



Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Update

In the last article I reported that the draft Neighbourhood Plan had been sent to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for screening in order to establish whether they needed to do a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The good news is that they do not believe our plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment in which case a full SEA will not be required. A final decision will be made on this once our draft Neighbourhood Plan has been finalised.

All four working groups have checked through the draft Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that the key messages which came out of their consultations are correctly written into the document. Any corrections and additions to the plan have been submitted to our consultants who will update the draft plan.

A meeting has also been held with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to discuss some of the ideas and details in the document. At that meeting it became apparent that we need to wait a couple of months before consulting with the public of Paddock Wood on our Neighbourhood Plan as we need to see the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's own new draft local plan. It is important that we work with the Borough Council to iron out any potential conflicts with their emerging Local Plan.

Another outcome of the meeting with TWBC was a realisation that we need to include a policy on surface water drainage in the Neighbourhood Plan. More details to follow at a later date.

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.

MERYL FLASHMAN

Chairman of the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group