists? Keeping the bridge open would extend the length of time necessary to complete the work and would no doubt result in permanent traffic queues in New Road, Fishmarket Road and South Undercliff.

Yours faithfully

Richard Farhall
Town Clerk

