

# ***RYE CONSERVATION SOCIETY***

## ***OFFICERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, CONSULTANTS AND TRUSTEES 2022***

**President** (vacant)

### **Vice-Presidents**

Kenneth Bird,  
Julian Lockett

### **Executive Officers**

David Bookless, Chairman; *drbookless@gmail.com*  
Tim Gorman, Hon Secretary; *gormantimothyj@outlook.com*  
Stuart Harland, Hon Treasurer; *stuart@harland.biz*  
Andy Stuart, Publicity & Membership Secretary; *nikiandandy@hotmail.co.uk*

### **Executive Committee Members**

Col Colkins *colkins@btinternet.com*  
John Spencer *jds@winsea.plus.com*  
Trevor Gooding *hainault@btinternet.com*

### **Honorary Consultant**

Alan Dickinson Historical & Architectural advisor

### **Trustees:**

David Bookless  
Andy Stuart

### **Rye Town Councillors:**

David Bookless and Andy Stuart are members of Rye Town Council

## **RYE CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

### **NOTICE OF THE FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING to be held in the Council Chamber, Rye Town Hall Rye, at 11.00am on Friday 19 May 2023**

#### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 27 May 2022 (see overleaf)
3. Matters arising
4. Reports from the Chairman and Officers
5. Treasurer's Report and approval of Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2022
6. Elections: Executive Officers and Committee Members. (See note 1)

Proposal: All committee members should also be nominated Trustees of the Society.

The Committee wishes to re-appoint Julian Lockett as Vice-President.

7. Guest Speakers

Sally Anne Hart MP

Cclr Keith Glazier, Leader of East Sussex Council

Cclr Andi Rivett, Town Mayor of Rye

- 8 Any Other Business (see note 2)

#### **Notes**

1. Any member who wishes to nominate another member for the Executive Committee should apply to the Hon Secretary for a nomination form, which must be returned to him at least fourteen days before the meeting.
2. Any member wishing to raise a matter under Any Other Business must notify the Hon Secretary at least fourteen days before the meeting.
3. Please bring your copy of this report with you to the AGM as spare copies may not be available.

*Timothy Gorman Hon Secretary*  
2 Jeake Drive  
Rye  
East Sussex TN31 7FH  
01797 225772

*email: ryeconservation@gmail.com*

## **Rye Conservation Society**

### **Minutes of the AGM held at 11.15 on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022 St Mary's Centre, Lion Street, Rye**

#### **Welcome**

David Bookless (Chairman) welcomed everybody, noting that the large turnout made the meeting quorate. He welcomed the special guests, Sally-Ann Hart MP; Rye Mayor Andi Rivett; Simon Richard, Conservation Officer at Rother DC.

#### **Chairman's Report**

DB noted with sadness the sudden and tragic passing of Diana Hajikakou, our Treasurer of 10 years. This is a great loss to the Society. Julian Luckett & Mike Stott are standing down, they are both to be thanked for all their hard work over the years. The George Hotel has finally re-opened, a welcome move, but many members are not satisfied with the colour choice of the external paintwork. The recent Neighbourhood Plan is a very welcome development (a member asked if this has been adopted by Rye Town Council – it has). Anthony Kimber was a driving force behind this, and is to be congratulated.

DB invited recommendations from members for RCS Awards. Two suggestions were made: the new buildings at Skinner's roundabout, and in particular the Granary Store on Ferry Road.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

This was presented, proposed, seconded and agreed.

#### **Membership Report**

Andy Stuart confirmed that membership numbers have declined slightly to 210, though some of these are joint memberships giving a true number of approximately 300. A life member has made a welcome gift of £50. There will be a Garden Party for members and friends on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

#### **Elections: Re-election of Committee Members, Vice Presidents, and Treasurer Stuart Harland**

All passed un-opposed.

#### **Special Guests**

All spoke briefly. Hastings & Rye MP Sally Ann-Hart was particularly questioned about the nuisance of motorcycle noise and speeding. It was noted that a speed camera with acoustic capabilities is in development, and may be of help in Rye.

