

# Planning Update

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

## Battle Neighbourhood Plan

**T**he long awaited Examiner's Report on Battle CP Neighbourhood Plan was received on 28th May 2021. It was twenty seven pages long, which compares favourably with the Regulation 16 NP Submission document which was ninety eight pages long!

Overall, the examiner was impressed with the Plan (started in 2015), which, when amended in line with his comments, is fit to go to referendum.

The examiner congratulated the town council on producing a locally distinctive neighbourhood plan, which will be a strong policy basis for determining planning applications over the next few years. The neighbourhood plan itself cannot grant planning permission - this as ever remains with Rother District Council, although Battle Town Council have a say as consultees. When the plan is accepted, it will have a legal force.

The policies protect the area's landscape and its special heritage, and reinforce the role of Battle town centre, whilst



meeting the RDC core strategy housing requirements for the whole parish.

Although three of the green gaps will not be included, excellent protection is still covered by the High Weald AONB. Additionally, three other policies in their totality were removed, but this does not

materially affect the plan.

On advice from the examiner, the housing allocations were altered to read "approximately" rather than "up to". And further, the number of dwellings or Glengorse has been reduced to "approximately 15". This still fits in with the

numerical allocation for Battle.

R D C have accepted the examiner's recommendations, as have Battle Town Council. The combined revision, which has to be completed by 3rd July, will be made by our consultant. After that, RDC will issue a decision statement, and will then organise the referendum. They have fifty six working days to do this, but with some leeway when a holiday period falls within the time.

So, with this in mind, the likely date for the referendum is now early September.

Remember, this is when the community will be able to vote on the plan, which will decide the outcome of six years work by local volunteers., whom I profusely thank. This was recognised by the examiner, who stated "It is clear much work has gone into this plan by volunteers on behalf of the local community, and the work does the town council and its volunteers great credit". In fact, three original members are still on the Group, although others have joined along the way.

Further information is available on our website [www.battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk](http://www.battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk)