



## UPDATE FROM THE SAVE CAPEL EXECUTIVE



From left to right: Jan Mueller, Ian Pattenden, Maggie Fenton, Dave Lovell, Stewart Gledhill and Chris Callander.

**F**ollowing the confirmation of the Save Capel Executive members at the AGM in March, we set about agreeing on the roles and responsibilities each member would hold based on their individual skills and experience. For those who may not know some of the team, here is a very brief introduction alongside the roles they have agreed to take on:

**Dave Lovell – Chair & Partnerships:** Sychem Lane. Retired from public service in May 2019 and involved in the campaign ever since. Convenor for Biodiversity, Landscape & Heritage, and interim Chair leading into the AGM.

**Stewart Gledhill – Vice Chair & Secretary:** Whetsted. Retired Accountant. Fully engaged with the Save Capel campaign since its inception. Convenor for Flooding and interim Vice-Chair leading into the AGM.

**Chris Callander – Communications:** Brampton Bank. Runs a marketing communications business. Was an inaugural member of the Save Capel campaign, leading

the setup of our communication channels and building relationships with key media outlets.

**Ian Pattenden – Fundraising & Events:** Tudeley. Retired Project Manager for 43 years. Lived in Tudeley for over 33 years and has been involved with the Save Capel campaign since the beginning. Passionate about saving our precious countryside and all it has to offer for future generations.

**Jan Mueller – Governance & Analysis:** Capel. Twenty-five years in management consulting. Lived in Capel for five years. Co-lead of brownfield team since its inception.

**Maggie Fenton – Special projects:** Badsell Road. Retired teacher. Lived in the area for 38 years, last 28 in FOG. Vice-Chair of the Parish Council so fully involved with Save Capel from an initial working group of CPC to the independent campaign it is now.

As you can see, we live across most of the Parish, with members from Tudeley, Brampton Bank, Five Oak Green, and Whetsted to represent the whole.

## CONTENTS

1. The executive takes shape
2. Our strategy outlined
3. How you can help us deliver Save Capel's strategy
4. What else have we been doing?

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Did you know that a survey by the Countryside Charity, CPRE, established that 59% of those living in the South East say they appreciate local green spaces more since our exercise has been restricted, and 63% say that lockdown has made them more aware of how important green spaces are for our mental health and wellbeing.

If you know someone who has realised the value of their local countryside, please ask them to sign our petition and help us stop hundreds of acres of essential green space being lost forever.

Simply forward them to our website or direct them to our social media channels for more info.

[www.savecapel.com/petition](http://www.savecapel.com/petition)

## GET SOCIAL WITH SAVE CAPEL

 @SaveCapel2020

 @SaveCapel



# SAVE CAPEL'S STRATEGY

**W**ith roles established across the team, it is important that we have a clear strategy in place for the next stage of our fight against the plans for Capel. This will not only help us to ensure that our work is focused on meeting our objectives, but it will help our project teams and supporters see how their efforts contribute to our goals.

To summarise our strategy, we have created a graphic that shows our purpose, our objectives, activities which will enable us to meet our goals, and our values.

As you can see, to ensure our goals are realised, we have three strategic objectives:

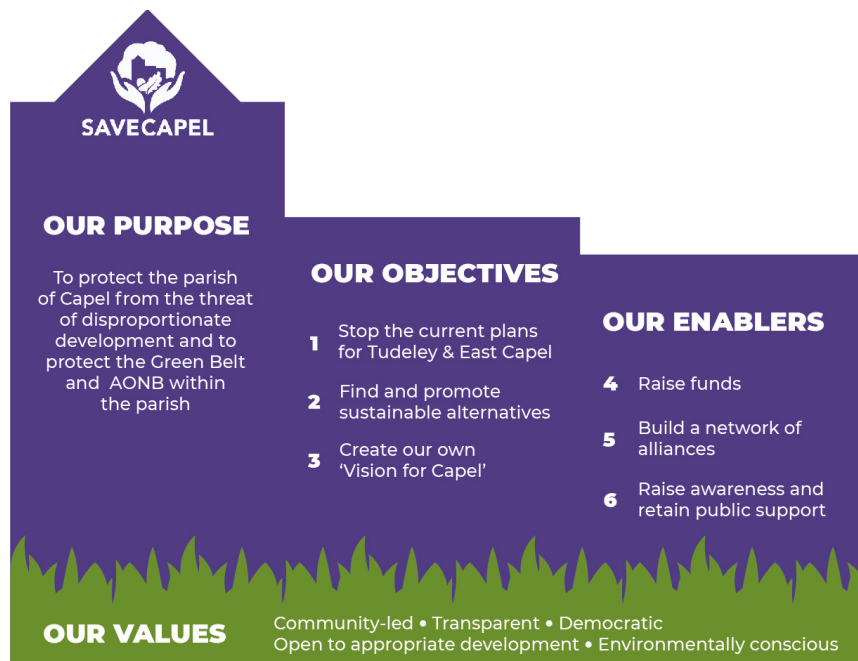
- 1. Stop the current plans** – to remove or significantly amend the plans for Tudeley Village / East Capel.
- 2. Find and promote alternatives** – to identify sustainable alternatives for development for inclusion in the Local Plan.
- 3. Create a 'Vision for Capel'** – by supporting community plans to develop a new vision for the future of Capel.

