

Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning & Townscape Committee held via Zoom on Monday 30 November 2020

PRESENT Councillors David Bookless, Cheryl Creaser (**Committee Chairman**), Rebekah Gilbert (Mayor – Speaker of the Cinque Ports), Chris Hoggart, Pat Hughes, Andi Rivett (Deputy Mayor), Shaun Rogers (**Committee Vice-Chairman**), Sam Wood

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall – Town Clerk (Host); Colonel Anthony Kimber – RNP Co-ordinator; Allan Thomson.

The meeting commenced at 6.32pm.

23 APOLOGIES

It was noted that Cllr Rivett might be late (or not be able to attend).

24 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.

Colonel Kimber advised that:

Cycling & Walking Consultation If desired – and permitted – he would speak at item 27.

'Leveling Up' He had asked Sally-Ann Hart MP if this initiative (intended to increase Government funding for 'the North') could be used in the SE where there are pockets of deprivation. She had established that this would be possible and suggested it was likely that ESCC would be handling any (infrastructure) bids. Rye has obvious needs – but it may be a case of 'prodding' ESCC.

Planning application for traveller pitches in Bexhill (RR/2020/1672/P) Under both the DaSA and RNP there is no requirement for the provision of pitches in Rye.

Rye Hire Policy B1 on page 50 of the RNP is relevant – 'retention of business property'.

Affordable/Social Housing: Rock Channel & Former Tilling Green Primary Rye Partnership's (£30,000) Rye Fisheries - Rock Channel East Site Feasibility Report (Dec 2017) includes provision for 4 social/affordable accommodation units on the flood protected area of Rock Channel East – but nothing within the Report appears to have been progressed. This could be interpreted as 'not boding well' for the provision of social/affordable housing on the former Tilling Green School Playing Field.

The Chairman suggested that if the RP was not going to take forward the provision of social/affordable homes at Rock Channel East, this strengthened the case for it facilitating this on the former TG School playing field – and suggested this be discussed at the next P+T Committee meeting.

Clerk

Referring to Cllr Hughes' work identifying the clauses within the DaSA that support the retention of businesses – and noting that the number of affordable homes proposed for the Rye Hire site is just 3 – the Mayor suggested putting this – as well as the supporting material in the RNP – to RDC.

Clerk

The meeting reconvened.

25 MINUTES

RESOLVED To approve the Minutes of the Planning and Townscape meeting held on 16 November 2020 (PT04).

26 MATTERS ARISING

Item	Status
Gilfrin Jewellers (side) - exploring the implications of RTC applying for advertising consent (community banners)	Outstanding – Confirm support of Gilfrin Jewellers and apply for advertising consent.
Obtain costings to improve signage to the town centre within Gibbet Marsh Car Park	Ongoing – forms part of the work of the Parking Strategy Review Group
Asking RDC to consider removing the Gibbet Marsh Car Parking charges – or introducing a discounted scheme for traders and residents	Ongoing – forms part of the work of the Parking Strategy Review Group
Asking RDC to add a note to its planning web site explaining how two plans might be viewed simultaneously.	Outstanding
Planning applications – inadequate validation (making representations)	Outstanding
Tilling Green Community Land Trust – exploring	Outstanding – Mayor and Colonel Kimber to discuss with the Rye Partnership Chairman.

27 CYCLING & WALKING CONSULTATION

Members were invited to consider the draft response to ESCC's Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan consultation (prepared by Colonel Kimber, Cllr Hoggart and Allan Thomson) – and to agree that it be copied to 1066 Country, Sustrans, Natural England and RDC.

Colonel Kimber advised that the draft was intended primarily as a response to the consultation. The aim had been to put together a strategic assessment (something Sustrans had not done). Sustrans' 'traffic flow reversal' proposals for Rye had been dismissed because the ramifications needed more work. It was considered that there are two 'win win' projects that should be progressed: the Rye Greenway and Harbour Road junction improvements.

Cllr Hoggart considered that Sustrans' Rye consultation document is ill-considered – and there is no evidence of local consultation. It is obvious that Sustrans has a 'cycling bias'.

Cllr Hughes observed that the proposals for other areas in the county also appeared not to have taken local needs into account. Sustrans has proposed the widening of pavements to create 'shared space' – but mixing cyclists and very young/older pedestrians is potentially unsafe.

RESOLVED 1 To adopt the draft response and submit it to ESCC – with copies sent to RDC, 1066 Country, Sustrans and Natural England.

RESOLVED 2 To send also a covering letter with the response to ESCC – highlighting RTC’s main concerns (cycling bias, absence of a strategic/integrated approach, disregard of relevant published material).

28 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| RR/2020/1573/P | Hilden, Rye Hill, Rye TN31 7NH.
Replacement garage with office above.
SUPPORT REFUSAL Overdevelopment. |
| RR/2020/2131/L | 19 Mermaid Street, Oak Corner, Rye TN31 7EU.
Installation of secondary windows.
SUPPORT APPROVAL Subject to the approval of the
Conservation & Design Officer. |

The meeting ended at 7.10pm.

Date

Chairman