

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

NEWS
DECEMBER 2013

RYE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Rother District Council has officially designated the plan boundary as the Rye Parish boundary, whilst recognising that the Rye Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has protocols in place to liaise with adjoining parishes concerning areas of mutual interest – such as the Rye Harbour Employment Area and Rye Hospital site.

A well-attended 're-launch' was held at Rye College on 17 October and working groups are being established to help guide community consultation on Rye's spatial planning needs.

A wealth of information on the Rye Neighbourhood Planning process may be found at:
www.ryeneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/

ALL WELCOME

The meeting of the Rye Public Services Committee held on 21 October attracted considerable local interest when it became known that there were to be presentations by East Sussex Community Voice on the work of Healthwatch East Sussex and the SE Coast Ambulance Service on the future of the Rye Ambulance Station. Those attending were advised that the Rye, Winchelsea & District Memorial Hospital is to purchase the (run down) ambulance station and will develop an Ambulance Community Response post which will enable an ambulance resource to be deployed from Hastings Make Ready – a new initiative ensuring that paramedics are not using their time cleaning, preparing and stocking vehicles (when they could be treating patients).

Notes of the presentations may be found at www.ryetowncouncil.gov.uk/meetingsminutes.aspx.

The next meeting of the Public Services Committee will be held at the St Mary's Centre (former FE Centre), Lion Street on Monday 20 January 2014, 6.30pm when there will be a presentation on Operation Crackdown - a Sussex Safer Roads Partnership initiative to encourage the public to report anti-social driving and abandoned vehicles.

HIGH STREET LOADING BAY

(In case you have been having difficulty following this initiative) The current situation is that on 16 December the Town Council will be reviewing the position it adopted on 28 October – namely, that the proposed new bay (outside The George) should be used for loading by goods vehicles only 7am-6pm and for loading by any vehicle 6pm-7am. Councillors decided also that if loading by any vehicle was not acceptable to the Highways Authority then the bay should be used for parking.

SKATE PARK

In November, Fearless Ramps renewed the ply riding surfaces of four of the five pieces of equipment that comprise Rye Skate Park. The ply of the largest item – the half-pipe with quarter pipe extensions - was renewed in 2012. The Town Council's continued maintenance of the Skate Park (installed in 2005) recognises its continued popularity amongst younger residents.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Please note that in order to avoid clashing with Rye & District Bonfire Society's AGM the date of the Rye Annual Town Meeting has been changed to Wednesday 5 March 2014 (the original date was 12 March). The venue will be the Milligan Theatre at Rye College – provisionally 6.30pm for a 7pm start.

WORKING WITH THE POLICE

The next meeting of the Rye Police Priority Setting Panel will take place at the Town Hall on Wednesday 12 February, 5.30pm. It is open to anyone living, working or studying in the parish and provides a valuable opportunity to raise any

crime or disorder concerns. During each meeting (held quarterly) those present agree their top 3 local priorities for the Police to address. The Chairman is Pat Hughes, Co-ordinator of Rye & District Community Transport.

NOT A BANKSY!

Those of you wandering past the entrance to Pump Street (Church Square) may have noticed some white markings on the road. These are not the work of a Banksy wannabe but a legitimate Highways engineer and are the precursor of a scheme to protect a Listed Building. As goods and works vehicles have increased in size so has the frequency of incidences of high-sided vehicles damaging the fabric of 2a Church Square.

The key to addressing this problem has been to find a way of 'encouraging' drivers of larger vehicles to approach the entrance to Pump Street 'square on'. One suggestion was to remove a number of the parking spaces on the other side of Market Street (vicinity of the Bay Tree) to enable drivers to take a wider approach. However, this was ruled out because it was unlikely to find favour amongst both the business community and local residents – and the space created might be filled, occasionally, by holders of Blue Badges.

Following a number of site meetings with interested parties – including the owners of 2a, the Conservation Society, Town Council and the Rye Highways Forum – East Sussex County Council Highways has agreed to build out the footway using appropriate materials, re-position a bollard and install another to deter encroachment upon the build-out. The scheme preserves existing parking spaces and the Town Council has been assured that fire appliances will not be impeded.

A DAY TO REMEMBER

The weather stayed fine on Saturday 21 September for the largest event in the Confederation of the Cinque Ports calendar, Speaker's Day. This year it was hosted on Rye's behalf by Shaun Rogers, Mayor of Rye and Speaker of the Cinque Ports until May 2014.

Those fortunate enough to be in the town during the morning witnessed a visual treat, a mass of robes, regalia and uniforms. The colourful celebration of the Confederation's rich maritime and heritage began with a procession around the town, headed by the drums of the Rye College Bloco band, followed by the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, then the Speaker with his Chaplain and Town Clerk.

Also present on the day were the Admiralty Judge, the Bishop of Dover, the Deputy Constable of Dover Castle, Confederation Mayors, Town Clerks, Town Sergeants, the High Sheriff of East Sussex, the Chairman of Rother District Council, the Chairman of East Sussex County Council, Town Councillors, past Rye Speakers and Rye Sea Cadets.

The Reverend Canon David Frost, the Speaker's Chaplain conducted a Service in St Mary's which included a moving performance of the Academy Award-winning song *Into the West* by the Rye College Choir, which some of the congregation recognised from the Lord of the Rings film *Return of the King*.

The day concluded with an excellent lunch, with matching service, at the Mermaid.

We received much positive feedback from those who travelled to Rye from Kent and East Sussex to take part – and our reputation for being a friendly and welcoming town, steeped in history will surely have been enhanced.

SURGERIES

Surgeries with Rye Town Councillors have been suspended whilst the Council reviews their location, format, timing and frequency. If you have a matter you would like to discuss you are welcome to ring Councillors directly – or to contact the Town Hall on 223902 e townhall@ryetowncouncil.gov.uk.

To make an appointment with Amber Rudd MP 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 predominantly at the Town Hall, with the first listed commencing 6.30pm unless indicated otherwise.

December	9	Planning & Townscape	Policy
	16	Council	Planning & Townscape
January	13	Planning & Townscape	
	20	Public Services (at St Mary's Centre, Lion St)	
	27	Planning & Townscape	Policy

February	10	Council	Planning & Townscape
	24	Planning & Townscape	
	30	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

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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

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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 787000	www.rother.gov.uk
AmicusHorizon	t 0845 3550999	www.horizon-hg.org.uk
Rye Community Help Point	t 01424 787000	e customerservices@rother.gov.uk
Rye County Councillor (Keith Glazier)	t 01424 814513	e cllr.keith.glazier@eastsussex.gov.uk
Rye District Councillor (Lord Ampthill)	t 227106	e cllr.david.russell@rother.gov.uk
Rye Partnership	t 229600	www.ryepartnership.org.uk
Rye Tourist Information Centre	t 229049	