

CASUAL VACANCY - CANDIDATES

JONATHAN DELLAR

I moved to the Rye area (Peasmarsch) in 1992. I have now lived in Rye with my partner Kathy for some 10 years and have run my Company, Concepts of Rye, since 2006, selling Furniture, Home Accessories, Lighting and Gifts.

I feel that I am approachable and enjoy meeting and helping people. I enjoy socialising with Town Residents and have many friends and acquaintances in Rye through my enjoyment of Sports (Football, Cricket, Pool and Dinghy/Cruiser Sailing), Local Rye Hostelrys and Restaurants, plus the ever-increasing selection of Local Festivals.

I feel that my own strong points to offer for this role of Councillor are:-

I have a sound business experience within the Town and surrounding Area and aim to help Businesses and Residents wherever possible through Networking via the Local Chamber of Commerce, RTC-lead Business Forum and the Rye Bay Marketing Group, which is a Group run for the Town's Marketing between the Chamber of Commerce and Hotel's and Caterer's Association ("HotCats").

I believe that there is still a strong requirement for the Town to be in charge of its own Marketing, working alongside Hastings and Rother District Council's Funding (including 1066 Marketing), yet forming an Independent Plan for the Town's Marketing Vision.

I believe that the "visitrye.co.uk" website domain name should NOT have been handed over to Rother District Council and should be passed back to the Town. I believe that RTC should reinstate the working group (formerly Rye Bay Marketing Group) to manage the Town's website, literature and Marketing. I will be happy, whether selected as a Councillor at this point or not, to help this effort, whether it be a separate Committee, Discussion Group with RDC, HBC and 1066, or whatever Organisation is required to benefit Rye.

As you can see, where I feel passionate about subjects and where I feel that I can help the Town of Rye develop positively, I am prepared to work with the Council to achieve those objectives. Such projects I see as, for example -

1 - a requirement for better, cost effective ways for visitors to Rye (Tourism is the main local Employment Industry) to Park in the area and access the Town centre. I believe that a "Park and Ride" facility serving Rye and possibly also Camber is required as Rye's hilly access and saturated demand on weekend and Market days parking is an opportunity to help Visitor's access to the Town and subsequently under-pin and enable the success of the Businesses in the main shopping areas in the Town.

2 - an ability for the Town and District Councils to work creatively and successfully with local Investors, who are currently looking to invest in Rye's Housing and Infrastructure.

It is important for such developments NOT to detract from the quaint character of the Town and its' Beautiful Architecture, whilst still being able to embrace progress for the Town's Facilities, Future Planning and Local Public Services.

Once upon a time I am sure there would have been uproar at a development such as the Tilling Green, New Road or Valley Park developments appearing, but I believe they have all contributed to the Town's overall progress. That said, I do feel that probably THE most important factor of these Developments is to be able to create an affordable and plentiful supply of new housing for young local people, who have an opportunity to live and work locally and not be pushed into the "supply and demand" trap of second home and Air B&B Investors taking over the Town.

3 – "Twinning" or working closely with other Foreign Towns, probably French, to be able to forge links with other Cultures for the benefit of local Towns' Folk. I did experience work with Rye Partnership and links with the Baie-de-Somme area of France in the past. I would be very supportive of re-kindling those efforts with our French counterparts. I do love travel, studied French and German at school and worked in France for a year as part of my Business Studies (International) Degree - I would welcome the chance to use my (Fluent) French language to develop this kind of Partnership with a French (or other European / Continent) Partner.

I do feel that I offer well-thought-through Ideas, reinforced with a good local understanding of the Rye area and a desire for the Town to emerge successfully from the COVID experience to become an even more successful Tourist and Cultural destination on the British and European "map".

WILLIAM EVERETT

My wife and I bought this house in Watchbell Street on the 22nd May, 2020 but my small family Property Company, which I manage, bought number 20 Ferry Road in 2015. It is rented out under an assured shorthold tenancy. Before moving here we had a small farm in Wittersham where I was on the P.C.C. for some time. Before that the family farm was near Ticehurst and I served on Ticehurst Parish Council for some ten years but that would be some thirty years ago.

I work from home and I am an experienced land agent, specialising in property management and in wayleaves and easements. I am still working so my only slight worry might be being able to get to meetings but I am self-employed so I can usually manage things round such a commitment.

We have only recently moved in to Rye but Rye has always been part of my life. We are very much enjoying living here and we are keen to help in any way we can. If I could be any use to the Town Council, I would be honoured.

BERNARDINE FIDDIMORE

Business Owner and former Assistant with Cinque Ports Vets

I wish to apply for co-option to Rye Town Council for the following reasons:

General

To assist in the rebuilding of Rye's economy in the post pandemic period.

To help the Council and the higher authorities of Rother District Council and East Sussex County Council support individuals, community groups, businesses, start-up ventures, training and re-training programmes and youth opportunity initiatives.

To be part of the process that ensures that development proposals are properly examined and to protect Rye from potentially damaging schemes.

