

Planning Update

with Margaret Howell
Chair of the Group

Battle Neighbourhood Plan
Your monthly update

Battle Neighbourhood Plan

Since our presentation at the memorial Hall in May, we have been looking at the possible designs for the new dwellings that have to be found for Battle and Netherfield.

Through the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Neighbourhood Planning Programme (what a mouthful: almost worthy of Sir Humphrey himself), led by Locality, AECOM (who prepared our site appraisals), has been commissioned to provide additional support to Battle Town Council.

We are extremely fortunate to have this professional support, as the Steering Group are not qualified in these matters. We are all volunteers, giving much of our time and receiving no financial remuneration, not even the cost of printer cartridges and paper, travel etc.

We are also fortunate that the service provided does not have to be paid for by Battle Town Council. We receive funding, so there is no cost to local residents for this expertise.



The support offered to Battle Town Council by the Design team at AECOM is intended to provide design guidelines and assistance to the Group's work in producing the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan (BCPNP).

Their work focuses initially on the Blackfriars site selected for housing allocation in the Local Plan. Drawing on the

design guidance, it gives recommendations on how we might best accommodate the new development. Particular attention was given to preserving open spaces and trees within the site and the enhancement of Battle's historic townscape.

Within the parish there are a few examples of successful contemporary architecture, with dwellings built in high

quality building materials, demonstrating an intelligent understanding of materials, and local traditional architecture. AECOM also suggest that this trend continues to further expand with additional eco design features incorporated in future developments.

With this in mind, the consultants are well aware that there is currently much concern about localised flooding due to the use of hard paving in driveways. They would incorporate permeable paving, which allows water to filter through, but also helps frame the building and makes an attractive entrance.

These design guidelines will be a valuable tool in securing, high quality development of the sites in question.

Next month I hope to have further good news about the amount of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy), paid by developers we might expect to receive. I mentioned this in my February article.

You will find excellent information about the Neighbourhood Plan on our website: battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk. And don't forget our Facebook page: