



Battle Town Council

Making Battle a better place to live, work and visit



Newsletter

Edition 24

Autumn/Winter 2023

Charting a Bright Future A Four-Year Plan Unveiled

It is with pride that the Town Council presents a comprehensive review of our **plan for 2023-27**. Crafted by our dedicated team of Councillors, this **roadmap for Battle's future** demonstrates an unwavering commitment to the betterment of our town.

Crime and Disorder

The Council's obligation to consider public safety and community is included in this Plan. A particular focus is placed on the **protection of our wildlife and heritage** and ensuring that Battle remains a safe haven for all. We will continue to monitor and report vandalism on Council property to the police.

**Share your perspective, we're eager to hear
enquiries@battletowncouncil.gov.uk**

Estates Committee

Battle's green spaces and communal facilities are the lifeblood of our community, and their **revitalisation is at the heart of this Plan**. The redevelopment of the pavilion into a modern community hub is an ongoing aspiration to create spaces that encourage community connections. **Maintaining and enhancing our open green areas**, ensuring the cemetery buildings are fit for purpose, implementing a dark skies policy, and exploring renewable energy generation showcase **our commitment to preserving our environment for generations to come**.



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Contact Us:

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 /BattleTownCouncil



Town Development & External Relations Committee

Our mission to **engage and empower the youth** through a Youth Forum will give our young residents a voice in shaping our town's future. This, alongside fostering inclusivity and prioritising increased non-councillor participation, stand as the pillars of our plan. We remain committed to finding more effective ways to **communicate with our community** and enhancing the Parish Assembly's appeal for our residents. Collaboration with local businesses and organisations to boost tourism underscores our **dedication to the town's prosperity**.

Finance & General Purposes Committee

Our financial strategy includes a marketing plan to maximize our facilities' income and **prudent budget management**. The goal of retaining general reserves at 45% to 50% of the Council's precept ensures a secure financial future. Training opportunities for our staff and Councillors will guarantee **efficient, professional, and collaborative partnerships**, strengthening our ability to serve the community. Lastly, the use of Community Infrastructure Levy funds for local projects will be subject to resident input, guaranteeing voices across the community are heard.

**Of course, we can't promise but we encourage new ideas!
If there is something you think we might consider doing
please let us know**

Planning & Transport Committee

In the realm of housing and planning, our focus is on the **monitoring and review of the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan** and discussions with developers will ensure the best possible facilities for our residents. **Environmental impact, sustainability, and biodiversity** considerations in planning decisions will safeguard our town's natural beauty. In transportation, we're committed to reducing traffic congestion and pollution by working toward the reclassification of the A2100 to a C road. The adoption of a 20mph speed limit, reviewing overflow car park operations, and close collaboration with transportation partners, along with **support for green transport initiatives**, will improve the town's transport infrastructure.

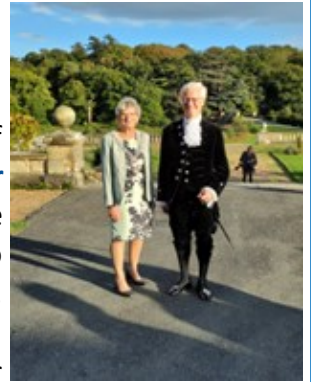


In summary, this four-year Plan represents a comprehensive vision for the future of Battle, rooted in the well-being of our residents and the preservation of our unique heritage and environment. The Council has full faith that, together, we will continue to **build a thriving, safe, and sustainable community** that we can all be proud to call home.

**Thank you for your trust in the Council, and may the journey during
the next four years be filled with progress and prosperity for Battle**

Chairman's Salute to Remarkable Volunteers

In my role as the Chairman of Council and Town Mayor, I am truly honoured and privileged to serve our remarkable community. Recently, I had the pleasure of attending several award ceremonies that filled me with **immense pride for our beautiful corner of East Sussex**. It was truly heartwarming to witness multiple recognitions of community members who consistently go above and beyond to serve their fellow residents with a genuine desire to provide help and support. Their stories left me feeling both humble and fortunate to be surrounded by such exceptional individuals. Their dedication and service are a source of inspiration for us all.



