

# Planning Update

Battle Neighbourhood Plan  
*Your monthly update*

with Cllr Margaret Howell, Chair of the Group

## Battle Neighbourhood Plan

**F**ollowing the independent Examination and acceptance by Rother District Council, the Plan is now fit for purpose, and it can therefore go to a Referendum.

The trigger for this date is the “Decision Statement”, issued by RDC. This can be seen on our website [www.battleneighbourhoodplan.go.uk](http://www.battleneighbourhoodplan.go.uk) and the RDC website.

So, the result is that the Referendum will now take place on Thursday 16th September.

Let me re-iterate what the Plan will achieve for the whole of the Battle Civil Parish.

It will protect our heritage, and with such a unique parish as Battle, this is of paramount importance. It will decide where new homes are built and influence what they should look like. Every dwelling will have to comply with the Battle Civil Parish Design Guidelines, and the High Weald AONB Housing Design Guide. This will apply particularly to Blackfriars, which has been shortlisted for the “Inside Housing Development Awards” for best rural or suburban development”. What a great achievement!

And to protect wildlife, one stipulation is that swift boxes will be fitted.

To please human residents, the local green spaces are given protection as well as the Green Gap along Marley Lane. Additionally,

the website also includes an extremely comprehensive list and narrative of the local flora and fauna under the title of “Green Infrastructure Study”

Section 7 of the last Submission to RDC includes the Community Aspirations – or if you like – a wish list. Infrastructure issues can partially be funded by the “Community Infrastructure Levy”, which is a “tax” if you like on most developments. Currently this amounts to 15% but with a “made” or adopted Plan, this will increase to 25%, on planning permission granted after the Plan is made. So, an incentive to vote positively for the Plan.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a way for residents to have a say in the future of the place where they live, work and play. It sets out a positive vision of how residents want the community to develop in a way that meets identified local needs. If adopted, this Plan will provide twenty distinctive Policies for the future development of the Civil Parish, which along with the peripheral documents will ensure that the whole of Battle remains a vibrant and thriving community.

The most important legacy is that a formally made Neighbourhood Plan has full-on legal status, and future planning applications must adhere to it.

So, please do vote on 16th September.

