



Rottingdean Neighbourhood Plan

FOCUS GROUP FEEDBACK

Introduction

Meetings were arranged for two alternative dates:

5 June 7pm – 9pm Rottingdean Village Hall

18 June 2pm – 4pm St Margaret's Cottage

Invitees: 47 community organisations & venues, local schools, churches, nursing homes, health services and ward councillors.

Attendees: 30 individuals representing 21 community organisations and venues (45% representation). 2 from local schools, three ward councillors and five other local residents.

Organisations represented: 4 Deans Stroke Club, Bowling Club, Bridge Club, Drama Society, Flower Club, Cricket Club, Neighbourhood Watch, Quilt Club, Rainbow Poetry, Rottingdean and Saltdean Lions, Rottingdean Arts, Rottingdean Conservative Association, Rottingdean in Bloom, Royal British Legion, Scouts, Village Fair, Village Hall, Village News, Whiteway Centre, Windmill WI, Women's Institute

Schools: Headteachers from St Margaret's, St Aubyn's

Rottingdean Coastal Ward, BHCC: Cllrs Lynda Hyde, Mary Mears and David Smith

Other: 4 Rottingdean Parish Councillors Heather Butler, Ken Humphreys, Sue John and bob Webzell (as facilitators and scribes), James Simister, RPC Parish Clerk and Sarah Jay, Environment Initiatives Manager BHCC (advisory role)

TOPICS COVERED

Environment, Traffic & Transport

Trade & Tourism

Local Development, Heritage & Planning

Village Activities & Services

A: Environment, Traffic & Transport

Neighbourhood Plan:

1. PARKING

Illegal parking - frustration in lack of enforcement- key areas include Court Ord Road, Park Road, West Street, Meadow Parade, Bazehill Road, around the Church and abuse of Whiteway Centre car parking. Parking on Grass near bowling club

Lack of parking spaces to the north of the village

Parking/traffic problems caused by retail deliveries

Parking on pavements an issue as well as parking on double lines with indicators going whilst people use shops.

Encourage more use of long stay car park - better signage, re-profile entrance

Parking permits for residents so they don't have to pay for parking

Do we need a parking scheme to control errant parkers?

2. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Air pollution

Vibration from heavy lorries damaging buildings also pavements where lorries mount

Older residents and parents with children and pushchairs are deterred from shopping in the high street due to heavy traffic

Heavy lorries coming through High Street despite signage

Steining road an issue with two way traffic and parking

Economic impact of congestion - stops people coming into village, time wasted in traffic, negative impact on house prices.

Bus lane time restricted - 6.00 - 10.00 and 3.30 - 6.30 (MINORITY VIEW)

One way traffic on High Street

3. ROAD SAFETY

Crossing required from West Street car park to Post Office

Visibility when lorries are parked in High Street - trying to get round

Halt, keep left sign at end of Ely Drive

Humps cause damage to cars (minority view)

redbrick pavements slippery in rain and snow

4. OPEN SPACES

Most people want to protect St Aubyns Field – RPC to buy as an open space?

Better notices for Beacon Hill

Recycling bins abused by Village Hall

Anti seagull litter bins with swing lid

Wind turbine Beacon Hill (MINORITY VIEW)

Improvement of paving by the Plough - people in favour

People liked the repairs to walls in Kipling Gardens - considered them to be the jewel in Rottingdeans crown.

Grange Gardens and Church yard very good, also liked the terraces

More benches on undercliff particularly by old swimming pool and Ovingdean site

Golf course should remain an open space

Pond better now thanks to fishermen except for crayfish

Posts on village green should be smaller / painted green (MINORITY VIEW)

Sea bed swimming pool/paddling pool filled by sea (?)

Village green not friendly for family picnics - traffic noise (MINORITY VIEW)

Hedges blocking pavements near Challoners

Area at end of Dean Court road needs maintaining as entrance to Tudor Cottages

Parish Plan:

5. CYCLING

Cyclists speeding on the undercliff - militant cyclists, enforcement

RPC Action points:

Query/research needed:

People say wing mirrors have been smashed in high street due to congestion
widening Steyning road, losing pavement on south side to make it easier for two way
traffic.

Introduce rights of way in areas throughout village

Old scheme for Woodingdean by pass mentioned by several people

Other:

B: Trade & Tourism

Neighbourhood Plan:

TRADE

Shops

Local shopping area attracts people to live here especially with smaller independent shops

Concern about empty shops and decreasing variety of retail outlets.

Gaps - no optician reducing number of banks / building societies

Lots of cafes - need a balance between serving the community and tourists

Mixed response to increase in charity shops – quality is good.

