

Battle Town Council



Minutes of the NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING & REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY, 13th DECEMBER 2023 at 9 am at The Almonry, High Street, Battle

Present: Cllr D Silk, N Bishop, M Howell, B Marks

In attendance: J de Garston (Assistant to Town Clerk)

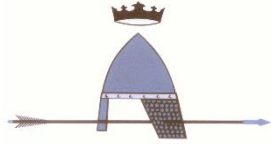
- 1. Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Dale Wheeler & Bernard Brown
- 2. Disclosure of Interest** - None
- 3. Minutes of the meeting of 27th September 2023** were duly agreed & signed by Cllr Silk.
- 4. Assistant to Town Clerk's report** –
Following the last meeting an approach had been made to Rother District Council to request a list of the planning policies, the response was a direction to the website.
Bev advised he would now move forward with the creation of a listing of the planning policies using extracted text from Rother's documents which are applicable to the Battle wards.
It is unknown if a response has been received to the Clerk's request for reconsideration of the Community Infrastructure Levy funding for Blackfriars development. **Action:** JdG was asked to confirm with the Town Clerk.
- 5. Agree Action Plan** – it was agreed a new Action Plan is required to reflect the new agreed Terms of Reference. This will be completed in the same format at other Council Committee plans.
Action: Cllr Silk & Bev Marks to create a document to be circulated via email for consideration at the next scheduled meeting.

During the discussion members re-iterated the importance of ensuring all parties to a planning application are taking account of the NP policies. This includes applicants & Rother Planning Officers. To support this members would like to recommend to the Planning & Transport Committee that, where it is considered the NP policies will not be taken into account in the planning decision, the application be called in.

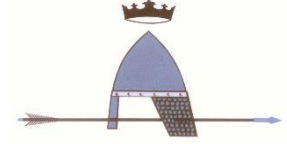
Following recent conversations with RDC it is hoped that further dialogue can be engaged with to promote the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Silk suggested an open evening could be held with invitations sent to local architects to present the NP policies in an attempt to reduce the number of objections submitted on local applications. It was agreed this would be considered once discussions had been completed with Rother Planning Officers.

Margaret reminded the meeting that the NP does not make reference to climate change as the plan pre dates the declaration of a climate emergency.

It is hoped when Rother carries out a review of the Local Plan references will be made to a wider range of policies, including those in the Neighbourhood Plan but there is no known date for this review.
- 6. Review of the Ambitions listing, section 7 of Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan** – The aspiration listing includes 44 items, some of which do not require any action. Cllr Silk, Margaret & Bev had reviewed the listing and, along with the suggestions for priorities from other Sub Committee members, identified some aspirations which are due to be completed shortly or are current projects as follows:



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7.3.1 To improve safe walking and cycling by encouraging and promoting funding for the Battle Schools Greenway -proposal that offers an off-road route from Claverham College to Battle Abbey via Park Lane

– This is provided in part as a section of the proposed shared use pathway. Bev provided details of the existing plan – the proposal has been sent to East Sussex Highways for their appraisal. The section of the 1066 route is already a bridleway allowing for use by cyclists but the footpath requires reclassification. This could be completed as a permissive use as a shared footpath.

Nicky expressed concern about shared use as cyclists and pedestrians do not always mix well. Bev advised there is a required width of 2.5m. There are a couple of pinch points, mainly the corner at the sub-station below Western Avenue but suitable solutions are being discussed.

Following agreement by Highways a feasibility study would be required followed by the full technical survey before funding could be sought. It is hoped 50% of costs may be available from East Sussex County Council. Cllr Silk suggested a request for CiL funds could also be made.

Bev reported low level lighting will also be included in the scheme to illuminate the path due to a lack of street lighting in this area.

7.6.1 To ensure that new-built dwellings should be in keeping with the character of the Civil Parish by adhering to the Battle Civil Parish Design Guidelines and the High Weald Housing Design Guide – it is considered that this aspiration is being met with planning applications being assessed against the NP policies and with the proposed dialogue with Rother Planning Officers.

7.3.5 To introduce additional controlled crossings at strategic locations e.g. Battle Hill - a crossing had been approved by East Sussex Highways prior to the change of Highways Contractor at the beginning of the financial year. The new contractor has requested additional surveys and information be provided but it is hoped the project will go ahead soon.

7.5.4 To lobby for adequate provision of public toilets and Electric Vehicle Charging points – Rother District Council are carrying out a trial closure of the public toilets in Mount Street car park and an approach has been made for the Town Council to take responsibility for the toilet facilities in Battle. A Devolution Task & Finish group has been appointed to consider the request and a representation to Council is expected soon.

With regard to EVC, it is understood that 3 charging points will be provided in each of Mount Street and Market Road car parks.

7.2.4 To consider the prohibition of coach/buses (i.e. those not working as scheduled services) from allowing passengers to alight at the Abbey Green; and to signpost coaches/buses to the RDC provided free parking in Market Road car park – Whilst considered an easy aspiration to support there was significant discussion regarding provision for those visitors who could not walk the distance down to the Abbey from Market Road. This point will be discussed further but consideration could be given to: contacting Highways for provision/licencing of signage; use of CCTV on 1066 building to record vehicles parked in contravention of any new restrictions or support from parking enforcement officers. It was suggested that, where coach parties are booked to visit Battle Abbey, English Heritage could look to provide assisted transport from the car park to their entrance.

7. Review Heritage Listing – the update to the Heritage listing with items from the errata list remains outstanding. Control of the master document was discussed with Nicky suggesting the Town Clerk or an officer of the Council be assigned to control key documents. The Town Council is currently reviewing document storage, website pages and cloud archiving and NP documents are being considered within this



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review.

8. Matters for information / future agenda items

- **Margaret asked if there is any update on the Black cat speed device** – JdG advised the licences are in place but obtaining the brackets and organising training remain outstanding.
- **Agree Action Plan**
- **Assets of Community Value listing to be reviewed**
- **Reconsideration to request designation of Green Spaces to be discussed**

9. Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 20th March 2024 at 9 am.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:58 a.m.

CLr D Silk
Chairman

DRAFT