

Statement by Vice Chair RNPSG at Town Council on 9 April 2018

Mr Mayor, I think following the Town Meeting I ought to make three remarks for the public record, particularly as we (Councillors and citizens) have been criticised corporately for failing to communicate.

Regulation 14. Apart from the Gibbet Marsh objection (around 60 people) there are over 15 other issues from the evening and some 10 more from immediately prior. The focus is on sites: Gibbet Marsh, with lesser issues raised about Tilling Green, Winchelsea Rd and Freda Gardham. But there were others about about the 2nd supermarket and 2nd fuel station/food outlet traffic and so on. All are documented and will be circulated to the RNPSG

The Meeting: I hesitate to comment on the Town Meeting process, but suffice to say the D Mayor and I took the decision to move the Gibbet Marsh objectors to a side room to hear views. It was to say the least rowdy but not an unique experience for me. Some people did not handle themselves at all well and some of the worst appear not to be engaged nor have helped themselves. Social media and a poster campaign resulted in agitation. Perhaps It would be helpful if the Mayor or Mayor designate made a proactive statement about the way forward, on which naturally I can make proposals. (This was AGREED)

How to get to next base - Reg 15? Need to take stock (particularly of the comments from statutory and developers (Martello and BP) and then consult Rother. I should say that without pre-empting the decisions of others I can see a way through. After that, a RNPSG will consider and then come back to Council with a distilled view. We should also revert to those raising questions - we are recording meticulously - , including the 60 or so with interests in Gibbet Marsh, with a response. So, in sum: consider, to Rother, to RNPSG and then back to Council . Meanwhile I will keep P&T informed as usual.

Priority must be to get to Regulation 15 - plan proposal.