

YOUR PADDOCK WOOD, YOUR PLAN

Between 2015 and 2018 Paddock Wood Town Council made concerted efforts to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, led by a Steering Group comprising Town Councillors and residents of Paddock Wood.

Neighbourhood Plans are a powerful opportunity for the community to have their say and make a difference in the town. They can establish planning policies that shape and influence future growth and development.

But a Neighbourhood Plan can be about more than planning policies. It can also establish what improvements are required across the town, including new infrastructure.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is preparing a new Local Plan. This proposes major new growth around Paddock Wood. The Steering Group has considered the implications of this.

The Neighbourhood Plan cannot change the scale of growth in the Local Plan, but it can help shape what this new growth will look like and how it will benefit existing and new residents and businesses.

The Steering Group is therefore recommencing work on the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan and would like to know if the ideas and opinions previously expressed remain relevant, so that we can shape a Plan that speaks for the whole community.

It is important to note that the Neighbourhood Plan is not the same as the emerging Tunbridge Wells Local Plan. The Local Plan presents the strategic policy direction and scale of future growth likely in Paddock Wood, but the Neighbourhood Plan provides the opportunity to develop this further in response to local challenges, to help shape future change for the better of all.

Many communities all across the country have been preparing Neighbourhood Plans. This is an exciting opportunity to influence change in Paddock Wood. Please tell us what you think.



Housing in Paddock Wood

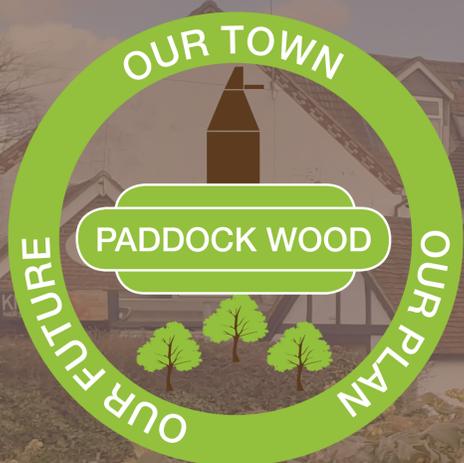


The Town Centre

To find out more about the Plan please visit the Town Council website:
<http://paddockwood-tc.gov.uk>

To leave your comments on the emerging ideas please use the SurveyMonkey questionnaire:
www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LJCRV37





A VISION FOR PADDOCK WOOD



Green Space



Housing in Paddock Wood



Paddock Wood Station



Town Centre

The Steering Group ran a series of consultation events and 'drop-ins' during 2016 and 2017. A vision was drafted and a series of priority areas identified that formed the basis of a first draft Neighbourhood Plan.

The Tunbridge Wells Local Plan now proposes delivery of 4,000 new homes around Paddock Wood. In light of this, does the vision previously drafted for Paddock Wood remain relevant? Do you agree with it? Should it be amended? The Vision is:

The character of Paddock Wood as a modern 21st 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 community.

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.

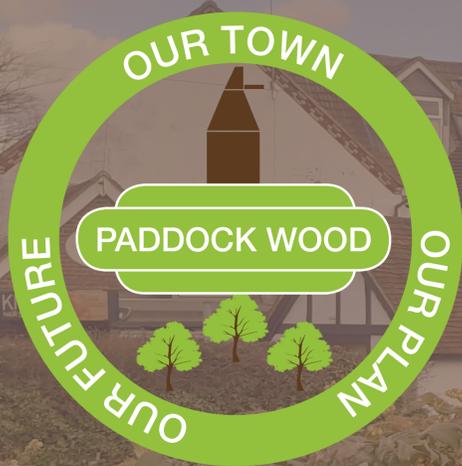
Design and planning measures will seek to ensure that all residents feel part of a united, well-supported community.

To improve and expand the existing town centre through balanced development which includes all potential development sites.

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AREAS OF FOCUS FOR THE PLAN

The focus areas outlined below form the basis of the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

- Do you agree that these are still the key areas of focus for the Plan?
- Would you add to these?
- Are any of the topics more important than others?



1. REVITALISE THE TOWN CENTRE

- Promote a healthy mix of commercial and cultural activities in the town centre
- Improve the quality of public and civic spaces in the town centre
- Support new opportunities for provision of homes in the town centre



2. PROTECT AND ENHANCE GREEN SPACE

- Strengthen areas of local bio-diversity and natural habitats
- Identify important local green spaces for future protection
- New development should respect the setting of Paddock Wood



3. PROMOTE HIGH QUALITY DESIGN AND STRENGTHEN LOCAL HERITAGE ASSETS

- New development should maintain and enhance the character of Paddock Wood
- Historic buildings and structures should be preserved and enhanced



4. ENHANCE EXISTING SPORTS AND LEISURE FACILITIES, AND DELIVER NEW SPORTS PROVISION

- Support delivery of new hub for outdoor team sports
- Improve and expand the provision of facilities at the Putlands Sports & Leisure Centre



5. MAKE IT SAFER AND EASIER FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES TO MOVE AROUND

- Make walking and cycling routes well connected, safe, convenient and comfortable for all to use
- Improve access to the countryside and important local facilities, including the station and town centre
- Support improved bus routes



6. DELIVER ESSENTIAL SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE ALONGSIDE NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

- Provision of new homes should meet local housing needs and include new affordable homes
- New housing should contribute to the delivery of new schools and healthcare
- New development should respond to climate change, manage and mitigate flood risk, including that from surface water drainage

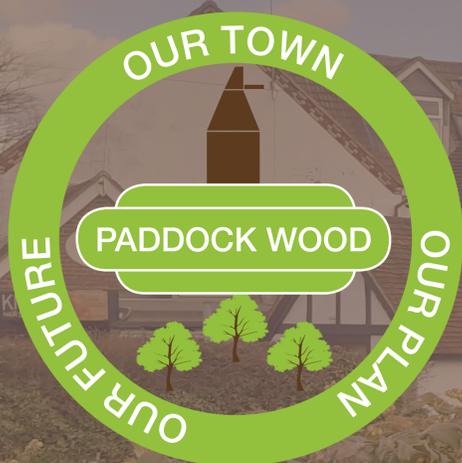


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WHAT DO YOU THINK?



Previous Consultation. Image source: Feria Urbanism



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YOUR VIEWS WILL HELP SHAPE THE PLAN

The Neighbourhood Plan is a Plan for the community by the community.

Do you agree with the suggested focus of the Plan? Do you have any other ideas or suggestions? Do you have any burning issues or ideas not covered? Please let us know.

We will use your comments to identify possible projects and important planning policies for Paddock Wood. We will then seek further feedback on these before the Neighbourhood Plan is submitted for examination.

NEXT STEPS

We will continue to work with you to shape the Neighbourhood Plan for Paddock Wood. It will eventually be subject to examination and referendum, where everyone of voting age living in Paddock Wood will have a chance to vote on whether the Plan should come into force.

If more than 50% of people who turn out to vote are in favour of the Plan it can then be used to inform and determine planning applications.

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