

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning & Townscape Committee held at the Town Hall, Rye on Monday 8 August 2011**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE** Richard Farhall – Town Clerk; Cllrs Lord Ampthill, Granville Bantick and Mary Smith; PSCSO Neil Holden; Andy Hemsley – *Rye Observer*, 16 members of the public

*The meeting commenced at 6.33pm*

**28 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence – and the reason lodged with the Clerk – were accepted from Cllr Bernardine Fiddimore.

**29 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Shaun Rogers	<i>personal</i>	<b>RR/2011/1459/P</b>	Family members live opposite
Mary Smith	<i>personal</i>	<b>item 33</b>	Lives within the area to be considered

*The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public questions/comments. (See **Appendix**). The meeting reconvened.*

**30 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the Planning and Townscape meeting of 25 July 2011 (PT04) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**31 MATTERS ARISING**

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*143 Bus shelters (approaching HBC to establish if it had received reports of problems in respect of similar shelters in the vicinity of The Azure (St Leonards sea front Outstanding.*

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*20 New bus shelters: Crownfields (exploring modifications) See main agenda item – 35.*

32 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

- RR/2011/1117/P**  
(Del) 10 Cinque Ports Street, Rye  
Change of use from A1 to A3 (coffee shop/café).  
*Applicant: Mrs S Taylor, Oaks House, Hobbs Lane, Beckley*  
SUPPORT APPROVAL – but disappointed that the application is retrospective.
- RR/2011/1414/P**  
(Del) 58 Cinque Ports Street, Rye  
Change of use from offices to live/work use.  
*Applicant: Mr E J Underwood, Mill House, Mill Lane, Peasmarsh*  
SUPPORT APPROVAL
- RR/2011/1424/A**  
(Del) 11a High Street, Rye  
Replacement individual letters and logo, hanging sign and new opening hours sign to front elevation of bank.  
*Applicant: Mr Artin Hovsepian, 30<sup>th</sup> floor, 8 Canada Square, London*  
SUPPORT APPROVAL
- RR/2011/1450/P**  
(Del) 15 East Street, Rye  
Internal alterations as part of change of use from B&B accommodation back to private dwelling. Approved change of use application RR/2006/3339/P.  
*Applicant: Mrs Judith Smith, 15 East Street, Rye*  
SUPPORT APPROVAL
- RR/2011/1451/L**  
(Del) 15 East Street, Rye  
Internal alterations as part of change of use from B&B accommodation back to private dwelling. Approved change of use application RR/2006/3339/P.  
*Applicant: Mrs Judith Smith, 15 East Street, Rye*  
SUPPORT APPROVAL
- RR/2011/1459/P**  
(Del) River Haven Hotel, Winchelsea Road, Rye  
Proposed facilities.  
*Applicant: Mr Rashohi Omarhama, 1 Cornwallis Terrace, Hastings.*  
SUPPORT REFUSAL Out of keeping. The proposed structures are in a prominent position on a main town gateway and would have an adverse impact on the appreciation of users of the A259 as they approached an historic, Antient Town. The structures would harm the setting of the Rye Conservation Area.

### 33 STRAND QUAY: MOTORCYCLES

Members were invited to seek to clarify the Council's position in relation to the parking of motorcycles on Environment Agency land at Strand Quay - particularly in relation to the problems presented when the site reaches full capacity.

*The meeting was adjourned to allow PCSO Neil Holden to address the meeting. (See Appendix.) The meeting reconvened.*

The Mayor advised that the Reverend Dick Dengate (Churches Together) had floated the idea of a service on the EA land, for bikers, on the next Battle of Britain Memorial Day (18 September) – as a result of being approached by the Christian Bikers Association (affiliated to the British Legion) at the Kent County Show. The Mayor suggested that he might use this opportunity to establish positive communications and encourage bikers to 'self regulate'.

Cllr Souster suggested that no-one was saying that bikers should not visit the town; however, the EA which had, for many years, chosen not to dissuade bikers from parking on its land, had ignored the problems created when the site could not accommodate the numbers of visiting bikers. He suggested further that Rye would benefit from 'organised' tourism management (which could include responsibility for visiting bikers). The EA had admitted that allowing Ducati use of its land had been a mistake and it would now consult with RTC before accepting 'bookings'.

