

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

NEWS

POST OFFICE THREATENED

By the time you read this the deadline will have passed (24 December) for the receipt of objections to the proposal by the Post Office Ltd to close Tilling Green Post Office. A vigorous campaign was mounted by local residents – backed by the Town Council, local MP and others – to prevent the unnecessary loss of a well-used branch in one of the most deprived communities in the country. Its fate should be known around the third week in January. Fingers crossed . . .

DOWN TO US?

Town Councillors have agreed to fund jointly a piece of consultancy work which should reveal just how much Rother District Council is spending on services in Rye – as well as how much revenue it receives. At the moment Rother apportions its cost across the whole District but both it – and the Town Council – require Rye-specific data in order to enable them to agree a package of services to be devolved from Rother to the Town Council.

Everything is 'up for consideration' – including Ancient Monuments (such as the Landgate Arch and Water Tower in Pump Street), Rye Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre, Rye Cemetery, public car parks, street furniture (including benches and litter bins), tourism, marketing, bus shelters, lighting (car parks/open spaces), public conveniences and town management.

LET'S TALK . . . PLANNING

Rye & District residents are now able to meet with a Rother Planning officer locally - at the Rye Community Help Point, 25 Cinque Ports Street. Planning surgeries are held on the last Thursday of every month, 2-4pm. To book an appointment ring Kathy on 222293.

BACK ON THE AGENDA

As this issue goes to print Rother's Cabinet is poised to recommend that the next full meeting of Rother District Council (on 3 March) should agree that the time is right to release land north of Udimore Road for residential development. In November, Rother's Planning Committee rejected an outline planning application from Aroncorp Ltd to build 135 dwellings on the grounds that the site had not been released as a reserve site, as provided for within the Rother District Local Plan. Releasing it would give the developer the green light to submit a full planning application.

Whilst there are some important barriers to gaining planning consent – notably the likely increased risk of flooding to neighbouring properties, it is conceivable that the developer will proffer 'technical solutions' which will satisfy the Planning Authority.

Key to determining whether the development will go ahead is forecast housing supply across the District. Like every other Planning Authority Rother is under pressure to help the Government meet its new housing supply targets. Cabinet papers confirm this to be the case: 'a recent meeting with the Government Office for the South-East (GOSE) has confirmed the Government's commitment to increasing housing completions and, in this context, it is expressing a clear expectation that local planning authorities do not rely on projections of past windfall sites in assessing land supply over a 10 year period.' This means that the Government wants to see local housing supply estimates having a 'greater level of certainty'. Making provision for windfall (unexpected) residential development sites will be much harder to defend.

There are other reasons for the land north of Udimore Road being 'in the frame' – such as delays to the Hastings-Bexhill Link Road (which would support significant development in NE Bexhill) and the Rock

Channel Supplementary Planning Document (held up by a staffing shortage and a challenge to the legal status of the South Undercliffe Allotments). The pressure to build is such that brownfield and greenfield sites in the countryside outside of defined settlement boundaries will soon no longer be considered 'sacrosanct'.

The Town Council will be considering how to respond to this latest threat to the Udimore Road site early in the New Year.

NOT SO SWEET

Rother District Council has continued to score successes in its attempts to clamp down on illegal street trading in Consent Streets within the town.

Luke Stevens of Fairlight was found guilty of selling ice cream from his van (usually parked on Hilder's Cliff) and fined £1000 for each of two offences in August, together with £330 Council costs. This brought his total fines for the summer to £5500.

Daniel Medhurst (Rye) was fined £335 plus £75 towards Council costs for 4 offences of selling ice cream from a tricycle during the summer. Emma Tovey (Hastings) was fined £115 plus £200 towards Council costs for a similar offence.

The Town Council will pursue an injunction against any unauthorised individual selling ice cream on its land at the Heritage Centre. (Breaching an injunction is an arrestable offence.)

TIME FOR CHANGE?

The Town Council, Rye Partnership and other key organisations are considering the future of town management and marketing in the town following the departure, from Rother District Council, of the Rye Town Manager last autumn. They will be considering issues such as: is there a need for town management and, if so, in what form? Which organisation/s should be responsible for town management and marketing?

ANNUAL GATHERING

Rye Local Government Electors (anyone registered to vote) – and members of the public – are reminded that the Annual Town Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 2 April**, at the Community Centre, Conduit Hill, 6.45 for a 7pm start. The Council has set up a small working group to consider changing the 'usual format'. At this stage it is envisaged that the meeting is likely to be more informal and interactive – with less emphasis on Councillors delivering reports. If you have come along in the past and been put off a little by the rather 'dry' content at times, do please give the event another go – after all, it is your meeting!

