



## Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Update

At its November meeting the Steering Group considered the first version of the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Comments on the document were submitted to our consultants FERIA Urbanism and we now await the second draft of the Plan.

The main item on the meeting agenda was to finalise the vision statement for the Neighbourhood Plan which is designed to describe the aspirations and requirements of the residents of Paddock Wood.

To ensure all growth and development in Paddock Wood is well designed and appropriate for the community it must be supported by fully integrated infrastructure, which may involve collaboration with neighbouring parishes. Future development proposals will be measured against this vision statement to influence planning decisions. The following points, which will be part of the Plan, are not written in any particular order and should be considered collectively:

- The character of Paddock Wood as a modern 21<sup>st</sup> century rural market town will be maintained as new growth is sympathetically accommodated
- New residential and commercial development will be supported by appropriate essential infrastructure including highways and transport, flood prevention, defence and drainage, utilities, schools, health, public and social services
- There will be a wider range of facilities for the increased population to enable them to develop a sense of belonging to the town and its residents
- Paddock Wood's existing sports and recreational facilities will be enhanced and expanded
- The built and natural heritage of Paddock Wood will be maintained and enhanced
- The specific needs of elderly, disabled and vulnerable people should be met in all future developments.
- Design and planning measures will seek to ensure that all residents feel part of a united, well-supported community
- The existing Town Centre will be improved and extended through balanced development.

**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 8.00pm.**

MERYL FLASHMAN

Chairman of the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group