

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning & Townscape Committee  
held at the Town Hall, Rye on Monday 4 January 2010**

**PRESENT** Councillors John Breeds (Deputy Mayor), Bernardine Fiddimore, Jo Kirkham, Frank Palmer (**Committee Chairman**), David Wright (**Committee Vice Chairman**)

**IN ATTENDANCE** Richard Farhall – Town Clerk; Cllrs Sonia Holmes and Mary Smith, 12 members of the public.

*The meeting commenced at 6.30pm.*

**111 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence – and the reason logged with the Clerk – were accepted from Cllr Sam Souster.

**112 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Cllr Holmes	<i>personal</i>	<b>RR/2009/3032/C</b>	Plot holder of allotments adjoining the site
Cllr Kirkham	<i>personal</i>	<b>RR/2009/3032/C</b>	Rye College governor
Cllr Osborne	<i>personal</i>	<b>RR/2009/3032/C</b>	Member of an Authority (RDC) which has earmarked funding for lighting the MUGA
Cllr Smith	<i>personal</i>	<b>RR/2009/3032/C</b>	Plot holder of allotments adjoining the site

*The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public questions.*

**Proposed MUGA at Rye College**

John Howlett was in favour of a MUGA in Rye but queried the suitability of the site proposed. He was concerned that having a consultation period spanning Christmas-New Year would affect adversely the number of views submitted from interested parties and hoped RTC would take up this point. He observed that the acoustic consultants had made no noise assessments above street level and suggested that the proposals to restrict light pollution might prove to be ineffective. He invited RTC to consider: insisting that ESCC commissions a more comprehensive acoustic survey; asking ESCC and RDC to investigate alternative sites; making a bye-law to restrict the proposed opening hours.

Bernard Thomson (Rye College) advised that the acoustic consultants had addressed the points raised by residents and passed a copy of its email to the Clerk. During the course of the discussion he made the comments following: the need for a MUGA had been identified during the planning of the new primary school because it was recognised that there would insufficient play

space; some budgeting provision had consequently been made and RDC and allocated funding for the lighting; the site selected was already a sports area and was well screened; there were no residential properties within 100m and only one was within view; the proposed lighting would be much less obtrusive than that used on the Cricket Salts; there had been two consultations with local residents and the views of those present were not necessarily representative; outside of normal College hours the facility was likely to be managed by Freedom Leisure on behalf of RDC – this was an important security consideration.

Rosalind Collier observed that at the consultations no mention had been made of the likely MUGA operating hours.

Local B&B owner, Wendy Wright emphasised that she was happy for the proposed MUGA to be used by Rye College during its normal operating hours but was concerned about the noise impact on elevated properties (such as hers) during the evening and at weekends.

Sonia Relf urged Members to consider the environmental impact of the facility.

Cllr Wright considered that the proposed facility would be a valuable one – particularly for younger people – and that the site was suitable, possessing a number of advantages. Those who had purchased property in the Grove or Love Lane would have been aware of the close proximity of a large educational establishment.

Cllr Breeds sympathised with the views of local residents, citing his own position of finding himself with his view of an agricultural landscape being about to be replaced with a housing development.

Cllr Kirkham welcomed the proposed facility, observing that there did not appear to any problems associated with the Pool opening until 10pm. The nursery (which would be relocating to the Environmental block) needed to be replaced anyway. It was unlikely that the MUGA would be used every day of the week and it would be managed.

Cllr Smith reported that Rye United FC would not be able to use the facility because it was not natural grass and that the Bexhil MUGA operated during similar times to those proposed for Rye. She suggested that, because many younger people lived at Tilling Green, it would make more sense to locate a MUGA in that area. She had ascertained also that, in areas where MUGAs had been installed, it is not unusual for parts of playing fields to be sold off for development.

Cllr Osborne was keen for a MUGA to be provided in Rye and observed that it was unlikely to be used as much as residents 'feared'. Cllr Fiddimore considered that the proposed location appeared to offer benefits in terms of management and 'controlled' impact.

*The meeting reconvened.*

## **113 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Planning and Townscape meeting of 21 December 2009 (PT17) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**1114 MATTERS ARISING**

Page 2

72 'Camber Castle Car Park' (endeavouring to get the Environment Agency or English Heritage to accept responsibility) The Clerk advised that the EA has stated that it did not own the site and it appeared it had not been party to the decision (believed to have been the previous Police Inspector's initiative) to restrict access.

Gibbet Marsh rail crossing (29.11.09 – PT14) Cllr Wright advised that both gates were now defective – one being broken; the other not being 'self closing'.  
**Clerk**

**115 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**RESOLVED That the comments following be submitted to the Planning Authority:**

**RR/2009/3032/C** Rye College, Love Lane, Rye  
(Del) Relocation of existing nursery accommodation together with removal of existing tennis courts to provide new artificial surfaced (synthetic grass) multi sport pitch with associated ball fencing, floodlighting and drainage.  
(ESCC ref: RR/2866/CC)  
Applicant: ESCC Children's Services, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes BN7 1VE  
SUPPORT APPROVAL Subject to the acoustic consultants being instructed to assess likely noise levels at relevant locations above street level; and the proposed usage end times being shortened to Mon-Fri 21.00, Sat 19.00.

**RR/2009/2964/P** 1 Landgate Square, Rye  
**RR/2009/3035/L** Demolition of rear conservatory and construction of a low brick perimeter wall, Minor internal alterations.  
(Del) Applicant: Mr J Bloomer, Methersham Oast, Hobbs Lane, Beckley  
SUPPORT APPROVAL Subject to the wall proposed being of sufficient height to safeguard adequately the privacy of the occupants of neighbouring properties.

**RR/2009/3014/P** 10 Udimore Road, Rye  
(Del) Replacement of conservatory to rear of property.  
Part retrospective Applicant: Miss S A Jenkins, The Coach House, 24 Westover Road, London  
SUPPORT APPROVAL

The meeting ended at 7.20pm.

Date.....

Chairman.....