



Battle Town Council



Minutes of the NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING & REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY, 19th JUNE 2024 at 9 am at The Almonry, High Street, Battle

Present: Cllr A Brown (Chairman), Cllr David Russell, Cllr D Wheeler, Ma Howell, Me Howell, B Marks

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

1. **Apologies for absence** – None

2. **Disclosure of Interest** - None

3. **Minutes of the meeting of 20th March 2024** were duly agreed & signed by Cllr Brown.

4. **Assistant to Town Clerk's report**

As requested at the previous meeting, the members of the IMR were invited to attend the Rother District Council's Draft Local Plan 2020-40 presentation to the Planning & Transport Committee.

As Cllr Brown was not a member of this sub-committee at the last meeting, he reviewed matters not appearing elsewhere on this agenda.

It was noted that Nicky Bishop had offered to update the master spreadsheet. As she has resigned her position on the sub-committee, Cllr Wheeler advised that the spreadsheet would be available on the cloud storage and that the set-up of this is nearly complete. He confirmed that Council officers will control this to prevent future access issues but it is unclear why he is showing as the manager to the folders at present. It was noted the Neighbourhood Plan website requires renewal. **Action:** It was agreed this needs to be renewed for a further year, but Council is asked to re-investigate the options for absorbing/importing the website into the Council's main website.

With regard to the frequency of meetings, it was felt 3 monthly intervals is too distant to allow for ongoing matters to be actioned and completed. **Members agreed to increase the frequency to bi-monthly.**

5. **Action Plan**

Members agreed there were no amendments or updates required at the present time. BM reported it is now time to ensure the Plan is deliverable.

The reporting of decisions by Rother District Council was identified as a key matter. Monitoring of the applications approved or refused are within the master spreadsheet. BM repeated his previous suggestion that this is a task for Council officers although it had been refused due to lack of available officer's capacity.

Concern was raised that the pro forma used by the Planning & Transport Committee members may have led to some confusion with regard to when key policies applied i.e. the difference between large developments and individual applications due to some phraseology referencing "if applicable."

It is also noted that matters such as dark skies and biodiversity are not matters referenced in the NP policies although they are within Rother District Council's policies. When the Plan is revised these items can be considered for inclusion. A new pro forma has been prepared for recommendation to the Committee. **Action:** BM will circulate this to members.

MeH enquired if there is any evidence of Rother Planner's taking the NP into account in their responses? AB was pleased to report an increase in reference to the NP policies has been noted in Rother's letters of consent or refusal.

With a requirement for the quarterly report to be presented to the Planning & Transport Committee in August it was **agreed a meeting should be held in July** to prepare this report.



Battle Town Council



6. Update on Heritage listing

At the last meeting BM had agreed to review the two available listings. He has investigated the errata items and has created a tabled listing of the properties for ease of reference. The new listing has items highlighted which require further consideration. BM considers this final list should then be discussed with the Historical Society who had been instrumental in identifying the original listing. It was noted that some property owners had requested their property not be included. The final listing can be created as an addendum to the original plan.

Action: BM & AB to cross reference the new listing with the listing within the NP for presentation to the next full meeting.

7. Update on Assets of Community Value listing

Nicky Bishop had emailed the results of her review of this listing. **Action:** BM agreed to recirculate the email to enable the listing to be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Update regarding sites recommended for designation as Village Greens

BM reported the Open Spaces Society have advised they are unable to provide guidance at the present time due to the General Election which may lead to new advice following a change of Secretary of State. However, in general, their advice would always be to designate areas for protection.

MeH advised the protection should be considered where there is a threat of development. BM responded that there is limited protection from the NPPF and some sites should still be considered. He suggested that the recreation grounds at Telham and North Trade Road may longer be suitable for designation but the remaining three should be protected.

Action: To reconsider after the General Election and prepare proposal to the Planning & Transport Committee.

9. Submission to Rother draft Local Plan 2020-40 consultation

It is understood that members of the IMR SC will be invited to join the Council's submission discussion. BM advised that the HELAA document from RDC, although not included in the consultation document, offers helpful insight into the decisions behind individual sites and is better than the previous SHLAA document.

There is no current indication of the number of new dwellings required under any new plans and it is noted that there is also no indication of what will be identified as a 'major development', the current number is 10 properties but DW advised he believes he has seen a figure of 8 under certain circumstances. It was agreed this is an important figure to obtain.

Post meeting note: AB confirmed, Rother Local Plan Regulation 18 states that: 1-4 dwellings = Small Sites, 5-10 dwellings = Medium Sized Sites with development land less than 1 hectare, 10 + dwellings = Large Sites

10. Methods to increase awareness

Previous deliberations had considered approaching local architects and designers to discuss the NP. On further investigation it was noted that there are so few applications from the same architects that this was not considered useful. No further action will be taken in this regard.

11. Matters for information/future agenda items

BM requested a letter of thanks be sent to Nicky Bishop in recognition of her support of the IMR sub committee.



Battle Town Council



Post meeting note: The Clerk had already issued this and received a positive response

It was noted that the monitoring of the number of new properties approved by RDC was not within the remit of the sub committee. AB & DW agreed to discuss the master spreadsheet away from the meeting to consider if the number of new dwellings could be added.

- 12. Date and time of next meeting: 17th July 2024 at 10 a.m.** to prepare the quarterly report to the Planning & Transport Committee

With no further business the meeting concluded at 10.45 a.m.

Cllr A Brown
Chairman

DRAFT