

# Planning Update

with Margaret Howell  
Battle Town Councillor

**Battle Neighbourhood Plan**  
*Your monthly update*

## Battle Neighbourhood Plan

**J**uly 2018 saw the publication of the revised National Planning Policy Framework. This sets out the Government's planning policy for England and provides a framework within which locally prepared plans for housing and other developments, including Neighbourhood Plans, can be produced.

This new legislation requires Local Planning Authorities to demonstrate the support they will give to Neighbourhood Plan groups in their "Statement of Community Involvement" This is a document that LPAs already prepare, outlining how they will involve the community in local planning applications and in the Local Plan, including Neighbourhood Plans.

First and foremost the NPPF supports the role of NP's in the plan making process and shows how they can direct the type of new development that will take place in the plan area. Key points for or in the NPPF include;

1. Once a NP has been adopted, the policies it contains take precedence over



existing non strategic strategies in a Local Plan covering the neighbouring area. This essentially gives NPs a stronger voice in influencing the shape of development in the local area.

2. Stronger protection is now offered for areas with "made" NPs but no up-to-date

Local Plan – so long as the NP was adopted less than 2 years ago, meets its housing requirement and the Local Authority can demonstrate a 3 year supply of land for housing.

3. L As should provide designated NP areas with housing need figures.

It is a requirement that all NPs are "screened" by the Local Planning Authority to determine whether they should be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment. This is often required where a NP allocates land for development or where there are sensitive environmental areas in or near to the plan area that are protected.

Until now, many Local and Neighbourhood Plans have included policies that encourage certain types of development demonstrating that any impact on sensitive environments could be mitigated. However a recent Court Judgement has said that such an approach is no longer appropriate. Rather, if it is thought that a policy might lead to a development requiring mitigation measures to be put in place, then these s need to be fully considered at the plan-making stage. This may mean more NPs now being subject to the full SEA process.

We are awaiting information from Rother District Council on these issues.

In the meantime, please do look at our website: [battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk](http://battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk) or email to [enquiries@battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk)