

Opinion

Planning Update

with Cllr Margaret Howell
Chair of the Group

Battle Neighbourhood Plan
Your monthly update

Battle Neighbourhood Plan

The Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan is currently undergoing examination by the independent examiner appointed by Rother District Council. He started this process on 22nd March, and paid a visit to Battle on 23rd March. To preserve his integrity and independence, he did not meet with any members of either RDC, Battle Town Council or the Steering Group of the Council.

The next stage is that the examiner will issue a fact checking report for RDC and BTC to confirm that FACTS are correct. This is not an opportunity to put forward further representations on the Plan. Then the examiner usually gives another couple of weeks to issue the final report.

Once this final report is issued, the Local Planning Authority (RDC) has five weeks in which to issue a Decision Statement, which sets out whether RDC accept the examiner's recommendations. If they do, then the Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to referendum.



Battle in 1900/1911. The scaffold on the right is on 'Freeman, Hardy and Willis', a long defunct shoe shop.

Once the statement has been published, the referendum **MUST** be held within fifty six working days, unless BTC or RDC agree a later date. This could be, for example, if the date falls within the summer holidays. So, we could be in for a wait.

In the meantime, please do consider what the Neighbourhood Plan spells out for the residents of Battle Parish.

Protection of the Local Green Spaces, which we hope will be registered as Town and Village Greens – this is land on which

a significant number of inhabitants has indulged in lawful sports and pastimes, for twenty years, as of right. At present, the Neighbourhood Plan has identified five sites within Battle:- North Trade Road Recreation Ground, Telham Recreation Ground, Coronation Gardens Recreation Ground, Kingsmead open space, and Darvel Down open space.

Allied with this is the Green Infrastructure Study – an extremely comprehensive documentation of the land in the parish, including many photos of roads and lanes with their respective trees

The heritage of Battle, its historic buildings are all listed, and can be seen on our website www.battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk. We live in such a unique town, that we need the Plan to ensure it remains so.

There will be some changes, with the housing targets set for the parish. But the Steering Group has worked hard to ensure that the developments meet the criteria set out in the Plan. The design of future buildings **MUST** meet the criteria set out in the Battle Design Guidelines, and the High Weald AONB Design Guide.