

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

NEWS
AUGUST 2011

ALLOTMENTS: WHY THE RELUCTANCE TO RETURN THEM?

Rye Town Council (RTC) recently received a letter from Rother District Council (RDC) offering it the 'opportunity' to manage the two remaining Rye allotment sites, currently managed by RDC. This 'externalisation of the Allotment Service' is one of a number of avenues being pursued as part of Rother's response to a substantial reduction in Government funding.

The Town Council remains of the opinion that, under the Local Government Act 1972, RTC is the lawful Allotments Authority for Rye. RTC has received Queens Counsel advice that, in 1976, it effectively delegated the function of providing allotments to Rother and that the land associated with those allotments belongs to the Town Council. The Town Council has asked RDC for the function to be returned to it – together with the associated land – but RDC refuses to comply.

The Town Council is not prepared to enter into a management agreement in respect of land which should properly be in its possession.

The letter mentions also that RDC has received some interest [in managing allotments] from third parties. These do not include the Rye Allotments Association which has stated publicly, on a number of occasions, that it is prepared to self-manage the (statutory) allotments on behalf of RTC only.

The Town Council does not accept that RDC has the legal right to 'sub-delegate' the management of Rye's allotments and, if RDC is minded to enter into some form of management agreement with another organisation the Town Council would expect RDC to cease to charge the Rye Special Expense associated with the maintenance and management of the two allotment sites – and would be looking to see a commensurate decrease in the Council Tax levied on the Rye Parish Council Tax Payer. The Town Council would hope also that RDC would, within any management agreement, include a clause limiting the rental and/or management charges that could be levied on plot holders.

THE WEATHERMAN SAYS . . .

It may be sunny(ish!) now but, last December, people and vehicles were sliding about in snow and ice –notably in Lion Street, Market Road, Udimore Road and in front of the new bus shelters in Crownfields.

Members of the Council's Adverse Weather Working Group have met to consider ways of mitigating the impact of future 'snowfall events' – including providing additional grit bins, storing salt in strategic locations, purchasing basic equipment and encouraging (physically able) residents and businesses to clear snow from outside their properties.

It is something of an urban myth that, if you clear snow from outside your premises and someone suffers an injury, you are automatically at risk of receiving a claim for damages. This is untrue: you might be held liable only if you made a natural phenomenon more hazardous – for example, by attempting to melt snow with hot water, which then froze and created a more treacherous surface. Using a shovel and/or a broom to clear snow from the pavement fronting your property is a reasonable response to snowfall and is a helpful contribution to community life. The County Council does not grit or clear snow from pavements – it prioritises A roads, bus routes and B roads.

NEW FACES

The May 2011 Town Council Elections saw five new Councillors elected: Gemma Blumire, Mike Eve, Heidi Foster, Nigel Jennings and Adam Smith. They replaced Brian Elliott, Lorna Hall, Paul Osborne, Frank Palmer and David Wright – who either stepped down or were not re-elected. The Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their valuable contributions to the Council and the parish – especially former Mayor, Frank Palmer who served for 28 years on the Council before retiring from public office.

On the District Council, Cllr Sam Souster replaced Cllr Sonia Holmes (who remains a Town Councillor) and Cllr David Russell (now Lord Amphill) was re-elected – and was subsequently elected Chairman of Rother District Council.

WATER MATTERS

The Rye Emergency Action Community Team (REACT, which comprises both Town Council representatives and community members, has continued to monitor flood risk areas and known sewage problem areas – and is considering holding another public meeting to update residents in the autumn (date to be announced).

REACT continues to benefit from good working relationships with the District and County Councils, Southern Water, Aroncorps (Valley Park developer), Environment Agency and the Romney Marsh Inner Drainage Board. These regular contacts have helped REACT understand the maintenance issues associated with Valley Park; the Tilling Green drainage, sewers and pumps; the Brede and Tillingham sluices; and the Monkbretton Bridge scour.

REACT is continuing to press Southern Water about sewerage issues, particularly to the west of Rye where a number of breaks in the last 12 months or so indicate weaknesses that could be exacerbated by the imminent connection of Valley Park.

REACT may be contacted via Rye Town Hall.

HERE TO HELP

The Town Council's charity, Relief in Need, exists to help those living within the Parish of Rye in need, hardship or distress. Applications are welcomed from both individuals and organisations. The details of individual applicants are not made public. For an application form email townhall@ryetownncouncil.gov.uk or ring 223902.

PUTTING THINGS RIGHT

Some readers – particularly those who use them – will be aware that, in certain conditions, rain enters the inside of the new bus shelters in Crownfields, which can result in the bench seats becoming damp.

When the problem became apparent the Town Council asked Rother DC (the purchaser) to make representations to the supplier. However, this was not taken up on the grounds that shelters vary in their design and degree of protection afforded.

