

Rye Annual Town Meeting 2018

Reports

Rye Neighbourhood Plan – Summary for 2018 Town Meeting

Rye is an ancient town of national historic importance and high architectural value. It is positioned on and around a rocky sandstone outcrop at the eastern end of Sussex close to the Kent border. Many in the community see Rye as “rising like a jewel” from the surrounding Romney Marsh.



Since 2012, Rye Town Council has led the making of the Rye Neighbourhood Plan, working through an appointed Steering Group. The work has reached a crucial stage as the draft Plan is out for public consultation. Please see separate posters. The Plan reflects wide and extensive consultation with those who live, work, or study in Rye and with adjacent Parishes. Once made, the Rye Neighbourhood Plan will sit alongside the Rother District Council Core Strategy (2014); the saved policies of the 2006 Local Plan; and the final Development and Site Allocations Local Plan (DaSA) (2016). Together they will form the future development plans for Rye¹.

The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to achieve ‘**a thriving town for the 21st Century**’ by planning a strategic and coherent development of Rye with the aim of improving the economic and social well-being of the community, considering in particular its vulnerability to flooding and its role as a market town, a centre for tourism, leisure and culture, its enterprise and its commercial and fishing port - all in the context of its historic maritime character, which should be conserved. It does this through planning policies and aspirations that seek to achieve the following:

Housing (policies H1-H8)

- Allocate several larger sites to accommodate about 160 new homes to 2028.
- Support well designed small scale development on windfall sites.
- Encourage small affordable (1-2 bedroom) homes for younger people and homes into which older people can downsize.

Quality Design (policy D1)

- Support imaginative, high quality design.

¹ Section 38 (6) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (formerly S54A of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990).

- Protect the unique character of Rye.
- Include a refreshed Rye Character Assessment to inform new development.

Reduce Flood Risk (policy F1)

- Apply the **sequential test** to explore ways of moving development away from areas at highest risk of flooding to any alternative lower risk sites.
- Where development is necessary in areas of flood risk, apply the **exception test** to assess whether there are wider sustainability benefits to the community that outweigh the flood risk and whether the development can be designed to be safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.
- Use opportunities provided by new development to reduce the causes of flooding, such as the management of water courses, ditches and sewers.

Business, Enterprise and Employment (policies B1-B3)

- Encourage development in three zones: the core business area; in micro commerce around the Citadel; and in the maritime/fishing industry, considering the potential at Rye Harbour, which is closely linked to the Town.
- Support Rye as a visitor destination.
- Make provision for a second supermarket and/or petrol station/ food outlet close to the existing town centre.

Traffic Management (policies T1-T2)

- Encourage connectivity and sustainable transport including, cycling.
- Tackle traffic flow and parking arrangements to prevent new development exacerbating existing parking issues.

Infrastructure (policy I1)

- Protect valued community facilities.

Environment: Natural and Historic (policies E1-E3)

- Protect strategic and green gaps around Rye.
- Protect green spaces, trees and other important habitats.
- Require new development in historic areas to have regard to the characteristics documented in the Rye Conservation Area Appraisal.
- Support renewable and low carbon energy.

Community Aspirations

Document all those community aspirations raised during the consultation process which fall outside of the planning system but nevertheless are important to the community and will be pursued through individual projects as funding allows. These include Heritage; Enterprise; Town Promotion and Tourism; Green Tourism; Traffic and Parking; Rail Connectivity; Strand Water Project; Community Infrastructure and Services; Education; and Health.



Update on Rye Heritage Centre 2017-2018 and plans for 2018-2019

Rye Heritage Centre is owned and operated by Rye Town Council. It is based in the Old Sail Loft on Strand Quay and hosts the *'Story of Rye'* Town Model show, the **Old Pier Penny Arcade** and has a **large shop** stocking books, maps, local crafts and souvenirs. As there is no longer a full Tourist Information Centre in the town, the Heritage Centre has become the main coordination point for tourism in Rye, and acts as a **Visitor Information Point**. The centre also provides a **last-minute accommodation booking service**, hires out **audio guides** of the town, and is an active member of the wider Visit 1066 Country Tourism group.

