



ANNUAL AWARDS

Each year the Society likes to make a number of Awards for buildings or works which have improved the appearance of Rye and its surroundings.

We have usually announced and presented the Awards at the end of our Annual General Meeting. The AGMs take place in April and are held on a weekday morning, followed by our Annual Lunch at the Mermaid.

It seems it would be much better to have the presentations in the evening rather than during the working day and by having them at our Christmas Party they would be presented in Rye Town Hall. So this year, for the first time, the presentations will be made during the Christmas Party on Friday 2 December soon after 6.30 pm.

(The Party is from 6 pm 'till 8 pm).

We are therefore inviting nominations for the 2016 Rye Conservation Society Awards. Proposals will be welcome for the following:

- **A new building of architectural merit**
- **An alteration or refurbishment of an existing building**
- **The re-use of an historic building for a new purpose**
- **A good example of sensitive redecoration and use of colour**
- **Repair using and demonstrating craft skills.**

Suggestions need to be received by **Friday 18 November.**

They should be sent, preferably by email, to the Hon. Secretary:

David Bookless ryeconservation@gmail.com (by post to 3 Faraday House, The Mint, Rye TN31 7EW).

An ad hoc Awards Committee will then consider the entries.

Planning Liaison Report by Wayne Jones

Attempts to reduce the proliferation of advertising banners around Rye have met with only limited success. Whilst a few of the most unsightly have been removed, some of the largest are still very much in evidence. Some retailers seem immune to requests even when backed up by the direct involvement of Rother Planning Enforcement Officers. The Society will

continue in its attempts to remove eyesores from around the town.

The parlous state of the pump next to the water cistern in Church Square first came to our attention at the end of last year and we have been working on its restoration ever since. Following the initial concern there has been further deterioration to such a degree that there is every possibility that the wooden housing for the pump mechanism could disintegrate. It is

gratifying that the issue has gained greater prominence over the last few weeks in the local press. Unfortunately, the bureaucratic wheels of Rother District Conservation Officers and Historic England move frustratingly slowly, but we believe that we are now approaching a resolution.

Happily, Rye Town Council has agreed to match the Society's financial contribution to the restoration of the pump; we have submitted a Scheduled Monument Consent form and have been informed that we will have a decision in the next few weeks. Should it be successful, the pump will have a new housing and the 1826 hopper will be restored to something approaching its original state.

Planning Report by Julian Lockett

The Landgate

Rother hopes to issue in November what they have titled a 'Vision Statement' that will put forward the various options for the future of The Landgate. At the meeting with Rother officers it was evident that Rother wishes to dispose of The Landgate to another owner who they hope will refurbish this historic ruin, either as a stabilised ruin or for another use, such as a holiday let. The Society would welcome other potential owners with the funding, private, public or a mixture of the two, who could take on this long-term responsibility but we think it unlikely that anyone will come forward given the physical and practical difficulties that the building poses.

Gristmill

The proposal for five flats on the Gristmill site was refused on the grounds that the building was too high at three storeys and there was insufficient car parking. If a height restriction of two storeys is made mandatory along this side of Winchelsea Road, we are concerned that development of this area will be blighted and will result at best in a series of bungalows on stilts over car parking.

Former Thomas Peacocke Lower School site, Ferry Road

Members of the Executive and Planning Committee attended the recent exhibition of the draft proposals for this important site. The

developer, Plutus (Rye), proposes 77 new homes on the site with the virtual elimination of the woodland planting along the railway line. Whilst we do not object to the redevelopment of this brownfield site for housing, as envisaged in the emerging Rye Neighbourhood Plan, we are concerned that the scheme as drawn is unachievable. It does not address the physical constraints due to possible flooding, provides inadequate parking and must deal with questions relating to adequate surface water and foul drainage.

We will be responding to the request for comments and will send these to the Town Council and to the councillors and officers at Rother.

At the exhibition residents were asked for comments on 3 topics:

1. Do you support the principle of development of this vacant site?

Our view is that we would support the principle of development of this brownfield site for a suitable use.

2. Do you support our approach to the development of the site for new homes?

The use of the site for housing has been part of the planning framework since 2006 when it was designated as a future housing site. We were against its sale for a supermarket and it is shown as a possible housing site in the emerging Rye Neighbourhood Plan for 50 units (Policy H8) and we therefore support its use for much needed housing.