General discussion then took place and the meeting was brought to a close at 12 noon prior to the lunch in the Mermaid Inn..

*Timothy Gorman*  
*Hon Secretary*

# Rye Conservation Society Forty-Ninth Annual Report for 2022/23

## Chairman's Report *by David Bookless*

They say that as you get older, time goes more quickly and that certainly seems true in my case as I sit and write another Chairman's Report. Given the interruptions we had caused by COVID I am happy to say that we are returning to more normal times and that we are able to hold the AGM in Rye Town Hall and follow it with our traditional luncheon in the Mermaid Inn.

Planning and the built environment take up much of the work of the Society and obviously is a subject close to the heart of our membership; looking around Rye today, I think we are lucky that most of the best aspects of our streets have been retained such that views of many of the streets in the citadel are timeless, thanks in no small part to the efforts of the Society during the past fifty years. We do of course see changes and face challenges, but I am gratified that Rye remains a wonderful unique place. I have included in this Report a document produced by Historic England concerning making planning applications within and around conservation areas which I hope is of interest and useful. A broad range of information is available from the Rother Council web site.

### Green Issues

We have discussed during the year green issues, in particular energy saving measures where conservation policy and new green technologies can come into conflict, double glazing for example is generally frowned upon and solar panels can be obtrusive although we were supportive of the scheme for the Rye Museum in East Street. Heat pumps are recommended for many buildings but in densely populated places like the Citadel they can be noisy and disturbing to neighbours. It's likely that there will be much more discussion and debate at local and national level about energy efficiency measures and the most appropriate means of protecting historic buildings.

I have had discussions with members concerning the new LED lighting that has appeared on the streets of Rye, there have been instances where the new lights have been too bright for the narrow streets but we were happy to discover that they can be readily adjusted to suit particular locations. I am not against the new lights which are more efficient and I think that cobbled streets with uneven pavements require a good level of lighting, so I am not pining for a return to Victorian gas lights!

### Parking

The picture (*taken by and from Rye News*) shows a classic example of problems caused by inappropriate parking despite the very visible yellow lines and the narrowness of the Mint. Such parking is often on the pavement which causes pedestrians to have to walk in the road which is obviously dangerous. Such parking can also lead to serious difficulties for emergency vehicles.



The second issue raised by this picture is the large lorry which has no business being on this road and risks serious damage to bollards, pavements and even houses. We wonder how it passed through the Landgate!

The introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) coincided with the COVID epidemic so it was hard to gauge the full effects, but we expected there to be improvements in the High Street as the road was cleared of all day parking.

Overall we believe the parking in the centre to have improved. No doubt there are parking problems elsewhere, notably in and around Military Road caused by cars displaced from the centre. There has been recent debate at the Town Meeting and in discussion with East Sussex Highways concerning the possible extension of parking restrictions to enable residents with permits to park in their area, but the real problem is that there is not enough room in the roadway for the number of residents and visitors who need to park, Rye was constructed before the age of the car!

## Awards

The Society wishes to encourage good design and conservation by making Awards where it feels that they are deserved. In recent years the railway signal box, the Waterworks pub (see picture) and the Hub on the Hill have been chosen amongst others.



In 2019 we gave an award to a terraced house in Ferry Road which we thought had been renovated to a high standard and I was interested to note that when it was put up for sale recently, our award was prominently featured in the sale details.

We are still considering Awards for this year to be presented at the Summer Garden Party, but I think the redevelopment of the old Rye Granary night club may well feature.

At our last AGM we were pleased to invite our MP, the Rye Town Mayor and Simon Richard the Rother Conservation Officer who all posed for this post AGM picture!.



This year we have invited Sally-Ann Hart MP and Andi Rivett, Rye Town Mayor and Keith Glazier, Leader of East Sussex Council. We wish Simon Richard well in the future as he left Rother Council at the end of March, we have not yet met the new Conservation Officer.

