

# NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

from Ticehurst Parish Council (TPC)

Number 1

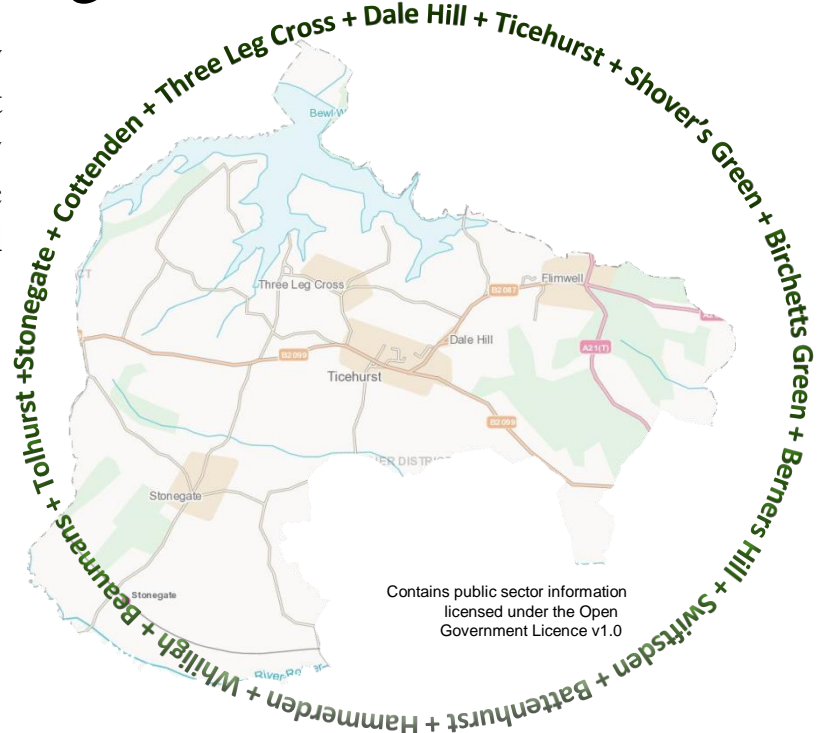
December 2015

## Approval for Neighbourhood Plan area

After 4 weeks of statutory consultation, Rother District Council (RDC) has now approved the whole Civic Parish as our Neighbourhood Plan area.

So now we ask the big Neighbourhood Plan questions:

- What do you want the Parish to look like in 2028?
- What are the key issues and priorities for the Parish to address?



### Come to the first round of consultation and engagement events:

- **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016**  
*Venue: Ticehurst Village Hall, Ticehurst*
- **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016**  
*Venue: Woodland Enterprise Centre, Flimwell*
- **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016**  
*Venue: Stonegate Village Hall, Stonegate*

All events will run from **3.00pm – 5.00pm** followed by a workshop from **7.00pm – 9.00pm**. Drop in welcome.

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<sup>1</sup> Because of distribution constraints you may receive this document even though you do not live in the Ticehurst Parish Council area. If you do, please ignore it. However if you do have comments we would welcome them at the address or email address on the page 2.

## Neighbourhood News comment

The decision of the Parishes of Flimwell, Stonegate and Ticehurst to develop a Neighbourhood Plan<sup>1</sup> is both understandable and fraught with reservations and qualifications.

On the one hand, development of the Neighbourhood Plan will require extensive consultation with all those with an interest in the Civic Parish. That will ensure that the whole community know that it has had the chance to comment on how the Ticehurst area should look in 2028 and beyond. The very process of developing the Plan should bring together residents, businesses and those who work here but live elsewhere. A successful Plan will give the Parish a legally enforceable say in what development takes place, what form it takes, and when and where it happens.

On the other hand it will expose conflicts and contradictions within the community which may prove hard to resolve. Landowners and developers may be keen to see rapid and extensive house building with the support of 'distant' residents keen to protect their own patch and the vigorous opposition of 'near' residents who feel that their scenic views and property values are threatened. Likewise, funding through the village precept within the Council Tax will be seen as fair by some and an extravagance by others; whereas sponsorship and donations, while reducing the taxation element may lead to accusations of 'buying' influence and preference. And Government Policy may easily change.

Nonetheless, the Parish Council is unanimous in supporting the Neighbourhood Plan initiative.

