

# Planning Update

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

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

## Neighbourhood Plan is now 'made'

**T**his is the forty fourth article I have written on the Battle Neighbourhood Plan: it is also the last. After a gestation of more than six years, the Plan was finally "made" at an extraordinary meeting of Rother District (RDC) on 18th October. Battle therefore joins the five parishes which now have a Neighbourhood Plan - Crowhurst (2019), Rye (2018), Salehurst and Robertsbridge (2018), Sedlescombe (2018) and Ticehurst (2019). Four other parishes have plans in the pipeline.

Battle has therefore complied in advance with the latest dictates outlined by the new Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Minister, Michael Gove. He has called for a complete re-think of the reforms contained in last year's planning white paper, and has supported a report by MP's for a return to "localist" policies, and recommends making neighbourhood planning "universal" across England.

This formal adoption of Battle's Neighbourhood Plan brings a legal force into play, to which all future planning



applications must comply. Indeed, many current applications already refer to "the emerging Neighbourhood Plan". From now on, there will be stricter parameters in for example the design of dwellings. As well as

complying with the High Weald Housing Design Guide, (already adopted by RDC), applicants must ensure that dwellings also comply with the Battle Design Guidelines. There will be greater emphasis on

biodiversity, preservation of the local green spaces, awareness of the historic nature of most of the town by implementing the Battle Heritage Charter and the Local Heritage Listing and with all new developments primed to include cycle and footpath connectivity.

The Plan does not stop here. Battle Town Council (BTC) will be setting up an "Implementation, Monitoring and Review Committee, composed of three councillors, one who has not been part of the Steering Group, and two residents, one of whom has been part on the Steering Group. The remaining place will need to be taken by a resident, who is interested in implementing, monitoring and reviewing the Plan. So, if there are any volunteers within the parish who would like to join the team, please get in touch with the Council. The committee will meet quarterly, with a final review once a year.

Finally, it is time to say "goodbye" to this monthly report on the Neighbourhood Plan. However, there will still be a monthly report on Battle Town Council/Battle affairs, so please continue to watch this space!