

**Minutes of a Public Services Committee meeting held at the Town Hall, Rye on Monday 30 March 2009**

**PRESENT** Councillors **Granville Bantick (Committee Chairman)**, John Breeds (Deputy Mayor), Lorna Hall, Sonia Holmes, Paul Osborne, Frank Palmer, Sam Souster (Mayor)

Rosalind Collier (Rye Primary School), Cllr Bernardine Fiddimore (Marsh Link Action Group), PCSO Neil Holden (Sussex Police), John Izod (RTC Age Concern rep), David Reed (Landgate Association), Sonia Relf (Tillingham Valley & Neighbourhood Group), Cllr Mary Smith (bus services), Mandy Turner (Tilling Green Residents' Association – **Committee Vice Chairman**), Captain Paul Tyler (Church Army Schools and Churches Liaison Officer)

**IN ATTENDANCE** Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Andy Hemsley – *Rye Observer*

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*The meeting commenced at 8.17*

**31 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Brian Elliott, Shaun Rogers and Cllr David Wright (Landgate Association).

**32 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Cllr Lorna Hall            *personal*            **item 35a)**            Informal member of group and lives within its beneficial area

**33 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meeting of 5 January 2009 (PS03) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**34 MATTERS ARISING**

*Page 2*

*26a) Crime & Disorder: Rye & District Police-Parish Liaison Group/Meeting* The Clerk advised that Insp Lyons was minded to reinstate the Rother Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Forum.

**35 CO-OPTIONS**

**(a) Tillingham Valley & Neighbourhood Group**

**RESOLVED To co-opt Sonia Relf.**

## 36 CRIME & DISORDER

### (a) Rye & District Police-Parish Liaison Group/Meeting

The Clerk advised that Insp Lyons was considering reinstating this group/meeting.

### (b) Rye Local Action Team

The LAT Chairman, Cllr Holmes reported that the Open Meeting on 31 January at the Community Centre had been successful. Stallholders included Sussex Police, the PCT and Rye Local Action Plan. The last formal LAT meeting had also been positive.

### (c) Policing in Rye

PCSO Holden advised that a handful of younger people (one as young as 11) was responsible for much of the low level anti social behaviour and criminal damage. He was aware of problems behind the Queen Adelaide and had stepped up patrols. There were fewer problems associated with licensed premises.

Speed checks had taken place recently on New Road, Udimore Road and Rye Hill. The Rye area would shortly take possession of a SID machine – possible deployment locations had yet to be assessed.

Responding to complaints, he had issued a considerable number of tickets to drivers parking unlawfully in West Street.

Cllr Hall observed that there had been two suspicious fires at the top of Rye Hill.

Responding to a point made by the Mayor, PCSO Holden explained that there were insufficient resources to deal satisfactorily with issues associated with some motorcyclists.

Cllr John Breeds flagged up incidences of underage street drinking. There had been suggestions that alcohol was being stolen from Jempsons because it was so close to the entrance. PCSO would investigate.

## 37 VOLUNTARY SECTOR ISSUES

Committee members received Gina Sanderson's (tabled) report (*Appendix A*).

Concern was expressed that Animate was not being fully utilised. This was attributed to diminishing funding opportunities.

**RESOLVED To convey this concern to the Chairman of Animate, Cllr Glazier at the upcoming Annual Town Meeting.**

## 38 MARSH LINK

Cllr Fiddimore explained that she had been unable to attend the last Steering Group meeting of the Marsh Link Action Group because she has difficulty getting from work for its 6pm start time. Referring to the Group's Minutes and other papers, she reported that the Group was attempting to 're-brand' itself and was considering a change of name to Marsh Line Passenger (or User) Group. A membership drive (including family and student membership) and a new web site were also planned. Cllr Bantick advised that he had attended the Group's meeting and spoke to highlights from his report (*Appendix B*).

John Izod had recently joined the Steering Group and observed that the 6pm meeting start time prevented some key rail users – commuters - from getting involved.

It was noted that the new rail franchise was due to commence February 2010.

**39 TRANSPORT SEMINAR**

Cllrs Holmes and Smith had attended the ESCC Transport Seminar held on 24 March in Uckfield. They had traveled by car: Cllr Smith had determined that the town is very difficult to access by public transport from Rye.

The seminar focused on a number of issues – including speed management in rural areas. ESCC was intending to focus on prevention – eg educating drivers – as well as enforcement. ESCC is also lobbying for improvements to the A27.

ESCC is prioritising reviewing passenger and community transport. £250,000 is being made available for community transport pilot schemes and another £50,000 (Rural Bus Challenge money) for 'implementation systems'. Cllr Smith expressed her hope that the review would not result in the loss of good commercial passenger transport services. Cllr Holmes and Smith had taken then opportunity to raise Rye issues – such as access to services and better integration of rail and bus services.

Mandy Turner advised that the cost of a taxi from Tilling Green to the Rye Medical Centre (Rye Hill) was now around £10 return. John Izod responded that the surgery was happy to 'accommodate' its patients – including make provision if there had been delays to travel plans. The surgery had received very few complaints about accessibility since its relocation. Cllr Smith suggested that some patients with access issues had not complained formally. Cllr John Breeds observed that it was not unusual for patients to rely on family, friends and neighbours for lifts to/from medical appointments – it was more comfortable to travel by car than public transport.

Paul Tyler observed that Rye College has difficulty running after school clubs because of inadequate public transport provision.

**40 EMERGENCY PLANNING**

The Clerk had concluded that, given his workload, the production of a Rye Emergency Plan was unlikely to be achieved in the foreseeable future without the administration of REACT being passed to another with more time. He was pleased to report that John Holbrook had offered to take on this role.