<sup>1</sup>Neighbourhood Development Plans were introduced in the 2011 Localism Act

Success with the Neighbourhood Plan will require contributions from all sections of the Community – residents, businesses, employees, families, singles – regardless of age, gender, affluence, ability, creativeness or anything else.

It will be directed by the Parish Council but managed and led by a Steering Group of Parishioners and Councillors.

We now need to recruit volunteers for the Steering Group. This is a major and new initiative for the Parish Council. We can anticipate some of the roles, tasks and exercises which will be necessary but also recognise that others, you, will have your own ideas about what is needed and how it should be accomplished.

At the moment we believe that we need:

**A Leader** to be the public face of the Project.

**A Deputy Leader** who is an experienced project manager.

**A Publicity Officer** to produce better leaflets than this one!

**A Media Officer** to set up and run our website and social media presence.

**A Fund-raiser** to identify and exploit opportunities.

**A Finance Officer** to establish and manage comprehensive and transparent accounts.

**An Archivist** to establish and maintain auditable records which satisfy public and official expectations.

Also a **Secretary**, an **Architect** and/or **Rural Planner**, and representatives of community and business in the Parish.

*Do you agree? Can you contribute?*

Please (briefly) summarise issues and thoughts which might be of help to us.

Send your views on the Neighbourhood Plan development to:

The Clerk, Ticehurst Parish Council, The Village Hall, High Street, Ticehurst. TN5 7BB  
Or by email to [frankienowne@btconnect.com](mailto:frankienowne@btconnect.com)

### **‘Neighbourhood Plan will not stop development’**

In a statement, Ticehurst Parish Council confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan must comply with Rother District Council’s Local Plan. The Local Plan must satisfy Central Government instructions.

The Local Plan requires Ticehurst to accept at least 83 new homes, and Flimwell at least 44 new homes in the period from 2011 to 2028. None are included for Stonegate.

So far plans have been passed in outline for 40 properties in Ticehurst and 26 in Flimwell.

### **A.O.N.B.**

Rother District Council has confirmed that Government policy to encourage housing development means that being within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) will not, in itself, be sufficient reason to reject a planning application from a developer.

### **Feria Urbanism to aid TNP development**

After considering submissions from 6 potential consultants, Ticehurst Parish Council has appointed Feria Urbanism, a small partnership based in Bournemouth, to advise and support the Parish in formulating the Neighbourhood Plan (TNP).

Parish Council Chairman, Manon Goodall said, “Feria is an exciting partner and we are looking forward to the same stimulating and rewarding engagement sessions which we have seen in their work in Hawkhurst. Neighbourhood planning is a very new concept and we felt we needed an experienced team to help us through the process.”

In addition to Hawkhurst, Feria has worked on Neighbourhood Plans with groups in Lewes, Loose, Staplehurst and Faversham so knows the area and how to manage communications from along the south coast.

### **Anticipated Timeline:**

#### **Summer 2015**

TPC decides on a Neighbourhood Plan.

#### **Autumn 2015**

RDC consults and approves the ‘Neighbourhood Area’.

TPC appoints Feria Urbanism as consultants to the Project.

#### **Winter 2016**

Feria runs consultation events across the Parish.

Environmental impact assessed.

#### **Spring 2016**

Policy proposals drafted and put out to public consultation and comment.

#### **Summer 2016**

RDC to examine Proposals and offer informal feedback.

Proposals refined as necessary.

Further consultation events.

#### **Autumn 2016**

RDC launches formal consultation period.

#### **Winter 2016/17**

TNP policies subjected to scrutiny by official Inspector.

#### **Spring 2017**

Parish-wide referendum on the TNP Proposal.

It is expected that the Steering Group will want to change this schedule considerably.