To maintain a mutually agreeable relationship with RDC and ESCC and ensure liaison and good communication over issues that affect Rye and to protest against those that are disadvantageous.

To help to promote transparency of RTC's work and boost the confidence of the electorate in the Council's projects, undertakings and spending and encourage groups or individuals to approach the Council with concerns.

To be involved in the protection of properties owned by the Council and ensure that whatever uses they are put to offers the most appropriate value to the electorate.

To press RDC Councillors to keep RTC fully updated and advised of issues discussed or planned by RDC that will directly affect Rye

To support fellow councillors, the Mayor and Deputy and to promote healthy and productive discussion and debate!

Note

It is clear that many even pressing infrastructure projects being considered prior to the Pandemic may now need to be 'set aside' for a period. The maintaining and rebuilding of economy, living standards, employment and overall community support must take priority. My personal aspirations for the immediate future are listed below

Specifics:

To support the work of Rye Mutual Aid, React, Rye Food Bank, Rye Community Transport and all other groups involved in initiatives to help individuals, groups or businesses through the Pandemic and beyond.

To explore ways for home based tourism to be managed in the Town and its environs given that there will be enormously increased pressures on infrastructure in the coming year or two.

To address problems being stored up by the purchase of 'Lockdown Puppies' and the growing issue of 'dog theft' to which I bring specific, professional experience.

To support the Trustees of The Heritage Centre encouraging economic growth in our small shops, hospitality and accommodation providers through home based tourism in the post pandemic period.

FUTURE ASPIRATIONS - (Identified after consultation with a sample of Rye residents).

Seek private investment for the repair and future care of the Landgate.

Encourage the establishment of open air entertainment facilities and re-establishment of festivals.

Press for further car parking solutions.

Protection and new provision of open spaces and rights of way.

Encourage specific planning for an International disaster such as the current Pandemic.

History & Experience

I served with RTC for twelve years and as Deputy Mayor and Mayor for two years each. My father's ill health eventually meant I had to devote all my time to caring for him and running our Kennel Business and I was unable to stand for re-election in 2019.

My Father sadly passed away last year and restructuring of the business has freed up my time considerably.

Previously I served on the following.

All RTC committees over twelve years.

The Rye Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

RDC Liaison Committee,

Human Resources Working Group,

Highways Working Group.

Rye Heritage-Centre Working Group.

Strong involvement in the development of:

The provision and positioning of the High Street Loading Bay (George Hotel).

Employment of the Town Steward and identification of duties and areas of most need.

The adoption of Civil Parking Enforcement (after extensive exploration of alternative schemes)

The re-establishment of the Rye Christmas Festival in 2015 and formation of a committee of volunteers from the Parish and elsewhere to manage the event.

Rye's Neighbourhood Plan; originated with former Councillors Nigel Jennings and Adam Smith.

The Severe Weather Working Group (The first liaison group to include public volunteers and council members to be mobilised in severe weather situations)

This concludes my application to join Rye Town Council

Thank you for your consideration

NEIL SADLER

I would like to introduce myself as an applicant for the position of Town Councillor. I have read the *Good Councillor's Guide* and will proceed to set out my reasons for applying.

Over the past thirty years, I have lived and worked in Rye. I am originally from Whitby, a historic fishing town, similar to Rye in some respects. I am married with a son in his final year of A levels and a daughter in her final year at university. Currently, I am a Senior

Catering Lecturer at East Sussex College in Hastings and this has been my main source of employment for the past ten years.

During my time at the college, I have gained the following qualifications:

- Level 3 PTTLs – Preparing to teach in the lifelong learning sector
- Level 5 CertEd – Certificate of Education from Brighton University
- Level 3 TAQA – Award in Assessing Vocational Achievement
- Level 3 RoSPA – Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (Personal License)
- Level 2 APLH - Personal Licence Holder Level 2 Award
- Level 3 – First aid at work

I teach students that are predominantly aged between 16 and 19 years, many of whom have not yet decided which career to take. However, vocational qualifications seem to be attractive at this stage. The young people I teach often have additional needs and I am impressed that they remain ambitious despite education being a challenge for them. Around half of all students have not yet achieved a pass grade in English and Maths and continue these subjects as part of their study programme. Consequently, I incorporate these subjects into my lessons enabling them to hopefully pass before they leave college. I understand the council are supporting the creation of apprenticeships in the hospitality sector. Part of my job role used to be managing the apprenticeship programme in the department, gaining valuable experience of the apprenticeship levy when it was introduced into the sector in 2018.

The catering and hospitality industry are deep-rooted passions of mine. I have worked in the local area both as a chef and head chef for, to name a few, The Mermaid Inn, The George Hotel and The Flackley Ash Hotel. As well as having extensive knowledge and experience, I have also been a Consultant in new start-ups.

Previously, I have worked as a project manager for a fruit and vegetable charitable project, aiming to improve access to healthy and affordable foods to vulnerable groups of the community such as the elderly, children and people living in food deserts. I worked with Eric Samuels MBE in Newham, one of the biggest food access projects in the UK, linking up with projects in Scotland and France. I successfully attracted a large award of £500,000 from the Big Lottery Fund as well as funding from the NHS, The Tudor Trust and small food poverty charities. This gave me experience of dealing with multiple stakeholders and committees.

My main intention for applying for this role is to provide a strong voice for the hospitality industry in Rye and surrounding areas, especially after the negative effects of the pandemic. Hospitality is a vital part of the town, visitors and locals alike come to town for its wealth of restaurants, pubs and historic hotels, in turn spending money in the local shops and supporting jobs. Without these fundamentally important businesses, Rye would not be thriving as it was over a year ago and we would lose the sense of community that once was.

In my working life, mental health is a subject that is prevalent and the impact of the pandemic in the coming months will become increasingly apparent. Most people have been affected with members of their families being unable to mix and socialise. Encouraging vulnerable people back into society will become a challenging yet vital part of the post pandemic recovery and healing process for the community and town.

In the *Good Councillor's Guide*, I was inspired by the paragraph which states that diversity is a local council's strength. With this in mind, I believe my life experience and passion for the hospitality industry will enable me to become a valued member of the council team. I would embrace the opportunity and the knowledge from other members about procedure and protocol.

I would very much appreciate your consideration of my suitability for the role.

SUE LEAROYD SMITH

Wishing to join the Council

I think Rye is a fantastic town and I would consider it a privilege to work for our community in a positive and proactive way. Making a difference has been an integral part of my career. Whether that's working with young people, vulnerable adults and small business owners acknowledging fears around employment, running businesses during a pandemic, to the problems with Universal Credit and living under the constant threat of homelessness to concerns about the environment.

To make a difference, I have the energy, enthusiasm and authenticity required to represent people of Rye, particularly around employment issues and partnership working.

Any experience of council/community work

I have a passion and commitment to the local natural environment and was invited to become an Appeal Board Member for the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre (RHDC) Project for Sussex Wildlife Trust. Hopefully, the Centre will open in the autumn of this year and offer education programmes to all, so important during these extraordinary times and inform visitors of all ages about the reserve's fantastic wildlife. This has been a politically sensitive project for the residents of Rye Harbour, particularly the potential of it negatively affecting local businesses, traffic and car parking. We held several open Q&A sessions and presentations about the Discovery Centre. It has been essential to consult and build productive networks and relationships with the local community and key stakeholders. For example, this project will be the first of the Regional Tourism Initiative supported by Rother District Council; Kent Wildlife Trust; The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Unit and Romney Marsh Partnership.

Skills/knowledge I can bring to the Council

Working for The Prince's Trust I provided leadership in my high-profile role as Chair of Pulse, their LGBT+ national network. I was accountable at all times to the Executive Management Team when representing the needs of vulnerable young people throughout the UK and supporting Volunteer Mentors.

I always act with integrity when representing the needs of others. That can include supporting staff members dealing with complex situations, to face-to-face meetings with vulnerable young people, through to Zoom meetings. Whether that's being invited to participate in statutory sector forums, such as the East Sussex Housing & Homeless Forum or establishing the Youth Partnership Forum in the wider community.

I am approachable and my natural communication style is open and honest where I represent the organisations I work for in a positive and professional manner. Recently, I facilitated a visit from the local MP, Sally-Ann Hart to Xtrax Young People's Centre. She wanted to meet young people and increase her understanding of the issues they face. This has resulted in making monthly visits to the Centre.

I excel and enjoy working in partnership to increase the range of agencies I work with to provide creative services to support the complex of needs vulnerable people. This has included establishing contact with statutory bodies (DWP, ESCC, HBC) and other community organisations.

Interests and any work history (paid/unpaid)

I'm aware of issues affecting small businesses as I ran my own business enabling people to find and get back into work. I managed a range of projects and contracts, liaised with suppliers ensuring robust reporting and financial processes were in place and ensured teams achieved testing financial targets, delivered on time and to budget.

In my recent role as Service Manager at Xtrax Young People's Centre in Hastings, I lead and managed a small team of staff who supported vulnerable young people with information, support and guidance on a one-to-one appointments' basis and through detached outreach work in Hastings.

Latterly, I set up the Hastings Outreach Group to develop partnership working practices within the wider community to expand the geographical areas offering support services.

Recently, working in the third sector, I have seen at first-hand many vulnerable people who are struggling in social isolation and need support with their mental health, housing and domestic abuse issues and caring responsibilities. The pandemic has impacted on everybody, but particularly those who are most vulnerable and I had to find creative solutions to continue to provide services.

Our economy in Rye with its emphasis on tourism and hospitality is always seasonal but particularly vulnerable in the current climate. We need to support the needs of our local businesses and those residents looking for work.

I would like to utilise my skills and experience as a Rye Town Councillor to represent and engage with the community in a positive way and make a difference.