

**DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT  
RYE TOWN COUNCIL 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007**

This report, in many ways, is an update of some of the issues on which I reported on at the last Council Meeting (5<sup>th</sup> February 2007)

**Land North of Udimore Road**

I attended the Cabinet Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2006 and gave notice that the proposal to release the land for development was unacceptable to most people in Rye, and at the very least premature.

I would like to record my thanks to all those residents who travelled to the Council Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at Bexhill to support the local councillors; it was appreciated. The decision to defer in order to investigate alternative sites was sensible, as the proposal was provision for the District, and in excess of Rye's requirements. We shall await developments (no pun intended!).

**Waste Management and Recycling**

I was a member of the Working Group that researched this matter in order to comply with the Government target for recycling. This group was also responsible for interviewing and appointing

1. The main contractor – Verdant  
Responsible for all aspects of Waste Management, Recycling and Street and Beach Cleaning.
2. Promotions/Publicity – Envirocomms  
This aspect of the new scheme is essential so that all residents will be made aware of what is required of them. Doorstep visits have already commenced.

I attended a seminar at the De La Warr pavilion recently where presentations were made by the Rother District Council Officers responsible for Waste Management, Verdant and Envirocomms.

In conclusion, I will just say that a standard scheme across the District, with a uniform distributions of new containers will not be possible, and during this consultation period it is expected that problems will be identified, and, hopefully, resolved, so that implementation with some compromises can be arranged.

The Citadel in Rye is a typical example – I am sure there are many questions.

**Campaign Launch – Road Show and Press Call with John Craven**

This has been arranged on 12<sup>th</sup> April at Battle moving on to Rye, Robertsbridge and Bexhill, as time permits. There will be an extensive advertising campaign involving Southern FM and Arrow FM.

There are two websites that provide information:-

[www.reycleforrother.com](http://www.reycleforrother.com)

[www.recyclenew.com](http://www.recyclenew.com)

Information can also be obtained from the Rother help Point in Cinque Ports Street, Rye.

## Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

### Dog Control Orders

As reported before, the original proposals were roundly rejected.

A rethink and further consultation is taking place, and, hopefully, some commonsense will prevail. This proposal also initiated a spate of complaints about local dog mess, which, I think is caused by a few irresponsible dog owners, as most are very aware of their responsibilities. The key to any Control Order, and this includes Street Trading, is enforcement. How this is to be achieved is a mystery.

### Public Conveniences (PCs)

On 12<sup>th</sup> February 2007 Town Cllrs. Izod and Russell, and me representing the District Council and the Town Clerk accompanied by Jane Preston of SHS, the Cleaning Contractors did a tour of the Rye's PCs. Information was gathered, and a report was produced, which was sent to RDC's Amenities Department.

The cleanliness of the PCs was of an acceptable standard, but a number of maintenance defects were observed and reported.

Complaint Forms are held at the TIC and Heritage Centre, and verbal complaints can now be made at the Rother Help Point at Cinque Ports Street. I am pleased to report that none have been received lately.

The PC at Station Approach on Thursdays in the summer is always vulnerable because of the excessive usage. This issue has to be taken seriously because of the damage unsatisfactory PCs can do to the reputation of the town, as we have experienced in the past.

### Derelict Cottages 8 – 23 Fishmarket road

Under the Section 215 Notice served on the owner, The Chunnel Group, was instructed to:-

- a. Board up doors and windows
- b. Paint boarded windows (2 coats of matt black)
- c. Paint boarded doors (2 coats matt white)
- d. Clean the land at the rear and remove dumped items.

It is claimed that (a), (b) and (c) have been completed – (d) certainly has not.

In my opinion, and obviously that of the neighbours', they remain an eyesore. I shall be taking the matter up with RDC Enforcement Officer.

The properties are now in a dangerous state, cast iron guttering and some slates have fallen onto the pavement. The owner has since removed the remaining cast iron guttering, which is now allowing the slates to slide off the roof.

I shall be taking the matter up again with RDC Building Control Officer, who was informed as soon as this situation occurred.

### Lydd – London Ashford Airport

Two Planning Applications have been submitted to Shepway District Council to:-

Construct and Extend the Runway  
Erect a Passenger Terminal

Most of you will be aware of the details of these expansion plans.

On this occasion RDC, like RTC, are not the determining authorities, but have been consulted. They have taken the view that the economic advantages must to be balanced against what appears to be serious environmental constraints. These are the infrastructure, nature conservation, avian migration paths, reassurances about flight paths and, of course, the green issues being promoted by all political parties.

There will almost certainly be a Public Enquiry.