At the start of the 2017 financial year, the previous management and administration team retired, and a new management and administration team started running the centre. The focus of the new team was to look at ways to increase the revenue of the Centre, and to ensure that the Centre provided the best possible hub for promoting Rye attractions and businesses.

The ground floor of the centre has been overhauled, with new shop fittings, and layout, fresh paint and a more open window area. The gift and souvenir stock in the centre has been updated to include more Rye specific items (including t-shirts and umbrellas that may appeal to any proud Rye residents!), a wider variety of local books and maps, and more crafts produced in the local area. The centre is now also being advertised more widely, both at the train station, via leaflets distributed across the region, and as part of the Visit Rye Bay Guide and Visit 1066 Country brochure. There is also greater engagement via social media, new email information packs for enquiries, and the website is currently being overhauled. Behind the scenes, the operational and administration systems at the centre have been streamlined and modernised to ensure that the centre is run as efficiently as possible.

In the 2017-2018 financial year we:

- Arranged dispatch of over **100** postal brochures and dealt with over **350** email enquiries and phone calls from potential visitors and travel agencies.
- Distributed over **4000** Visit Rye Bay guides, **2000** free Rye Town Maps and **1200** bus timetables.
- Arranged and/or led guided tours of the town for council delegates from **Japan**, and for journalists from **Sweden, Denmark, Australia, Germany and Belgium**.
- Acted as the first point of contact for international and UK visitors enquiring about the Rye Jazz Festival, Rye Arts Festival, Wild Boar Week, Scallop Week, Festival of the Sea, Rye Bonfire and Christmas in Rye.

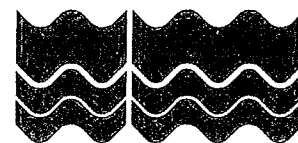
- Generated **£8837** worth of accommodation revenue for local hoteliers and guesthouses through the last-minute accommodation booking service.
- Hosted over **250** group visits to the Town Model show, including local schools, Sussex based language schools, international students, cruise ships, coach parties, historical interest groups and further education groups.
- Contributed to local charities by selling:
 - 378 Rye Harbour Nature Reserve booklets, 146 Camber Castle booklets and 440 postcards for **Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve** contributing a total of £586.80, 107 copies of 'Ghosts of Rye', 40 'Smugglers in Rye' and a smaller selection of other historical publications contributing £623 to the **Rye Castle Museum/ Rye College Local History Group** and 40 packs of John Izod Rye postcards raising £200 for **Rye and District Community Transport**.

Our plans for 2018-2019:

- Source **more local products** for the Centre to support local businesses. We are hoping to obtain an alcohol licence to stock local wines this year and would like to find more local suppliers of food and drink.
- Reach out to **more local schools** for educational visits. We recently had a very successful visit to the Town Model from the reception year at Rye Primary School, which enabled the children to learn about the history of their town and we would like to provide more visits like this in the near future.
- **Grow the guided walks** of the town. As the main guided walk provider in Rye is no longer operational (Rye History Walks) we feel that this is a service we can provide for visitors that helps them to appreciate the unique character of Rye.
- **Expand the guided ghost walks** of Rye. Previously, these walks have only taken place in winter months, but this year we will be running them once a month all year round. We hope to work with other local attractions and businesses to add extra 'behind the scenes' visits as part of the walks too.
- Explore new avenues for promoting Rye to potential visitors by attending tourism fairs and participating in wider promotion campaigns.
- **Become more involved in Rye Festivals** by hosting events for the Festival of the Sea and Christmas in Rye events. We began this last year with hosting Captain Pugwash readings as part of the Festival of the Sea, and we are already exploring ways we can support and be involved in our local events.
- Continue to work with all the different groups and individuals involved in promoting Rye and consolidate our position as a central coordination point for Rye tourism.

We welcome any comments, ideas or feedback that local residents may have, and can be contacted on 01797 226696, via email at ryeheritagecentre@gmail.com, or even better, pop in and see us!

