

PRESS RELEASE

OFFER TO ACQUIRE WHOLE LION STREET CENTRE

An offer has been made jointly by the Parochial Church Council of Rye with Rye Harbour (St Mary's Parish Church) and Fletcher Theatre CIC to the Governors of Sussex Coast College Hastings (SCCH) to acquire the freehold of the Lion Street Centre

Rye PCC propose to use the Adult Education Centre as a church hall and for Christian Education purposes. The Centre will also be available for use by the community in much the same way as it now for a diverse range of organisations and areas of interest.

The Fletcher Theatre Group intend to use the Library and other residual buildings to create a multi purpose Arts Centre encompassing a cinema, live music and drama performances, conference facilities and incorporating bar and catering services. The historic Art Room will be retained and refurbished as this is an integral part of this important community asset. The establishment of a CIC (Community Interest Company) ensures that the assets acquired will remain in Community ownership.

The offer has been made at this time to recognise the importance of establishing as early as possible a sustainable future for this important facility and in the light of the uncertainty facing SCCH in the light of the decision by Rother District Council Planning Committee not to approve the Section 106 Application in its current form.

We believe that the offer made is realistic and appropriate taking into account the poor state of repair and the strong desire of the people of Rye for this type of solution as compared to the alternative that was envisaged.

For further information please contact

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