

Planning Update

with Margaret Howell
Battle Town Councillor

Battle Neighbourhood Plan
Your monthly update

Battle Neighbourhood Plan

Battle Parish has many characteristics that show it is a different part of the country, with a historical dimension dating back more than a millennium.

It is of International as well as National importance. A Character Appraisal of the town will be included in this Neighbourhood Plan..

The Parish of Battle comprises three distinct parts within its boundary, namely Battle, Telham and Netherfield. The latter is separated from the town area by agricultural land, some forestry and open spaces. Telham is largely a continuation of ribbon development along the Hastings Road. Nearly all areas within the boundary have some historical significance, Battle itself has the "Senlac" battle ground, protected by English Heritage, its Abbey and its market town profile established over many centuries. It also acts as a service centre for a large rural hinterland which stretches far outside its Parish boundary. The entire Parish falls within the High Weald ANOB, and retaining the 1970



designated area status is of paramount importance. Battle is used as a conduit to facilitate access to a number of industrial complexes on the rural outskirts of Hastings and St Leonards, via the A2100, in addition to its new use as a transport corridor on the approach to the new Bexhill By-Pass. This has generally increased transport

related problems such as illegal parking and congestion, which has not improved the environment of those living, working or shopping along the High Street. There is also the on-going problem of coached delivering visitors to the town and depositing them around the Abbey Green.

Additional forms of transport are National

Rail via Battle Station, with links to London Bridge, Charing Cross and Cannon Street. Bus transport has limited services, particularly in Netherfield, so households now require a greater number of cars per household so residents can access employment, schooling, medical facilities and, recreation Cycling or walking from Netherfield is a limited option, as roads are narrow with no pavement, as well as being steep!

We wish to develop a vibrant and prosperous neighbourhood by encouraging development that supports a range of good quality jobs, businesses, shops and services that meet the needs of local people, and protects and enhances the quality of the local environment. We also wish to protect the Parish against inappropriate and speculative development. We are currently working on the Open Spaces part of the Plan, so watch the next episode.

Since writing the last episode, there has been a change of officers on the Steering group. Maurice Holmes has been succeeded by Councillor Andrew Brown as Chairman. We thank Maurice for the enormous input he made into this plan.