

## Opinion

# Planning Update

with Margaret Howell  
Chair of the Group

Battle Neighbourhood Plan  
*Your monthly update*

## Battle Neighbourhood Plan

**B**y the time this article appears in print, the six week public consultation under Regulation 14 will have been under way for five weeks (from 20th January). The last day will be Monday 1st March.

Please do come and see some of the documents which are on view at the Almonry, the Library, the Memorial Hall, the Black Horse pub in Telham and the village shop in Netherfield.

All the documents are available on our website "battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk"

Feedback can be made, both on-line, and by using the forms at the venues above.

The Plan that is on view, is, I must stress, a DRAFT one. It's rather like having a kitchen design in paper form, and then waiting for the units to be installed.

The Neighbourhood Plan has NOT DECIDED upon the numbers. These have been handed down from central Government to Local Authorities. The number allocated to Battle (475) and Netherfield (48) CANNOT BE CHALLENGED, and may indeed be increased in the future.



Briefly, a Neighbourhood Plan gives residents an opportunity to have a say in the development of additional dwellings within the Civil Parish. And to protect green

spaces (and hence the environment, which was a major concern), heritage buildings etc. Without a Plan, Rother District Council can decide where new dwellings will be built,

and you will have NO SAY where they will be built. Planning permission is for RDC to decide, not the Neighbourhood Plan.

There is one great advantage: developers have to pay a "Community Infrastructure Levy" (CIL). Without a Neighbourhood Plan, this amounts to 15%. With a Plan, the amount is 25%, which MUST be spent on items of value to the community. This could possibly be, for example a doctor's surgery at Netherfield which was one of the suggestions in the Community Aspirations.

It has taken since 2015 to reach this stage of development. And this "pre-submission" is the first stage of many.

AT the end of this consultation period, the comments on the feedback forms will be diligently analysed, and the Plan amended if necessary. The revised Plan will be re-submitted to Rother District Council, for their observations, and if accepted, will be sent to a Planning Inspector for observation. There will then be a further six week consultation lead by RDC. And if that is accepted, there will be a referendum, conducted by Rother District Council.

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