Cllr Eve considered that the EA should charge bikers for the facility offered – perhaps £1 to benefit local charities.

Cllr Kirkham reminded Members that bikers were reluctant to park their (expensive) machines at Gibbet Marsh, where they would be out of sight.

Cllr Jennings added that some residents and tourists like seeking the bikes.

It was acknowledged generally that a small minority of bikers only behave irresponsibly – by parking on pavements or riding without due care and attention – and that the town should avoid alienating the biking community.

The Clerk observed that the 'overspill' problem generally occurred just once a year (first May Bank Holiday) and that (other than the Farmers' Market and Maritime Festival) the EA would now liaise with RTC on other 'bookings'.

Speaking from the Gallery Cllr Mary Smith observed that, in the past, the Traffic Warden had tended to disregard bikes parked unlawfully. The noise of the bikes presented a nuisance to nearby residents – especially as it now echoes off the tidal defence wall. She added that bikers are not always members of clubs and that 'self policing' would be helpful.

**RESOLVED To discuss the matter informally with the EA's new  
Environment Manager for the area. Clerk**

**34 LITTER BINS**

The meeting was asked to consider how to take forward Rye LAP 'action item' 19 – 'Review the location and suitability of litter bins'. (*Referred from Council.*)

The Committee Chairman advised that he had undertaken a survey of litter bins, dog waste bins and benches throughout most of the parish. A number of the litter bins are open topped, giving access to seagulls.

Comments included: if RTC identified a need for new/replacement bins how would this be funded?; could the open-topped bins be fitted with some kind of a flap?; purpose-designed covers are available for filled bin liners left on pavements which are effective in deterring gulls; many of the problems associated with gulls scattering rubbish can be linked with those vacating holiday lets putting out bags too early (ie before the morning of collection).

**RESOLVED To ask the Committee Chairman to complete the survey with assistance from Cllr Fiddimore (if willing).**

**Cllr Adam Smith**

**35 NEW BUS SHELTERS: CROWNFIELDS**

The Clerk advised that the General Manager of the UK distributor was continuing not to return his calls. However, he had ascertained that the area representative for Glasdon Manufacturing would be in the area tomorrow and he had therefore arranged to meet the rep on site to explore whether the company could assist with modifications.

*The meeting ended at 7.34pm.*

Date.....

Chairman.....

**8 August 2011 (PT05)**

**Public Question Time**

*RR/2011/1459/P* John Izod expressed concern that the applicant was disregarding local opinion.

**33 STRAND QUAY: MOTORCYCLES**

*PCSO Neil Holden* (on behalf of PC Paul Fielder): Around a month ago the EA allowed Ducati to use its land for commercial purposes. This proved to be popular and resulted in bikers being unable to access the site, with some of them parking on pavements and the private land between Strand Court and the Heritage Centre. Unfortunately, the Police had not been given advance notice and the event coincided with the busiest day of the year at Camber, where there were 23 reports of lost children. Police resources were stretched.

The issue of bikes being parked illegally on pavements and around Strand Court had been raised at the last Police Priority Setting Panel meeting and had been adopted as a Police priority. The Police had subsequently distributed 50 survey forms to local residents. 12 had been returned – of which 7 referred to problems with the bikes. Local businesses, the Highways Agency and EA had also been consulted.

The EA had advised that no similar events would be approved and that any other bookings would be referred to RTC for its views.

The Police were concerned about the possible ramifications of bike access to the EA land being curtailed. The (occasional) problem of bikers parking on pavements and private land was likely to become more frequent and spread to other areas of the town. Some businesses are heavily dependent on the revenue generated from visiting bikers.

The Police had concluded that the problem of bikes 'over spilling' from EA land – and creating problems - was infrequent. They would monitor the impact of the upcoming Maritime Festival closely. Strand Court residents had been asked to report any problems with bikes to the Police and had been given contact information.

Peter Cosstick (HC Manager) advised that there had been two occasions during the year when there had been problems with a small minority of bikers indulging in anti-social behaviour (such as wheelies and parking on pavements/private land) – the first May Bank Holiday and the Ducati event.