

Minutes of a Public Services Committee meeting held at the Town Hall, Rye on Monday 13 September 2010

PRESENT Councillors John Breeds (Mayor), Lorna Hall (Deputy Mayor), Sonia Holmes, Mary Smith (**Committee Chairman**)

PC Paul Fielder (Sussex Police) *[part]*; John Holbrook (REACT); John Izod (Rye Community Centre); Captain Paul Tyler (Church Army Schools & Churches Liaison Officer) (**Committee Vice Chairman**); John Shersby (Tillingham Valley & Neighbourhood Group); Janet Sherwood (Tilling Green Residents' Association & Ferry Road PPG)

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Cllr Granville Bantick; 11 members of the public; Alice Henderson (ESCC Waste Operations Team Manager) *[part]*

The meeting commenced at 6.56pm

14 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence – and the reasons lodged with the Clerk – were accepted from Cllrs Brian Elliott, Paul Osborne (Age Concern) and David Wright (Landgate Association).

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Keith Glazier (ESCC), Anthony Kimber (emergency planning) and Tony Moore (Ferry Road PPG)

15 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Mary Smith *personal* **item 20** FE Centre Action Group member

It was agreed to bring forward consideration of item 19 to allow PC Fielder to return to active duty.

19 CRIME & DISORDER

(a) Crime & Anti Social Behaviour Meeting

The Clerk advised that there had been no meeting since the Committee had last met – the next being scheduled for 30 September.

(b) Rye Priority Setting Panel

Cllr Smith observed that the Panel had now met 3 times. Two Councillors and two members of the public only had attended the last meeting at the Community Centre (10 September).

PC Fielder accepted that they had not been well-attended – and were not representative - but advised that the Police were intending to persevere with the format. The meetings had potential and more resources would be devoted to publicising them. At the last meeting, residents had flagged up ASB

behaviour as their main concern. The Panel had been helpful in attracting funding to tackle ASB and there was also a possibility of obtaining funding for graffiti removal kits.

It was suggested that a Friday evening was not the best time for meetings and that Rye PIG could be used to publicise the date of the next meeting (13 December).

RESOLVED To ask the Clerk to remind Public Services Committee members of the date nearer the time. Clerk

(c) Policing in Rye

PC Fielder advised that, thanks to information received from members of the public, the Police swiftly arrested an individual later charged with robbing the HSBC in the High Street on the afternoon of 9 September. Two local males had been interviewed in connection with the Cricket/Football Pavilion arson attack and the CID investigation was continuing.

Criminal damage & ASB between April-August 2010 was down 25% on the previous year. There was no change in reported burglaries. Violent crime had doubled to 21 offences (including domestic violence linked to the World Cup).

The Committee Chairman expressed concern about police officer and PCSO time being spent on 'traffic warden duties'. PC Fielder responded that this comment (made also at the last panel meeting) would be made known to CI Keating.

PC Fielder advised that PCSO Holden would not be transferring to Bexhill.

(d) Local custody facilities

The Committee Chairman reminded members that in 2001-02 Sussex Police entered into a 30-year contract with Reliance, worth c£90m. A small group had met with CI Keating to discuss concerns about officer time being taken up transporting those arrested to the Hastings suite (or further afield). If police numbers are reduced this could leave Rye, on occasions, with limited police cover. It was understood the Treasury currently subsidises the PFI contract; however, it was reasonable to suppose that this could be at risk.

CI Keating had highlighted the substantial savings that Sussex Police was being asked to achieve over the coming years and had emphasised the desire of the Chief Constable to protect neighbourhood policing. The group had asked CI Keating to take forward its concerns.

Paul Tyler reported that it had been announced earlier in the day that Sussex Police was looking to reduce staffing by 1 in seven.

RECOMMENDATION That the situation be monitored.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to hear from Alice Henderson (AH), ESCC Waste Operations Team Manager. (alice.henderson@eastsussex.gov.uk)

AH advised that, after she had outlined waste collection provision and responsibilities, she would like to hear local views on the subject.