Similarly Co-op and Tesco may be affecting smaller businesses but equally they do provide a service to many

Loyalty scheme for local shops - should this be re started?

Trade Growth & Diversification

Re-routing of buses from Ovingdean to encourage travel to village

A weekly (farmers?)market could attract people

Closure of High Street could encourage shoppers

Online shopping also threat to shops - local business needs to respond

TOURISM

Policy

Recognised as a key part of local economy

No tourism strategy for Rottingdean currently

Tourism-attracting right types of tourists not hen nights etc.- need to clarify who to attract and when

Marketing

Lovely village the sea, the downs promote and be proud of what we have

Good tourism offer, Church, Kipling Gardens, Grange however traffic deterrent

Statues of Kipling animals in Kipling Gardens

Pitch and Putt valuable attraction

Revamp washing hut in Golden Square part of historical tours

Copper songs playing in Grange to market music.

Better marketing of village needed

Better signage showing village of interest

No information on the village that visitors can easily access - leaflet, map etc.

Contact/market - be proactive and contact companies to suggest visiting Rottingdean

Facilities

Need for coach drop off and/or parking

Putting Green car park under used asset, as is long stay car park

Perceived lack of parking to north of village and around Green

Parish Plan

RPC Action points:

Ask for better heritage and tourism signage for village IN PROGRESS

Query/research needed:

Could empty shops could be returned to housing stock?

Building on Burne Jones and Kipling brand - statue in Kipling Gardens etc.

Use of Golf Course car park for coaches, use of long stay car park for coaches -
camber need sorting out as does the height restriction, bay outside White Horse

See whether open deck bus could include Rottingdean on route

Dotto train from Marina to Rottingdean along the undercliff?

Other:

C: Local Development, Heritage & Planning

Neighbourhood Plan:

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

Concern about future uses of St Aubyns School

Possible uses for St Aubyns buildings - educational, residential – but access problem

Majority in favour of protection of St Aubyns Field

St Aubyns Field - suitable car park area MINORITY VIEW

Concern expressed about infill development in back gardens and other inappropriate development

Building extensions - overdevelopment

HERITAGE

Historical buildings need attention

St Margaret's Flats - could these be listed?

Urban beautification for example harmonisation of lamp post styles, reduction in unnecessary signage, improvements in street scene and furniture

Telegraph poles - re-route phone cables underground

Heritage lighting less light pollution

Inappropriate use of 'The Green' signage on Falmer Road (MINORITY VIEW)

Earth bank in Nevill Road to be re-instated

Flint wall on Dean Court Road - conflict between BHCC and English Heritage as to architecture of style

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Lower High Street people in favour of either pedestrianisation or shared use scheme

HOUSING

Lack of housing for 1st time buyers and retirees

Requirement - homes for life, young family homes - part owned with housing associations

Parish Plan:

RPC Action points:

Query/research needed:

St Aubyns Chapel Status - listed or not? LISTED

Does the conservation area need expanding? PUT MAP ON WEBSITE

Other:

D: Village Activities & Services

Neighbourhood Plan:

LOCAL AMENITIES + SERVICES

Medical services - no medical centre
Hope Connors Court is a success

ACCESS

Parking a problem at Whiteway centre
Call for parking for GP surgery on ground opposite Meadow Parade
Route from Long Stay car park via twittens to Whiteway Centre should have lights to make safer
Disabled access to St Margaret's Cottage
Shallow steps down the ramp to the sea instead of slope
Disabled access to Terraces – BHCC should help fund
Disabled access to toilets in Park Road
Hydraulic lift from long stay car park to front
No bus stop opposite doctors on Meadow Parade
Another Zebra crossing to recreation ground and pitches

Parish Plan:

ACTIVITIES

Good range of activities
Whiteway Centre seen as centre for older people - impression should change
Need to breakdown the barriers - example in Cricket Club 70 - 15 year olds playing together free coaching to get younger people in can this be done in other clubs
Involve youth more and encourage diversity
Many clubs and societies have older people running them need to get new leaders
Rottingdean Community Choir would be good
Involve non Rotters in Rottingdean

COMMUNICATIONS

Rottingdean village news a useful voice also Library notice board and Rottingdean village directory
Village open day to promote clubs and societies
Should be involving local schools like St Margaret's more - involving the parents
In 1960s there was a welcome pack to the village from traders, clubs etc.- could we re-instate?

RPC Action points:

Request traders to consider new welcome pack

Query/research needed:

Canvas interest in Village Open Day

Other: