



Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan update



Following the successful Visioning Event held on 17 March, the two-day design forum kicked off in St Andrew's Church with presentations from various groups within the community. First off was a presentation about Foalhurst Wood where we learnt about the walks, the beautiful bluebells, the new orchard, the re-homing of slowworms, the Foalhurst Wood volunteers group and the pressures facing the wood if new housing is built on the adjoining land. This was followed by a report about the newly formed Youth Council and the young people's thoughts on how Paddock Wood could be improved. Further presentations were made on the heritage sites in Paddock Wood, the proposed Community Centre development, the U3A organisation and several others.

The morning passed rapidly and in the afternoon a group went to look at the Memorial field which is one of the potential sites for a Community Centre. They also explored and photographed the Ringden Avenue and the Goldings areas whilst another group walked down Commercial Road to look at the potential for development and enhancement.

Day Two saw eight Year 6 children from the Primary School spend the morning with us, listening very attentively to ideas for Paddock Wood and then having the opportunity to express their own ideas for improvement and changes which they then recorded on maps of Paddock Wood.

In the afternoon a walk was taken to the Putlands field and leisure centre area looking at a range of building designs on the way. At the same time a policy writing group started to collate information about the size and scope of a Community Centre and other requirements of the town including the possible use of the Wesley Centre as a Heritage Centre for Paddock Wood and district.

By now, heads reeling from information overload we took a break whilst Feria-Urbanism collated all the data collected over the two days before making a final presentation to the public in the early evening.

Feria-Urbanism confirmed that during the design forum lots of exciting ideas were put forward and much information had been provided to back these up.

The organisers would like to say a big thank you to all those who came along and participated in the Design Forum. Without community input a Neighbourhood Plan cannot be formulated. We hope to see you again with many others at our next event if not sooner.

There will be a short lull now as Feria-Urbanism beaver away to produce a draft interim report. This will be presented to Paddock Wood residents at another public meeting before a further round of consultation and information gathering starts. Eventually in about a year or so all residents of Paddock Wood will have the opportunity to vote at a referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan. If they accept the document it will become part of the Tunbridge Wells plan.

So watch out for information about the next Neighbourhood Plan event and come along to decide for yourself whether you agree with the facts and suggestions that have been made so far by the residents of Paddock Wood. You can find out more about the Neighbourhood Plan on Facebook, the Town Council website or through the Town Council Office (01892 837373).