

Neighbourhood Plan Project – Edenbridge 2030

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News Release

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Neighbourhood Plan consultation event – drop in while you're shopping

Local people are being asked to comment on policies proposed for the Neighbourhood Plan, to shape the development of the town over the next 15 years. There will be an event at Rickards Hall on Saturday 27th February 10am-12.30pm, with displays on the policies and the chance for people to have their say over a cup of coffee.

The Neighbourhood Plan project team is also asking every household to watch out for a small booklet through their letterbox in the next couple of weeks, and urges people to reply with their views using the Freepost envelope.

Months of work by volunteers in five Task Groups has gathered evidence to support the policies – including the Housing Needs Survey carried out last July, to which nearly a quarter of Edenbridge households responded, and before that a Businesses Survey of local companies. The proposed policies cover aspects of housing, economy, environment, infrastructure, building design, and community health/learning/well-being – the main themes as follows:

Housing: developments to conform with the updated Design Statement and the new Character Areas Assessment, and to meet the needs of current and future households in the Edenbridge Neighbourhood Plan Area, in terms of mix of affordability and unit sizes.

Environment: protecting smaller local open spaces now identified within the community, sustainable urban drainage schemes, and minimising landscape impact from any development which may be permitted in the Green Belt.

Economy: enhancing the retail/High Street area, the future of larger business sites, and tourism opportunities.

Infrastructure: the capability of infrastructure to support future development, including utilities and transport, and the development of non-vehicle routes (pedestrian/cycle) through the town.

Health/learning/well-being: provision of health facilities; community facilities to be maintained/enhanced as developments come on stream, supported by a register of community assets; and support for a new learning facility.

Creating a Neighbourhood Plan is a way communities can shape how they develop in future through local-level planning policies. This two-year project has been under way in Edenbridge since spring 2014, headed by a Steering Group of representatives from a dozen organisations.

Local people were first asked what they liked about the town, and what they would like to change, and invited to help with the project. From replies to those questions, a vision for the town's future emerged, and objectives agreed with community support through two public events in autumn 2014.

Key contacts for Edenbridge

Steering Group chairman Annette Hards - 07932 686011 Edenbridge Town Council - 01732 865368

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EdenbridgeNeighbourhoodPlan>

- Support and a grant provided by the Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning Programme, led by Locality in association with RTP1/Planning Aid England, CDF and partners, through the My Community Rights website.