**Rye Riverside Development (EP48 on the Project Register)**

This originally came up at Cabinet some time ago. Cllr. Kentfield, the portfolio holder is the Project Sponsor and I have been asked to take on the role of Project Champion. I all I will say now is that I am excited by the challenge, because Sarah Anderson, RDC Senior Planning Officer, will be addressing the Planning Committee later on preparing this Development Brief.

**New Library with 10 Apartments RR/2006/1991/P**

Amended plans and/or description have been resubmitted, and will be dealt with by Committee, probably at the next meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2007. I think, like most, we would wish this matter to be finally resolved.

**CLLR. S.H.SOUSTER**  
19<sup>th</sup> March 2007

**Rother District Council Report**  
**by Cllr Granville Bantick**  
**at 19th March, 2007**

Another civic year is shortly to come to a close and councillors' minds will be focussing on the forthcoming local elections, if not some minds have already focussed in that direction if reading the local press is any guide. Since this will be my last report and as there is much on the agenda to debate I will keep this as short as I can.

On the 7th March I attended the Recycling Discovery meeting at the de la Warr Pavilion. It proved to be a very useful and informative meeting attended by town and parish councillors. Cllr Mathew Wilson opened proceedings explaining how important it was to change the way we approached the collection of waste and the need to increase recycling. Out of nine contractors interviewed one stood out above all the others, Verdant, which had received awards for its waste collection. It was necessary to select a PR Company and Invirons was chosen. These companies will be working together to ensure that the new operation will be as smooth as possible. We were given in depth presentations by the companies' representatives. Rother's Alan Dodge explained how it would all work. Cllr Wilson admitted that it was not going to be a bed of roses.

On the 12th April, 2007 the single biggest change to the Council's service to residents will be launched. Out will go weekly collection of rubbish and in will come kerbside recycling! Rother District Council is committed to increase the amount of domestic waste we recycle from the current 16%. It was noted that on average every household produced 1/2 ton of waste every year and this was increasing by 3 - 3.5% every year. It is anticipated that after the collection of recyclables only 27% of household waste will remain. All residents will receive a comprehensive information pack which should deal with all the enquiries expected from residents. Alan Dodge explained how residents will have a green box for paper (most residents already have this facility), a black box for plastic bottles and cans, a 240 litre green wheelie bin for garden waste and a 180 litre black wheelie bin for anything else which can't be recycled. Recycling only will be collected one week with the residual rubbish being collected the following week. Obviously in Rye there are particular problems with narrow pavements and lack of suitable access which affects most of the Citadel. Special arrangements will be put in place to overcome these problems. The first phase will be the delivery of the bins which will be rolled out over April/May and should be complete by May/June.

On the 12th March the Overview and Scrutiny Committee met at which the Chairman and Board of Trustees of the de la Warr Pavilion gave their annual report. It did not make good listening as it appears the Trust still has not reached a breakeven position. In fact the operating loss was £288,518 for 2005/06. There is now concern that this loss will not be fully recovered by 2008/09. The Council's subsidy contribution for 2007/08 is £546,700, whilst the Arts Council England provides an annual revenue subsidy of £433,000. Rother has a five year agreement until 1st April 2008. Understandably there

were many hard questions that had to be answered. The general thrust was that the Trustees operations were perhaps continuing to concentrate too much on the Arts and not provide entertainment to a wider audience. As a result of the problems the Trust continues to have it was agreed to set up a Working Group in order to recommend to Cabinet a new Funding Agreement and revenue contribution to inform the budget for 2008/09. Terms of reference were also agreed.

Members will know that at Rother's Full Council meeting on the 5th March, following the tabling of an amendment by Cllr Keith Glazier, the proposal recommended by Cabinet to release the land north of Udimore Road for development was to be delayed whilst other brown field sites could be found. This was met by great relief by those who had opposed the plan especially by Cllr Souster and I and the many residents from Rye who took the trouble to attend the meeting. It seemed that sanity prevailed! My concern, as members know, has been the risk of severe flooding in the town if this agricultural land was covered with concrete and tarmac with its greatest impact on the residents of Tilling Green Estate.

At Cabinet this afternoon, at which I was not present, there was to be a debate on the delivery of the Local Development Framework over the next 3 years. The main documents currently in preparation are the over-arching "Core Strategy" as well as the Supplementary Planning Document on Affordable Housing for major development of land at North East Bexhill and for future development of land between South Undercliff and Rock Channel, Rye. As there is considerable more work to be done the length of time for consultation will need to be extended from June/July, 2007. Initial survey work has been undertaken on the Rock Channel, Rye Supplementary Planning Document. The next stage will be the initial contact with interested organisations. This will be vital in order to draw up development options for sustainability appraisal. This will be followed by public consultation.

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