



The Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, along with their independent consultants, Feria Urbanism, have been extremely busy over the past couple of months. In February workshops were held in the Day Centre to consider different options for the future growth of the town bearing in mind that because Paddock Wood is neither in the Green Belt nor a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty it is a location in which Tunbridge Wells Borough Council will seek to place a lot of new development and housing as the new Tunbridge Wells Local Plan is developed. In this context it should be remembered that between February and September 2016 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council asked people throughout the borough to suggest potential development sites which the Council could include in their next Local Plan.

Many residents of Paddock Wood came to the February workshops and also to the poster exhibition held in the Day Centre at the beginning of March which recorded the previously expressed views and comments of the community and inviting further comments. It should be mentioned also that many residents have been keeping in touch with what is going on through our Facebook pages and the Town Council website.

The February workshops looked at the suitability of the sites previously suggested to the Borough Council for potential development. Those attending were asked about things such as flooding, green belt and nature reserves, listed buildings, ancient woodland and green space, accessibility and the future of Commercial Road. Copies of the worksheets and associated booklets were made available around the Town and also through Facebook.

The Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan is the ideal way in which to influence the suitability of sites by using residents' local knowledge. A clear expression of preference from the local community will give an important steer to the process of site allocation, either through the new Tunbridge Wells Local Plan or the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan.

So what are the next steps for our plan?

Step One: Maintain a dialogue with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and our neighbouring parishes

Step Two: Put much more detail into the core policies we started to draft last year

Step Three: Produce the first full draft of the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan in Summer 2017

To keep up to date with what is going on please join the Steering Group at their monthly meetings held in the Wesley Centre on the third Wednesday of every month at 8.30pm.

Meryl Flashman
Secretary to the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group