In September, I had the privilege of attending a service and reception at Ashburnham Christian Centre, hosted by The High Sheriff, Richard Bickersteth. The event was a **heartfelt gesture of gratitude towards volunteers** from various organisations across East Sussex who have played a vital role in supporting those who are less able, less fortunate, lonely, and bereaved.

Moving into October, I had the honour of attending the Rother Voluntary Action (RVA) awards event, where we celebrated two outstanding members of our community. **Derek Oliver was recognised** for his tireless work for the **Emmanuel Centre**, and **Shelagh Franks** received well-deserved recognition for her dedication to the **Battle Food Bank**, a remarkable 14-year commitment.

Additionally, I had the opportunity to attend an evening event at Lancing College, hosted by the Lord Lieutenant, Andrew Blackman. During this event, Certificates for Meritorious Service were awarded to members of the Cadet Force Adult Volunteers. Their citations and the extensive list of activities they undertake to support young people in Army, Air Force, and Sea Cadet units across our area showcased their incredible commitment. It was a moment of pride to witness **Cadet Warrant Officer Louis Boutcher from 88 (Battle) Squadron**, Sussex Wing Air Training Corps, being appointed as one of **His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant Cadets for 2023-24**. Louis's remarkable contributions, particularly during the challenges posed by the Covid pandemic and changes in leadership, make this appointment truly well-deserved.



At Battle Town Council, we deeply appreciate the invaluable contributions of all volunteers for our town. Every year, **we invite nominations for the Community Award**, presented at the Parish Assembly. This award is an opportunity for us to recognize the unsung heroes among us.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to every member of this incredible community. Your unwavering support and dedication contribute to making Battle a better place for all of us. Together, we can **acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding individuals** who make our town truly special.

If you would like to volunteer or nominate a volunteer for an award please contact the Council offices

Embrace the Festive Spirit in Battle Festivities 2023

As the year draws to a close, the Council is excited to once again adorn Battle's High Street and public spaces with the warm glow of **Christmas lights and displays**, creating a magical ambiance that's cherished by residents and visitors alike. We would particularly like to thank **Littletown Christmas Tree Farm** for subsidising the Town's Christmas Trees this year.

A Tradition of Togetherness: The enchanting lights which grace our streets from late November to New Year, have become an integral part of our festive tradition and Christmas in Battle wouldn't be complete without the beautifully decorated Christmas Trees. You'll find them adorning the Abbey Green (this year we thank our sponsors **Millwood Designer Homes Ltd**), the Almonry Garden (**Battle Museum**) outside the Fire Station (**AC Towner Ltd**) on the 'Chequers Corner' roundabout (**Mr & Mrs Venn**) and in Market Square (**Jempsons** and **Tiger Tees**). Symbols of joy, togetherness, and the heart of our community, the trees play a significant role in creating cherished memories for everyone. **Thank you to all our sponsors.**

High Street Magic: Battle is fast becoming renowned as one of Sussex's most picturesque high streets to visit during the Christmas season, with its unique independents, making it a special place to shop. Invite your friends and family to join the fun.

Join the Festivities - Mark your calendars

Christmas Switch On: Saturday 25 November - from 1:50pm to 6:00pm.; **Christmas Market:** Saturday 25 November - from 10:00am to 6:00pm. Free Entry! Stalls, rides, art, toys and entertainment. Special visits from The Naughty Elf and The Grinch; **Late Night Shopping:** Thursday 7 December - with Santa's Grotto in the Almonry. **'Christmas Through the Ages'** is this year's theme for Battle's Shop windows. There is free car parking, the museum is open and traders will be in festive attire, with choirs and bands spreading musical cheer - **the town truly sparkles.**



Discover the Almonry

a hidden gem with award-winning gardens



The Council's versatile venue spaces are tailor-made for **gatherings ranging from two to fifty people**, providing a wonderful setting right in the heart of Battle. Step into the Almonry a tranquil oasis nestled in the heart of Battle. This beautiful space is well-suited for a variety of events. The Almonry boasts multiple rooms, complete with a kitchenette for your convenience and generous outdoor spaces to enhance your gatherings. **The possibilities are endless:** training and away days, small conferences, workshops, exhibitions, product launches, meetings, parties, meditation classes, creative writing classes and so much more.

