

Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning & Townscape Committee held via Zoom on Monday 21 September 2020

PRESENT Councillors David Bookless, Mike Boyd, Cheryl Creaser (**Committee Chairman**), Chris Hoggart, Sam Wood

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall – Town Clerk (Host); Jessica Neame – Deputy Town Clerk; Cllr Rebekah Gilbert (Mayor – Speaker of the Cinque Ports), Cllr Andi Rivett (Deputy Mayor); Colonel Anthony Kimber – Rye Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Vice-Chairman

The meeting commenced at 6.35pm.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence – and the reason as lodged with the Clerk – were accepted from Cllr Hughes.

2 CODE OF CONDUCT: DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest nor requests for dispensation.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for Public Questions/Contributions (see APPENDIX).

Note During the adjournment Cllr Creaser experienced connection difficulties and it was agreed generally that Cllr Boyd would chair the remainder of the meeting.

6.38pm The meeting reconvened.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED To adopt the Minutes of the Planning and Townscape meeting held on 9 March 2020 (PT14).

4 MATTERS ARISING

Item	Status
Gilfrin Jewellers (side) - exploring the implications of RTC applying for advertising consent (community banners)	Outstanding – Clerk to seek an informal opinion from RDC
Obtain costings to improve signage to the town centre within Gibbet Marsh Car Park	Outstanding
Asking RDC to consider removing the Gibbet Marsh Car Parking charges – or introducing a discounted scheme for traders and residents	Outstanding
Asking Highways to confirm it has 'no left turn' signage outside Lancaster Court in hand.	Referred to Highways Forum
Pedestrian rail crossings – supporting Edward Williams' concerns	In progress

Installation of CCTV (monitoring on street parking) - ascertaining the likely cost and practicalities.	The Working Party is exploring a potentially cheaper option, linking with an existing system
Asking RDC to add a note to its planning web site explaining how two plans might be viewed simultaneously.	Outstanding
RR/2018/258/P Lamb House (Drawing the applicant's attention to the ongoing parking issues).	Outstanding
A259 Resurfacing – Resolved 1 (Advising a-one+ of the need to avoid the Rye Festival and Rye Bonfire)	Outstanding
A259 Resurfacing – Resolved 2 (Reminding a-one+ to involve the Highways Forum in plans for future works).	Outstanding
To write to the CEOs of LloydsTSB, Nationwide and Barclays - requesting their branch viability/closure policies – whilst highlighting the concerns following: a) Loss of ATMs; b) The age profile of visitors to the town means that many prefer to make retail purchases with cash; c) East Sussex has a high proportion of older residents who chose/prefer not to bank online and branch closures exacerbate isolation; d) Having to travel to another town to bank cash and obtain change is more environmentally unfriendly than switching to 'paperless statements'.	Partly outstanding – it was noted that a response had been received from Barclay's CEO.
Planning applications – inadequate validation (making representations)	Outstanding
Tilling Green Community Land Trust – exploring	Outstanding
England Coast Path consultation response	Submitted

5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED To submit the comments below to the Local Planning Authority:

- RR/2020/1499/P 36 Ferry Road, Rye TN31 7DN
Proposed single storey rear extension to replace existing conservatory.
SUPPORT APPROVAL
- RR/2020/1512/P 100 High Street, Rye TN31 7JN
RR/2020/1513/L Installation of wood burner and flue (related to conversion approved under RR/2020/156/P & 157/L).
SUPPORT APPROVAL
- RR/2020/1564/P 97 High Street, Rye TN31 7JN
RR/2020/1565/L Change of use to ground floor from A1 to A3. Change of use to upper storeys from C3 to C1. Internal layout changes.
Proposed rear extension and formation of new links with 96 & 98 High Street.
SUPPORT APPROVAL

6 PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Members were invited to consider Colonel Kimber’s draft response to the White Paper consultation. *(Deadline: 28.10.20.)*

Colonel Kimber reported that the issues he had identified were supported generally by colleagues involved with the (informal) Rother Neighbourhood Planning Group. However, he had requested that the Group should have a more detailed discussion about the White Paper.

Noting that the White Paper acknowledges the value of Neighbourhood Plans, Cllr Creaser observed that Rye, having its own, is in an advantageous position. She was keen to avoid an increase in the number of second homes within the Parish – particularly given the lack of accommodation for parishioners.

Cllr Hoggart thanked Colonel Kimber for his efforts. His main concern was the proposed loss of environmental/sustainability impact assessments/appraisals etc – and what (if anything) might replace them.

Colonel Kimber advised that various Statutory Agencies – including Natural England – would seek to protect any dissolved designated areas of protection.

The thrust of the White Paper was to achieve a ‘stripped down’ planning system’ based on ‘zones’ – RDC would need to ‘zone’ areas without Neighbourhood Plans.

RESOLVED To submit the comments suggested within Colonel Kimber’s paper – subject to the addition of a form of words to address Cllr Hoggart’s concern.
Cllr Hoggart, Colonel Kimber

7 ROTHER DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

The Committee was asked to consider a draft response to RDC’s ‘Early Engagement form’. *(Deadline: 9.10.20).*

Colonel Kimber outlined the issues addressed within the draft response – including affordable housing and COVID-19 considerations.

Cllr Hoggart suggested that RTC should flag up the lack of resources made available by RDC for enforcement.

The Clerk reported that he had advised RDC that RTC does not have sufficient time to complete its detailed services and facilities questionnaire.

RESOLVED To submit the draft response - subject to the inclusion of a form of words incorporating Cllr Hoggart’s suggestion.
Colonel Kimber, Clerk

The meeting ended at 7.06pm.

Date

Chairman

Public Questions/Contributions

Colonel Kimber highlighted the two documents he had drafted to support agenda items 6 and 7. He was happy to contribute, if invited, when those items were being considered.