



Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Update May 2018

Due to the Easter Holidays and the awaiting of information from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council there is little new to report from the Neighbourhood Plan group this month. The production of the third draft of the Neighbourhood Plan continues in the background but with little new to report it gives me time to reflect on how far we have come in the last few years.

It all began way back in 2014 when Paddock Wood Town Council applied to the Borough Council for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area covering the whole of Paddock Wood. This was approved in February 2014 and was the first step towards preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Paddock Wood. At this time no-one knew what a massive task this was going to be.

In the autumn of 2014 a working group was set up to find out how to go about producing a Neighbourhood Plan. No-one had any idea at this time what a massive task this was going to be. A year to eighteen months was the projected time span.

At the start of 2015 a steering group, with formal terms of reference and a governance document, was established to oversee the process and preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. During 2015 the steering group met with and made contact with various planning consultants with expertise in the field of Neighbourhood Planning. Feria-Urbanism was appointed to assist in the preparation and development of the first stages of the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan.

In December 2015 Feria Urbanism paid a two day visit to Paddock Wood during which they went out and about in the town taking photographs and meeting with a number of the key people involved including the steering group. This was the real start of our journey.

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