The Town Council has now made personal contact with the UK distributor of the (French) shelters and, consequently, the company has agreed to work up a proposal to modify the shelters in order to make them more weather-resistant.

SURGERIES

The next four Councillor Surgeries will be attended by:

Aug 3	Jonathan Breeds and Mike Eve
Sep 7	Bernardine Fiddimore and Heidi Foster
Oct 5	Sonia Holmes and Nigel Jennings
Nov 2	Jo Kirkham and Ian Potter

If you would like to book a 15-minute slot at the Town Hall please ring 223902 by noon on the day of the surgery. The first appointment available is at 6.30pm.

Andy Hemsley's weekly Thursday drop-in surgeries at Rye Town Hall remain suspended. Andy is generally in Rye on Fridays and may be contacted on 01424 856781.

Amber Rudd MP's surgeries 'rotate' around the constituency – including Rye Town Hall. To make an appointment please ring 01424 205435.

RYE TOWN COUNCIL INFORMATION

FORTHCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

All are open to the public. You are welcome to attend, ask questions and express any concerns at meetings of the full Council and Planning Committee. Meetings are held at the Town Hall, with the first listed commencing 6.30pm unless indicated otherwise.

Aug	9	Planning & Townscape, Policy
	22	Council, Planning & Townscape
Sep	5	Planning & Townscape
	19	Planning & Townscape
Oct	3	Planning & Townscape, Policy
	10	Public Services
	17	Council, Planning & Townscape
	31	Planning & Townscape

CONTACTING RYE TOWN COUNCIL

by post Town Hall, Market Street, Rye TN31 7LA **by phone** 223902
by fax 227706 **by email** townhall@ryetowncouncil.gov.uk **web** www.ryetowncouncil.gov.uk

Principal staff	Town Clerk Richard Farhall	Assistant Town Clerk Judy Pettitt
AMPTHILL Lord*	Mountsfield, Rye Hill, Rye TN31 7NH e cllr.david.russell@rother.gov.uk	t/f 227106
BANTICK Granville	25 Udimore Road, Rye TN31 7DS	t 227724
BLUMIRE Gemma	43 Marley Road, Rye TN31 7BD e gemma.blumire@btinternet.com	t 224759
BREEDS John (Mayor)	71 Udimore Road, Rye TN31 7EA e jabreeds@live.co.uk	t 222554
BREEDS Jonathan	The Standard Inn, The Mint, Rye TN31 7EN	t 225996
EVE Mike	Chequer, East Street, Rye TN31 7JY e mikeweve@btinternet.com	t 225026
FIDDIMORE Bernardine	8 Doleham Cottages, Doleham Hill, Guestling TN35 4NA e councillorfiddimore@fsmail.net	t 01424 814194
FOSTER Heidi	17 Strand Court, Strand Quay, Rye TN31 7AY	t 229103
HOLMES Sonia	23 North Salts, Rye TN31 7NU e cllr.sonia.holmes@rother.gov.uk	t 222068
JENNINGS Nigel	16 Love Lane, Rye TN31 7NE	t 226603
KIRKHAM Jo	10 Cadborough Cliff, Rye TN31 7EB	t 222562
POTTER Ian	146 Udimore Road, Rye TN31 7DZ	t 223453
ROGERS Shaun (Deputy Mayor)	36 Ferry Road, Rye TN31 7DN e shaun.rogers156@btinternet.com	m 07983 098284 t 225632
SMITH Adam	24 Tillingham Court, The Link, Rye TN31 7BT e cllr.adamsmith@yahoo.com	t 229096
SMITH Mary	10 Tower Street, Rye TN31 7AT	e mysdys@hotmail.co.uk t 227569
SOUSTER Sam*	96 Udimore Road, Rye TN31 7DX e cllr.sam.souster@rother.gov.uk	t 224305

* also a Rother District Councillor for Rye

Surgeries

Rye Town Councillors hold regular surgeries at the Town Hall on the first Wednesday of the month, 6.30pm-7.30pm. If you would like to discuss an issue or concern please ring Judy on 223902 to make an appointment.

Rye Heritage Centre

Home of the Rye Town Model, a gift shop, Old Pier Amusements and collection point for the Rye Audio Walking Tours. Operated by Rye Town Council. **t** 226696. www.ryeheritage.co.uk.

Useful Contacts

East Sussex County Council	t 01273 481000	www.eastsussexcc.gov.uk
MP (Amber Rudd)	t 01424 205435	
Rother District Council	t 01424 787878	www.rother.gov.uk
AmicusHorizon	t 0845 3550999	www.horizon-hg.org.uk
Rye Community Help Point	t 222293	
Rye County Councillor (Keith Glazier)	t 01424 814513	e cllr.keith.glazier@eastsussex.gov.uk
Rye Partnership	t 229600	www.ryepartnership.org.uk
Rye Tourist Information Centre	t 229049	