

# Planning Update

with Margaret Howell  
Chair of the Group

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

## Battle Neighbourhood Plan

**T**here has been some concern over the design of new housing in Battle, particularly with regard to the proposed new developments at Blackfriars.

Rest assured, there will never be any suburban type red brick boxes in this historic town. ALL new dwellings have two design safeguards in place: viz: the Battle CP Design Guidelines and the High Weald Housing Design Guide. The latter has already been adopted by Rother District Council, and the former is already being followed by Battle Town Council. Full adoption of this code will become mandatory when the Plan is accepted at referendum. So, please vote "yes" next year.

Our website "battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk", under the heading "RDC Consultation", lists the various documents that have been submitted. Second on the list is "Annexe 1", the Battle CP Design Guidelines. Please do have a look at this comprehensive and detailed guide.

Because Battle is such an historic town, the centre has been a conservation area

**Battle Civil Parish**  
**Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2028**  
**PLAN PROPOSAL**  
**SUBMISSION**

Published by Battle Town Council for the Regulation 15 Plan Proposal Submission under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and in accordance with EU Directive 2001/42

NOVEMBER 2020

since 1970. So any development has to fit in with the vernacular architecture of the town. Subsequently, developments outside of the town centre also have to integrate visually and architecturally.

For example, the street scene should not follow straight lines, but meander. Roof lines should have varying heights, broken up by dormer windows, and maybe hipped gables. Walls can be tile hung on the upper

stories, or weather boarded in white or black. Windows can have sandstone trim on red brick walls.

There must be front gardens, with any paving made from permeable materials. Cycle tracks and wandering pathways (but without narrow walkways between high fences), like the twittens in the town centre, will stylistically bridge the new sites.

Landscaping assumes more importance, with the realisation that our natural resources need to be conserved. So, for every tree or woodland that is lost to development, there must be replacements. Wild life will not be forgotten either. Ponds will be retained, and to cater for the birds, swift boxes will be incorporated into buildings, so that this species, which is so important to Sussex and Battle in particular, is encouraged to make homes here, as well as humans.

So, with these protective measures in place, Battle will remain a town retaining its particular style and ambience.

All that remains is for residents to participate positively in the Rother District Council Consultation, running until 29th January 2021, and then vote FOR the Plan.