

Presentation by the Rotary Club from Alan Dickinson and Trevor Collins, in relation to proposals for the use of the land adjacent to 7 Wish Ward.

- The Rotary Club is no longer proposing a wishing well, as discussed in the past.
- It is considering an installation that could incorporate a bench, but something more unusual ie a sculpture that included a seating area and a collection facility.
- Photos of existing Rotary Club features in Rye, and installations in other towns were circulated to members. For Wish Ward, the Rotary Club favoured something similar to that in Petersfield (a sculpture of a shepherd and sheep, incorporating a seating area), but reflecting Rye's history or local industry.
- Pictures were circulated of unusual benches, including a rotating bench idea, however it is realised this would require additional consideration in light of insurance liabilities and maintenance costs.
- Given the site in Wish Ward, a design could include seating in the form of barrels to reflect the historic site of the Wish Ward Brewery nearby.
- The Rotary Club mentioned that whilst the idea had been mooted for the Wish Ward site, they were not fixed on location. If a donation box were to be incorporated then perhaps the Town Hall garden could be considered as it is a more secure location.
- The Rotary Club is able to fund the initial costs of an installation, but would not be able to manage any ongoing maintenance costs.
- In order to progress ideas for this project, they enquired as to details of the space available within the site, and any considerations such as boundaries and access of neighbouring properties.

Following the presentation, Rotary Club representatives took questions from Members. It was agreed by all that any installation must be long lasting, with minimal maintenance required. Concerns were raised about the security of a donation box at the Wish Ward site. Cllr Fiddimore highlighted that the previous bench on the site had been removed due to anti-social behaviour issues. Cllr Gilbert enquired as to the ownership of any such installation provided. The Rotary Club stated that it would be provided as a gift, as a charity collection facility.

It was agreed by Members that a working party should be considered, formed of RTC representatives (possibly the Mayor, as it was an idea proposed by him initially) and members of the Rotary Club. A formal proposal should then be submitted to full Council.