## SAVECAPEL Newsletter 15th August 2019

#### **Evolution**

Some details in the draft Local Plan were updated in this morning's Cabinet meeting. The main change for Capel is the publication of an enhanced map, now showing the secondary school at Postern and proposed link routes between Tudeley New Town, East Capel and Colt's Hill. The map should be available at TWBC's Local Plan website. A snapshot from the meeting's Errata document is shown below. Four speakers from Capel spoke at the meeting. The minutes and an audio recording will be made available via

http://democracy.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/meetings/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=118&MId=4566&Ver=4

A broad range of topics were covered including flooding, uncertainties around mineral extraction and its safeguarding, the impact of Brexit, the convergence of PW and East Capel, infrastructure, risk, housing targets vs housing need and the huge rewards that can be reaped through pro-active and honest community engagement.

The Chief Executive and Head of Planning at TWBC both took some time after the meeting to go through some of our concerns and respond at length. We hope to see them again before and during the public consultation.

The Cabinet meeting today resulted in the draft Local Plan going forward in its current form to public consultation on September 20th. Cllr Hamilton spoke with regard to preserving the Memorial Field in Paddock Wood. Capel's Borough Councillor did not speak in support of Save Capel or Keep Kent Green and did not ask any questions to query the content or process relating to the draft Local Plan. Capel's Borough Councillor voted against the draft Local Plan going forward to public consultation, with no comments on why she objected. She was outvoted by the 4 other Councillors in the Cabinet.



#### Fun Facts about our Petition

More than 2,800 people have signed our petition. Wow! Thank you! Please keep encouraging friends, family, colleagues and neighbours to sign. It makes a real difference when we are campaigning and fundraising. We'd love to get to 5,000 signatures by the end of the year.

The most popular postcode is TN12 6TB with a fantastic 50 signatures from the good folk of Nortons Way. TN12 6RT comes in second. Come on Whetsted Road – get signing! You're almost top billing!

The most popular first names are David, Sarah, John and Jane. Richard and Karen - sign up and you could pop John or Jane out of the top 4! 2,372 of our supporters live in Kent. Here's a map of their postcodes:



#### **Commuter Chaos**

The proposed housing in Capel will cause chaos on the Tonbridge Line, which is alarming, especially against the backdrop of a line operating at full capacity with parking at stations a huge headache too. The road between Tudeley New Town and Tonbridge is very congested and there are no new link roads or widening schemes proposed in the draft Local Plan. If commuters from the New Town can get in to Tonbridge and park, they will then be joining trains that are full to bursting. Sevenoaks commuters don't stand a chance!

We would like to distribute Save Capel information cards to commuters at Tonbridge Station and Sevenoaks Station at the start of September. We can't do this on the station concourse due to Network Rail regulations. If you have any ideas to share on reaching our commuting community please email savecapel@gmail.com where we will be very pleased to hear from you.



#### Learn more... and have your say

There will be 3 TWBC exhibitions of the draft Local Plan for Capel and Paddock Wood on:

- Saturday 21st September 10am to 2pm at Capel Community Centre, Falmouth Place, Five Oak Green.
- Tuesday 24th September 4.30pm to 8pm at Mascalls School, Paddock Wood.
- Thursday 3rd October 4.30pm to 8pm at Mascalls School, Paddock Wood.

Save Capel will run a further 2 events in Tudeley on:

- Tuesday 24th September 10am to 11.30am at Goldsmid Hall
- Friday 27th September 10am to 11.30am at Goldsmid Hall

If you would like events to run in other locations, for example Golden Green or East Peckham, please email savecapel@gmail.com and we will do our best to find a date. It is very important that everyone has their say, that their voice is heard and that we all understand how the comments we give will been considered and analysed to inform the Pre-Submission Plan, which will be presented to a TWBC's Full Council next summer, before going through another round of Public Consultation (Reg19) next August/September. It will then be amended based on feedback and go back to Full Council before the Final Development Plan is examined by a government Inspector.

It is worth noting that Sevenoaks dropped many of their green belt sites after their Full Council meeting regarding their Pre-Submission Plan. Sevenoaks will know if their approach to preserving greenbelt is successful in the spring, before TWBC's Full Council vote on their Pre-Submission Plan. Interesting times.

The draft Local Plan is horrendous for Capel and our neighbours. We must state our objections, clearly evidenced, in October. We mustn't miss this opportunity and every single point must be raised here. If everything isn't raised in October, we will miss a vital opportunity for the plan to change.

TWBC will run a public consultation period from Sep 20th to Nov 1st.

This is known as **Reg 18**. Every issue, big or small, must be raised here. You must comment at this time, even if you have written to TWBC before this time. Comments can be submitted online or by post. We must be ready to object to specific parts of the plan with evidence based arguments.

May 2020: Borough & Parish Council elections. Please vote. We will help you to find and meet the candidates who understand Capel's issues and future plans.

**August 2020:** TWBC publish their Pre-Submission Local Plan. This will have been developed by TWBC from Nov 2019. **Reg 19** consultation on this plan begins for 6 weeks. This is narrow and more focussed, with reference to the National Planning Policy Framework's "tests of soundness" and formal legal points considered. Only issues raised in Reg 18 can be addressed in Reg 19. The process is run by TWBC.

**October 2020:** Final Development Plan developed by TWBC, to be published in Dec 2020. Submitted to Secretary of State for Housing, who appoints an Inspector to examine it.

The examination by the Inspector will take place in May 2021.

### This is the point at which *TWBC's plans are, for the first time, subjected to independent scrutiny.*

The Inspector should publish their report in September 2021 and a final "set in stone" plan should be adopted by December 2021.

2020

2021

2019

# Craft Fair

11am – 3pm Saturday 31st August 14 Larkfield Five Oak Green TN12 6TG

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE Lucky dip, Scentsy, cake stall, face-painting, barbecue, cards, candles & jams for sale



SUPPORT THE SAVECAPEL CAMPAIGN