To discuss your requirements and to check availability contact us today on 01424 772210 or email enquiries@battletowncouncil.gov.uk

Love where you live?

Local Artist, Sam Peacock, does

I live between the Kings Head Pub and Kingsmead in Battle, on a beautiful little road called Mountjoy. My move here marked a deliberate choice to provide my daughter with an **idyllic upbringing**, exchanging the urban life of Wimbledon for a coastal and rural haven.

I hold a special affinity for **Antique and Modern**, where my passion for numismatics – the buying and selling of hammered English coins – finds fulfilment. Dave Wood is the proprietor and has served the town for a long time.

My favourite Sunday stroll begins at Kingsmead, winding towards town through fields and paths, especially in the wind and rain. I typically take house guests on one of **Battle's scenic walks**. The town's **independent retailers** also earn a visit, and Battle Museum is managed by passionate volunteers, so I will always support that.

I like the coffee in the Deli. Battle's coffee scene, with its diverse retailers, never fails to impress and I will happily drink in any of the local ones. As for nightlife, **ELF (Every Last Friday)** is amazing for the town, so I usually head out with the family for that. **Battle offers a diverse culinary landscape**, including an excellent Thai restaurant and traditional eateries. The Smoking Bull Inn do a mean burger and The Sweet Olive is good for a Sunday lunch. For exquisite cured meats and cheese platters, Sarah's Wine Cellar is a top choice. There's so much choice!

Battle is graced with **splendid views of Sussex, making it a gem for explorers**. Regardless of the season, you're guaranteed to find a scenic spot. The best place to meet? Probably the Abbey Green, a local hub and central to most things.

I think one of the nicest things about Battle is that you can go for **jog around the Rec on the Health Pathway** now. I try and build that into the weekend. Why do I love where you live? I think the people are the nicest and have been really supportive of me opening my business here. **Battle does great festivals, events and Bonfire night attracts the crowds in the masses**.



**If you would like to feature in the newsletter and
connect with the Battle community
please get in touch**

Wide Distribution: Reach the entire Battle community through our newsletters distributed across town, including key spots like the railway station, Jempsons, and more!

Online Visibility: Extend your reach with digital versions on our website, e-bulletin subscribers, and a dedicated post to our 850+ Facebook followers.

Local Outreach: Our Annual Report goes to every home in the Battle, Telham & Netherfield wards (approx. 4,500 copies), and new residents get a warm welcome with a newsletter from the Town Council.

Ad Specs: Submit your ad in PNG or JPG format, starting at 60mm x 40mm, feature on a dedicated advertisements page. Enlarged options available. Or submit an article to us for our website or newsletter.

Affordable Rates: Secure your ad space for just £35 per single newsletter, or all three publications, including the Annual Report, for just £100!

Hometown Honours

Thank you to all volunteers and residents

You may remember reading about the **Battle in Bloom Awards** reception in the summer newsletter. It was a vibrant affair, filled with trophies and prizes celebrating the marvellous gardens of residents' homes and wonderful floral displays all year round by our local businesses. Did you know though, that this competition is a stepping stone to something even grander? It is part of a nationwide competition, **Britain in Bloom**, run by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Our regional competition is **South and South East in Bloom** (SSEIB), which covers Kent, Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex, the Isle of Wight, Hampshire, East & North Dorset and East Wiltshire. There are many categories, including 'In Your Neighbourhood' for small groups.

Entrants are judged on their achievements in three areas: **Horticultural Excellence; Environmental Responsibility; and Community Participation**. These are the pillars upon which the awards are bestowed, as per the Royal Horticultural Society's medals - Gold, Silver Gilt, Silver and Bronze.

Battle entered three main categories this year: **The Almonry Garden**, which is nurtured and maintained by Beautiful Battle and this **achieved a Gold Award** in the 'Small Parks' category. **Battle Cemetery achieved a Silver Gilt Award**. **Battle Town itself achieved a Gold Award** in the 'Small Town' category!