Louisa O'Shaughnessy
Heritage Centre Manager



Summary of County Council achievements 2017/18

This summary sets out some of the key achievements of East Sussex County Council in 2017/18 (up to February 2018) under the four strategic priorities of the Council.

The Council Plan provides further detail of these priorities at:

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/keydocuments/councilplan/default.htm

The Council Plan for 2018/19 will be on our website from 1st April 2018.

Driving sustainable economic growth

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is one of seven local authorities that have formed a partnership called **Transport for the South East** (TfSE). The new partnership brings together the area's 16 transport authorities and a range of other organisations to work directly with the Department for Transport. TfSE is currently operating in shadow form but intends to secure full Government backing and statutory powers. At the first meeting of TfSE in June 2017, partners elected Cllr Keith Glazier, Leader of East Sussex County Council as chairman.

Companies in East Sussex are now able to benefit from a new £2 million grants and **business support** service, aimed at boosting the county's economy. South East Business Boost offers grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 to existing small and medium sized businesses and start-ups for capital projects to help them grow and expand operations. So far £300,000 of grants have been awarded which will bring in over £850,000 in match funding. In addition, £227.4 million has been spent with local suppliers over the last 12 months; 55.8% of total Council spend.

East Sussex Highways, our partnership which looks after the roads, pavements, street lights, grass and winter maintenance won a number of prestigious awards during 2017/18. The customer service team won a silver award at the UK Customer Experience Awards and gold at the European Contact Centre and Customer Service Awards, following their introduction of a new more personalised way of working and a high-tech software system which has seen average call response times slashed from 90 seconds to just nine. In addition East Sussex Highways has been recognised for its work to boost skills in the area, with work in schools and a clear commitment to apprenticeships.

Over 150 carriageway asset improvement schemes were delivered in the first three-quarters of 2017/18. The continued investment by the County Council into **highway maintenance**, and specifically the resurfacing of roads, has stemmed the rate of deterioration and maintained road conditions across the county at an acceptable and affordable level. The condition of A, B and C roads across the county have largely remained stable, and as anticipated when Cabinet approved the current investment strategy in 2013. The additional £10m invested in rural lanes, also approved by Cabinet in 2013, has resulted in a noticeable improvement of unclassified roads across the county.

A number of large scale **infrastructure projects** have also been progressed, including the Newhaven Port Access Road, improvements to Terminus Road in Eastbourne and funding secured to build a new two-lane bridge to replace the current one-lane Exceat Bridge over the Cuckmere river.

Our e-Sussex project to rollout faster **broadband** in previously isolated areas has continued to improve access to services, jobs and education. Over 70,000 premises have been connected during our first and second contracts. A final phase of works is being procured with the aim to connect as close to 100% of premises in the county as possible.

There was a further improvement in the percentage of secondary **schools** judged by Ofsted (as at August 2017) to be good or outstanding to 77.8% from 74.1% at the end of 2016/17. The Early Years Improvement Team has also worked with providers, such that 96% of all East Sussex early years settings are graded good or outstanding, up from 76% in 2013. Work continues through our new Excellence for All 2017-2019 strategy to raise standards across all our educational settings. In addition, ESCC was successful in securing funding from the Government's Strategic School Improvement Fund to set up a Secondary Inclusion Partnership which will see county schools working together to share expertise with a focus on disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs.

In July 2017, ESCC welcomed funding of nearly £12 million for the **arts**, announced by Arts Council England for seven projects across the county. This includes funding for Glyndebourne to support its education and outreach work, for the de La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill to promote visual arts, for the Towner Art Gallery in Eastbourne and the Jerwood Gallery in Hastings.

Keeping vulnerable people safe

In June 2017, the Safer East Sussex Partnership launched a new pilot scheme called 'Ask Me'. The scheme widens opportunities for survivors of **domestic abuse** to access the help they need from their communities. It provides free domestic abuse training for people to become 'ask me ambassadors' who can respond to a disclosure of domestic abuse, and know where to signpost people for help. 16 Days of Action for the Elimination of Violence Against Women ran from 25 November 2017. Over the 16 days a range of organisations and individuals came together to work to end all forms of violence against women

Keeping vulnerable people safe continued...

ESCC's **Children's Services** Department was runner up in the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2017 in the category of Best Social Work Employer. The Council's submission highlighted our achievements in supporting staff to create a high quality, sustainable system that secures the best outcomes for children and young people.

ESCC were successful in securing a £174,000 Warm and Healthy Homes grant from National Energy Action and £440,000 from the Warm Homes Fund to enable eligible vulnerable individuals to benefit from significant home improvements to help them **keep warm** in cold weather. This means over £1 million in external fuel poverty funding has been secured during the past two years.

By the end of December 2017, 61 organisations had joined the **East Sussex Against Scams** Partnership (ESASP) Charter which aims to make East Sussex a scam-free county. Over 687 residents have participated in Friends Against Scams awareness sessions which aim to reduce the likelihood of them, or people they know or care for, from becoming vulnerable victims of fraud and scams.

Helping people help themselves

Plans for closer health and care integration were given the green light by the Alliance partners (Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford CCG, Hastings and Rother CCG, ESCC, East Sussex Health Care NHS Trust and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust) in the **East Sussex Better Together** (ESBT) programme in July 2017. Our ambition is to deliver a fully integrated health and social care system in East Sussex that will ensure every service user enjoys proactive, joined up care that supports them to live as healthily and independently as possible. We are now developing a single health and care entity to manage the £850 million spent each year on the health and care needs of people in East Sussex. In recognition of this work, the ESBT Alliance won the 'Improved Partnerships between Health and Local Government' award at the prestigious 2017 Health Service Journal Awards. Examples of more integrated services include Locality Link Workers who act as a conduit between the statutory services, the voluntary sector and the community. Integrated locality teams (ILTs), made up of nurses, therapists, social workers and proactive care practitioners from East Sussex Health Care Trust (ESHT) and ESCC, have also been rolled out across the Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford and Hastings and Rother CCG areas.

There have been improvements against **Adult Social Care** key measures. Delayed transfers of Care (delayed days) from hospital per 100,000 population (aged 18+) has improved from 24.4 in April 2017 to 12.7 in November 2017. The proportion of older people (aged 65+) who are still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation services for April to September 2017 is 91.7% - up from 90.5% in 2016/17.

An initiative helping **young people with disabilities** travel independently to school, college or training won national recognition. The Learning Independence for Travel (LIFT) training programme was one of just seven schemes shortlisted for a 'best service' award at the GO Excellence in Public Service Awards 2017/18.

One You East Sussex launched in October 2017 offers those who are struggling to make healthy lifestyle changes a bespoke support programme for help with weight loss, stopping smoking, getting active, drinking less and eating a healthy diet. Our **Beat the Street East Sussex** mass participation physical activity initiative saw more than 42,000 people take part and new Health and Wellbeing Community Hubs are due to be established in Hastings and Bexhill, helping people improve and manage their health by giving them access to information and support in one convenient place.

Schools across the county have been able to access additional funding to improve **children's physical and mental health**. Last year, 183 schools and colleges across the county received grants of £10,000 to develop and implement school health improvement plans and this year all schools were entitled to an additional £7,000 to further develop activities to boost health. In addition the ESCC primary school menu was accredited with the Soil Associations Food for Life Served Here Gold Standard, which recognises pupils are being served meals with the freshest, ethically sourced ingredients, free from additives and excessive salt and sugar.

Making the best use of our resources

The Council's **budget** and Council Plan for 2018/19 were approved at the meeting of Full Council on the 6th February 2018. The budget includes spending of £371 million on services for East Sussex. It also includes savings of £17 million, a 3 per cent Adult Social Care levy and a 2.99 per cent council tax increase.

