



Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Update January 2019

We were pleased to see some new faces at our meeting in January and to note that interest in our Facebook pages continues to grow.

There were two key items on the agenda for the meeting. One was the Green Infrastructure draft policy which will shortly be placed in the Neighbourhood Plan section of the Town Council website and the other was the Churchill Homes planning application for the centre of Paddock Wood.

The Steering Group members all agreed that the group should lodge an objection to the planning application because it does not meet with the principles of our emerging Neighbourhood Plan policy for the development of the town centre. This aspires to the whole site being developed in an integrated manner to provide retail space on the ground floor around a market square and residential or workspace on the first floors.

This proposal by Churchill Homes prejudices the coherent development of the town centre and retail by reducing the number of restaurants and cafes as well as retail space. We can only hope that TWBC has the grounds to reject this planning application in its current form.

The Steering group is very clear that the sort of accommodation offered by Churchill Homes would be ideal located elsewhere in Paddock Wood. It is regrettable that Churchill Homes have not accepted our invitation to meet with them.

We are still waiting for more information from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council about their emerging local plan. Towards the end of 2018 we were promised another meeting with them but currently at the time of writing have had no further contact.

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. You can also follow the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Facebook page.

MERYL FLASHMAN
Chairman of the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group