Back in July, the judge toured the town, visiting the Almonry Garden, the Recreation Ground, Wellington Court, Abbey Court, Abbey Green, Battle Abbey, the Abbey Hotel, St Mary's Churchyard, Chequers Corner, Lake Field and Battle Cemetery. At each venue, he spent time talking to the hosts about their particular projects and tales of horticultural achievements. **The judge also met representatives from Wild About Battle, Beautiful Battle, Battle Yarn Bombers and the Council's Grounds Staff**, who impressed him with their enthusiasm. The judge noted **Battle's strong sense of community and its heartfelt commitment to preserving the environment**.

On the subject of the environment, SSEIB trialled a new set of special awards this year which will be used by all regions/nations of Britain in Bloom from 2024. Battle, never one to shy away from innovation, achieved a **Gold Award in the Biodiversity & Environmental Innovation** category, in which our efforts to increase opportunities for pollinators, plants, nature, and the natural landscape were judged.

For those who've been curious about why certain retired Town Councillors and some wonderful residents were spending an inordinate amount of time weeding pavements, tidying flower displays and helping in the cemetery, you now know - it was all about a **Quest For Gold** and a mission of blooming brilliance that continues to **unite our community and honour the marvels of our environment**.



Young Leaders of Battle

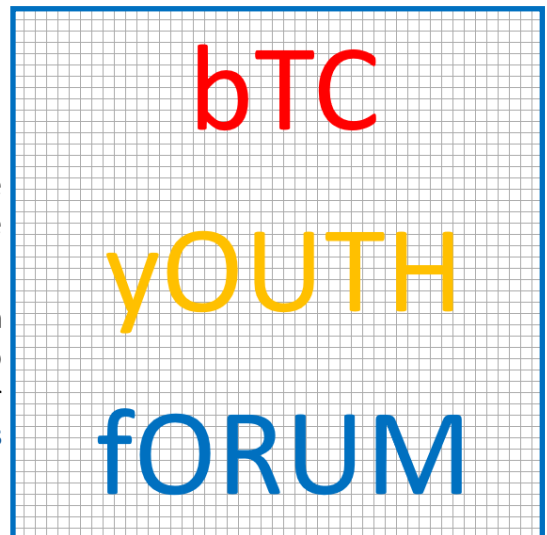
Unlock Your Potential

We firmly believe that young individuals possess invaluable insights that can contribute to making Battle an even more **vibrant place to live, learn, and explore.**

A new initiative, **Battle Youth Forum** has been established with the primary aim of providing young people with a platform to express ideas, ask questions, and make a tangible impact on our community. Our goal is to invite **open and honest dialogues between our youth and the leaders of our town.**

As a member of the Battle Town Council Youth Forum, you will have the exciting opportunity to:

- **Share Your Vision:** Express your unique perspective on how to improve Battle.
- **Ask Questions:** Seek answers and propose changes that you believe would benefit our town.
- **Collaborate:** Work alongside other young minds to create and present community projects.
- **Meet Regularly:** Engage in discussions about crucial issues in our community



What Can You Expect as a Member of the Youth Forum?

How Does It Work? Here's a breakdown of how the Youth Forum operates:

- **Application Process:** You can apply to be part of the Youth Forum. We are looking for two students each from years 5 and 6 at Battle & Langton and Netherfield schools, and two students each from years 9 and 11 at Battle Abbey School and Claverham.
- **Uniformed Groups:** The three primary uniformed groups in Battle (ATC, Scouts, and Guides) can also apply for two spots each.
- **Term Length:** In the first year, students in years 6 and 11 will serve for one year, while students in years 5 and 9 will serve for two years.
- **During each meeting:** two Councillors will be present to provide guidance, ensuring that discussions are impartial and open. The Youth Forum will appoint its leader, establish rules,

This is an opportunity to discuss topics that matter to you

Together, we can improve Battle for everyone's benefit

Email enquiries@battletowncouncil.gov.uk for more info

Flexible, on-demand bus travel - Let Flexibus take you places!

Have you tried the Flexibus yet? It's an innovative public transportation service that's all about **you**. An **on-demand, rideshare service**, for areas with limited or no bus service., connecting rural areas to essential transport hubs. Residents can book a FlexiBus **journey to their nearest town, train station, hospital and other key destinations**. Operating Hours: from 7:00am to 7:00pm, Monday to Saturday. Visit <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/media/qpxdktrs/flexibus-leaflet.pdf> or call **01273 078203**.

