

Battle Town Council News

with Cllr Margaret Howell

Planning now conforms to the plan

Battle now has a fully functioning Neighbourhood Plan! Following the outcome of the Referendum held in September, the Plan was adopted by Rother District Council on 18th October and now carries considerable weight in determining future planning applications. In fact, at the last meeting of the Battle Town Council Planning and Transport Committee, three applications were subjected to considerable scrutiny to ensure they complied with the particular policies that are applicable to Battle. To that end, a "pro-forma" has been created which, along with a brief of the policies, helps Councillors to reach a considered conclusion - a "tick box" if you like.

Future articles may well touch on the implementation, monitoring and review of the Plan, but the time has come for a change of direction. This column will now carry news about Battle Town Council.

In the minds of many residents must be the progress of the Almonry repairs. You will have seen that the scaffolding



and hoarding at the front of the building has now been dismantled. So, no more complicated movements to negotiate passing in front of the Almonry or crossing

the road. There is some scaffolding to other sections of the building to allow outstanding works.

To bring the building up to the standard

now needed for current office working, the electricity supply will have to be upgraded. Originally this was scheduled for March but has fortunately been brought forward to the end of this month. I had a tour of the building a short time ago and was amazed at the amount of cables, resembling knitting, that are needed for modern office working. Fortunately the current supply is sufficient for the staff to move back into parts of the Almonry, which they have now done. There is still a number of minor items to be completed, including the fitting of the staircase carpet.

The access platform still has to be installed and the arrival of new paving at the entrance is awaited. A new fully accessible toilet has been installed and the floor of the original facility has now been raised for ambulant visitors.

The whole progress of the considerable repairs to the ancient Almonry have been rather like "there's a hole in my bucket". Additional chimney work in the old Clerk's office on the first floor has been identified and the Council hopes to obtain funding for this as a separate project.