

# Battle Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

(The following updated vision statement and objectives are draft documents resulting from our community feedback operations. If you wish to comment, please email Battle Town Council by 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018)

## “Vision Statement”

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“The Parish of Battle community, both in the immediate and foreseeable future, wish to create a safe and friendly environment where people want to live, work and play. This goal will be met through engagement with the local community and should directly reflect the community's own views and aspirations. It will secure the future through the formulation of policies and objectives, which not only support sustainability, but also development that enhances and respects the historic nature of Battle. These strategies will pay particular attention to the ecological, agricultural, public enjoyment and intrinsic values of the Parish and its countryside.”

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## “Objectives”

- 1. Full Accordance of Residential Development Sites:** The community acknowledges the need for new homes within the Parish of Battle. Development sites within the Parish boundaries will reflect, not only the architectural style of the properties nearby, but full take account of the overall spatial aims of the Rother Core Strategy and the aims and needs of the community as a whole. Where possible the desired locations should minimise local impact on outlook, sustainability, environmental and spatial considerations, by robust assessment of all the factors appertaining to the application.
- 2. Robust Traffic Mitigation Measures:** To require that proper traffic/movement impact study assessments are undertaken for all development proposals within the Parish in order to consider the wider implications and associated costs of traffic movements on the environment and local infrastructure with an overall aim of reduction in the impact of traffic movements.
- 3. The Maintenance of Strategic Gaps:** To formulate a policy that not only recognises the separate identities of the villages within the Parish and their unique relationship to Battle Town established over centuries, but enables them to retain those amenity characteristics and prevent urban sprawl through creative solutions within the overall strategic aims of the Core Strategy.

4. **Developments should meet the needs and wishes of the community:** Development objectives must reflect the wishes of the community as evidenced from survey results and demonstrable needs identified through resident's associations and discussion groups within the villages, forums and exhibitions together with comments received through letters, emails and meetings from all the various stakeholders within the Parish of Battle.
5. **The Protection of Open Spaces:** Plans must restrict the use of land for development which is primarily already outside of the development boundaries and has been designated as AONB. In addition, information that has been gathered by the Group on a number of identifiable green spaces which have yet to be afforded protected status, but would be lost for the purposes of sport, leisure and agricultural uses if policy decisions were to change within the RDC Strategic Aims, must also be given that protection.
6. **Protection of Heritage Assets within the Parish Conurbation:** A community is defined by its most important assets and where there are additional historical attributes attached to those assets no major changes should be allowed that would change the character of the town or other areas of the district which enjoy such history. Whilst this will influence development proposals for historic as well as listed building it reflects the communities wishes and is essentially what attracts the many thousands of tourists to the area every year.
7. **Enhance the role of Tourism within the Parish.** Diversity improves the experience of tourism, and thereby increases the number of tourists within the Parish, as it caters for a variety of experiences to be satisfied. One of the aims within the Neighbourhood Plan is to encourage the placement of public art exhibits around all areas of the Parish. These are being funded by public subscriptions and developer contributions. This initiative will lead to many permanent exhibits within the Parish.
8. **The enhancement of Village/Town Centres within the Parish:** The separate communities which make up the Parish of Battle are being encouraged to provide the facilities – whether social, sporting or otherwise - desired by the residents and visitors alike, by careful allocation of the Community Infrastructure Levy monies which shall be used to pump prime the required funds needed for those facilities. A prime example of this objective is the wish to set up a Health Centre within Netherfield to alleviate the pressure of the Battle surgeries.
9. **To alleviate where possible the Traffic Congestion within the Parish:** Poor parking facilities, volumes and speeding traffic, has resulted in most residents being concerned about safety measures within the Parish. The Plan seeks to address these concerns, not only through the use of speed restrictions in the most appropriate places but through the de-classification of the High Street in Battle, specifically to enable weight and width restrictions to be put in place via a Traffic Management Regulation order. It will also include parking management measures which favour only the areas designated for legal parking

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