Battle Baby Group Under 1's

Battle Library Thursdays, 1:00pm to 2:30pm (Term time only)

- Free to attend, just pop in
- Run by our friendly Volunteers
- A group for new parents with babies to pre-walkers
- Safe and friendly environment
- Meet other families in the area while socialising with your child

For more information please call 01424 725995

email ehrother@eastsussex.gov.uk @RFamilyHubs



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email ehrother@eastsussex.gov.uk @RFamilyHubs



Stitching History Together - M L X V I

The Almonry Tapestry of decorated Roman Numbers, **M L X V I, (1066)** has made **great progress thanks to all the new stitchers**, both local and visitors, including enthusiastic folks from far and wide, even Australia! The first two numbers, M and L are nearly finished and we have started on the X.

What's truly heartwarming is that people of all ages, both women and men, have been learning the **ancient stitching techniques used in the legendary Bayeux Tapestry**, which tells the tale of post -1066 history - although here's the twist – we're not battling the elements like the Bayeux Tapestry stitchers did; we've got warm rooms and lighting that even the Romans would envy!

The tapestry starts with Harold being made King six days into the new year, and ends with William made king, six days before the end of the year. Come and find out (and stitch) what happens in between! Please **come and help with the embroidery** on Thursdays from 11.00am to 3.00pm at the Almonry; and Saturdays 10.00am – 2.00pm at Battle Library.



Enjoy the Rec Together

Keep Dogs Leashed and Keep It Clean!

We want everyone to have a wonderful time at the Rec! To ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for all, we kindly request that dog owners:

- Keep your furry friends on a leash while in the park.
- Pick up after your pets and dispose of waste in provided bins.

By following these simple guidelines, you're helping to create a clean and enjoyable space for everyone to share. Let's keep our Rec beautiful and dog-friendly! Thank you for being a responsible pet owner.



Tourist Information Point

Enhancing the Visitor's Experience

The Almonry, and its neighbour, **the Battle Museum of Local History**, need volunteers to welcome our visitors to Battle and bring our heritage building, 125 million years of Battle's rich history, and our Town to life. The walled gardens are also a point of interest and **Beautiful Battle** (who maintain our gardens) are also **seeking people with an interest in gardens** to join the team.

As a volunteer at the **Tourist Information Point (T.I.P.)** you will embark on a journey of discovery, immersing yourself in the rich tapestry of our town and engaging with a diverse array of individuals. **Each day promises unique experiences!**



- **Extend a heartfelt welcome** to all visitors, encouraging them to explore our building, Battle Museum and the town. Offer directions, maps, brochures to help visitors navigate the area.
- **Unveil the history of the Almonry building** and share intriguing tidbits of local history, highlighting captivating facts and delightful surprises.

Do you have a love for history or gardens, a gift for storytelling, and a knack for connecting with people?

- **Answer questions from visitors**, based on their interests and needs.
- **Offer insights into the local culture, history, and Sussex traditions**, as well as provide details about the Museum, Battle Abbey and local heritage walks.
- **Share information about upcoming events**, festivals, and special happenings in the area.
- **Offer a selection of local souvenirs**, gifts, and merchandise for purchase.

Our volunteers have found they have experienced the following **benefits**:

- **Skill Development:** "Volunteering has given me an opportunity to develop and enhance various skills, such as communication, problem-solving, and customer service skills."
- **Community Engagement:** "It's a way to give back to the local area and make a positive impact."
- **CV Building:** "Anyone looking to pursue a career in tourism, hospitality, or customer service should definitely sign up."



- **Personal Satisfaction:** "Knowing that I have played a role in someone's enjoyable trip to our town, is very rewarding."
- **Learning Opportunities:** "I've learnt so much as a new resident to Battle, about local attractions, historical sites, and town events, it's been so useful."
- **Personal Growth:** "My self-confidence has grown and my role has provided lots of conversation points."