We do believe that there are strong grounds for objecting to the proposals as currently drawn as we believe they are not deliverable and therefore cannot be sensibly commented on.

3. Do you have any additional thoughts on the scheme?

The Society has grave reservations as to the practicality of the drawn scheme given the design constraints that we believe have not been adequately addressed before the presentation of the scheme.

Do you live in a Conservation Area?

If you do, you should be aware that there are additional restrictions on all properties, not just listed properties, imposed by what is called an Article 4 directive.

This requires planning and possibly listed building consent for the following:

1. The enlargement, improvement or other alteration of your house.

This includes window or door replacement or removal, the provision of new external openings, and the blocking-up of existing external openings

2. The alteration of your roof. This includes the alteration of roofing materials and the insertion of roof lights

3. The erection or construction of a porch outside any external door of your house

4. The provision within the grounds of your house of any building or enclosure, swimming or other pool required for a purpose incidental to the enjoyment of living in the house as such, or the maintenance, improvement or other such alteration of such a building or enclosure. This includes garages, car-ports, garden sheds, glasshouses, summerhouses, and garden structures such as gazebos, pergolas and arbours

5. The provision within the grounds of your house of a hard surface for any purpose incidental to the enjoyment of your home

6. The installation, alteration or replacement of a satellite antenna on any house or within the grounds

7. The erection, construction, maintenance, improvement or alteration of a gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure

8. The painting of the exterior of any building or work. This is to apply only to the painting of hitherto unpainted surfaces, or to works consisting of a change in paint colour.

With the privilege of living within a Conservation Area comes, in this case, additional responsibilities and hurdles. Look out for number 8 when you feel like repainting in a new colour.

HISTORIC ENGLAND writes: -

England's history is marked in the fabric of its buildings and places. The most significant of these are listed, so they can be understood and protected for the future. This List (the National Heritage List for England) has almost 400,000 entries from palaces, piers and pigsties to cathedrals, windmills and rollercoasters. It is a unique record of the country's evolving history and character and you can search every entry for free online.

Can You Help?

We are asking local groups to share their knowledge and pictures of listed sites, so we can record important facts about them, and even unlock the secrets of some. If you have stories to tell and pictures to share about a listed place, we'd love you to join our project. Since launching in June, we have received over 15,000 contributions from people who have enriched the List with photographs, historical events, social history or information about the architecture or archaeology of a site.

History groups have so much knowledge about our past and have a key role to play. Can you help us enrich the List?

To get in touch email:-
marketing@HistoricEngland.org.uk

TAIL PIECE

Why I voted against 'In Principle' Civil Parking Enforcement Andy Stuart, as a Council Member of Rye Town Council writes:-

In late July Rye Town Council caused quite a stir when it voted against a motion to support in principle Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) in Rye – in effect, decriminalising parking and thereby handing over effective enforcement to the agents appointed by the District Council and away from the Police who don't police parking at the moment .

I voted against because of points raised by fellow councillors. Firstly, CPE can never be a panacea

since it doesn't cover the illegal parking on double yellow lines and pavements all around Rye which is and remains the Police's responsibility. To me, this is as much if not more of an issue as it endangers so many vulnerable people from single parents with pushchairs to older people with walking frames. Secondly, CPE could see parking meters along the High Street in the current one-hour waiting spots with an hourly charge of, say, £6. Parking could be charged 24/7! All enforced with penal fines for just a minute's overstay by parking wardens on targets and with bonuses for success! RDC

hasn't said what it has in mind so why should we vote for an in principle agreement for something that could hurt Rye's residents and traders very badly? As one Town Councillor so eloquently explained, once CPE comes in it will be nigh on impossible to reverse. So let's see what options Bexhill has in mind, and then let's vote rather than facing the situation of having our District Councillors running around opining "CPE means CPE" after we have voted for it in principle but they and we haven't a clue what CPE really means!

AN INVITATION TO MEMBERS and FRIENDS

The Rye Conservation Society's Christmas Party

is on

FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER

in

RYE TOWN HALL

6 pm - 8 pm

Wine and refreshments

Members £6 – non-members £8

New members joining on the night £12

includes £6 annual membership for 2017

Published by Rye Conservation Society
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