

News

Residents give their views on Battle's Neighbourhood Plan

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Scores of residents attended a consultation on Saturday (May 4) to review the work completed so far by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

On display were the proposed preferred sites for development for Battle and Netherfield, based upon having to meet the Rother District Council target of 475 new homes in Battle and 48 in Netherfield by 2028.

Margaret Howell, steering group chairman, said: "We have taken into account developments that already have planning permission to calculate the number of new homes required to match the target. This includes the planned development at Blackfriars, given the government investment for Rother District Council to

build the spine road."

Residents also completed a short questionnaire.

The steering group said the priority order put forward at the consultation for sites for developments that do not currently have planning permission was well-received with only a few stating objections for a particular site. However, when asked whether they would vote 'yes' to the overall plan in its current form, 35 per cent said they would and 54 per cent said they would not.

Margaret said: "This is clearly disappointing but having reviewed the comments, I think this is mostly down to misunderstanding what Neighbourhood Plans are able to achieve and as a team we need to work harder on explaining it to the residents of Battle, Telham and Netherfield. What we did learn is there is a lot



Dozens of residents came to view the proposals

of concern surrounding the planned development at Blackfriars. These are indicative findings of a small sample of residents in the

Civil Parish of Battle that attended the consultation. We need more residents to express their views by looking at the documents online

or visiting the Almonry so we have a more robust evidence base." Visit www.battleighbourhoodplan.co.uk.