



Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of a PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING held on
Wednesday, 30 November 2016
at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs R Jessop (Chairman), C Davies, J Gyngell, D Furness and M Howell.

In Attendance: Cllr P Fisher, County Cllr Field, District Cllrs M Kenward (Deputy Leader) and K Dixon, Ms U Acuna (Battle Abbey School) and 10 Members of the Public/Business owners

Parking issues in the Town

Cllr Jessop(RJ) welcomed everybody to the meeting and highlighted the concerns of the local schools, traders and residents at the appalling parking of the town which is causing a threat to safety and prevents traffic from flowing freely. He reported on a meeting with Giles York, Sussex Chief Constable who had indicated that if East Sussex County Council (ESCC) and Rother District Council (RDC) agreed to decriminalise parking, his Officers would then enforce the restrictions.

The Chairman introduced Cllr Kenward(MK) and invited him to address the meeting on the recent Overview Scrutiny Committee meeting which had discussed the issue of decriminalising parking. MK confirmed that a resolution had been made for RDC to work with ESCC to investigate and report back within 3 months. He suggested that RJ contact RDC to request notification to participate in any further discussions and to advise MK if this was not agreed. MK reported that the process would cost in the region of £500k with an annual cost of £400k. He suggested that the indication from ESCC was a preference to process decriminalisation for Rother and Wealden simultaneously although the latter is not interested. MK stated that, as a Bexhill Councillor he is not happy to promote decriminalisation of parking as he felt this would have a detrimental effect on Bexhill businesses. He stated that the Police will not enforce until ESCC carry out relining of the roads. RJ reiterated that, as part of the decriminalisation process the lining would be actioned. He reminded the meeting that BTC had discussed joining with Rye to get a Traffic Warden but the Police were not happy with this and Community Wardens have no power to enforce. MK highlighted the lack of control on charges imposed by ESCC if this scheme went ahead.

RJ expressed disappointment that despite the assurance from Giles York, Sussex Chief Constable, there was no Police Officer present.

Members of the public were then invited to speak. Ms Acuna (Battle Abbey School) highlighted the fears of both BAS and Battle and Langton School in relation to the danger posed by vehicles parking on double yellow lines near to the schools. Mr Baker expressed frustration at the parking on pavements in the narrow sections of town; particularly by delivery drivers. He also reported the complete disregard for both the loading bay only and the 20min time restrictions. Cllr Field informed the meeting that 'civil parking enforcement' is carried out in Hastings, Lewes and Eastbourne: all make money and find that traffic flows reasonably freely with parking availability. She suggested that the change did not necessarily mean additional fees and that residents in Eastbourne are not charged for parking. Cllr Dixon stated that RDC and Wealden are 2 of only 17 districts in the whole country that do not have civil parking enforcement. He emphasised that something must be done to improve the situation for residents and visitors. Ms P Williams (Retail Traders in Battle High Street) presented a letter to MK reporting the dire affect that illegal parking and charges in the car parks is having on businesses in Battle. The document also contained suggested solutions for RDC to consider. Mr

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Deeprouse underlined the suffering of businesses in Battle and quoted the vast difference in car parking revenue between Bexhill and Battle per capita. He asked that a concerted effort be made to bring this under control to give all areas a fair playing field.

RJ reminded the meeting that RDC has been a friend to BTC and community groups and he welcomed the opportunity to have an input into the further discussions to this major issue. He thanked all for attending the meeting.

8.10pm Members of the public left the meeting at this point.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr A Ratcliffe

Cllr M Palmer was absent.

2. **Disclosure of Interests** – None

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 2 November 2016**

Approved by Members and signed by the Chairman.

4. **Correspondence and Communication**

- Members had no objection to the usual **road closure of the High Street on 26 December** between 10.30am and 12 noon to facilitate the **East Sussex and Romney Marsh Boxing Day Hunt**;
- Notification from RDC of the **public consultation** on the proposed **Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2028** between 28 November and 23 January 2017. This may be viewed at <http://rother.gov.uk/sedlescombe-neighbourhood-plan>;
- Notification from **Crowhurst Parish Council** that they are undertaking a **Neighbourhood Plan** and had **invited comments** from the Town Council. They had also highlighted the suggestion by RDC to reduce the size of the **Hastings/Battle strategic gap**. Cllr Jessop confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan Group is happy to work with Crowhurst PC and had written to RDC to confirm retention of the strategic gap;
- A detailed communication from Mr D Horne reporting the risks at **Netherfield Hill/Netherfield Road due to no pavements**. Cllr Jessop reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Group are looking at this issue and will be making representations to the Council for CIL money towards match funding with ESCC to find a solution to this issue; although the width of the road could cause a problem.
- Communication had been received from **Asprey Homes** in relation to land at **Netherfield (identified as NE1)** suggesting making a presentation to the Committee on their planned proposals for this area. The Committee agreed to invite them to a meeting in the new year;
- Notification from **Brighton & Hove City Council** that the Inspectors report on the **Waste and Minerals Sites Plan** can now be found at <http://consult.eastsussex.gov.uk/portal>. The Chairman confirmed that there was nothing identified in the Battle area and the Council had therefore made no comment;
- An email noting the concern at **parked cars in the Market Square** had been received from Mr J Harmer. Whilst it is not a Council activity to monitor this area; the Clerk is seeking ownership of the area to clarify the situation and will report to the next meeting;
- Updated **enforcement list** as at 24 November 2016 was noted;
- **Decisions** received and noted:

GRANTED

- **RR/2016/2436/P Netherfield Hill Farm, Netherfield Hill, Battle**

Removal of static mobile home, demolition of existing concrete framed hay barn and

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construction of two attached holiday lets.

- **RR/2016/2525/P** **4 North Trade Road, Battle**
New access and car parking (part retrospective).
- **RR/2016/2582/P** **4 Hastings Road, Homestead, Battle**
Demolish existing prefabricated garage and construct new timber framed garage.
- **RR/2016/2599/P** **The Beeches, Netherfield Hill, Battle**
Proposed attached garage with ancillary living accommodation.
- **RR/2016/2862/0** **9 Bowmans Drive, Battle**
Partial garage conversion, internal alterations and insertion of bi-fold doors.

APPLICATION REQUIRED:

- **RR/2016/2632/FN** **Little Park Farm, Mount Street, Battle**
Proposed steel framed agricultural building.

5. To consider planning applications received to date

RR/2016/2838/P **12 Tollgates, Angles, Battle, TN33 0JA**

Erection of fencing. Erection of a close boarded fence on top of the rear wall adjacent the path and a new close board fence to the side and front with a gate both at 1800mm high.

Members Comments: No objection.

RR/2016/2868/P **Woodland Gap, Marley Lane, Battle, TN33 0RB**

Demolition of existing residential dwellings and structures and replace with new residential dwelling and detached garage with associated landscaping.

Members Comments: No objection.

RR/2016/2875/P **Parkridge, Caldbec Hill, Battle, TN33 0JY**

Variation of condition 1 of planning permission RR/2016/1507/P for proposed amendments to the scheme to include: tiled skirts on the South West Elevation have been omitted; fence heights on the Block plan have been amended; the removal of the loft conversion and rooflights on the North East elevation of Plot 4.

Members Comments: No objection.

RR/2016/2930/P **47 North Trade Road, Pine World, Battle, TN33 0HS**

Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2no detached houses (revised scheme following approval of RR/216/805/P).

Members Comments: Subject to condition 2 from the approval given on RR/216/805/P being maintained; there was no objection.

RR/2016/2935/P **Hilanda, Battle Hill, Battle, TN33 0BN**

Replace hip ended roof for gable ended roof, enabling accommodation to roof space.

Members Comments: No objection.

RR/2016/2972/P

RR/2016/2973/L **Gate Farm Bungalow, Whatlington Road, Battle, TN33 0NA**

Partial demolition of and extensions to existing dwelling.

Members Comments: No objection.

6. Footpath and Footway Maintenance

The overgrown footpath 82 at Tollgates/Claverham College was again highlighted as requiring

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attention and the Committee agreed that the Council's workstaff should be asked to deal with this.

The Town Clerk reported that **ESCC** had provided a model letter that could be sent to any owner/occupier of properties requesting **overgrown vegetation** to be cut back from pavements or road. The Committee agreed that the office should take this action when necessary. Cllr Furness suggested that Moree at Caldbec Hill should be asked to cut back a beech hedge.

7. Lower Mount Street Car Park

Cllr Jessop advised that no feedback had yet been received.

8. To finalise budget recommendation to F&GP for 2017/18

The budget was noted and there were no revisions to the proposed 2017/18 recommendations.

9. Matters for information / future agenda items

Cllr Howell confirmed there is still no **road sign at Telham Lane**. The TC was asked to bring this to the attention of RDC.

Cllr Furness reported on the offer of **Great Dixter's Head Gardener** to donate hay to place onto **verges** which, once established, would give a wonderful display of **wild flowers**. The TC was asked to contact ESCC/Costain to discuss this proposal.

10. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 14 December 2016 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed 8.45pm.

Cllr R Jessop
Chairman