



Summary for 2019 Town Meeting

Since 2013, Rye Town Council has directed the making of the Rye Neighbourhood Plan, working through an appointed Steering Group, a mix of councillors and nominated citizens. The Plan reflects wide and intensive consultation with those who live, work, or study in Rye, with adjacent Parishes and with the input from a wide range of Statutory Bodies.

We have reached the stage where final representations have been made and the papers are now with an external examiner who is looking to see that the Plan is sound and does not contravene planning policies. Once his work is complete it is intended that the Plan is put to the Rye constituency for a yes/no Referendum later in 2019. If 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 draft Development and Site Allocations Local Plan (DaSA) (2018). Together these will form the development plan for Rye.

Some have questioned the value of having a Neighbourhood plan. Once agreed, it provides a statutory plan that all planners and developers must consult. It sets out a positive vision for how Rye develops until 2028. The local planning policies, set by Rye, will help deliver the sort of development that the Rye community wants to see. Importantly it enables the Community to:

- Have more say and control over the where and what of future development
- Ensure that the most valued space is protected
- Manage change and ensure that it benefits the community
- Influence the design of new buildings or alterations
- Retain more of the money collected from developers' contributions (Community Infrastructure Levy) for local projects

The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to achieve: **'a thriving town for the 21st Century'**, by setting out a coherent development of Rye to improve the economic and social well-being of the community. It considers the vulnerability to flooding; its role as a market town; a centre for tourism, leisure and culture, its enterprise including its commercial and fishing port - all in the context of its historic maritime character. The planning policies are summarised as follows.

Housing (Policies H1 to H8) To allocate several larger sites (mostly brownfield) to accommodate up to 160 new homes to 2028. Support well designed small scale development on windfall sites. Encourage small (1-2 bedroom) homes for younger people and homes into which older people can downsize.

Quality Design (Policy D1) To support imaginative, high quality design to protect the unique character of Rye.

Reduce Flood Risk (Policy F1) With about 40% of Rye defended from flood risk by tidal walls the sites identified for future development are in the flood risk areas. A detailed assessment has been completed to justify the wider sustainability benefits to the community and set the safety design of any development to ensure that flood risk is not increased elsewhere. The opportunity for development means that flood risk can be mitigated by sustainable drainage and improvements to existing water courses and sewers.

Business, Enterprise and Employment (Policies B1to B3) To encourage development in three zones: the core business area of the Town Centre; 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. To support Rye as a visitor destination

Traffic Management (Policies T1 to T2) To encourage connectivity and sustainable transport including, cycling. Tackle traffic flow and parking arrangements to prevent new development exacerbating existing parking issues.

Infrastructure (Policy I1) To identify and protect important community facilities.

Environment: Natural and Historic (Policies E1to E4) To protect strategic and green gaps around Rye: 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 (CA1 to CA20) To document all the community aspirations raised during the consultation process which fall outside of the planning system but nevertheless are important to the community and should be further considered as individual projects with partners and 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.

THE NEED TO VOTE

For the Plan to take effect it will be important for constituents in Rye to vote “YES” when the time comes. A “YES” vote will ensure that future development takes place in a manner that suits Rye.