The T.I.P. is open year round from Monday to Saturday, 10:00am-2:00pm. Battle Museum, is open from 10:00am to 4:30pm (April to October). **Please call 01424 772210 to express your interest in volunteering.**

Highlights from the Clerk

Welcome to New Councillors: Chelsey Sprong joins Andy Ratcliffe as newly co-opted members for the Watch Oak Ward. We bid farewell to Cllr Stripp who has resigned Council duties to spend time with a growing family and business. Congratulations and gratitude are expressed.

Pavilion Project: Following disappointing advice that applications for a grant from the Football Foundation are not currently available, alternative sources of funding are being researched to allow the much-needed Pavilion rebuild to proceed as soon as possible. Contributions from local and district Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds are in place but there remains a £150k shortfall. A Pavilion Plan Task & Finish Group, comprising four Councillors and three appropriately qualified residents have now completed its task and the Plan will be published on the Council's website shortly.



Fun Times for Little Ones: Despite the wintry weather, we're excited to introduce new play equipment at the Rec, providing our youngest residents with exciting play options. **Junior Park Run:** The Rec Health Pathway now hosts Junior Park Run every Sunday at 9am offering a fantastic 2k event for our junior community members (4-14 yr olds). The 2km course starts by the top play park and juniors are in sight of a marshal at all times.

Join Sussex Police: Sussex Police is looking for community-minded recruits. Book a career call or attend a recruitment webinar for more information. **Seasonal Safety Tips:** As seasons change, stay safe with weather awareness, warm clothing, and vehicle preparedness. Ensure safe heating practices and chimney inspections for fire safety.



Keep Up to Date: Sign up for Battle Town Council's e-bulletin for weekly updates and local news items <https://battletowncouncil.gov.uk/e-bulletin> - it's free and you can unsubscribe at any time; This Newsletter is available on the Council's website and in print around town.

Finally, George Meadow! Necessary repairs to the wall and a new gate have given Council the opportunity to provide convenient access to the High Street and Tills Courtyard shops. We hope that this small development might provide another gateway (literally) to our local shops and enterprises. The Gate is open from 8:00am to 4:00pm, Monday to Friday.



Our printer's process is the most environmentally friendly printing can be. They use very limited chemicals for cleaning; inks are vegetable based; printing plates are recycled and recyclable. Papers and boards are FSC certified, which means all materials have come from a sustainable forest. There is now a belief that using recyclable products, rather than recycled materials, is better for the environment due to the impact of the actual recycling process, this is yet to be proved either way but noticeably most paper suppliers are opting for the recyclable route. The Council will continue to work with suppliers to lower our impact on the environment wherever possible.

Battle's Strength lies in its community, and together, we can ensure it remains a better place to live, work and visit

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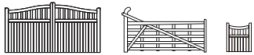
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Make a change and become a Councillor

The Council is eager to hear from those in the community who have innovative ideas for the Council, and/or concerns about specific issues and want to do something about them. If this is you, please consider becoming a Councillor. We currently have three vacancies and are **looking for people from all backgrounds and experiences** to put themselves forward. For further information please speak to Carol Harris, the Town Clerk, on 01424 772210 or email clerk@battletowncouncil.gov.uk. **Your voice matters!** And if you know someone who'd be really good in this sort of role, please pass this on to them.

Council Meeting Dates

December 2023

Tuesday 5 Estates
 Tuesday 12 Planning and Transport
 Tuesday 19 Full Council

January 2024

Tuesday 2 Town Development and External Relations
 Tuesday 9 Planning and Transport
 Tuesday 16 Full Council
 Tuesday 23 Finance and General Purposes

February 2024

Tuesday 6 Estates
 Tuesday 13 Planning and Transport
 Tuesday 20 Full Council

March 2024

Tuesday 5 Town Development and External Relations
 Tuesday 12 Planning and Transport
 Tuesday 19 Full Council
 Tuesday 26 Finance and General Purposes

All Council Standing Committee **meetings take place at The Almonry**, High Street and commence at **7.30pm**, unless otherwise stated on the Agenda. **Members of the public are welcome.**

Agendas and Minutes of all Battle Town Council meetings are posted on the website, together with information about the Council and its Standing Committees at: www.battletowncouncil.gov.uk

Contact Your Councillors

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Battle Town Council

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