

## Opinion

# Planning Update

with Margaret Howell  
Battle Town Councillor

**Battle Neighbourhood Plan**  
*Your monthly update*

## Battle Neighbourhood Plan

**W**elcome to the fifth edition of the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Since I last wrote, the Steering Group has continued to work on all aspects of the Plan. Emma Hale, (with assistance from Cate Sullivan and Bev Marks) has carried out the Green and Open Spaces review and has worked tirelessly to cover the area.

A copy (not yet finalised) has been submitted to our consultant, and we await approval before adding this to our website. These spaces also include trees, some of which are worthy of special note. For instance, a tulip tree has recently flowered for the first time in years (see picture, right). According to my tree book they dislike very dry or waterlogged conditions, the first being unusual, the latter being rather more common. Maybe this year the tree decided to ignore the rules!! And there are a number of magnificent yew trees, now quite elderly.

The historical element in Battle continues to be assessed. We propose to have our own listing of buildings in addition



to those on the National Register, as so many of the buildings and other artefacts in Battle deserve recognition.

We called some time ago for another

site listing. This has now closed but can be viewed on our website [battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk](http://battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk).

As a result, we are working on a new and

clearer specification of these sites making sure that the strategic gaps around Battle remain protected. Any developers who have expressed an interest will be invited to present their plans communally at a later stage.

When we have completed these tasks, we enter the stage of Regulation 14 document. This must be finalised and signed off by the Town Council prior to consultation which takes place over a six week period, and is led by the Town Council and the Steering Group. An accurate timescale of the consultation will be collated to allow any bodies with interests who may be affected by this draft to have their say.

Then we shall review the comments received during this Regulation 14 consultation, and address accordingly, with the assistance of our consultant.

The next stage will be a Regulation 15 submission, where we submit our plan, together with supporting documents to Rother District Council. And after that, it is a Regulation 16 consultation with Rother.

Quite a lot of work for your team, who continue to plead for additional volunteers, even if only for a specific issue.