WHEEL PROGRESS

Phase II of the Rye Skate Park project - a half pyramid with kinked planter and a flat bank – was completed in late November. A path installed to the site from Monkbretton Bridge by Rother District Council has made the facility easier to access – particularly during periods of wet weather. Please make use of the new equipment – that's what it's there for!

UNWELCOME VISITORS

East Sussex County Council's Trading Standards Office is looking to expand the number of No Cold Calling Zones (NCCZ). A NCCZ is an area where residents have decided to say no to doorstep callers by warning them not to come into their community without prior notice. Reasons for desiring such a scheme can include: reducing the risk of 'rogue traders' and distraction burglaries, and empowering residents to say no to doorstep callers.

Apparently, areas most suited to a NCCZ are those that are relatively small and easily identified by a boundary – such as a street, estate, cul-de-sac or sheltered housing block. Door stickers and street signs are available for use in NCCZs. To find out more about the process ring Sandra Thornton on 01323 418221 or email sandra.thornton@eastsussex.gov.uk.

TALK TO US

The next four Councillor Surgeries will be attended by:

Jan 9	Cllrs Frank Palmer and Ian Potter
Feb 6	Cllrs Shaun Rogers and David Russell
Mar 12	Cllrs Jo Kirkham and Paul Osborne
April 9	Cllrs David Wright and Granville Bantick

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.

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

Jan	7	Planning
	14	Policy
	21	Council, Planning
Feb	4	Planning, Leisure & Tourism
	18	Planning
March	4 (Tues)	Planning
	17	Council, Planning
	31	Planning, Public Services

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 – *based at the Town Hall.*

Councillors

BANTICK Granville	25 Udimore Road, Rye TN31 7DS	t 227724
BREEDS John	71 Udimore Road, Rye TN31 7EA e jabreeds@hotmail.com	t 222554
BREEDS Jonathan	The Standard Inn, The Mint, Rye TN31 7EN	t 225996
ELLIOTT Brian	The Windmill, Ferry Rd, Rye TN31 7DW e info@ryewindmill.co.uk	t 224027
FIDDIMORE Bernardine	8 Doleham Cottages, Doleham Hill, Guestling TN35 4NA e councillorfiddimore@fsmail.net	t 01424 814194
HALL Lorna	Rolvendene Farm, Love Lane Rye TN31 7NU e rolvendene@tiscali.co.uk	t 229808
HOLMES Sonia*	23 North Salts, Rye TN31 7NU e cllr.sonia.holmes@rother.gov.uk	t 222068
KIRKHAM Jo	10 Cadborough Cliff, Rye TN31 7EB	t 222562
OSBORNE Paul (Mayor)	Cadborough Cottage, 170 Udimore Road, Rye TN31 6AA m 07973 742210 e paul@posborne7.orangehome.co.uk	t/f 222415
PALMER Frank	4 The Strand, Rye TN31 7DB	t 222603
POTTER Ian	146 Udimore Road, Rye TN31 7DZ	t 223453
ROGERS Shaun	103 Winchelsea Road, Rye TN31 7EL m 07983 098284 e councilor@ssoh.co.uk	t 223942
RUSSELL David*	Mountsfield, Rye Hill, Rye TN31 7NH	t/f 227106
SOUSTER Sam	96 Udimore Road, Rye TN31 7DX	t 224305

(Deputy Mayor)

WILLGOSS Sylvia

Glendale, 65 Udimore Road, Rye TN31 7EA

t 222212

WRIGHT David

11 Landgate, Rye TN31 7LH

t 227696

m 07703 214793

e councillorwright@hotmail.co.uk

* 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, Rye Tourist Information Centre, a gift shop, Old Pier Amusements and collection point for the Rye Audio Walking Tours. Operated by Rye Town Services. t 226696. www.ryeheritage.co.uk.

Useful Contacts

East Sussex County Council

t 01273 481000

www.eastsussexcc.gov.uk

MP (Michael Foster)

t 01424 464604

Rother District Council

t 01424 787878

www.rother.gov.uk

Rother Homes

t 0845 3550999

www.horizon-hg.org.uk

Rye Community Help Point

t 222293

Rye County Councillor (Keith Glazier) t 229581

e cllr.keith.glazier@eastsussex.gov.uk

Rye Partnership

t 229600

www.ryepartnership.org.uk