



Since my last report the Steering Group of the Neighbourhood Plan have been working hard behind the scenes. All four working groups have gathered a lot of information and are now starting to prepare the policy documents which will be part of the Neighbourhood Plan document, the first draft of which is still expected to be completed this summer.

In addition, some members of the Steering Group visited the Officers at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) who have responsibility for Neighbourhood Planning in order to update them on progress towards the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan.

From TWBC we learnt that the Section 106 agreements between TWBC and the developers of Church Farm and Mascalls Court Farm have reached the final stages of negotiation and should be signed by the end of April. This has taken some time due to the need to involve lawyers to ensure that the agreement is watertight. Things still seem to be on track for a new school to open in September 2019 although that will largely depend on when a planning application is submitted following the handover of the land from the developer.

Berkeley Homes are due to start their pre-application discussions with TWBC regarding the site adjacent to Badsell Road in May and this will be followed by consultation with the local community. It is to be hoped that their planning application will be submitted quickly enough for all three developers to contribute to the major highway improvements which will be required at the Badsell Road junction with Maidstone Road.

Transport issues, economic issues and the Town Centre were also discussed although at the time of writing there is no indication of who might buy the derelict land in the centre of Paddock Wood. As a result of the discussion with TWBC it has become clearer to the Steering Group the ways in which the Neighbourhood Plan can still influence the development of the three housing projects.

To keep up to date with what is going on you are welcome to join the Steering Group at their monthly meetings held in the Wesley Centre on the third Wednesday of every month at 8.30pm.

Meryl Flashman  
Secretary to the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group