

Opinion

Planning Update

with Margaret Howell

Battle Neighbourhood Plan
Your monthly update

Battle Neighbourhood Plan

Last month I mentioned we would have a presentation/consultation on 27th April. This has now been put back to SATURDAY 4th May, in the Memorial Hall, from 10am until 12 noon. We shall be displaying the proposed preferred sites for potential housing development to address the residual housing sites so the Plan will meet Rother District Council's allocation. This will include sites which already have planning permission. To this end, we have written to the owners of potential sites, as required.

PLEASE DO COME

All relevant documents will be available to view in hard copy at the Almonry from Tuesday 7th May and in addition to this, the documents will be available to view on the Neighbourhood Plan website (www.battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk) from Monday 6th May 6th.

Currently we have completed the Green Infrastructure Study (225 pages), Site Assessment recommendations (131 pages), the Strategic Gap Analysis (9 pages) and the newly completed Green



Space Analysis (10 pages) The last two documents show the appropriate areas in map form.

The Character Analysis, the Parish

Analysis Study, Heritage Charter and the National and District Mapping Analysis have been prepared but are currently with the consultant for confirmation that we

now meet the new regulations of the latest National Planning Policy Framework. This changed in February of this year, so we have had to redo a large part of the work to comply with these new guidelines

This is a massive amount of documentation, undertaken by the volunteers in the Group. It all has to be perfectly, sound, with all the "t"s crossed and the "I"s dotted, to meet the close scrutiny of the Examiner. Some Neighbourhood Plans have failed on these points, so it is essential to get it right, and avoid delay.

Our technical adviser, (AECOM) who prepared the Sites document has been able to offer additional support when it comes to design codes. We are not quite at that stage yet but it is reassuring to have their support. We do feel it is important that the design of future houses is compatible with the generic Battle/Sussex form.

This is the last article I shall be writing as a Battle Town Councillor, as I am standing down for the next term. However I have now taken on the role of Chair, so I shall still be writing this column.