



Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Update November 2018

The last month has been a busy one for the Steering Group. At their last meeting it was decided that a new policy should be developed on housing and the infrastructure of the town and that the following issues should be included in it:

- Surface water drainage; an on-going problem in Paddock Wood;
- Education - with new houses coming there is going to be a shortage of school places at all levels from pre-schools through to secondary schools;
- Health & social care; it will be necessary to meet the needs of a growing population
- Local housing needs eg accommodation suitable for all age groups.

The Town Centre group will also be adding sections on signage, business and employment as well as including issues relating to the types of retail outlets available in Paddock Wood.

In July 2018 a revised National Planning Policy Framework was issued by the Government in which the position of neighbourhood plans has been clarified. The definition of “development plan” states that neighbourhood plans that have been approved at referendum are part of the local development plan, unless the local planning authority decides that the neighbourhood plan should not be made. It is now quite clear that planning applications should not be granted if they conflict with an up-to-date neighbourhood plan. The role of neighbourhood plans in providing design guidance is also recognised.

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