

# Planning Update

with Margaret Howell  
Chair of the Group

Battle Neighbourhood Plan  
*Your monthly update*

## Battle Neighbourhood Plan

**O**n 12th July, two members of the Steering Group attended a meeting organized by Ticehurst Parish Council, to meet with our local MP, Huw Merriman, and John Howell, MP for Henley.

John is a "Neighbourhood Plan" champion, and was instrumental in helping draft the original "Localism" document in 2011. Currently, he has submitted a private members Bill, published on 12 December 2018, to limit the grounds of appeal against decisions on planning applications consistent with a Neighbourhood Development Plan or Local Plan, formulated by the local authority. This Bill is still awaiting its second reading.

The purpose of this meeting was to address concerns more related to local issues. Three parishes within Rother had submitted their plans to Rother District Council in October/November of 2018, yet the examination by a planning inspector was not carried out until April 2019. Referenda were held in June 2019, and the Neighbourhood Plans were finally "made"



in July. The consensus of opinion was that the whole process took far too long and John wholeheartedly agreed.

Understandably, the steering group members of those three parishes were very concerned about the delay. Like the members of the Battle Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, everyone was a volunteer, having given up considerable time for the production of the Plan.

Battle, like Rye, Crowhurst and Ticehurst was designated as suitable for a Neighbourhood Plan in April 2013, although the first meeting was not held until July 2015. Ticehurst and Crowhurst started in November 2015. Some of our delay is the size of the Battle Civil Parish, compared with others within Rother District Council and the number of dwellings that must be provided. And there is no "swopping"

allowed between Battle and Nether field: both must be counted separately for the purpose of the Plan. Battle, in consultation with AECOM (mentioned in previous articles) has now prepared a list of preferred sites, which will be sent to our consultant and Rother District Council.

The subject of the environment is one that residents are concerned about, but we were assured that there is not necessarily a contradiction between increased levels of development and protecting and enhancing the environment as long as this is planned and undertaken responsibly. Providing for the future needs of our communities, is, after all, what planning is all about. This should ensure that development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Please do continue to look at our website: [battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk](http://battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk), where new material is added, facebook on: [facebook.com/BattleNeighbourhoodPlan](https://www.facebook.com/BattleNeighbourhoodPlan) or use our email address: [enquiries@battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk)