PROS ITEM 59

RYE FM

Community Radio for Rye and the surrounding villages

5 West Undercliff, RYE TN31 7DX Tel: 07973 284338

Councillor Sam Souster
96 Udimore Road
RYE
TN31 7DX

25th February 2010

Dear Councillor Souster

You may be aware that Rye FM recently won a five year Community Radio licence for Rye and the surrounding villages. The team behind this successful bid includes radio professionals with experience working in the BBC and Commercial Radio. Once launched we plan to offer a comprehensive range of entertainment and information to the people of Rye including contributions from all local schools, youth groups, clubs and societies in our area.

We also plan to cover Rye Town Council's activities to enable the public to gain a more balanced view of its work and proceedings. Ofcom regulations mean that we, unlike newspapers, have to maintain balance and fairness at all times so we believe that a close working relationship between ourselves can only benefit all concerned.

We hope to invite you and your fellow councillors individually into the studio as a regular feature to let the public know what you have been doing on their behalf. We would also like to investigate the possibility of recording major Council meetings for later broadcast either on the main FM signal or, more likely – to enable us to broadcast them in full, via a dedicated Internet channel but promoted by the station.

Whilst we will hope to cover some aspects of Rye Town Council's work in the course of normal programming, the station will have to generate an income to survive and therefore we would also like to discuss the possibility of an annual agreement in relation to paid for advertising. Such a Service Level Agreement would enable the Council to have a guarantee that messages that they want the public to hear will be broadcast.

We appreciate that the Council has very tight budgets but we think that Rye FM will offer value for money and, speed. Should the Council need a message disseminated in a hurry we can get it on the air almost immediately – much quicker than any print medium.

At this early stage we are also looking for help to get on the air. The main requirement, apart from money, is premises. We are currently searching for free or very low cost accommodation for the station in Rye town itself – a tall order we realise! Rye FM aims to become an integral part of the community and we feel that it is important to be central and visible.

Whilst not wanting to be a drain on the local community we would appreciate any assistance that the Council may be able to provide be it monetary or in kind. If you know of any possible premises we'd be delighted to know about them.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the aims and objectives of the station in full and, as we know that there is no full Council meeting for quite a while, would suggest that we convene a special meeting in Rye to which you would all be invited. As there is considerable cross-over between Rye Town Council, Rother District Council and East Sussex County Council we would propose to invite local representatives of all these organisations to the same meeting.

If, in the meantime, you have any questions about our plans I would be happy to answer them in person at any time. You may contact me via the email address at the head of this letter or by telephone on 07973 284338.

We do hope that Rye FM can develop a close working relationship with Rye Town Council and look forward to meeting you soon.

Yours sincerely

Andrew J Bantock
Station Manager

RYE TOWN COUNCIL *AGENDA PR05 ITEM 60*

FOR INFORMATION

60 MATTERS ARISING

Page 3

50 Work Programme (re-instating RDC-RTC Liaison meeting) Actioned.

51 Devolved Services (enlisting the assistance of the Rye District Councillors to progress the devolved services discussion Actioned.

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53 Quality Council status, Recommendation (forming working group) See main agenda item **68**)

54 Rye Cemetery (asking RDC if the older area could be re-used for burials) Actioned.

55 'Dungeness C' (asking if the appropriate Minister if its 'omission' from the list of preferred sites could be re-considered) Not actioned - will do so a month after the General Election.

56 Community Rail Partnership (advising that it will need to approach the Mayor for free lets as and when required) Actioned.

7.4.10