

### **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Report and proposals for Full Council**

Proposal 1: The Steering Group propose that Council adopts the Neighbourhood Plan Policies as amended by the Examiner's recommendations and subsequent discussion with RDC, as fully detailed in "*Battle CP-NP Proposed Policies editing following Examiners Final Report\_v1.4\_20210615\_SentToBTC*".

Proposal 2: The Steering Group, following the meeting with RDC, propose that Council adopts the potential date range of the first 2 weeks in September for the referendum.

[The date for Referendum should be 56 working days from the RDC Decision Statement which is planned for July 3<sup>rd</sup>; however the later date of September is recommended to avoid the school holiday season.]

#### **NOTES:**

The Steering Group has received the Examiner's Final Report on behalf of BTC, which has been examined in detail and resulted in a number of proposed edits to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Various minor edits have been discussed with RDC and are now to be undertaken by the BTC SG consultant. The combined resulting document will be agreed between BTC and RDC to become the version used for the Referendum.

Most importantly previously the Steering Group had resisted editing the policies. However the Examiner's recommendations required the policies to be amended. Therefore the Steering Group is now presenting the edited policies for adoption.

#### **Points of Interest:**

- 1 We have reduced the number of dwellings at Glengorse to 15, instead of 20, as that number is still within the residual numerical allocation for Battle. We have had to remove three of the four Green Gaps, but there will still be protection as the whole of Battle is within the AONB.
- 2 1 photo of a dwelling will be removed, and there will be some different photos in the Design Guidelines.
- 3 We wanted to include two buildings in the list of those specified in policy ET1 – Tourism and Local Economy but have been advised that this will have to wait until a review is carried out after the plan has been made. However, we are not happy with this and may pursue another lead.
- 4 Overall, the whole, the Examiner was impressed with the plan, which when amended, is fit to go to referendum. He congratulated the Town Council on producing a locally distinctive Neighbourhood Plan, which will be a strong basis for determining planning applications over the next few years.
- 5 The Policies protect the area's landscape and its special heritage, and reinforce the role of Battle Town Centre, whilst meeting the Core Strategy's housing requirements for the parish.
- 6 RDC then has eight weeks after the referendum to announce that the NP is "made" (accepted) and we are therefore looking at November for the ultimate acceptance of the Plan
7. We have also been sent advice on publicity for the referendum: basically, we can ask residents to vote, but we cannot ask them to vote "yes"