- ESCC manages Household Waste Recycling and waste management/ landfill sites
- ESCC is the Waste Disposal Authority and is party to a 30-year agreement with East Sussex Brighton & Hove Authority and Veolia
- RDC manages the small recycling sites and kerbside collections
- There is considerable joint working
- There are some gaps in the provision of HWR sites across the county

Cllr Hall advised that she had first raised the problem of disposing of bulky waste in Rye over 3 years ago. Recently she had to dispose of a quantity of waste fly tipped on her land and had found it easier to go to Ashford (with comprehensive facilities for both domestic and commercial waste) than the nearest recommended facility in Sussex (Eastbourne).

The Mayor commented that it can be frustrating going to Mountfield and finding that it does not accept your waste – eg plasterboard. This can lead to fly-tipping close to the site. AH responded that East Sussex facilities are currently licensed only to accept domestic waste and that, by law, plasterboard has to be separated on site.

A number of people highlighted the 'bring to' facility at Lydd which is available 10-4 Saturdays and Sundays – and is in constant use.

Cllr Smith suggested that the cost of providing such a facility could be offset by selling the scrap metal content of items received – such as white goods. Possible locations for a 'bring to' facility included: Tilling Green, at the front – or behind – The School Creative Centre and Gibbet Marsh Car Park. It would reduce fly tipping in the area (making Rye more attractive to tourists) and reduce vehicle journeys. Rye had been asking for this kind of facility for 20 years.

Cllr Mathew Locke is the Lead ESCC Cabinet Member with the Waste portfolio.

Cllr Smith observed that many authorities are now composting food waste. AH advised that a new facility was being built at Whitesmith (nr Maresfield) which would initially process green waste – and then food waste.

Responding to a question put by Cllr Smith, AH advised that recycling tetrapaks was technically difficult and there are very few facilities available.

16 BULK WASTE

RECOMMENDATION To ask Alice Henderson to take away the comments made and consider how the community's desire for a 'bring to' facility could be taken forward.

AH undertook to provide a progress report in time for the next meeting.

17 MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meeting of 7 June 2010 (PS01) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

18 MATTERS ARISING

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3 Neighbourhood Watch, Recommendation (appointing a Councillor as RTC's Rother NHW contact)

RECOMMENDATION To accept Cllr Holmes's offer.

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12 Memorial Care Centre, Recommendation (asking the PCT for its staff adverse weather policy) Cllr Glazier had arranged for a copy of the policy to be provided to the Council. Cllr Smith reminded members that residents had expressed concern that Care Centre staff had not been paid last winter because of difficulties getting to Bexhill during periods of snow/ice.

It was noted that the PCT's Senior Partner had advised Cllr Glazier that the policy makes provision for staff to be paid if they are unable to come into work. It was agreed generally that it would be inappropriate for RTC to involve itself with issues around another organisation's terms and conditions of employment. Additionally, RTC had no first hand evidence of staff not being paid.

20 FURTHER EDUCATION CENTRE

The Clerk advised that RTC had asked South Coast College Hastings to clarify its intentions for the Lion Street site. The College had responded advising that it needed to firstly analyse the results of its recent adult/further educational needs survey.

The Committee Chairman invited Mike Eve to outline a proposal drafted by the Fletcher Theatre Community Interest Company entailing acquisition of the Lion Street site to retain the FE Centre and add a cinema with bar/care. *(See Appendix.)*

The CIC anticipated that the cinema/arts facility would attract some of the c800 visitors staying in Rye every weekend. The CIC had not yet discussed the proposal informally with the Planning Authority and was currently dealing with the Clerk to the Governors.

The Clerk advised that there was another not-for-profit group interested in acquiring the site and he had taken steps to put the two groups in contact with each other.

