



Last month I talked about the work being undertaken by the Neighbourhood Plan Heritage working group. This month I intend to focus on the efforts of the Neighbourhood Plan Sports and Recreation group lead by Carol Williams.

Using data from the Neighbourhood Plan public consultations and following discussions with key groups within Paddock Wood and also with the Officers at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, the working group has identified four potential key policy areas which they are developing into policies for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to consider putting forward as part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The first draft policy involves identifying and planning for outdoor sports facilities in Paddock Wood by creating a hub for team sports, with space for expansion and the addition of other sports in the future. Ideally this site will be on the edge of town to enable use of flood lights and to reduce noise disturbance for local residents.

The second draft policy will be to provide a focus for indoor sports and youth activities to encourage healthy lifestyles across all age groups.

Thirdly the group wants to create a focus for recreation and community activities with green space to encourage interaction between children and adults and opportunities for people to relax and enjoy outdoor spaces (promoting physical and mental health and reducing isolation, especially in the elderly and young parents).

Finally, the fourth draft policy is designed to improve and facilitate easy movement of people around the town, promote walking and cycling routes and enable people with disabilities to have easy access to all sports and recreational facilities.

To keep up to date with what is going on with all aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan including the sports and recreation issues you are welcome to join the Steering Group at their meetings which take place in the Wesley Centre on the third Wednesday of every month at 8.30pm. If you are interested in joining the sports and recreation working group please contact carolwilliamspwtc@gmail.com

Meryl Flashman
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