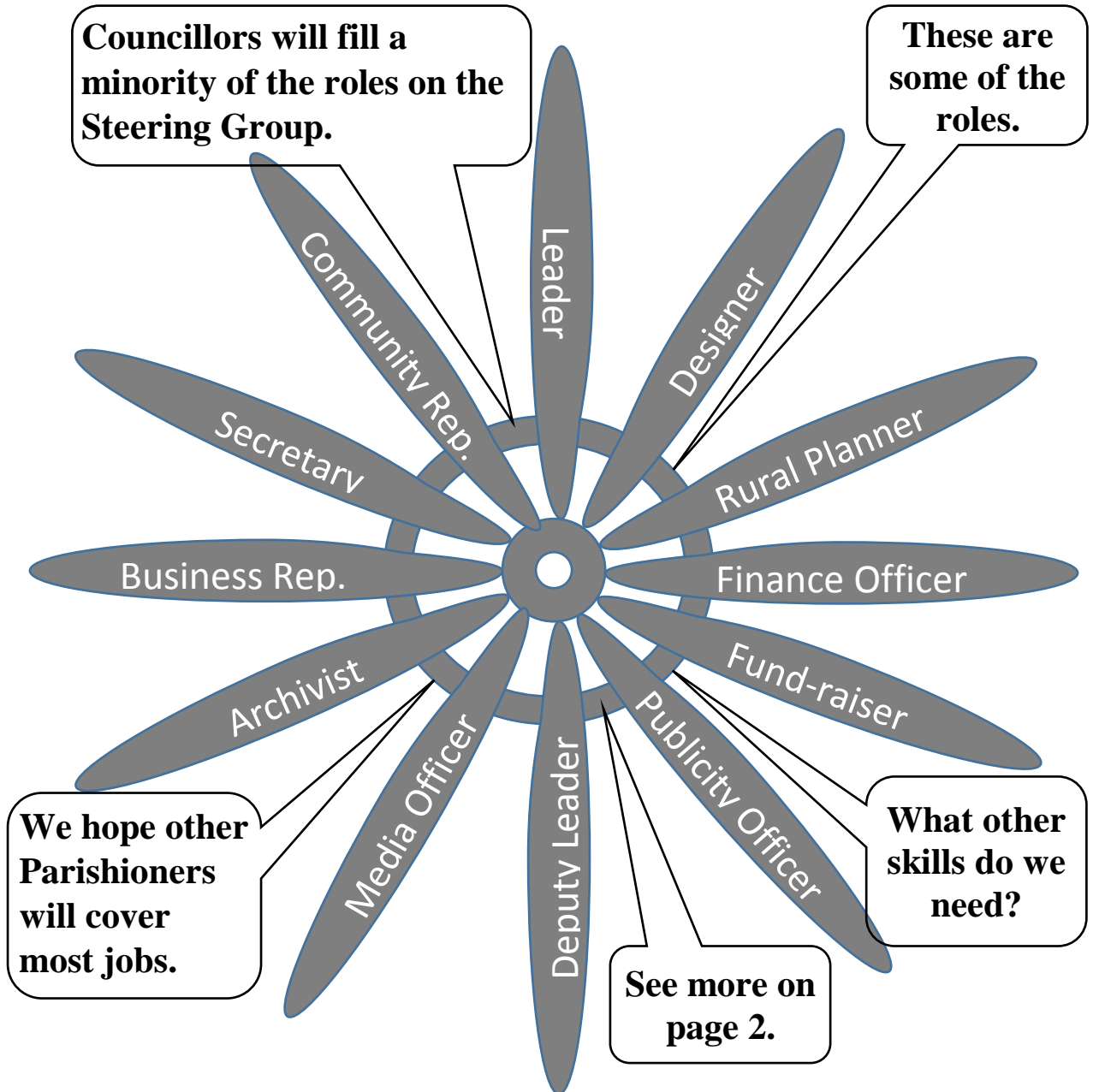
### **Caution!**

The contents of Neighbourhood News are correct to the best of our knowledge and belief. However we do expect changes and the interpretation of official guidance can be problematic! TPC carries no responsibility for errors or omissions.

# Steering Group recruitment

To manage the Neighbourhood Planning process we want a Steering Group of activists to dedicate their skills. We think we need:

- People with an open mind to development.
- People with time to dedicate to the project on a *pro bono* basis (we guess that an average of 1 day per week over 2 years may be needed, but not evenly spread).
- People with specific skills and experience which will contribute to the effectiveness of the team.



To find out more or to offer your services contact: The Clerk, Ticehurst Parish Council, The Village Hall, High Street, Ticehurst. TN5 7BB *and/or* Join our Steering Group recruitment session on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016 in the Montessori Room in Ticehurst Village Hall at 10:00 am.