RECOMMENDATION That the Council notes developments with interest and that a copy of the proposal be provided to all Councillors.

Clerk

21 EMERGENCY PLANNING

(a) REACT

REACT Secretary, John Holbrook advised that Part 2 of the Plan had progressed further and that a number of area-based volunteers had been identified.

Because Southern Water still had no plan for providing adequate sewerage to service the Valley Park development – and especially in view of the sewage pipe collapse in Udimore Road – the focus of the (Tilling Green area) flooding public meeting at Rye Community Centre, 29 September, 7pm would

be widened to incorporate sewage disposal. Southern Water, the Drainage Board and Environment Agency would all be represented.

Cllr Bantick (REACT member) advised that he could provide additional event publicity posters and would be delivering flyers to households in Udimore Road, the Old Brickyard and Tilling Green.

(b) Community Emergency Planning Conference, Eastbourne, 18 November

It was noted that the REACT Chairman, Anthony Kimber was the keynote speaker. John Holbrook intended to attend.

22 MARSH LINK

Cllr Smith advised that the Marsh Link Action Group had not met recently but, at its next meeting, members would be considering the new Southern timetable. She would be attending the Southern Conference on 20 September.

The meeting ended at 8.10pm

Date.....

Chairman.....

BRIEFING PAPER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE OF RYE TOWN COUNCIL

Prepared by Fletcher Theatre CIC in consultation with the Rye FE Group

Subject : Lion Street FE Centre

INTRODUCTION

The current position of the FE Centre is that many in the community wish to retain and expand it's use while South Coast College Hastings (SCCH) have an unchanged position in that they wish to dispose of it for financial reasons.

SCCH continue to disappoint in that they are providing inadequate, and on occasions inaccurate, information in response to requests from the Town Council and the Rye FE Group. They have refused to commit to providing daytime facilities for 2011 and have not come forward with concrete plans for which they are seeking community support or planning permission.

The campaign for retention of the site has been, and still is, very active and is backed by Rye Town Council subject to finding a sustainable financial situation.

The arguments around providing Adult Education facilities at either the FE Centre or Rye College are somewhat tactical as neither can bring a major improvement in the range of facilities available to the residents of Rye and it's 1 million plus visitors.

PROPOSAL

With this dilemma in mind a number of members of the Fletchers Theatre Group and the Rye FE Group came to the conclusion that a more radical solution was required to take full advantage of the opportunity available.

The result of these deliberations was that Fletcher Theatre CIC should seek to acquire the whole site from SCCH on behalf of Rye. The objective being to create the FLETCHER ARTS AND EDUCATION CENTRE. The plan would be to retain and develop the current Adult Educational facilities and historic Art Room while creating a purpose built Cinema with associated live performance facilities for Music and Drama plus supporting bar/café. Capacity would also exist for exhibitions, seminars and conferences.

We would suggest that this project would have great economic and social benefit to Rye and would be a fitting long term use of the legacy left to us by the Meryons. Because of our status as a Community Interest Company, the assets, including the buildings, would remain permanently for community use.

CURRENT POSITION

1. The FTCIC team have prepared outline drawings and established a layout which would appear to confirm that a configuration can be established to enable

a 100-120 seat cinema to be at the core of the facility

2. An Outline Financial Analysis indicates that the Centre can be financially viable with a professional, paid management team in place and therefore able to build its range of services offered and ensure proper control and governance
3. An Application has been made to The Social Investment Business-The Community Builders Fund for funds for a detailed Feasibility Study and project implementation. Other sources, both public and private will be sought.
4. A letter has been sent to the Chair of the Governors of SCCH expressing our interest in principle in acquiring the site and explaining why we think that this is a good solution for all parties. The Chair, Mr Melsom, is currently on vacation until 22/09/10 and therefore await a response

WHERE NEXT

1. We would hope that Rye Town Council will actively support this initiative and promote support from District and County levels.