These objectives will be supported in three key ways (the enablers):

- 1. Raise funds** – to finance professional support as required.
- 2. Build alliances** – to develop a strong network of allies to support us in Regulation 19 and beyond.
- 3. Raise awareness and public support** – to keep Capel in the public eye, and build upon Save Capel's support and to hold those supporting the plans to public account.

The strategic objectives will be supported by a range of projects and activities to prepare the campaign and the community to respond to the challenges raised by Regulation 19 and beyond.

We have identified 15 project strands which will help us meet our objectives, these are a combination of work that has been underway for some time, and new activities we believe are needed. We are now liaising with the existing teams, and identifying additional support, to add further detail to how the various projects will be delivered.



This plan will, of course, evolve and we will continuously be reviewing its progress and adjusting the plan where necessary

## OUR STRUCTURE AND PEOPLE

The Save Capel organisation consists of an executive, project teams, members and a wider circle of supporters:

**Executive:** A team of up to seven people (currently six), who meet regularly to plan and coordinate efforts to achieve Save Capel's objectives.

**Project Teams:** Operationally delivering the various project strands and enabling work, with two-way communication with the Executive through an assigned executive sponsor.

**Members:** The Save Capel organisation is the property of its membership, who elect the Executive on an annual basis at the AGM.

Members are likely to form the core of the project teams in line with their interests and skills. From time to time, the Executive may reach out to its membership for input, or to consult on major decisions. Save Capel also has a broader group of supporters and allies that will be regularly

communicated with and may assist with specific projects.

The primary role and responsibility of the Executive is to deliver against Save Capel's strategic objectives. The Executive members jointly 'own' all three strategic objectives, i.e. there is collective responsibility and decision-making on all strategic questions.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In the feedback to the last consultation on the council's Draft Local Plan, Regulation 18, **30%** of the respondents to the plans for the entire borough related to the plans for Capel Parish.

Of those respondents, **97% objected** with just 2% supporting the plans.

And that isn't counting the 3750 signatories to our petition at the time, which were counted as a single objection.



# DELIVERING OUR STRATEGY: HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**W**hile the Executive will be focused on delivering this plan, as before, we will be heavily reliant on the invaluable support given by our teams. While key activities remain much as before, we have made some adjustments to enable us to respond flexibly to the next version of the Draft Local Plan known as Regulation 19, and at the inspection stage, which follows, if required.

The work we have carried out to date has shown us that while some strands of work are ongoing, we may also have some fixed-term tasks to support our objectives. Save Capel will need to be flexible, so while members of teams will be attached to their specific subject matter, we will need supporters who can help in a range of ad-hoc projects for varying degrees of time.

*"This will help  
shape our  
response in the  
most effective  
way."*

Each team will have a Team Leader who liaises with a specific member of the Executive. The role of Team Leader will not be as demanding as the previous 'Convenor' role, as there is no need to sit on the Executive. Instead, Team Leaders will act as the conduit between the team members and the Executive. That said, any Team Leader who wishes to attend an Executive meeting to discuss a topic will be welcome. Similarly, the Executive may ask a Team Leader to attend a meeting for their specialist advice.

We hope this will enable suggestions for tasks and calls for resources to flow both ways, from the Executive to the Teams and vice versa. This will help shape our response in the



most effective way, and ensure decisions affecting teams are transparent and reasonable.

The current teams we need to take forward into the next phase of our campaign, and their Executive contacts, are:

## **BIODIVERSITY & POLLUTION:**

Dave Lovell

## **BROWNFIELD & ALTERNATIVES:**

Jan Mueller

## **COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chris Callander

## **FLOODING:** Stewart Gledhill

## **FUNDRAISING & EVENTS:**

Ian Pattenden

## **HERITAGE & LANDSCAPE:**

Maggie Fenton

## **TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE:**

Shared responsibility

If you are not currently a member of one of the teams but think you have skills and experience which could support our work, please get in touch at [savecapel@gmail.com](mailto:savecapel@gmail.com). We need all the help we can get.

Unfortunately, we cannot be prescriptive about what will be required, and when, as we have not received an update from TWBC on the Local Plan timetable, other than there is 'likely' to be an announcement in June. The current schedule is for the next consultation to take place in August/September 2020 as outlined at the end of this newsletter. However, TWBC's website continues to state the Local Plan timetable may be amended.





