

## Opinion

# Planning Update

with Margaret Howell  
Chair of the Group

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

## Battle Neighbourhood Plan

I hope that many of you will have read my letter to the Bexhill and Battle Observer of 5th June.

We were advised by Rother District Council that we must include a section on employment and retail for the Plan to succeed.

At least 10,000sq.m of floorspace for employment is appropriate for Battle to 2028. Some 7,000sq.m of this is catered for at the Rutherford Business Park, which if my maths is correct, leaves some 3,000sq.m to be found in or adjacent to the town centre.

As for additional retail, the Rother Development and Site Allocations Plan suggests that an increased shopping floorspace of 1,000sq.m would enhance Battle's local role as a service centre.

The figures given were based on the Battle Town Study, carried out by Rother District Council in 2011, complemented by the 2014 Rother Core Strategy.

Since then, the world of retail and employment has changed dramatically, with emphasis on internet as opposed to the high street. RDC recognises that, as these figures are based on data that is ten



years old, there may be revision after the call for sites has been completed.

Consequently, a request was made in the Bexhill and Battle Observer of 12th June, as well as the Battle Town Council website, the Battle Neighbourhood

Plan website, [facebook.com/BattleNeighbourhoodPlan](https://facebook.com/BattleNeighbourhoodPlan).

We have a deadline of 30th June for responses, so if any reader has anything to offer, please do get in contact at [enquiries@battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk)

On another matter, we have at last finished analysing the feedback responses for the Regulation 14 consultation, which finished on 1st March. Very many thanks to all those who responded.

As well as the required consultees – statutory bodies, such as Rother District Council, High Weald AONB, the Environment Agency, East Sussex County Council, water authorities, National Trust and others of that ilk, we were obliged to contact potential developers. And finally but not least, you, the residents of the whole of the civil parish of Battle, which of course includes Netherfield and Telham.

It has taken the Steering Group many hours of work, meeting by Skype 5 days per week (sometimes more frequently) to diligently scrutinise the feedback responses. We listed them, summarised the points and then scrupulously made our responses.

One major result was that we shall be re-writing the Community Aspirations to incorporate the many points raised, which are outside of the Neighbourhood Plan, but which the community regards as vital to the future of Battle.