

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

It was unfortunate that Rother District Council's Environmental Health Department appears to have advised Patricia Barefoot that rubbish on the banks of the Tillingham is the responsibility of either Rye Town Council or Rye Partnership (Mailbag, 31 August). It is neither.

This is an annual problem which manifests itself when the Environment Agency, in accordance with its statutory duty to keep waters flowing, clears the riverbanks of vegetation, thereby exposing any rubbish previously hidden within it. The (discretionary) responsibility for clearing the litter rests with the riparian landowner, that is, whoever owns the river bank and the bed of the river to the mid point, commonly part and parcel of the adjacent plot of land.

The riverbank in question is not owned by the Town Council or Rye Partnership, nor does it appear in the Town Council's schedule of 'property owned by Rother District Council'. Possible contenders for ownership are therefore the Environment Agency, County Council (which maintains the footpath) or a private landowner.

Yours faithfully

Richard Farhall
Town Clerk