We are grateful to the Mermaid Inn for enabling us to use their Boardroom for our monthly committee meetings which have featured wide ranging discussions.

We were joined at the last AGM by two new committee members, Stuart Harland who volunteered to take on the role of Honorary Treasurer and Trevor Gooding who has useful experience of commercial development in Rye, this has helped fill gaps in our expertise which occurred following the sad untimely death of Diana Hajikakou and the retirements from the Executive and planning committees of Julian Lockett and Michael Stott.

I am pleased that we have not let Julian go completely as we have made him an Honorary Vice President and have greatly benefitted from his advice and expertise during the year and have asked him to continue.

We wish good luck to John Spencer who will be much missed for his experience of ancient monuments and planning rules when he retires from the committee and to Kenneth Bird our well known Vice President who is hanging up his hat after many years with the Society including for a long time being our esteemed Secretary and record keeper.

We propose that in future the roles of committee members and trustees be combined, this is only to formalise what happens in practice as the committee is at present the body responsible for the running of the Society and we do not have separate trustee meetings.

Finally I thank the members for their support and offer my hope that we can continue to build on the excellent work of the Society in the coming years.

## Treasurers Report for 2022 by Stuart Harland

Unlike 2021, in the past year we were able to hold an AGM followed by a well-attended and most enjoyable lunch at The Mermaid. Seasonal events, with a Garden Party in July and a Christmas Party, increased the opportunity for members to meet with Society friends and also contribute to our income. Nonetheless, there was a deficit for the year.

The Society thanks the Independent Examiner, David Andrews, for examining the accounts and records supplied.

The accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 are reproduced below.

### RYE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

#### Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	(£)	(£)
<b>Income</b>		
Events and Outings	1,883.00	1,306.00
Subscriptions	1,022.00	655.00
Interest received	3.82	-
Gift Aid	-	-
	<u>2,908.82</u>	<u>1,961.00</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Events and Outings	1,486.00	180.00
Affiliation Fees	278.00	178.00
Insurance	265.52	268.80
Printing/ Stationery	602.32	355.35
Post/ Telephone	47.60	55.44
Admin/ Website	375.00	270.00
AGM/ Awards	-	1,069.20
Sundries	260.00	747.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>3,314.44</u>	<u>3,123.79</u>
 Net Surplus/(deficit) for the year	 <b>-405.62</b>	 <b>-1,162.79</b>
 <b>Balance Sheet at 31st December</b>	 <b><u>2022</u></b>	 <b><u>2021</u></b>
	(£)	(£)
<b>Funds at Bank</b>		
Treasurers Account	19,434.12	19,839.74
	<u>19,434.12</u>	<u>19,839.74</u>
<b>Represented by</b>		
Reserves Brought Forward	19,839.74	21,002.53
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	-405.62	-1,162.79
	<u>19,434.12</u>	<u>19,839.74</u>

The Committee of the Rye Conservation Society approve the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022.



I have examined the Income & Expenditure Account of the Rye Conservation Society for the year the ended 31st December 2022 and have compared them with the records supplied. In my opinion they are in accordance with those records.

