Ticehurst Neighbourhood News No. 22 – May 2018 **Ticehurst Neighbourhood Plan.**

Our progress this month has been less than we had hoped, but we have managed the following:

- Meeting with Rother District Council (RDC) to discuss their comments on the draft plan.
- Meeting with East Sussex Highways and RDC to discuss progress on the design plans for traffic calming and The Square in Ticehurst.
- Some analysis of the questionnaires and comments on the draft plan.

Meanwhile, the Government has published the revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This has strengthened some areas for Neighbourhood Plans:

- More protection for AONBs and Green Belts (this won't stop development, though).
- Encouragement for housing to be delivered through small sites (less than an acre), as in our plan.
- Design guidance encouraged in Neighbourhood Plans, as in our plan.
- Definition of a "major" site is now 10 houses or more (this was undefined but RDC considered it to be 80 houses).
- The weight of Neighbourhood Plans is spelt out more clearly: "Where a planning application conflicts with an up-to-date development plan (including any neighbourhood plans that have been brought into force), permission should not usually be granted." However, a neighbourhood plan being brought into force means that it has passed its referendum, so that is still a very important deadline for us (likely to be the end of this year).

The NPPF also allows for housing targets to be increased by up to 40% if not enough is being built and targets are not up-to-date within the Local Plan. Rother DC needs to revise its plan within the next year or we could be caught by this.

The consultation on the revised NPPF closes on May 10th. Anyone can give their views (go to https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-revised-national-planning-policy-framework). We shall be submitting ours.

With regard to other parishes within Rother:

- As we mentioned last month, Sedlescombe have passed their referendum and now have a "made" plan.
- Robertsbridge have received the Independent Examiner's report, decided to accept his modifications in their final plan and will therefore go to referendum in the summer.
- Crowhurst's Reg 14 consultation was at the same time as ours.
- Slightly later, Rye has just finished its Reg 14 consultation.

Neighbourhood Plans are gradually becoming a reality in Rother (although Fairlight rather sadly decided to abandon theirs).

Ticehurst Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



Development on OUR terms