

NOTES OF INITIAL MEETING OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP
15th May 2014, Wesley Centre, Commercial Road

PRESENT:

Cllrs S. Hamilton, D. Henshaw, J. Flashman, Mrs M Flashman, P. Nicholls, R. Turk, Mrs E. Thomas

David Marriott, Andy Mackie, Paul Smith (HCRA), Graham Latter, (HCRA), Steve Willimont, Tim Duncan (Lambert & Foster) John Ingrams, (Lambert & Foster) Steve Terry, Clive Holway

The Chairman of PWTC, Cllr Sarah Hamilton, opened the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

She then outlined the purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP), and said it was a unique opportunity for Paddock Wood.

There were two options:

Neighbourhood Plan – which must comply with legislation, and once adopted would become a statutory document.

Vision – non-statutory document, still valid but would not have the same weight as NP

Two of the main issues would be costs and finding the skills required locally. The more skills that can be found amongst local residents, the lower the costs.

The document would not stop development, but could influence where it goes.

The Town Centre is the most obvious area in need of re-development. The plans for the new housing is probably too far advanced for the NP to influence it. It will take 2 years at least to complete a NP.

The dualling of the A21 and improvements to North Farm will have an impact on PW.

The Town Council's main areas of focus are community hall, traffic and drainage.

It was agreed that another meeting would be held in a month's time once attendees had had time to consider the idea.

A list of useful websites would be forwarded onto everyone for research purposes.