

Opinion

Planning Update

with Margaret Howell
Battle Town Councillor

Battle Neighbourhood Plan
Your monthly update

Battle Neighbourhood Plan

In 2015, Battle Town Council initiated a Neighbourhood Plan, which will set the parameters for the future development of the Battle area, which includes Netherfield and Telham. Every household was targeted, and responses were received and analysed by the steering group. These are local interested citizens, including councillors, working together in a voluntary capacity, to determine the way forward for the next years.

Information is available on our new website under the auspices of Battle Town Council but we are aware that not everyone has access via this route. Hence a monthly report in the local press.

We do now have some professional help, after the third attempt, and as a result, we may have to revisit some of our information. This would involve, for example, a short recall of site allocations. The consultant was impressed with the level of response from the community, which was more comprehensive than many other towns. In 2107, a display was set up at the annual Parish Assembly, and much feedback and information was exchanged.



We intend to have a stand at this year's assembly, which is on 24 April at the Memorial Hall. So please come and have your say. We are constantly updating our

information and maybe you have updated your preferences.

The Neighbourhood Plan is not just concerned with new buildings. The whole

local environment has its place. This includes open spaces, recreation areas, allotments, trees, woodland, hedges. These do need to be mentioned, as there have been circumstances where interests were not logged, and protection was lost.

And historical sites. We are currently corresponding with the Historical Society on these issues. Battle has a large number of listed buildings, and an extensive conservation area. Whilst the listed buildings are a necessary inclusion, you may well feel that other buildings may be of architectural/historic merit and worthy of consideration in the Plan.

Transport and infrastructure are an integral part of the Plan, and we are doing our best to formulate policies for the future as well as the present. Included in this is the perennial issue of carparking and cost. And not to forget footpaths and cycle routes for non car users.

The Plan is not just about new housing but about the environment that the people of Battle want to see preserved and bettered. We don't want to live in the past but neither do we want to compromise the future.