

## Opinion

# Planning Update

with Margaret Howell  
Chair, Battle Civil Parish  
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

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

## A resounding 'Yes' vote!

**V**oting for the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan took place on Thursday, September 16. The results, which were declared late on Thursday evening were as follows:

Yes	1127
No	138
Spoilt	5

The total turnout was 24 per cent (the average for local elections etc), which means that 88 per cent of voters were in favour. The plan will come into force after Rother District Council (RDC) meet on October 18, after which time it has real legal force in determining planning decisions.

This plan has been in gestation since 2015, with a voluntary team of councillors and residents, together with professional consultants, whose fees were paid through a government grant. This allowed for the hiring of halls for public consultations, publicity leaflets, site assessments. There was marginal cost to Battle Town Council (BTC). Likewise, the cost of the referendum was met by RDC, and run along standard lines.



As mentioned in the summer newsletter, and re-iterated in the BTC leaflet distributed in August, there are 20 distinctive local policies for Battle.

Local green spaces and historic environments will be protected, and dwellings will have to comply with the

Battle Design Guidelines. More importantly, future developments will attract a Community Infrastructure Levy of 25 per cent, to be spent by BTC on projects that benefit the community.

There have been a number of changes in volunteers since 2015. Councillor Allan

Russell, Bev Marks and myself have served since 2015. Allan, in his complementary role as chair of the Heritage group, has put together a great deal of the historic information, as well as dealing with the government approved organisation for grants, site assessments and the Battle Design Guidelines. Bev Marks has completed similar work on mapping and green spaces, as well as drafting Community Aspirations. Others currently serving are Councillors Andrew Brown and Dale Wheeler., with the former keeping our grammar correct among other tasks. Dale, together with Paul Wymark as vice-chair, has kept the website up to date. Two modest members have contributed to marketing, mapping, and researching RDC planning applications.

I must also give my heartfelt thanks to Julia Edwards, of RDC, and our consultant, Donna Moles, who additionally is a Neighbourhood Plan 'champion'.

Finally, thank you to my colleagues on BTC, particularly mayor Glenna Favell, town clerk Carol Harris and assistant town clerk Jane de Garston