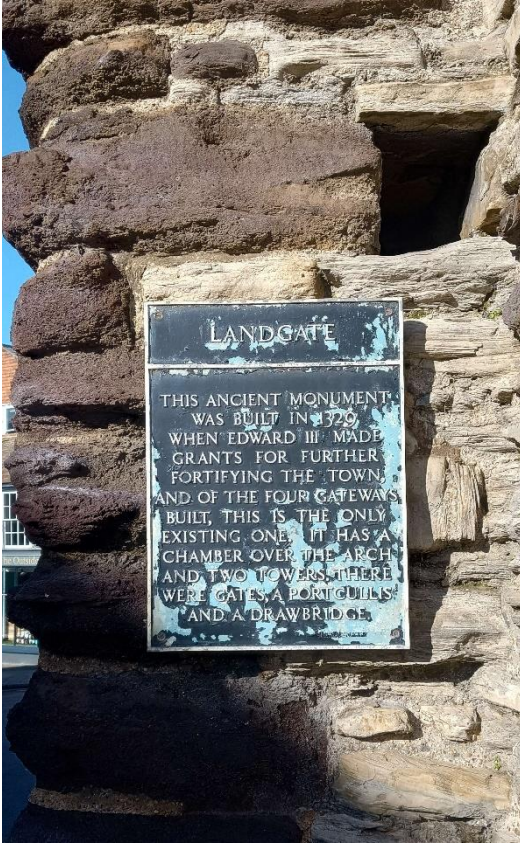


David Andrews ACIB, MCICM, FCT

Partner - Chatswood Associates (Accountants)

Abingworth, New England Lane, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7NT

## The Landgate



No Annual Report is complete without a mention of the Landgate, the iconic Grade 1 listed archway into the town. It has suffered this year from assaults from lorries far too big to attempt to pass under it, but at least

After some false starts it appears that there will be a fresh committee set up to consider a maintenance programme and revisit some of the options including we think the possibility of a protective roof and the feasibility of a pedestrian entrance off the road. Apart from the cost difficulty which has constrained progress in the past there is the fact that its status means that any works have to be approved by Historic England, no doubt a complex process which suggests that HE representation should be on any working committee which is setup.

A very small example of a possible improvement is the smartening up of the sign affixed to either side of the structure. This cast iron sign is showing its sixty year age and should be cleaned up. The Conservation Society is willing to meet the cost, but any work needs to be pre-authorized by HE. The picture shows it as it is, so we can aim for a refurbished sign next year, maybe?

## Second Homes & Holiday Lets

Recently, relatively small houses in Ferry Road are on sale for £550,000 and prices within in the citadel are even higher from around £750,000. These prices mirror those of other attractive towns like Padstow and Salcombe, and undoubtedly some are bought as second homes by Londoners given the nearness to the capital.

These are familiar problems for picturesque communities, but the solutions are not obvious. Some councillors would back a policy where council tax on second homes would be charged at double the usual rate. Unlike in Wales, however, where local authorities can charge council tax premiums of up to 300% on second homes, English councils are awaiting extra powers being considered under the government's local government and levelling up bill. The ability to charge extra council tax would raise important sums for the council, there is a tax loophole that has allowed second homes to switch to business rates and pay no council tax at all. What it would not do is deter the rich second home buyers who can afford to pay, but at least the Council would gain some much needed revenue.

Affordability is an issue that is particularly prevalent in our area and we hope the local councils will continue to actively seek solutions, the problem is that key workers, not just the teachers and nurses and care workers, but hospitality staff and shop workers and everyone else who keep Rye going just cannot afford to live here. Businesses struggle to find staff, parking is a problem and those who work in the town frequently have to commute from elsewhere.

However the attraction of Rye is even greater for holiday and weekend lets since we are only an hour away from South London and judging by the number of key holders in the citadel some streets are nearly 50% holiday lets suggesting that holiday lets are an even bigger problem than second homes. One aspect of the problem is that the town is half empty during part of the week as illustrated by empty streets around the Church and then packed during weekends and holidays.

In our view it is essential that we maintain a certain proportion of fully lived in homes so the Rye can continue to be a living and social town with activities for young and old. The Council is doing a study of housing needs

and will make some recommendations, we wish them well as it is certainly often said that housing for local people is the biggest problem facing Rye which has the geographical constraint of being surrounded by flood plains and tidal rivers that reduce the possible available sites for new housing. However at least the problems now seem to be recognised and are under discussion at the highest levels.

## **A guide to the laying and repair of cobbles**

(This is an extract from a guide produced a few years ago by the RCS)

Rather than start with a specification of how to do it, it is easier to describe how many of the repairs which are carried out result in early failure and an inappropriate appearance. An area of loose or missing cobbles is roughly excavated or merely brushed out. Site-batched concrete or mortar, depending on what is available, is placed in the hole and whatever cobbles were retained are pushed in.

In reality there are three phases to the successful placing of cobbles.

The first is the provision of a sound sub-base, the thickness and composition of which will depend on the load to be taken.

The second is the provision of the appropriate mortar base into which clean cobbles will be hammered. The cobbles are the wearing surface of the road or pavement and it is vital that they are cleaned before use (cleaning in a concrete mixer is recommended), and they are fixed with a maximum spacing of 10mm and given a coat of priming mortar. The base course should then be allowed to go off.

The third and final element is the provision of jointing mortar and then the cobbles are cleaned. A light covering of sieved soil can then be applied to the final dry surface to blend in, if appropriate.

If these stages are followed, then a strong and enduring wearing surface will result. It should be noted that there are locations, such as at corners where turning forces are greatest, where a cobbled surface is not appropriate and it may be better to replace the cobbles with setts which may also help provide better disabled access across the road or pavement.



The full specification for successful cobble laying may be found on our web site,



## **Living in a Conservation Area (Some Information from Historic England)**

Conservation areas exist to protect the special architectural and historic interest of a place - in other words the features that make it unique and distinctive. This page explains what it means to own a building in a conservation area.

### **Do you live in a conservation area?**

Find out if you live in a conservation area by contacting Rother District Council ([www.Rother.gov.uk](http://www.Rother.gov.uk)). They will be able to tell you when it was created, how far it extends, the reason for its creation and the level of legal protection it has in place.

### **How being in a conservation area can affect you**

Although conservation areas mean some extra planning controls and considerations, these exist to protect the historic and architectural elements which make the place special. They are most likely to affect owners who want to work on the outside of their building or any trees on their property. For further information on conservation areas and how they are managed, please see our planning advice page on conservation areas.

### **Your house**

Being in a conservation area might mean that your house is affected by special controls (called 'Article 4 Directions'). These restrict work you can normally do without planning permission such as replacing a door or window or altering gutters and downpipes.

These controls are tailored to each area by the council, and are put in place when there are particular elements of local buildings they want to protect. Find out if an Article 4 Direction applies to your area by contacting your local planning authority([opens in a new window](#)).

### **Trees**

If you want to cut down, top or lop any but the smallest of trees in a conservation area you must notify your local planning authority six weeks before work begins. The authority will then consider the contribution the tree makes to the character of the area and if necessary create a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) to protect it. Find out more about permission for work on trees.

### **Demolition**

If you live in a conservation area and want to demolish your building, you will need Planning Permission. If the building is listed you will also need Listed Building Consent.

### **Permitted development**

Permitted development (PD) rights are slightly different in conservation areas compared to other areas. This means that you need to make planning applications for some forms of development which would not need such applications outside conservation areas. For example:

- Detailed residential changes like two-storey extensions, dormer windows, and stone cladding
- Extensions to retail premises (smaller floorspace increases; appearance should match the existing; limitations to click and collect facilities)
- Industrial and warehouse buildings (smaller floorspace increases)
- Controls on materials for buildings on the site of a school, college, university or hospital
- Limitations on change of use such as retail or agricultural to dwelling house

### **Who do I ask about changes?**

Your local planning authority will tell you what you can do to your home if you live in a conservation area. They can tell you if there are special controls in place and explain what permissions will be needed.

