

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning & Townscape Committee
held at the Town Hall, Rye on Monday 3 October 2011**

PRESENT Councillors Gemma Blumire, John Breeds (Mayor), Mike Eve, Heidi Foster, Sonia Holmes, Jo Kirkham, Shaun Rogers (Deputy Mayor), Adam Smith (**Committee Chairman**)

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall – Town Clerk; Cllrs Lord Ampthill, Jonathan Breeds and Ian Potter; Peter Cosstick – HC Manager; 4 members of the public

The meeting commenced at 6.31pm

56 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence – and the reasons lodged with the Clerk – were accepted from Cllrs Nigel Jennings (Committee Vice Chairman) and Sam Souster.

57 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public questions/comments.

Item 62 Mr Benn (a resident of the Old Brickyard) advised that local residents appreciated that there had always been mixed use of the access tracks but they were concerned that, following ESCC's decision to formally extend the Gilshaw Farm footpath through the Old Brickyard, there was an increasing level of footfall as the Valley Park development progressed. Because the track to Mason Road was narrow there was a raised risk of pedestrians being injured by vehicles. Furthermore, there is just one streetlight in the middle of the track.

6.34 Cllr Blumire arrived.

The meeting reconvened.

58 MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Planning and Townscape meeting of 19 September 2011 (PT08) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Fiddimore arrived.

59 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

60 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED To submit the comments following to the Planning Authority:

- RR/2011/896/P** 57 The Mint, Rye
(Del) Erection of new fence and replacement of existing trellis fence.
Applicant: Mr D & Mrs S Nelson, Hartshorn House, Mermaid Street, Rye
SUPPORT APPROVAL
- RR/2011/1775/P** Norman House, West Street, Rye
RR/2011/1777/L Installation of wireless burglar alarm with external box
(Del) on flank wall.
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Andrew Barnji, Norman House, West Street, Rye
SUPPORT APPROVAL
- RR/2011/1884/L** Rye Station, Station Approach, Rye
(Del) Installation of new ticket vending machine to station frontage.
Applicant: Southern Rail, Go-Ahead House, 26-28 Addiscombe Road, Croydon
SUPPORT APPROVAL

61 'A' BOARDS AND STREET FURNITURE

Cllr Rogers asked the committee to consider the positioning of 'A' boards and furniture placed by businesses on footways in relation to obstruction of the highway. This request had been prompted by a complaint that CafeZara's tables, chairs and A boards were obstructing the footway.

The discussion ensuing included the comments following: the degree to which furniture and A boards cause an obstruction is largely influenced by footway width; around 10 years ago general agreement was obtained that traders would take their A boards in at night – however, this practice had diminished; in the current economic climate a balance needs to be struck between ensuring adequate highways access and the needs of businesses to promote themselves; in the case of CafeZara the (3) A boards were more of a problem than the tables and chairs; those with mobility difficulties find Rye's footways difficult to negotiate at the best of times; a County Highways Inspector had advised CaféZara and was 'monitoring the situation'; the recommended minimum width of a footway (to allow the safe passage of wheelchairs, pushchairs etc) is 1.8m; in theory, A boards on the public highway should be licensed by ESCC (those that have a sticker on the back) - however, these were likely to be few in number; if A boards do not have a licence they will not be insured; in certain circumstances, A Boards require advertisement consent; the CafeZara complainant had also written to Amber Rudd; the extension of businesses on to the public highway is, arguably, more important than the A boards issue – businesses with, for example, tables and chairs on a footway will not be paying business rates on that area; there were no known incidents of pedestrians coming into contact with A boards and being seriously injured.

RESOLVED (unanimous) To accept an offer from Cllrs John Breeds, Fiddimore and Foster to undertake an informal survey of A boards on the public highway.

Cllrs John Breeds, Fiddimore & Foster

62 FOOTPATH: OLD BRICKYARD

Cllr Fiddimore advised that, when ESCC consulted on its proposal to formally extend the Gilshaw Farm footpath through the Old Brickyard, residents warned that there could be safety issues. The Mason Road track is narrow and overhanging trees reduce light levels. There had, reportedly, been some 'near misses' involving vehicles and pedestrians. Residents liked the 'semi rural' feel to the area and were unlikely to support the track being tarmaced (which would increase traffic speed). Residents were concerned also about security issues and late night noise generated by footpath users. She noted that an informal path had been created from Valley Park to the Tilling Green Estate.

The discussion ensuing included the comments following: Jenners was in the process of laying a hard surfaced path from the new development to the Old Brickyard; it would be desirable – and appropriate – for RTC to consult with local residents directly; an alternative route from Valley Park could be created by removing fence panels at the end of Cooper Road and installing a culvert and bridge; 'diverting' the footpath around the Old Brickyard might increase sales at the estate shops; it was likely that Jempsons/Budgens (or the 'second supermarket') will be the preferred general food retailer for Valley Park residents and that, if undertaking the journey on foot, they will take the 'line of least resistance'.

RESOLVED To ask ESCC ROW to assess the situation as soon as possible – preferably jointly with RTC. Clerk

The meeting ended at 7.05pm.

Date.....

Chairman.....