

**DRAFT ROCK CHANNEL AREA RYE DEVELOPMENT BRIEF
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

CONSULTATION STATEMENT

Purpose

1. This Statement has been prepared by Rother District Council, in accordance with Regulation 17 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, to set out the consultation arrangements in association with the preparation of the draft Development Brief for the Rock Channel area Rye, which will be a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
2. It also aligns with the Council's own protocol for public involvement in the preparation of local development documents, as set out in its Statement of Community Involvement, which was adopted in August 2006.

Context

3. The draft Rock Channel area Development Brief has been published separately. Together with the associated Sustainability Appraisal, it can be viewed at www.rother.gov.uk/spd as well as being available from the District Council.
4. The SPD has now been published in draft form to enable full and wide-ranging consultation, including from individuals. Comments are invited over a 6 week period from 27th July to 7th September 2007.

Preparation of the Draft SPD

5. During the course of preparing the draft development brief, a number of meetings were held with interested parties to inform the content of the brief at an early stage.
 - Highways Agency and East Sussex County Council Highways– 14th February 2007
Initial discussion to highlight the preparation of the brief and to receive initial feedback about access issues.
 - Rye Town Council – 19th March 2007
Presentation to Rye Town Council Planning Committee to explain the purpose of the development brief, to respond to questions and to receive any early points for consideration.
 - Environment Agency – 30th March 2007
Meeting to explore Environment Agency's areas of interest relevant to the brief including its landownership, its role as harbour authority, recreation interests, land conditions, groundwater and river water quality, biodiversity and fisheries and flood risk management.

- Rye Partnership – 5th April 2007
Meeting with some of the Rye Partnership's directors to discuss its aspirations for the area.
- SeaSpace – 10th April 2007
Meeting with officers to discuss SeaSpace's emerging proposals for the fishing peninsula area which forms part of the brief area.
- Environment Agency and the Romney Marsh Internal Drainage Board – 27th April 2007
Meeting with officers to explore specific issues concerning flood management and drainage.
- South Undercliff Allotment Holders – 2nd May 2007
Meeting on site with allotments holders to explore issues relating to the allotments.

Key Issues and the Draft SPD

6. Notable issues raised through the meetings and discussions with local stakeholders include:
 - Loss of the allotments will be an issue
 - Retention of harbour related businesses should be considered
 - Flood risk management will be an important consideration in the planning of development.
 - There are opportunities for improved recreational links through the site, including for cycling
 - South Undercliff residents lack car parking
 - Maintenance of any infrastructure provided in conjunction with development is an issue

Further consultation

7. The draft SPD is being made available for public consultation for 6 weeks (the maximum period prescribed by Regulations).
8. Copies of the document will be sent to all 'specific and general consultation bodies' affected by the development, as well as other agencies, organisations and local groups that may have an interest in its content.
9. Particular attention is being given to securing local views, in particular by holding a staffed exhibition in Rye on Thursday 2nd, Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th August.

July 2007