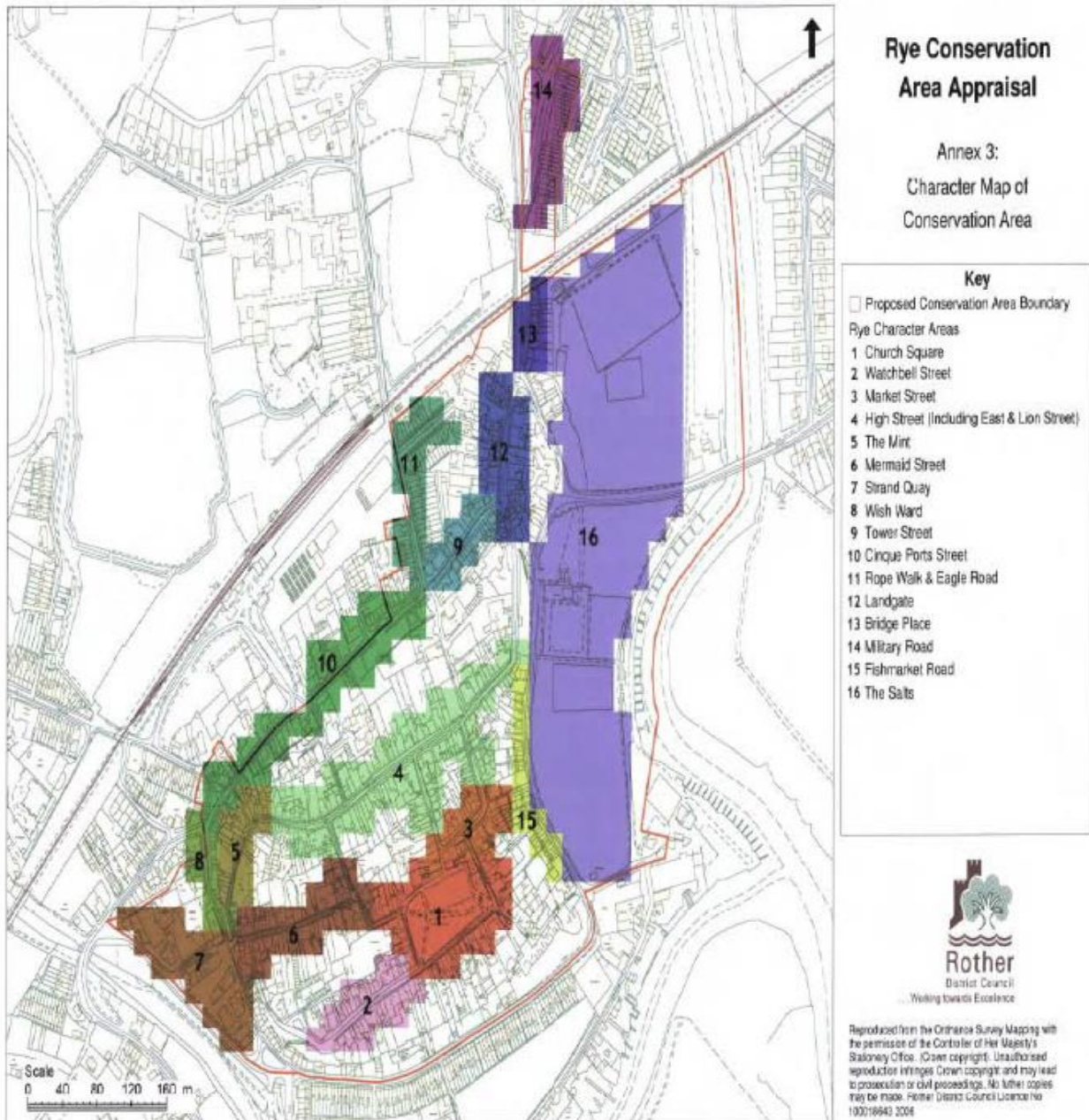
Many local planning authorities prepare Conservation Area Appraisals for their conservation areas. An appraisal outlines the history of an area and explains what makes it special. It also provides some general guidelines on managing and carrying out development in the conservation area.

In addition, local planning authorities will sometimes produce Supplementary Planning Documents for their conservation areas. These show how the authority intends to manage the area in the long term.. It is worth checking with your local planning authority to see if any such documents exist for your conservation area. (in Rye, check with Rother Conservation Officer)

**The financial benefit of conservation areas**

People value conservation areas for their distinctiveness, visual appeal and historic character and research by the London School of Economics and Historic England has found that this value is reflected in the price of properties in conservation areas. Generally they cost more and appreciate in price more than properties in other areas, even after adjusting for location and other factors.

