

Planning Update

36

with Margaret Howell
Chair of the Group

Battle Neighbourhood Plan
Your monthly update

26 FEBRUARY 2021

Vote for Battle's Neighbourhood Plan

Since the last newsletter, the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan life was adopted by Battle Town Council on 25th November, and then passed to Rother District Council for their own eight week consultation from 4th December 2020 until 29th January 2021.

The plan was subsequently accepted by RDC at the Cabinet meeting on 11th January 2021. One more hurdle passed! Now we await the examination by an inspector familiar with RDC, AONB and historic towns.

Whilst a Neighbourhood Plan has its own parameters, there are limits to what it is permitted to include. So, following on from this, the Steering Group compiled a list called "Community Aspirations". This can be found on our website www.battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk. It is comprehensive, and includes concerns raised at the different consultations held over the years.

The main issues are for key facilities and services, not least because they are currently centred on the town area, and not so much on Netherfield and Telham.

So, for Netherfield, improved footway provisions in and beyond the village, with



particular emphasis on a footway between Darvel Down (starting at the Village Store) to the Village Hall and then to the church is detailed in Ambition 7. Additionally, better

electrical, water and broadband facilities are suggested. Also better streetlighting and electric vehicle charging points.

One of the most important provisions

called for by residents is call for Community Facilities, such as a part-time Doctor's surgery, with a part-time pharmacy. Adequate recreational facilities, particularly for the young and Seniors, are yet another suggestion. Some similar ambitions are quoted for the town and Telham, such as the re-development of the skate ramp, and a youth activities community centre along with a Senior Citizens Centre.

For the town and Telham, a reduction in road congestion, both local and through traffic, particularly at peak times, is oft sighted as necessary. A Park and Ride could be one way forward.

This is a very brief outline of the many items in the "wish list" called "Community Aspirations".

You may well wonder how this will be funded. Well, with a neighbourhood Plan in place, developers have to pay a Community Infrastructure Levy of 25%. Quite a tidy sum!. Without the NP. The figure is 15%.

So please vote for the Neighbourhood Plan at Referendum, which would vindicate the sterling work completed by the wholly voluntary Steering group. I give my heartfelt thanks to all those individuals.