

Minutes of Peasmarsh Development Working Group

Meeting – Tuesday 3rd March 2026.

The meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

Given that the group has been meeting weekly for the past four weeks there is still a good turnout, including some new faces each week.

Marcus debriefed the group on his experience at the RDC Local Plan Exhibition in Westfield on Saturday 28th February. The topics of discussion with one of the Planning Officers were flooding (at length), sewage, public transport, developers gaming the system (offering many 'worthy' homes only to renege after planning permission has been granted) and almost all of Peasmarsh's sustainability score resting on Jempson's shoulders. Rother explained that consultation feedback would be collated. It wasn't clear if the number of people raising each point would be counted. The key takeaway was that Rother says, "If we've got it wrong you have to tell us". This suggests the group's strategy of encouraging as many people to respond with their own stories is in the right direction.

Everyone in the group was urged to attend one of these sessions if possible (schedule at the end of this document), make their views known to the planners and ask questions.

Flooding and waste water was discussed again. Jonathan and Gina provided an impressive wealth of local knowledge about where much of the village infrastructure is and how water gets out of the village. The group discussed the viability of putting this on a map to understand more about it and establish who is responsible for it. It may provide evidence to show RDC's plan is not sustainable. Ben and Marie offered to provide a large map they have as a starting point for this exercise. Marcus to arrange getting this information together.

Tracking down individuals who have had property flooded – "it happened to me" - is challenging because admitting one's property floods may make it difficult to sell or insure.

Mental health and well-being were discussed. For example, relocating vulnerable people from urban areas in to the village, away from such things street lights, public transport and a support network of family and friends. Poorer families, sometimes working more than one job to make ends meet or who have health issues for example, may not have their own transport to access work or health services.

The prospect of failing electricity supplies were discussed in the context of infrastructure that relies on it; e.g. EV charging, heat pumps, gas being phased out. Will new houses have wood burners, for example?

The group discussed what may happen after the consultation if the planned sites are all allocated per the plan. Would Rother tell developers the obvious risks? In any case, when developers conduct their own consultations, it will fall to the village to again point out the problems.

A member of the public provided some excellent and vivid photos and footage of their property close to the Pippins site flooding. The question is how to get this to Rother. Marcus to ask at Parish EGM.

The consultation website has been found to be lacking to the point of being unusable by many of its intended audience. Again, this suggests that distributing paper forms is a good way to capture feedback that might otherwise be lost.

The next meeting is to be held on **Tuesday 10th March at 7.30p.m.** in the Memorial Hall which Simon will chair.

The focus of the next meeting will be to discuss the collection of questionnaires and delivering them to Rother District Council.

As a reminder, the dates and venues for RDC’s forthcoming Local Plan exhibitions are as follows:

- **Friday 6th March, 3pm-7pm – Tilling Green Community Centre, Mason Road, Rye TN31 7BE**
- Tuesday 10th March, 3pm-7pm – Battle Memorial Hall, 81 High Street, Battle TN33 0AQ
- Thursday 12th March, 3pm-7pm – St Marks Church Hall (Little Common), Green Lane, Bexhill-on-Sea TN39 4B7.

Per RDC: *These will be drop-in sessions, where people can drop in at any point during the times stated, in order to view the exhibition boards, view hard copies of the draft Local Plan, and speak with Planning Officers. There will not be formal presentations. Each session will take the same format so there is no need to attend more than one.*

There is an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council to be held on **Wednesday 11th March at 7:30pm** to discuss and approve the Parish Council’s response to the Draft Local Plan consultation prior to the 23/03/26 deadline.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to staff the Information Table at Jempson’s. If anyone else can spare a couple of hours to offer support, especially on Saturday 7th morning, that would be great.

Similarly, the drop-in session on Sunday 8th at the Memorial Hall may need some additional helpers as it has been discussed on social media.

Next step	Who	When
Leaflets to be delivered by volunteers across designated parts of the village	Main Street delivery is the main focus for the week ahead.	Ongoing
Jempson’s Information table	<p>Volunteers required</p> <p>Friday 6th March 10.00a.m. – 1.00p.m. 1 Tarquin Desoutter 2 Tine Desoutter 1.00p.m. – 3.00p.m. 1 Sue Cavilla 2 Marie Morton</p> <p>Saturday 7th March 10.00a.m. – 1.00p.m. 1 Marie Morton 2 1.00p.m. – 3.00p.m. 1 Rose Kiley 2 Tonia Krauhaus</p>	
Village Drop-in support centre	<p>Volunteers required</p> <p>Sunday 1st March 11.00a.m. – 3.00p.m. 1 Marcus Gould + laptop 2 Ben Morton Sunday 8th March 11.00a.m. – 3.00p.m. 1 Marcus Gould + laptop 2</p>	Sunday 1 st March Sunday 8 th March