The Map below shows the extent of the Rye Conservation area:



## Rye Property Handbook

Around ten years ago the Conservation society produced a Rye Property Handbook intended to provide guidance to the owners and occupiers of residential and commercial properties within the Conservation Area regarding the practical steps that need to be taken to ensure that our historic heritage is handed down to succeeding generations.

It was recognized that while some change is inevitable and indeed sometimes desirable to maintain ‘a living town’ there are certain conservation standards which must be met if the heritage is to be preserved.

Having had a review of the Handbook the Society proposes to reissue it as a service to local residents and agents. It will cover the requirements for Planning Permission in the Conservation Area which are more onerous than in other areas, for example if your house is ‘listed’ there are restrictions as to what changes you can make to the inside as well as the outside. A Special Direction in Rye requires permission to be sought prior to changing the colour of any exterior paint-work, but advice can always be sought from the Rother Conservation Officer.

It is not the purpose of the legislation to make it impossible to alter a listed building – rather to ensure that any alterations are carried out in an appropriate fashion so that the architectural and historic value of the property is not compromised. It is important that historic features such as original joinery, fire places, plasterwork or panelling are retained and that new work is carefully detailed to marry in with the existing building. Extensions to listed buildings may be acceptable, but they must be very carefully designed and subordinate to the original character of the property,

We very much hope that the new Handbook will be a useful source of advice to residents and help maintain Rye as a Conservation area of national significance.

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Col Everitt joined the Committee this year and I asked her to pen some thoughts to encourage others:

*Come one, come all!*

*To those who have a scintilla of love for this little town, why not put one jot of energy and affection into furthering its soul, its composition and its structure?*

*In the non-arduous but very interesting job of joining the committee of The Rye Conservation Society, composed of nice folk who meet once a month in the lovely Mermaid Hotel for 1.5 hours max.*

*Lock-down somewhat did for our numbers, and one or two additions would be great. You don't need to take on the accounts or the building permission probs! Just bring interest and affection and you'll be welcomed.*

*That's what I did, and I love it all.*

*Col Everett*

\*\*\*\*\*

*The Society is affiliated to the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) which campaigns for protection of the countryside. As you are probably aware, the CPRE is strongly opposed to fracking and to green field development, but it does have a range of other policies and recently clarified its policy on solar energy which is reproduced below.*

## **CPRE policy on Solar Energy**

The countryside charity is committed to supporting solar energy but will always oppose harmful developments. This statement outlines their position at a time when many local communities are facing inappropriate solar farm schemes.

Solar photovoltaics are an important part of our energy supply in the climate emergency, but the government has given the solar industry carte blanche to develop huge greenfield sites which damage our countryside and ignore the huge potential of roof-mounted solar.

It is hugely disappointing that the transition to net zero carbon for the energy sector is being handled so poorly, and this cannot continue. The climate and nature emergencies pose an existential threat to the countryside in terms of landscapes, livelihoods and the natural systems which support us all.

CPRE is a passionate advocate for climate action, and we have clearly stated our support for renewable energy. If we are to eliminate our reliance on fossil fuels then no form of zero carbon energy can be off the table. The government's Energy White Paper (2020) committed the UK to generating 40 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind capacity by 2030; and the Climate Change Committee (2019) recommended that 54GW of solar capacity is needed by 2035. But the need for energy does not justify damaging developments, and strong, effective planning policies are needed which enable schemes that minimise landscape impacts, secure real nature recovery opportunities and enjoy the support of local communities. Schemes that fail to meet these expectations should be refused.

