

Rye Town Council

Town Hall Rye East Sussex TN31 7LA

01797 223902

townhall@ryetowncouncil.gov.uk

www.ryetowncouncil.gov.uk



Community Engagement: Statement of Intent

1 The community

For the purpose of this Statement the terms 'the community' and 'community members' include:

- Those residing and working within the Parish of Rye
- Businesses based within the Parish, including their representative bodies
- Users of Town Council services
- 'Temporary' members of the community – particularly visitors
- Community and interest groups
- Voluntary and not-for-profit organisations
- Church and faith groups
- Educational establishments and providers
- Those providing other public or quasi public services within the Parish

2 Aims

Rye Town Council seeks to:

- Work more closely with community members
- Engage with as many people as practicable who wish to participate in community decision-making – particularly in relation to the provision of services and facilities, both now and in the future
- Ensure that, through a variety of community engagement techniques, the Council actively encourages the involvement of community members in order to ascertain their views and concerns - thereby informing the Council's decision-making

3 Objectives

This Statement of Intent forms part of the Council's strategy of creating, maintaining and developing effective working relationships with all sectors of the community based on trust, openness and constructive challenge. Outcomes of this strategy should include:

- Enhanced communication through the introduction of suitable channels of engagement where they did not already exist
- Greater awareness amongst community members of the role of the Council
- Improved interaction with community members, with more people feeling that they are involved in decisions affecting the community
- Improved satisfaction with public services

4 Provision of information and opportunities for community involvement

- The Council's office, based at the Town Hall (Market Street, Rye TN31 7LA), is open to the public Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm – and at other times by appointment

- The Council's website www.ryetowncouncil.gov.uk contains a wide range of information about the Council and its work – including agendas and minutes, news, policies, publications and planning applications. Its sister website www.ryeheritage.co.uk provides information about the Council's principal operation: Rye Heritage Education and Information Centre
- The Council may be contacted by telephone on 01797 223902 (out of hours voicemail) or email - townhall@ryetowncouncil.gov.uk.
- The Council publishes an Annual Report which summaries its activities over the preceding year and its accounts. It is distributed to every household in the Parish and left at key locations within the town
- Town Councillors' contact details appear within the Annual Report and on the Town Hall noticeboard
- Members of the public are encouraged to attend the Council's meetings, which commence (usually fortnightly) at 6.30pm on a Monday evening. At meetings of the full Council and the Planning & Townscape Committee meetings there is an adjournment to allow members of the public to express concerns and ask questions

5 Opportunities for formal representation

- The Council welcomes presentations from local groups on matters of concern/interest at meetings of the Council. Unless the presentation is for information only, normally Councillors will consider the matter presented at the same meeting. In the first instance the Clerk should be contacted to discuss arrangements.
- Properly constructed petitions may be presented to the Mayor at the commencement of meetings of the full Council

6 Partnership working

The Council welcomes invitations to appoint representatives to the managing/advisory bodies of local groups and organisations. A schedule of the bodies upon which the Council is represented currently is available on request or may be found at: www.ryetowncouncil.gov.uk

7 Specific areas for community involvement

- Rye Town Council decided to develop a neighbourhood plan to provide the community with ownership of planning policies affecting the Rye area. To lead this work, Rye Town Council has established a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to provide direction for the project, which will result in a neighbourhood plan.
www.ryeneighbourhoodplan.org.uk