

## Expression of interest form

I support the idea of developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish of Benenden (Please circle)?	Yes	No	Don't know
My name:			
Address and postcode:			
Mobile phone number:			
Landline number (optional):			
E-mail address:			
I would like to join the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group:	<i>Please tick:</i>		
I would like to help in some other way: (attend workshops, deliver leaflets/surveys, events, serve refreshments)	<i>Please tick:</i>		
I would simply like to be kept informed:	<i>Please tick:</i>		
My relevant skills, knowledge or experience:			

Please hand back to a member of the Parish Council team or drop off at:

Parish Office, Village Shop, Iden Green Pavilion

**THANK YOU**



## Parish Meeting to discuss a Benenden Neighbourhood Plan

7.30pm, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May,

**Benenden Village Hall**



<http://www.benendenparishcouncil.org>

## **What is a Neighbourhood Plan?**

The Parish Council is developing a Neighbourhood Plan. Created by local people, it sets out future planning policy for where you live. It helps protect the things you care about, such as important local green spaces, and make improvements. It can show where buildings can and can't be built, what they should look like, and used for. It can also encourage the kind of development that you would like to see more of.

## **Why a neighbourhood plan might help?**

It carries the same legal weight as plans drawn up by your borough council. This gives you and your community a powerful voice that must be listened to when decisions are made about development in your area. Once 'made', your borough council must follow what's in your neighbourhood plan when making decisions about planning applications and developers or landowners must follow it too, if they want to get planning permission.

## **Key steps:**

1. Seek agreement from residents to develop a Neighbourhood Plan.
2. Set up a group linked to the parish council to take this forward.
3. Register your neighbourhood plan area (generally the civil parish).
4. Apply for funding (up to £9000 is available from the government plus specialist advice or research).
5. Engage and consult with residents on what to include in the Neighbourhood Plan, building on the recent Parish Plan.
6. Write and then consult on a draft Neighbourhood Plan.
7. Have the Plan 'examined' by an independent expert to ensure it complies with legislation.
8. Hold a referendum at which every resident (18 and over) gets a vote on whether to agree the plan.
9. The plan is 'made' and becomes part of the overall development plan for Tunbridge Wells District.

## **What now?**

1. Please come to **the Parish Meeting on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm** at the Village Hall to find out more.
2. If you can't come, please tear off and complete the attached form and drop off at the: Parish Office, Village Shop, Iden Green Pavilion.

## **Please tell us what's good/working well in Benenden?**

## **What's not working or needs improving?**

## **What's your dream or vision for the future of the parish?**