

Opinion

# Planning Update

with Margaret Howell  
Battle Town Councillor

**Battle Neighbourhood Plan**  
Your monthly update

## Battle Neighbourhood Plan

Since the last month's article, the Steering Group has been working steadily through the various disciplines needed to complete the above plan.

The consultant from the Locality/AECOM group visited Battle on 18th September to assess the sites we have already considered. More than twenty potential sites were visited, including some that were not easily identifiable following the filtering by AECOM using the SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment), national and local planning policies. Photos of the sites were taken to support the appraisals of the different sites. The report will be subject to a peer review scheduled for the end of November before submission to the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan. We will ask AECOM to provide an estimate of the number of properties for each site as the identification of sites will need to meet Rother District Council targets. At a later stage there will be meetings with potential developers. This does seem rather protracted, but we do want to get it



right for the present and future residents of Battle. There has recently been a change to the National Planning Policy Framework, in a White Paper published on 24th July, although new development plans will not

be examined in accordance with it until January 2019. Prior to this date, relevant housing policies in a Neighbourhood Plan would be considered out of date if there was no demonstrable five year land supply. Out of date policies have much less power

when determining planning applications in a Neighbourhood area.

Now, subject to meeting certain criteria and there being a three year supply of deliverable housing sites, these policies will no longer be considered out of date. This will give comfort to groups such as ours, seeking to bring forward housing in their area where there was no five year land supply, essentially giving a two year buffer. There will have to be consultation with Rother District Council about this, and this will come at a later stage in the formation of the Plan.

In the July article, I talked about the Green and Open Spaces report. This has been comprehensively modified by Emma Hale, and will be appearing on the website after examination by our main consultant. You will be as surprised as I was by the detail Emma has provided, and I know it took her and her able assistants many weekends of walking the parish. Further information is available on our website: [battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk](http://battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk) or you can e-mail to: [enquiries@battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk)