

RYE TOWN COUNCIL
*working for the social, economic and environmental well-being
of the Antient Town of Rye*

NEWS
MAY 2011

ELECTION TIME

Rye goes to the polls on Thursday 5 May to elect 16 Town Councillors, 2 District Councillors and to vote 'yes' or 'no' in the Alternative Vote Referendum.

Three Town Councillors (Lorna Hall, Frank Palmer and Paul Osborne) have decided not to stand for re-election – which means that, because there are 23 candidates (for 16 seats), there will be some new faces on the Council after the election. To avoid causing confusion the usual list of Councillors' contact details does not appear here. The new Council will be asked to agree its committees and timetable of meetings at Committee Formation. Therefore, the only certain meeting dates in the near future are:

<i>Monday 16 May</i>	Mayor Making (Hot Pennies – no church service)
<i>Monday 23 May</i>	Committee Formation Planning & Townscape Committee

Members of the current Council continue in office until just after midnight Sun 8 May-Mon 9 May – except the Mayor and Deputy Mayor who carry on in their respective roles until the Mayor for 2011-12 is appointed on 16 May.

DEADMANS LANE SCHEDULE

The Highways Authority has advised that the work necessary to make Deadmans Lane one way (westbound from Rye Hill to the Hillyfields footpath) will take place over 2 days, 3-7 May. The County Council has been asked to avoid working on the lane on 5 May so as not to inconvenience those travelling in to the town to cast their votes. If the experiment is successful the Authority will consider making it permanent.

SAINSBURY'S

Over 50 members of the public (some of whom had not visited the Council Chamber before) attended a Special Meeting of the Town Council on 18 April to hear Councillors discuss the merits - or otherwise - of Sainsbury's planning application to build a store on the former Lower School site in Ferry Road. Five members of the Sainsbury's team were present to address concerns voiced by both the public – including residents of Tillingham Avenue and Ferry Road – and Councillors.

After 90 minutes (60 of which were devoted to contributions from the public and affected residents), Councillors decided to support approval of the application – subject to: **(a)** No objections from the Highways Authority or Network Rail in respect of the proposed site access arrangements; **(b)** The applicant addressing, as far as is possible and practical, the concerns of occupants of properties neighbouring the site – particularly in relation to the height of the proposed store, illumination levels, noise and landscaping; **(c)** The Planning Authority's Environmental Health Department considering whether air pollution issues associated with vehicle movements on the site need to be addressed.

The Town Council has no power to decide planning applications – it has the right only to be notified of applications received by the Planning Authority (Rother District Council). The application will be considered by Rother's Planning Committee after the District Council Elections.

FE CENTRE LATEST

The Council was delighted to learn that, subject to contract, the joint acquisition offer put together by the Fletcher Theatre Community Interest Company and St Mary's Church has been accepted by the Governing Body of Sussex Coast College Hastings. The intention is that the Church will manage the oldest section of the FE Centre (fronting Lion Street) and that the Fletcher Group will convert/develop the remainder of the site into a digital cinema/arts facility.

SURGERIES

There will be no surgery on 4 May because of the Town Council Elections the following day. Subject to confirmation by the new Council, the monthly surgeries with Town Councillors will recommence on Wednesday 1 June – and thereafter (normally) on the first Wednesday of every month.

CONTACTING RYE TOWN COUNCIL

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