

Planning Update

with Margaret Howell
Battle Town Councillor

Battle Neighbourhood Plan
Your monthly update

Battle Neighbourhood Plan

This month I want to let you know how the Steering Group is getting on with one of the many tasks we need to complete before finalising our plan.

There are some restrictions on land already outside the development boundary of Battle because it is in an "Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty". Tied in with this are Local Green Spaces which are a valuable part of our environment. They can be designated as area for protection, particularly if they are of importance to local communities

This is to ensure that land cannot be lost for the purposes of leisure, sport and agricultural use. Other spaces that can be considered special to local people are hedgerows, green corridors, trees and ancient woodland. The latter include Battle Great Wood, which is classified as a "plantation on an Ancient Woodland Site" (PAWS). You can find further information on our website - www.battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk.

There are certain categories i.e.



reasonably close to the community, demonstrably special and local in character, and not an extensive tract of land. This is laid down in paragraph 77 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Linked in with the Green Spaces are Assets of Community Value: for example in Netherfield the green spaces around the school and the recreation ground.. In

Battle, there are two recreation grounds), four allotment sites, Abbey Green, cricket field etc. Telham has a children's recreation ground.

Further areas of protection are those that are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Battle has four such designated sites:

Darwell Wood - 3.7 hectares of

hornbeam coppice

River Line - 1.87 hectares of geological value

Blackhorse Quarry - 0.19 hectares of geological value adjacent to the covered reservoir

Hemmingfold Meadow - 4.9 hectares of flower meadow.

Do any readers have further areas they would like included for future protection against development. If so, you can contact the group at enquiries@battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk or through the Town Clerk at the Almonry on 01424 772210.

Once more, there has been a change of Chairman. Andrew Brown has had to step down following additional work commitments. His place has been taken by Andrew Ratcliffe.

Do you have a passion for the future of Battle? If so, we would welcome more volunteers to the group. Just contact us on the email address above or through the Town Clerk at the Almonry. If you have a speciality such as knowledge of trees, that would be of immense help.