



PADDOCK WOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP  
C/O The Podmore Building, St Andrews Road, Paddock Wood  
Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 6HT  
Telephone: 01892 837373  
[www.paddockwoodtc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.paddockwoodtc.kentparishes.gov.uk)

**MINUTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2018, 8.00 PM,  
THE WESLEY CENTRE, PADDOCK WOOD.**

**Present:**

Meryl Flashman (Chairman of Steering Group, Town Councillor, Heritage Group)  
Carol Williams (Steering Group Secretary, Town councillor and lead for Sports & Recreation Group)  
Richard Barsley (Steering Group member, member of PWBA and lead for Town Centre Group)  
John Flashman (Steering Group member, Heritage Group & Town Councillor)  
Anne Newman (Steering Group member & resident)  
Sarah Hamilton (Steering Group member, Town/Borough/County Councillor & Lead for Heritage Group)  
Rodney Atkins (Paddock Wood Town Councillor)  
David Henshaw (Steering Group, Town Councillor, Heritage Group)  
Mark Noterman (Steering Group and Green Infrastructure group)

**Apologies:**

Andy Mackie (Steering Group Member, Community Centre Working Party)  
John Hall (Steering Group & Sports & Recreation Group)  
Rebecca Roberts (Steering Group and Green Infrastructure group)  
Jeremy Thompson (Steering Group member & resident)  
Mike Ridger (Steering Group member, Chairman of PW Athletic Club, Sports and Recreation Group)

**1. Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record

**2. Information items arising**

The response to the TWBC Green space consultation was compiled as a joint response from the NP Steering Group and Town Council.

**3. Meeting with TWBC**

The meeting will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> August at the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Offices as the IT access required for the day is not available in Paddock Wood. The meeting will last the whole day and will include Steering Group Members, Town & Borough Councillors (DH may not be able to come). Lunch will not be provided, but drinks will be available.

**4. Discussion of market town designation**

Although Paddock Wood does not have a market charter which means it cannot be a market town in the traditional sense of the word Richard E from Feria has suggested we develop ourselves into an aspiring modern market town of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and has provided links to information regarding

the attributes of a market town. MF circulated a summary of the information on the websites for discussion. Document attached separately.

The group discussed the summary to explore which attributes apply to Paddock Wood:

- Thisismoney.co.uk site – most of the criteria were met apart from the following:
  - A central square – but we aspire to redeveloping the town with a square
  - An important hub for social interaction – the community centre and a redeveloped town centre would provide this
  - Not on the tourist trail, therefore retains country values – the group was not sure about this
- The Telegraph – most of these attributes were met:
  - We aspire to have a heritage centre, restaurants and good pubs.
- Towncentred.com – the following attributes were not in place or well established:
  - Festivals – we have had the pre-carnival music event and the food festival which could become annual events
  - Balance of retailers in town centre with other outlets
  - A historic building/landmark of importance to the community – possibly the Wesley Centre
  - Investment in walking environment – Hop Pickers Line, need to walk & plot footpaths
  - Fayre or festival in town – see above
- Hampshire market towns – the following attributes are missing:
  - Refurbishment of an iconic building – possibly the Wesley Centre?
  - Off street parking for business owners & employees
  - Regular market – weekly fruit & veg market

Local walks – PWTC has discussed reviewing and updating the previous publication on local walks and Anne Newman would be happy to be involved in this work

Parking was discussed and it was suggested we review this in January when the rail franchise is changing. There is a need to look at business parking for staff, such as underground and multi-storey options as well as local traffic flows and roads.

There is a need to create variety in the town centre and limit the number of charity shops and salons to give choice and make the town centre attractive to visitors and local residents.

It was agreed that many of the things seen in a market town are things that can be found in Paddock Wood or are things to which we aspire.

## **5. Community Centre update**

Community consultations continue to the end of August with the last event being the St Andrew's Fun Day at the Memorial Field. The results will be compiled and shared publicly after this event.

A petition has been commenced online and on paper – this objects to the community centre being built on the Memorial Field and using open green space. There are a number of rumours being spread such as the community centre will take the whole field, will stop sports being played on the field and dog walkers will no longer be able to use the field. None of these is true and the working group is deciding how to get accurate messages about the proposal. AM is compiling a list of milestones for an FAQ sheet to be circulated to residents.

## **6. Marden Neighbourhood Plan**

MF listed policies from MNP to help us think about any missing issues from our NP. The following were identified:

- We need a policy on surface water drainage, which had previously been identified. The KCC surface water management plan is being updated. CW suggested asking Peter Trent to assist with drafting this section of the neighbourhood plan.
- We could improve the presentation of our pictures to illustrate heritage and building styles within our document. JF – railings, lots of old ones which could be painted to look better.
- Business signage – needs to be in keeping with town e.g. the paintings on the ends of buildings make the town distinctive. We could recommend style & limit illumination & suggest style of lighting – reinstate traditional shop frontages
- Community facilities – are being addressed to some extent by the current S106 monies and will be addressed in the list of areas for development
- Healthcare facilities – we need to make a general statement regarding GP/dental/pharmacy services and community services
- There were a number of policies relating to housing – in particular housing for people with a local connection, the need for housing for older people. Do we need a statement re refurbishment of unused buildings.
- It was suggested having a policy area on housing and infrastructure which could include housing, health, education, business & employment and surface water management (should this also include our transport section?). CW will write something on healthcare including dentistry, GP, primary & secondary care transport

## **7. Any other business**

- Facebook – report to be circulated
- No steering group in August – meeting with TWBC
- Town Crier articles – MF has been posting these monthly
- AN asked whether we should look at the Maidstone & Tonbridge & Malling local plans.

Next Meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 8 pm in the Wesley Centre