

## Opinion

# Planning Update

with Margaret Howell  
Chair of the Group

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

## Battle Neighbourhood Plan

Way back in 2015, Battle Town Council decided to formulate a neighbourhood plan, covering the period to 2028. This opportunity came about as a response to housing targets, originating from central government, and filtering down to county councils, local authorities and ultimately parish and town councils. The local authority will still be the only body to grant planning permission, not the neighbourhood plan.

Hence the residents of Battle Civil Parish will have a big say in the development of the homes we are required to accommodate. Additionally, the historic nature of this former market town, granted a charter by King William I to hold weekly markets and two Fairs, at Whitsun and the feast of St Martin in November (now lapsed), will be preserved. Local green spaces have been listed, and will prevent development on those areas and by insisting on green gaps along the main roads, urban ribbon development will not be possible.

Battle has been presented with figures of 475 for the town and Telham, with a further 48 for Netherfield. Further, there



cannot be an interchange between the two communities: the Netherfield allocation is tied to Netherfield and cannot be absorbed by Battle and Telham, and vice versa.

A large percentage of the town allocation is centred around the Blackfriars site, which currently has planning permission for 200 dwellings. There is an additional

space for 20 dwellings, which thus far are not being put forward. This development will incorporate many of the latest ideas in sustainability and biodiversity, with a strong emphasis on a modern approach to housing, incorporating the latest technological advances. One of the most important strictures is that ALL housing design MUST conform to the High Weald Housing Design Guide, and ultimately the Battle CP Design Guidelines. So, no urban looking brick box houses but architecture which echoes that already existing in this historic part of the county. And local wildlife will be encouraged with the inclusion of boxes for swifts and bats.

As the whole of our area comes under the umbrella of the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), all of these developments will be subject to AONB constraints which gives practically us the same protection as national parks. So, the plan is not just about dwellings but is a blueprint for the holistic future of the civil parish of Battle. Please do continue to look at our website - [battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk](http://battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk) - which advises the latest updates.