I am sure it is understood that turning this into a reality will be very challenging and that wide ranging support from the people of Rye; their elected representatives and influential local organisations will be vital and therefore an active process of consultation is important.

2. Clearly the cooperation of SCCH is vital and at this stage we have no view of their Financial aspirations although we clearly have our own views on what would be fair taking into account all the circumstances and history
3. The FTCIC team will be seeking additional professional support, particularly in relationship to architectural and engineering disciplines

WHO LOSES OUT?

No one.

1. The adult education facilities in Rye are retained, renovated and improved. Jobs are created, including a dedicated Adult Education Officer.
2. A modern 100 cinema is created – a destination for all the people of Rye and the surrounding communities and a reason for visitors to stay a little longer and spend a little more.
3. SCCH gets to dispose of a costly building at an agreed figure and is seen as being a partner in saving an important asset for Rye.
4. The whole site is protected by the CIC status of the operation and will therefore remain in the Community.

OUR TEAM

The Directors of Fletcher Theatre CIC and others closely involved in the project are listed below with brief details of their experience.

YOUR HELP

If you would like to help please let us know. Our website is

www.fletchertheatre.co.uk

Mike Eve

13/09/10

Michael Eve

Retired CEO of UK's largest Insurance Broker. Wide experience in financial services and consulting. Currently chairman of Heirtrace – a leading asset re-unification company.

Peter Horne

Retired Technical and Production Director of Glyndebourne. Wide experience of theatre, ballet and opera production in Canada, USA and Europe.

Hugh Kermod

Loughborough University graduate. Trained as an actor at The Webber Douglas Academy and worked widely as an actor before becoming a presenter and producer for BBC World Service, GLR and LDN. Also director of BBC English Road Show travelling widely with various shows. Now active in Arts journalism and leadership training.

Stuart Harland

A long career in banking specialising in project finance. Ran EMEA region for major Japanese bank. After retiring became a trained mediator and chairman of Funeral Planning Authority(FSA regulated)

Heidi Foster

Educated and came to UK at 16. Wide experience of community youth work in UK and USA. Also managed a theatre in Deptford. Very active fundraiser and volunteer in Rye working with all age groups.

Dee Alsey

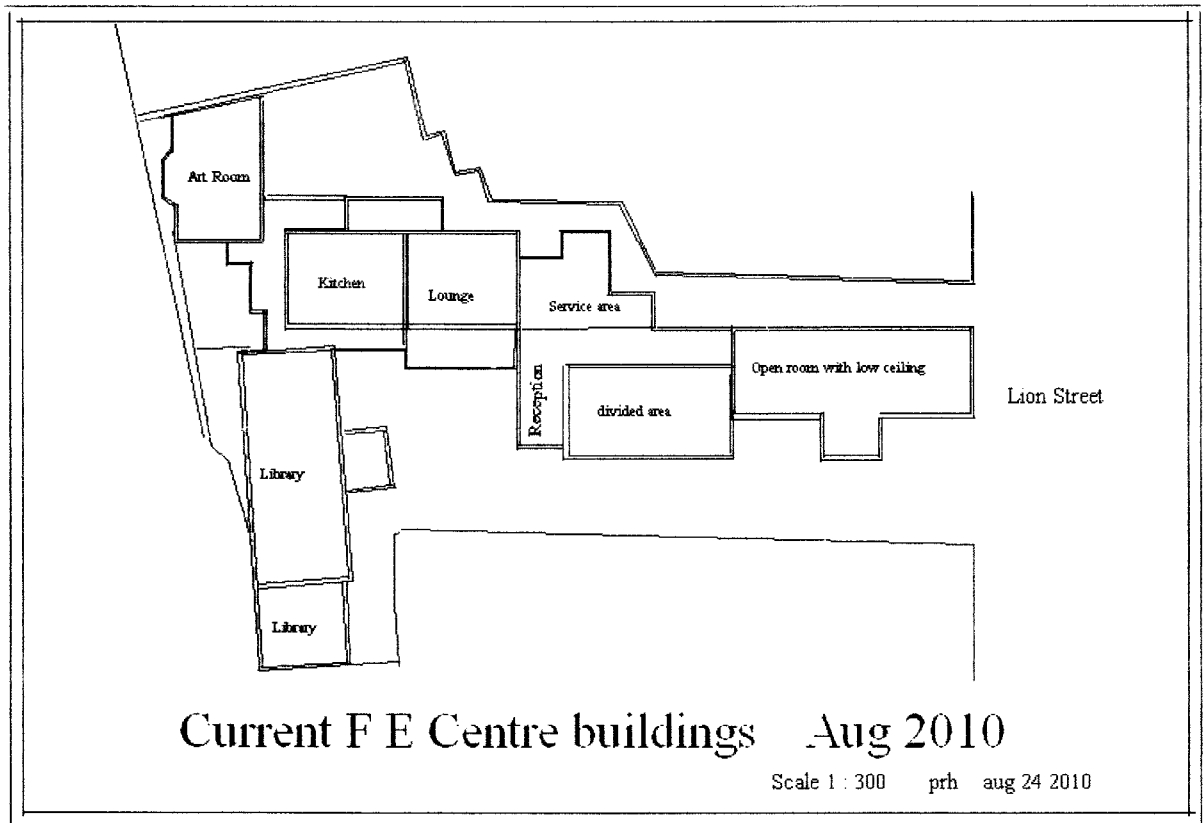
Qualified and worked as Business/IT lecturer and is an NVQ Assessor and Verifier. Spent 10 years as E-business manager of London Enterprise Agency. Now runs her own web design and training company working for many Rye organisations.

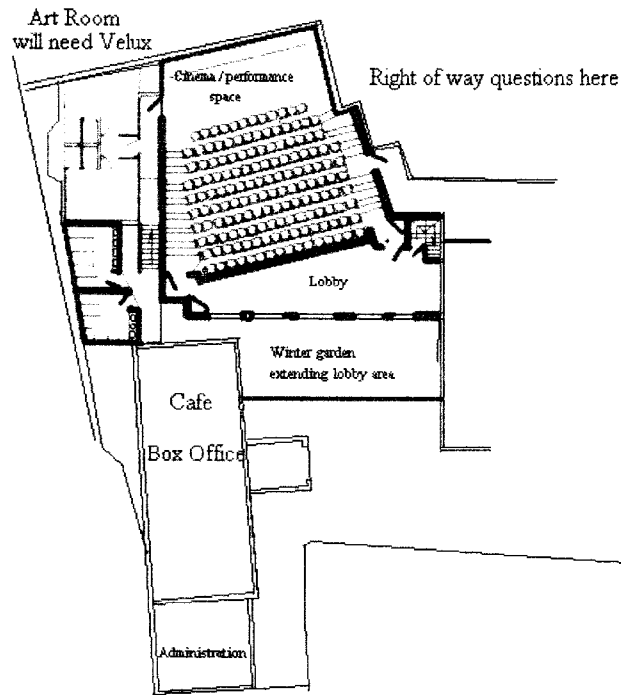
Dilys Mayor

Dilys is the leader of Rye Players and The Rye Shakespeare Players and has written and produced many shows.

Freddie Lees

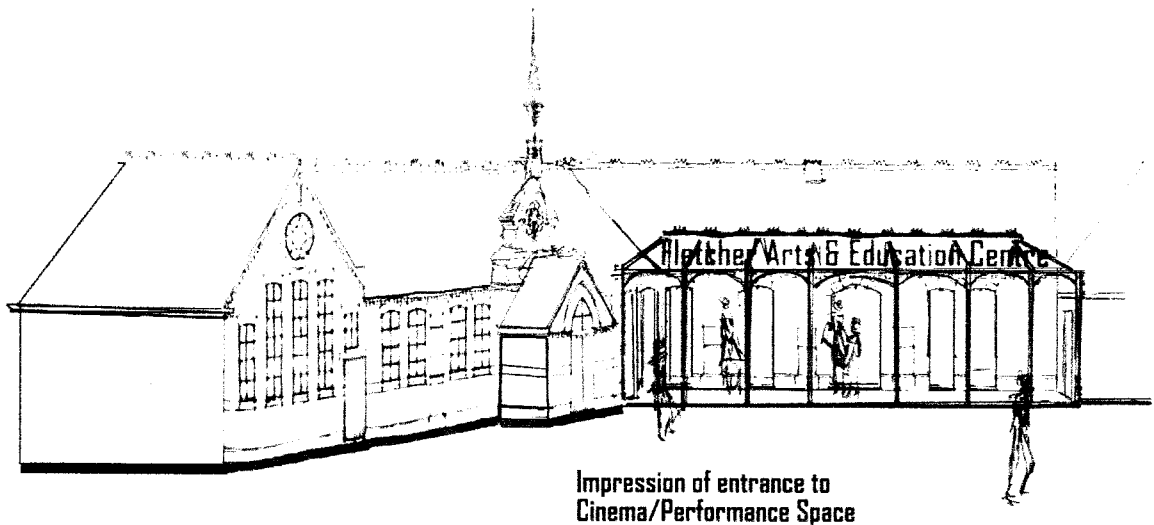
Freddie was the founder of the group. He had a long career as a diplomat in the Far East and subsequently has become a successful author.





this scheme utilizes the Old Library and the kitchen cafe area of t
Keeping the Art Room and excavating the rear of the property
to allow the rake of the seating and create the dressing room space
under the existing Art Room

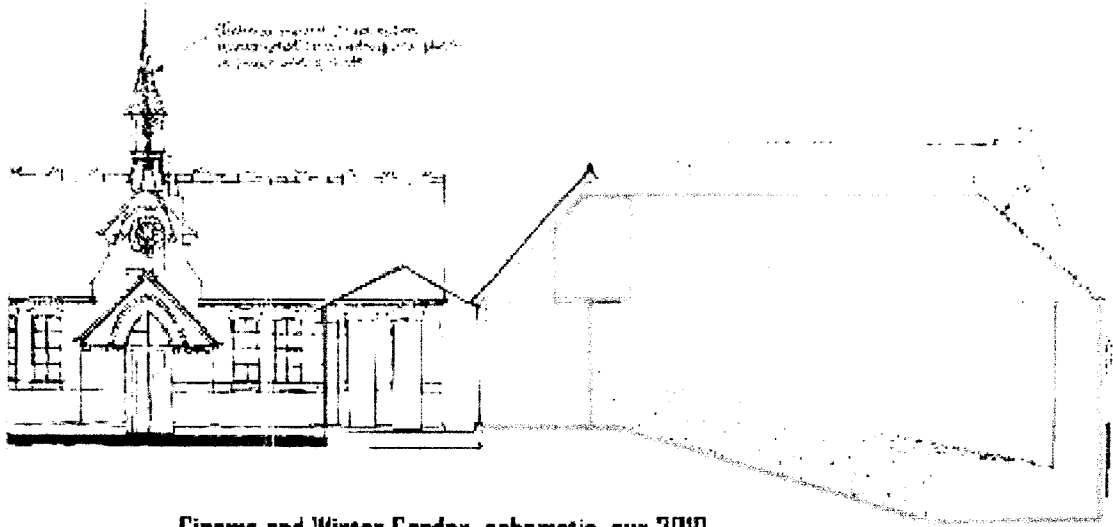
The Fletcher Arts and Education Centre



The Fletcher Arts and Education Centre

Rye East Sussex

Aug 2010



Cinema and Winter Garden schematic aug 2010