# WHAT ELSE HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

**W**e have refreshed the IT platforms, including updates to the website to make it easier to navigate and to expand the information available. We will continue these improvements and would welcome your feedback ([savecapel@gmail.com](mailto:savecapel@gmail.com)).

We are also continuing to monitor the media and other sources for insight into other local plans and planning data and policy. For example, recent population growth forecasts have been reduced by the Office of National Statistics, suggesting the next set of 'housing need' figures will show a further reduction from the inflated 2014 figures TWBC's plan is based on.

Detailed analysis of the Regulation 18 submissions has been carried out, to help inform our approach to the next iteration of the Local Plan, whatever and whenever that is. TWBC is still claiming on

other websites that their Planning Services are conducting 'business as usual', so we are concerned that timetable confirmation may come late, making our response time as difficult as possible. We will keep you informed, but this is why we need to start preparing now.

The Government has issued new guidance for Councils to focus on brownfield and 'urban regeneration'; good advice for TWBC, given the demise of the centre of Tunbridge Wells in recent years. Turning empty shops and other facilities into homes, and streets into pedestrian and cycle paths, would revitalise the town, cut urban pollution, protect open-space and the Green Belt, and up-lift residents' wellbeing. Building a new town in the countryside will inevitably lead to more car usage and increased air, noise and light pollution.

Indeed, we have all been enjoying the fresh air and our beautiful

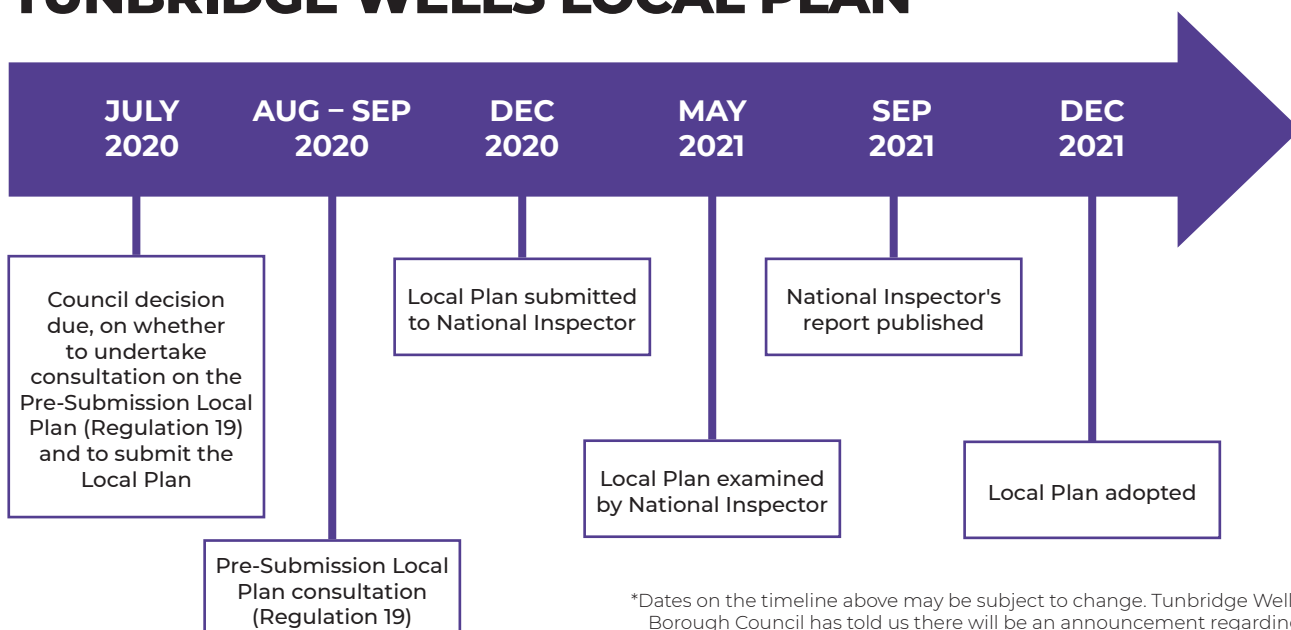
*"There should be no going back to the environmentally damaging proposals in the Local Plan."*

views, with more people using our footpaths for exercise. With that in mind I would urge you to support a petition to curb pollution in Tunbridge Wells once lockdown is over. You will find it here:

[bit.ly/TWBCpollution](https://bit.ly/TWBCpollution)

There should be no going back to the environmentally damaging proposals in the Local Plan. TWBC recognised a climate emergency – it should now act and use the impetus this horrific pandemic has forced upon us.

## CURRENT TIMELINE FOR THE TUNBRIDGE WELLS LOCAL PLAN\*



\*Dates on the timeline above may be subject to change. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has told us there will be an announcement regarding the timings for the next stage (Regulation 19), made in June.

Save Capel is not anti-development, we support sustainable development and especially affordable housing in both the borough and in Capel Parish. But any development needs to be proportionate, suitable (for local needs and in line with the local environment) and above all sustainable.

