

Cllr Sonia Holmes. Rother District Report. 10 July 2007

The recycling is the big issue. I have had so many queries regarding the problems of no collections at certain points of the town and reported everyone incident. I did have a word with the Chief Executive Derek Stevens and he has tried to do everything in his power to ensure all problems were solved.

I attended the induction day when we were introduced to the various officers of the committees. The system was explained to us as to how the committees were set up and how the finances were dealt with.

I am on the Planning Committee which involves a lot of paper work and site visits covering the whole of Rother and as a Councillor I have to be aware of planning law which is very strict, however I can keep an eye on the Rye applications with all its implications.

At the Cabinet meeting the decisions for the NHS changes regarding the Conquest Maternity Services was for option 4 although the Chairman of the meeting tried to encourage the committee to vote for the popular option 5 which was basically for the status quo. Option 4 was voted through which means the maternity unit will be a consultant led unit – specialist baby care and inpatient gynaecology for Hastings but the Eastbourne mums would have to travel further for the consultants and have a midwife led birthing centre.

The main reason for attending the Cabinet committee was the Rock Channel area planning. Now this is going out for consultation from the 27 July for 6 weeks until 7 September. For certain options from B1 to B4 I suggest obtaining the book called Rock Channel area, Rye – Supplementary Planning Document from the Help Point at the Rye Partnership. The Cabinet committee preferred Option B2 which would create a footpath through the south eastern side of the site of the area.

This option would include the creation of an additional area of public open space.

Pros for the this decision the number of allotments in current use is maintained. Opportunity for the environmental enhancement, including creation of an additional area of amenity space. Increases public access and enjoyment of the area. Establishing a clear attractive linking route from Strand Quay to the Fishing Quay. Cons for this decision would be steep bank/flood wall to be negotiated at the eastern end of the site. Steps may be needed. Possibly need to relocate a limited number of allotment plots within the site. Fear of vandalism/litter resulting from increased use of the area.

The whole basic idea for the development of Rock Channel is for the mix affordable housing improving access to the sites for all the other areas of Rye plus a cycle path, give more employment through new working areas, plus a river café. All this information will be available from the Help Point from 20 July 2007.