Planning Report: 11 August 2021 updates in red

1.0 Thomas Peacocke site. Plutus Developments RR/2017/1778/P

Full conditional approval was granted on 23 December 2020. No further progress

2.0 Bridge Point Studios. Martello Developments RR/2019/789/P

Consent granted.

Works on site did not commence in April as local residents were advised.

No response to date on RCS concerns regarding use of Bridge Point Studios for commercial film work.

3.00 Rye College. New all-weather illuminated pitch RR/2019/785/P

No change

Decision still awaited

4.00 Old NatWest Bank RR/2019/2577/L

Covers change of use. Undecided

We remain concerned at the stripped woodwork being exposed to the weather.

It is presumed that this awaits evidence of unsuccessful marketing over 18 months as required by RNP or just the standard Rother planning delay.

5.00 48 Ferry Road Approval RR/2018/1828/P

Internal and external works underway.

6.00 George Hotel RR/573/P

Major issue of detailed drawings added to website 19-22 07 2021 including for the first time the external elevations' repainting details, to which we have written a letter of objection. We have written to Tim Hickling, as the Conservation Officer Tanya Szendeffy has now left. I understand from one of the architects that the colour scheme was her idea but her comment to me was that when she first saw it was 'very dark'.

To date I have not had a response to our letter of objection and to date no planning or listed building approval has been granted. In the end what The George has done is likely to be consented to on the basis that any damage to the listed fabric is not sufficiently significant to overcome the social and economic advantages of The George to Rye. They probably also want to get themselves out of the current situation which is a result of lack of control on Rother's part and poor administration on the part of The George, whether knowingly or because of lack of experience.

7.00 Land adjacent The Globe Military Road RR/2020/493/P

Due to extent of local concern and because Alan Dickinson is the agent, the scheme is to be considered by the Exec Com.

8.00 Flood Works East Bank Rother RR/2020/1572/P

Wall to protect King's Avenue housing and relocation of flood bank opposite Fish Quay. Discussions are ongoing between EA and Natural England on Habitat Assessment.

9.00 Mill Lane/Ferry Road RR/2019/840/P Mill Lane/Ferry Road

Outline: Development of 6 dwellings

Appeal against refusal lodged.

10.0 Bethel Chapel, Military Road RR/2021/324/P

Application refused because there is insufficient evidence that it had been marketed as a 'community use' for 18 months as required by the RNP or that it could not be used for a viable 'community use'. Listed building consent was granted.

11.0 Peer review of Rother Planning Department

Video meeting held with Malcolm Edwards, Rother Chief Executive, to discuss the results of the peer review. The main points that came out of it are:

- Outside assistance to be brought in to help deal with backlog of applications.
- Assessment of current practices to be undertaken to improve efficiency.
- Improve website and public-facing communications.
- Consider additional funding for staff and IT infrastructure.

Rother has a major problem of recruiting and retaining staff. The Con Officer has left and another senior officer is leaving to go to Wealden.

Improvement is not going to be swift or easy.

We agreed to keep in touch and he will send a more detailed response when it is produced.

12.00 Replacement street lamps

ESCC is undertaking a programme of replacing all the street lamps in East Sussex with LEDs. They have replaced about 10 in the conservation area with the new replacement lamps which have proved to be very intrusive in terms of glare. I have been in touch with the ESCC officer in charge and a temporary adaption is being carried out on the lamp in West Street as a trial; however alternative lamps are being procured.

I understand that it's intended that a 'beauty parade' of conservation lamps will be held for all the conservation officers in ES to agree. One possibility is shown below.



This lamp does have the advantage of a visible lamp source which the others do not. I have asked whether the lighting level can be adjusted.

13.00 RR/2020/2083/P Gristmill

All residential option granted consent.

14.00 RR/2021/146/P Gun Garden Cottage

Refused on grounds of effect on Ypres Tower and Conservation Area. RCS did not object subject to Con Officer.

15.00 RR/2021/485/P 94 New Winchelsea Rd

RCS initially objected but revised drawing submitted that we would not have objected to.