The Council's **Stand Up for East Sussex** campaign, which made the case for East Sussex's particular needs to be recognised, gathered almost 6,000 signatures and was delivered to the Prime Minister in December 2017.

The **Orbis partnership** between East Sussex County Council, Brighton and Hove City Council and Surrey County Council aims to improve the quality and resilience of business services and provide savings to both authorities. After surpassing its initial financial targets by achieving £4.5 million savings in 2016/17 against a target of £1.1 million, Orbis is currently on target to deliver £3.9 million efficiencies in 2017/18. Teams from across the three Councils have been working together to improve the way Orbis delivers services to its customers, including an online pensions portal and a new e-recruitment system.

Contact: Alice Pippard: alice.pippard@eastsussex.gov.uk 01273 481816 February 2018



REACT: Update for Rye Town Council

March 2018

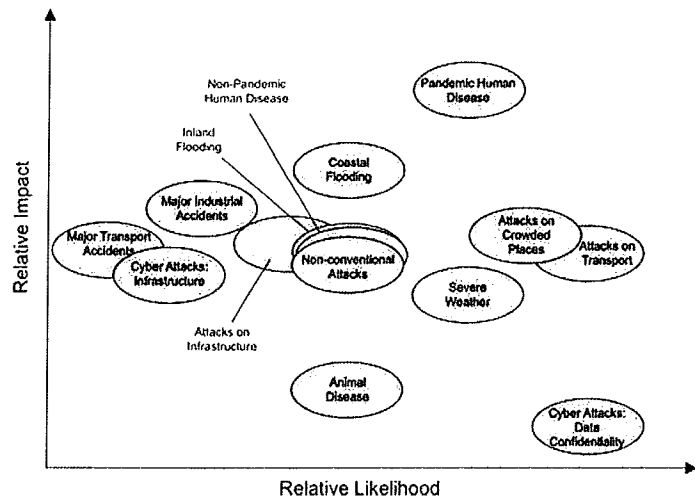
React continues to review all the risks in the Sussex Risk Register (below) and to consider any necessary action on those likely to impact locally. Emphasis will be on public information, local knowledge and advice.

Updates are posted on the REACT Facebook page. Contact is maintained with the local professional organisations including the ESCC Flood Management Officer, the Environment Agency and RMIDB.

REACT Leader, Colonel Anthony Kimber is now a member of the multi agency Southern Region Flood and Coastal Committee, which sets priorities for DEFRA for flood risk mitigation across the South.

With more frequent extreme rainfall, much of the current work of REACT focuses on localised flooding to:

- Monitor flood events elsewhere to identify lessons and to consider any impacts locally.
- Continue to press Southern Water and Highways to find long term solutions for localised flooding in the Grove, the north end of the Strand, Tilling Green (primarily Mason Road) and Military Road. There have been occasional incidents of ponding in all these places since the very high tides of September 2015.
- Remain engaged with the Environment Agency team planning the Eastern Rother Tidal River scheme, scheduled for completion, subject to funding, between 2019-2022.
- Monitor related risks such as landslip in areas of historical coastal erosion.



REACT Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Rye-Emergency-Action-Community-Team-REACT-221629524635319/timeline/>

REACT Plan: <http://www.ryetowncouncil.gov.uk/informationemergencyplanning.aspx>

If you live in a high risk, low lying flood location in Rye then **Prepare a Simple Flood Kit**



- Waterproof clothing
- Portable radio (and batteries) to monitor local news and weather broadcasts
- First aid kit including any prescribed medicines
- Bottled water
- Torch and batteries
- Important documents including passport and insurance certificates
- Mobile phone and charger
- Tinned and non-perishable food, and a tin opener
- Blankets
- Keys

Would you need support during a flood?

- ✓ *Know where your home services can be turned OFF: water; gas and electric*
- ✓ *Consider who you might ask for assistance before, during and after a flood. REACT can advise on this. Add telephone numbers below*
- ✓ *For current flood warnings please call our 24-hour Floodline on: 0345 988 1188*
- ✓ **View the new flood warning: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings>**

Add any Important Telephone Contact Numbers	