*The meeting ended at 9.05*

Date.....

Chairman.....

**Report on issues for the voluntary sector within Rye**  
**Gina Sanderson 30.03.09**

Following the review of the Youth Development Service work is now going forward YDS are working closely with both **Animate** (to offer Youth Access Centre – information and guidance on a wide range of services including health) and **Rye Boys Club** (2 evenings per week)

East Sussex County Council Adult Social Care is working closely with voluntary organisations and user groups to look at ways forward with the changes to social care funding – which gives individuals greater choice and flexibility in the way services are delivered. In particular they are recognising the needs of carers will change and are working with local voluntary **Care for the Carers** groups including Rye.

Hastings and Rother PCT have employed local 'Lifestyle Change Advisers' with one based in Rye to work with people who have a long term medical condition who would benefit from a more active lifestyle – and links this to opportunities that are available locally. New opportunities include the development of a **Mature Movers** session in Rye on a Thursday Morning and water therapy session on Wednesday afternoon. (based with **Freedom Leisure** a local not for profit organisation) there are also the regular **Health Walks** (led by trained volunteers) each Monday.

They also hope to be developing Healthy Eating courses to run out of Animate

**COPEs** (Children's Outreach and Parents Extended Support Service) is a project run by **Action in rural Sussex** and working closely with schools in the Rye area to support children and their families with issues such as family breakdown, bereavement, problems at school, confidence & self esteem, bullying, managing anger and supporting effective communication between parents and school.

Recession issues:

**RVA** is working with **CVS** across East Sussex to look at the impact of the economic downturn on voluntary organisations in the county. Here is some of the information we have received:

**Rother CAB** have recorded a 33% increase in debt enquiries in the last quarter;

**Hastings & Rother Family Mediation Service** have seen increases in the number of couples separating and divorcing as they have been hit by the credit crunch

Voluntary organisations have contacted RVA regarding:

loss of income through the loss of interest payments on savings accounts;

major issues with loss of value of other (share based) investments held;

downturn in donations received and loss of legacy income;

fear that procurement opportunities with statutory agencies will decline

Voluntary organisations are also reporting growing demand for their services.

Redundancies within the sector locally are still quite small although some organisations are choosing not to recruit when someone leaves. **St Michael's Hospice** is expecting to make up to 12 people redundant following losses in income of £400,000, they have also instituted a pay freeze for remaining workers.

National figures show:

Cancellation of Direct debit payments to charities skyrocketed by 67%

Corporate giving has plunged by 34%

52% of charities say their income has fallen

East Sussex Trading Standards have set up a specialist Illegal Money Lending Team to hunt down loan sharks as they have become aware of increased activity in the area. They are asking for local help: Firstly, if you know of any information relating to loan shark activity in your area, please, in the strictest of confidence, 0300 555 2222 or text 'loan (space) shark (space) + your message' to 60003'. Secondly, can you help spread the word? Contact Jo Clarke on 07833 059 280 to book a meeting/presentation, or to order posters for your organisation.

Finally there are a number of small grant opportunities

GRASSROOTS funding through **Sussex Community Foundation**

SEEDCORN funding – through the **CVS Partnership**

Hastings and Rother PCT Small Grants

Rother Community Grants

Awards for All closes in its present form tomorrow – we will update you on the replacement funds which will be available separately through the Sports, Heritage, Arts and BIG lottery – overall measures are being taken to simplify the process for local groups.

Information can be found on the **RVA** website [www.rvaonline.co.uk](http://www.rvaonline.co.uk)

## **Marshlink Steering Group Meeting** **at Hastings Town Hall, 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2009**

The meeting of the Marshlink Steering Committee had been meeting every six months but in view of the changes resulting from the reorganisation of the Sussex Community Rail Partnership (CRP) under a new structure and matters which need to be addressed more frequently meetings in future were agreed to be quarterly.

The Chairman, Nigel Whitburn, was re-elected for a further year. The Chairman of Sussex CRP, Tim Sparrow, gave a lengthy report and gave the Group an update on the franchise which would be in place by the 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2010. He said the most likely outcome was that it would go to either Northern or Southern. It was less likely that National Express would as it was apparently having problems and was "struggling". Likewise Stagecoach was finding it difficult at the moment.

Funding the CRP, which was a perennial problem, was being helped by Kent and East and West Sussex County Councils, but their current funding stream would terminate at the end of June, 2009. Alternative funding streams were being sought. The administration is carried out by Sussex CRP which receives the money. There was a better sharing of responsibilities under the new structure. A web site was being worked up and would be advertised shortly.

The Development Officer for Marshlink, Sam Bryant, said there were several boxes of Line Guides still not distributed. Kevin Boorman from 1066 Tourism said he considered any further distributions should not be made as the current version of the Line Guide was becoming out of date. There would be a new won printed next year. In the meantime he suggested an abbreviated one be printed which he would organise which would overcome the problem. This was agreed.

There was to be Community Rail Month organised from 15<sup>th</sup> May – 12<sup>th</sup> June. On the weekend of the 6/7<sup>th</sup> June there would be a special event including a fair ground in a station car park and special buses laid on to take people from the stations to the local heritage centres. Details would shortly be announced by Sam Bryant.

There were discussions regarding Three Oaks, Doleham and Winchelsea stations as to their viability for trains to stop at these stations. Whilst there was a case for Three Oaks and Winchelsea stations it was generally agreed that there was a good case to drop Doleham as few passengers used it. It was pointed out that the times for the occasional stops at Doleham were not very practical which might account for its poor use.

There was to be a new 711 bus to come on stream shortly called "The Wave" which would be more user friendly.