

Ticehurst Neighbourhood News No. 32 – September 2019

Ticehurst Neighbourhood Plan

As most people will have heard, the parish voted firmly in favour of the Ticehurst Neighbourhood Plan. On 8th July, Rother District Council formally “made” the plan. It is now part of the Development Plan for Rother and is "a key policy document in the determination of planning applications for development in Ticehurst Parish".

The first test of the plan has already happened. Last year, Rother refused planning permission for new housing on Berner’s Hill Poultry Farm and the appeal on this was heard in July. The independent inspector refused the appeal, citing Rother policies along with key Ticehurst NP policies: R2 (Green Gap between Ticehurst and Flimwell) and H1 (development boundary around Flimwell).

In future, the Parish Council will take the responsibility for monitoring and updating the plan. The Steering Group has therefore been disbanded after more than three years.

Ticehurst Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – our last report

Huw Merriman, our constituency MP, arranged a further meeting with John Howell, the MP champion for Neighbourhood Plans, to discuss in more detail our concerns on Neighbourhood Plans:

- there is too little statutory protection – in our case only 2 years
- they take too long to produce – typically 3 to 4 years
- the new housing targets (not applied to us yet) are based on flawed assumptions.

Ticehurst, Robertsbridge, Sedlescombe and Battle NPs were represented at this meeting. John Howell promised to raise our concerns with ministers and with civil servants. We will be following this up although we are not optimistic about positive results in the near future.

