

Rye Town Council - Early Engagement with the Local Plan Update

This input on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is provided as a draft early response to Rother District Council.

1.Details : Q1 to Q8: Rye Town Clerk

2. Vision:

Q9: As now but Recovery from Covid 19 and a more resilient community support structure is required.

Q10. Recovery from Covid 19; perhaps to a new normal.

Q11. More resilient planning for uncertainty; more planning for flood risk as a result of climate change.

3. Objectives

Q12. As now but : more substance on affordable homes; traffic pollution; flood risks; planning for uncertainty - Covid 19 recovery; maintenance of development boundaries and strategic gaps.

4. Housing

Q13. Consider the impact of second homes; focus on brownfield land; encourage the not for profit organisations to build more. Building homes is about securing investment not more rules. Be innovative to encourage schemes such as CLT to provide affordable homes.

Q14. Given the constraints of greenery, water and protected areas, focus on the Hastings-Bexhill gap for larger developments.

5. Employment

Q15. Yes, but local services will need upgrading.

Q16. Yes to reduce travel requirements.

Q17. Yes

Q18. Where it is practical yes but Conservation Areas should be protected as now.

Q19. Yes it is now?

Q20. There are issues with live/work development: noise, traffic, parking, access.

Q21. Focus on existing development such as Rye Harbour, but consider access : Harbour Road. Consider future of the fishing industry.

6. Infrastructure

Q22. Medical, education, early years, community centres for outreach facilities and clubs and activities for all ages; faith buildings; parking and electric charging; heritage buildings.

Q23. Work with partners to enhance main hospitals; drainage including sewerage (plan to remove CSO outfalls); main roads to include reducing pollution.

7. Climate Change

Q24. Consider all flood risks and impact of climate change: fluvial, pluvial, sea, surface and sewerage: sea level rise and extreme weather events. Provide charging facilities for electric vehicles. Encourage cycling by providing safe routes. Consider all means of preserving water supply: exploit fresh water springs from the Hastings beds and grey water runoff.

8. Natural and Heritage Assets

Q25. Apply vigorously the rules applying to protected areas and the land adjacent to them. Apply development boundaries and strategic gaps.

Q26. Because of the proximity of protected land, the development boundary must constrain development. Consider light, noise and traffic pollution.

9. Community

Q27. Consider connectivity with lit pedestrian ways. Parking must be addressed to ensure separation of vehicles from visitors. Consider signage and water safety.

10. Covid 19

Q28. Yes there will be a new normal but the impact on surviving small businesses will be all about achieving social distancing.

Q29. Yes. There is likely to be continued use of home delivery, with the resultant need for access by delivery vehicles.

Q30. More will strive for a better work life balance. We may see more incomers from the large urban areas. In the short term staycation visitors will increase. Design should provide more space for social distancing and effective broadband communication.

Q31. Parking requirements for cars because more will avoid trains and buses.

11. Other Issues

Q32. In line with "Planning for the Future" neighbourhood plans should be fully supported. Consider the likely impact of "Planning for the Future" and NPPF changes. Importantly:

- Give consideration to managing uncertainty for events such as Covid 19;
- Maintain the conservation of heritage stock to preserve the character of ancient places;
- Consider all means of providing more affordable housing;
- Consider improved access and related traffic issues such as parking.
- Support Neighbourhood Plans as the most effective way of allowing local communities to influence development in their neighbourhood.

ATBK PhD

RNPSG

16 September 2020