

Rye Neighbourhood Plan

Dear Members, as we are well into the Reg 14 consultation I have been taking stock of issues arising.

Policies

- following the extensive BP comments we will need to revisit housing numbers; mixed site allocations and our allocation for second supermarket and fuel station/food outlet, to ensure that the policies hang together. One question I have is that now that Jempsons have completed their extension (around 1500 sq m) and we know from contacts that no other supermarket is likely to come to Rye, should we seek authority to drop the 2nd supermarket allocation? Instead, should we focus on a specific allocation for a petrol station and a 500 sq m 24/7 food outlet, to strengthen our allocation of part of a mixed site on the A259? (please see my paper on the website)
- there have been objections to the allocation of both Freda Gardham and Gibbet Marsh in the Plan. This links to the above. We will have to ensure that our arguments stack up and that no alternative allocations allow us to meet the targets set by Rother.

Aspirations

- several in the Citadel object to any suggestion of one way systems (or any forms of traffic control) to cope with increasing traffic flows. The current situation not only endangers pedestrians and homeowners but also results in significant damage to pavements and kerbs, repairs to which, tax payers have to pay (see the current expensive repairs ongoing in West St). An alternative might be aspire to have more bollards to confine traffic to the cobbles and keep them off pavements. Clearly in narrow parts this would mean meeting vehicles having to give way and reverse out to allow flow. Given that Rye TC is setting on a consultant to look at issues in the Station Approach, this may be another area where some technical advice would be helpful.
- The A259 groups remain active. Sadly they called off meetings during the snowy weather. With growing disquiet about air pollution, we should reconsider this in the context of the Plan.
- The Greenway: Dominic Manning and myself have yet to meet with ESCC and Rother officers to talk through the feasibility study and work out whether some of the money held for the project can be committed to preliminary design and approvals, perhaps with some first stage construction as we consider that the project lends itself to staged implementation.

Other

- Several of the Statutory Consultees have responded without any adverse comment but there will be more to come.

- Some may have seen the comprehensive consultation document circulated by the Conservation Society. My concern is that it offers significant steering away from some of our policies which could be seen as pressing for an alternative Plan. Given that the Society has not actively contributed to our work and certainly not represented its views to date, I find this rather frustrating. With both committee and ordinary members living out of the Parish (and therefore non voting) we will have to decide what weight to give any response when it comes.

Locality has just refreshed its guidance on bidding for support in 2018. I intend to bid for further support in April, primarily to help with tackling some of the above.

[New Neighbourhood Planning programme & changes to My Community - everything you need to know - My Community](#)

Finally some will know that the Seddlescombe plan has just passed its Referendum and becomes the first NP made in Rother District.

I will report more as progress is made and will convene a RNPSG meeting once the Reg 14 period is closed.

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