



Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Update December 2019

It was a great relief to receive the news that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council had extended the deadline for comments on their draft Local Plan. Without that additional time our Groups would not have had time to consider their responses in sufficient detail.

The Town Centre Group focused first on the need to expand the Town Centre area to cover the whole of Commercial Road to prevent the loss of retail opportunities in the future and second on the need for additional parking facilities in the town. It also commented on the need to retain our existing shopping outlets and asked (a) what TWBC meant by the recommendation that a new “medium” sized food store would be required at some point and (b) where they think it should be located.

The main points raised by the Sports and Recreation Group concerned the proposed outdoor sports hub and the necessity of locating it in Paddock Wood and not in the parish of Capel. They also referred to developing the indoor sports hub at Putlands and the need for a swimming pool which the residents of Paddock Wood have campaigned for over many years.

The Green Infrastructure Group focused on green spaces and the importance of retaining existing trees and not replacing them with saplings.

Our response to TWBC covers all the above points together with many other important issues but in line with our Neighbourhood Plan it does not offer comments on the proposed 4000 additional homes in the town. This is a matter for Paddock Wood Town Council.

To keep up to date with what is going on with all aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan you are welcome to join the Steering Group at their meetings which take place in the Wesley Centre on the third Wednesday of each month at 8pm.

You can also follow the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan facebook page. Further information about the Neighbourhood Plan and its draft policies can also be found on the Town Council website.

MERYL FLASHMAN

Chairman of the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group