

24 July 2020

Opinion

Planning Update

with Margaret Howell
Chair of the Group

Battle Neighbourhood Plan
Your monthly update

Battle Neighbourhood Plan

Following on from last month's article, members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have at last finished the very detailed analysis of the responses to the Draft Regulation 14 document. This was the basis for the six week consultation held during January and February earlier this year.

We have spent many hours, crouched over our computers via Skype since the middle of March, and finally finished towards the end of June. This has involved coming up for about 200 hours of scrutiny, with a fairly regular attendance of 5/6 members of the group at every meeting. So many man/woman hours!

As a result, we have accumulated over 430 pages of comments raised by residents, the Statutory Bodies and Developers which have then been summarised and given detailed responses. The revised version has just been received from our consultant, so we now have to start once again looking through every page with a fine toothcomb, to ensure we have addressed in sufficient detail and clarity the concerns of residents. Our almost daily Skype meetings are



not concerned solely with the feedback analysis. There are a considerable number of important background documents that need revision. Currently, we are working on the Communications Strategy, which involves researching evidence from the current era to that when the

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was first set up in 2015. This will be placed in a separate appendix, along with documentation relating to the various surveys carried out, photos of events, literature including newspaper articles like this one.

One major theme that presented itself was concern over matters such as traffic, pedestrian safety, cycling routes. These are outside of the remit of the Neighbourhood Plan. But, fear not!! We now have an extremely comprehensive appendix "Community Aspirations". This has been compiled almost entirely by one or two members from the pages and pages of residents comments.

There have in addition been a couple of minor changes to the team. One member who became an adviser (non voting) has returned to the fold. Another member has stepped down as a full voting member, but will remain as a very valuable adviser in a non-voting role. And our vice-chairman is taking a sabbatical owing to pressure of work.

Please do continue to look at our website (which we hope to re-design soon to make it easier to use, now there are so many documents in the archive.): "www.battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk", our facebook page "facebook.com/BattleNeighbourhoodPlan" or email to "enquiries@battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk"