

## Ticehurst Neighbourhood Plan.

The Parish Council have now approved the final version of the Ticehurst Neighbourhood Plan (TNP) and we have submitted this to Rother District Council (RDC), along with the Consultation Report and the Basic Conditions Statement. From now on, we (Ticehurst PC and the TNP Steering Group) cannot alter the plan, nor can RDC. **Only the Independent Examiner can now change the plan.**



### Changes to the Draft Plan

We spent a lot of time considering the large number of comments we received on the draft plan, and have taken them into account in the final version of the plan. With the assistance of RDC, there are new and more accurate maps throughout and we have made the following major modifications.

#### Rural Policies

R2 (maintain green gaps) extends the green gaps between settlements.

R3 (green spaces) omits some green spaces.

R5 (support biodiversity) is a new policy.

#### Employment Policies

E1 (protect local services) has been combined with E5 and focuses on retail services.

E4 (protect commercial employment) focuses on commercial sites and includes a map of all commercial employment sites in the parish.

#### Housing Policies

H1 – H4 have clearer maps and more supporting evidence. The figures given take into account the fact that Banky Field will be 100% affordable housing. Indicative percentages for housing sizes and tenures (for both private and affordable housing) are now included.

#### Design Guidance

Site-specific design guidance has been added for the three sites allocated and for Banky Field and Hillbury Field.

#### Infrastructure Policies

INF2 (community energy) has been redrafted to make it clearer as to what is and is not acceptable.

#### Site Assessment

We have written a new site assessment document. Based on this and the revised TNP, the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has also been revised.

#### Evidence Base

We have added several documents to the Evidence Base (which will be revised on the TNP website).

## **Timetable for next stages**

RDC will examine the documents we have sent them to see that they meet regulations. It will then publicise our plan on the RDC website (Regulation 16) for six weeks, from Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December. This allows statutory bodies (e.g. ESCC, Natural England, utilities etc.) and others including individuals to put forward representations – they can Object, Support or Comment on any part of the plan – and RDC will log these representations. The plan and associated documents will also be published on the TNP website on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

RDC and Ticehurst Parish Council (TPC) have already applied for an Independent Examiner, to start at the beginning of February. This date is later than we requested because RDC have three neighbourhood plans (ourselves, Rye and Crowhurst) and a major report (the Development and Site Allocations plan for parishes without a neighbourhood plan) to publicise before the end of January.

The Independent Examiner will take all the documentation, including the representations from Regulation 16, and consider whether the plan conforms to the legal requirements for neighbourhood plans. He may decide to hold a public hearing: this would extend the expected time for this stage from 8 to 12 weeks (although it has taken longer – up to 6 months – in some parishes). He will then write a report, probably recommending modifications before the plan can go to referendum.

## **TNP Website**

From 9<sup>th</sup> November, you will be able to see the final plan and associated documents on the TNP website, where there will be a link to the Rother website. You can then make representations (Support, Object or Comment) on the final plan via the RDC website for consideration by the Independent Examiner. Please do not send representations to us, but we would certainly welcome general support statements sent to RDC.

## **Printed copies of the TNP**

We are not printing hundreds of copies of the plan as we did for the draft plan, but a few copies will be available. RDC will deposit the plan and associated documents in Bexhill Town Hall and Battle Community Centre. Ticehurst Village Store has kindly agreed to have a copy of the plan and its associated documents available. In addition, copies of the plan only (not the Consultation Statement or Basic Conditions Statement) will be deposited in village pubs, shops and cafes.

## **Final Word**

We realise that this whole process has taken longer than most people expected (longer than we expected!). Thank you for your patience and for your support. We look forward to a successful referendum next year.

*Ticehurst Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group*