1 Energy white paper: Powering our net zero future - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

2 Reducing UK emissions - 2019 Progress Report to Parliament - Climate Change Committee ([theccc.org.uk](http://theccc.org.uk))

What's going wrong? The location of choice for solar developments has become valuable farmland, ignoring the 250,000 hectares of south-facing commercial roof space (enough to meet half the UK's electricity demand) not to mention domestic roofs and surface car parks that could be harnessed with little impact on landscape, tranquillity and cultural heritage.

By enabling greenfield solar and not prioritising roofs and brownfield land, the government is actively courting public opposition to solar energy and putting progress towards net zero at risk. Community-led energy schemes remain a poor relation to commercial schemes, while vast, industrial-scale solar farms are now being pursued through the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) regime, which sidesteps local democracy in planning and is notoriously difficult for local communities to engage with.

What do we want to see? CPRE is calling on the government to urgently take these strong, positive steps:

- A sequential policy, supported with investment incentives, should make commercial roofs and brownfield sites – and not greenfield sites - the clear locations of choice for solar energy;
- Reducing overall demand for energy through efficiency measures in buildings, industry and transport, should be a national priority – this is also crucial to tackling fuel poverty and creating green jobs;
- Individual and cumulative impacts on landscapes and farmland should carry substantial weight in all planning decisions;
- Greenfield solar applications must have a binding requirement to contribute to Local Nature Recovery Strategies;

- Direct financial support should be given to community energy schemes, which represent the gold standard for renewables done well. There is a pressing need for renewable energy, but that can never be a justification for poor quality or harmful schemes.

Our local CPRE groups will always speak out against harmful proposals, and there is a desperate shortage of good schemes that would enjoy their support. The government must act quickly to fix this growing problem.

## Membership Subscriptions

The Committee are grateful for your ongoing support and loyalty even if since COVID there have not held all activities that we normally offer, we are still happy to be in our 50<sup>th</sup> year in a healthy state with over 200 members. Membership forms for new members are on our web site, [www.ryeconservationsociety.org](http://www.ryeconservationsociety.org) Subs remain at £6 for a single person or £10 for joint membership. Could you please drop the cash or cheque (payable to Rye Conservation Society) to Andy Stuart, the Society's membership secretary at: Little Orchard House, 3 West St, Rye TN31 7ES.

Alternatively you can pay by bank transfer, Rye Conservation Society, Sort Code 30-90-28, Account Number 00710394.

Life membership is also available,

## Summer Garden Party



Last June we held an enjoyable Garden Party in Andy and Nikki's garden at Little Orchard House attended by around 70 people and it was great to see so many members there on a sunny afternoon plus a number of visitors including our local MP.

We recruited six new members which is always rather pleasing as by having a large membership we can have more influence on planners and others responsible for the well being of our town.

## Some Appreciation

The Society thanks Judith Blincow and the staff at the Mermaid Inn for enabling us to hold our monthly committee meetings in the hotel, their assistance is much appreciated. And also for their hosting of our Annual Luncheon which is both tasty and convivial in traditional surroundings. Interestingly although being situated in a wonderful ancient building the Mermaid Hotel is one of the very few areas in Rother where one can charge an electric car, proof that the old and new can coexist!

We have also built up good relations with the local councils, at Town, District and County level. I think its important that we work with our elected representatives constructively on issues that affect us all such as housing and parking problems. However we do reserve the right to disagree on occasion if we think Rye is being overlooked or short changed.

Finally we also thank our local printers Adams in the High Street for meeting all our printing needs, including the Garden Party poster, this Annual Report and Newsletters, often at short notice.

*David Bookless on behalf of the RCS Committee*

## **NOTES**

### **The Purposes of the Society**

The Society was founded in 1972 and under the Constitution, which it later adopted, is concerned with the area comprising Rye Town, Playden, Rye Foreign, East Guldeford and the Rye Harbour area of the Civil Parishes of Icklesham and Camber.

The principal objects of the Society within that area are: to stimulate public interest in the area, to promote high standards of planning and architecture, and to secure the preservation, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest.

In the course of promoting its work the Society has secured registration as a charity. It is a member of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and the Campaign to Protect Rural England.