

As 2019 draws to a close our thoughts are turning to preparations for 2020.

## *What will happen in 2020?*

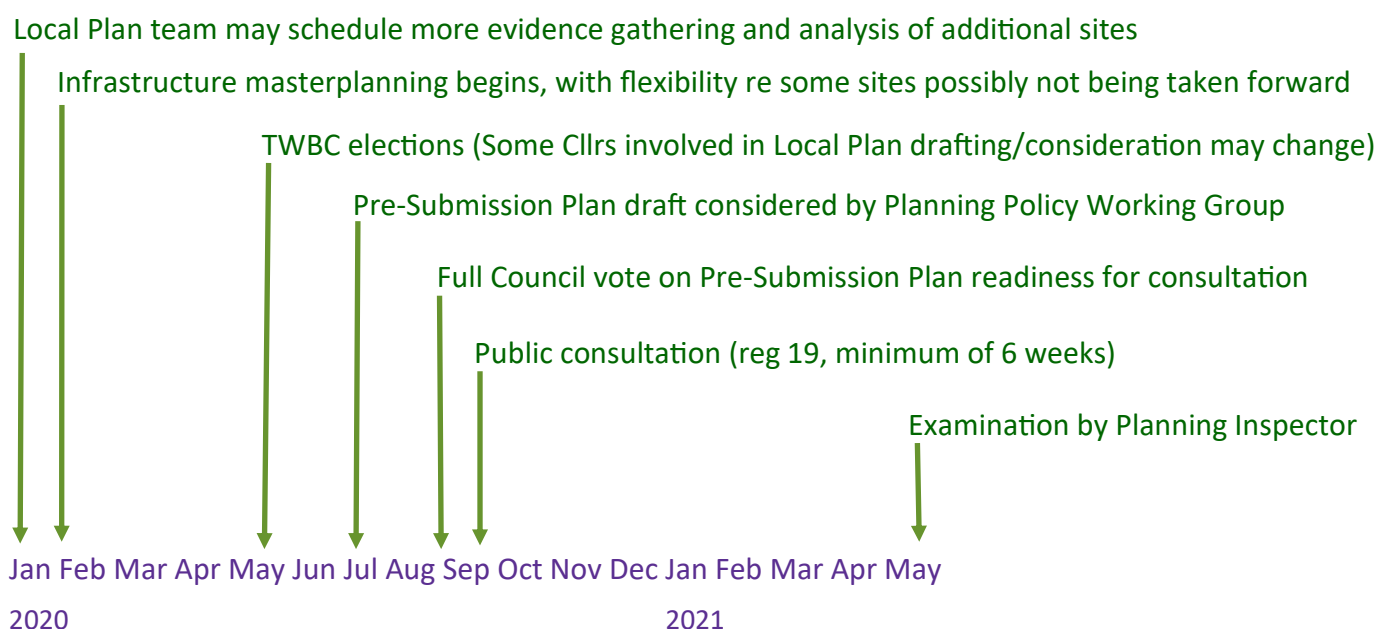
In the first half of next year, the Local Plan team at TWBC will look at the recent public consultation comments and work with landowners and developers on the Local Plan sites to create **infrastructure masterplans** for Tudeley New Town and East Capel. During this process they may decide that some sites cannot be taken forward. The Local Plan team will also be looking at sites put forward during the public consultation, that may be preferable to the draft Local Plan sites. This process will probably last until June and will largely take place away from public view, in the TWBC Planning Policy Working Group and at Strategic Sites meetings. We hope that there will be some community engagement, perhaps via exhibitions or public meetings. We will keep all of our supporters informed via newsletters, emails, Facebook and Twitter (@savecapel).

If there are no changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and no significant shifts in guidelines after the Sevenoaks and Tonbridge & Malling Local Plan processes move forward then we expect that the next draft of the Local Plan (the **Pre-Submission Plan**—PSP) will be presented to TWBC Full Council (48 Councillors) in September. They will decide if it is fit for purpose and ready for Regulation 19 Public Consultation. To prepare for this decision, we will ensure that Save Capel representatives regularly attend Full Council meetings and ask pertinent questions throughout 2020. We will lobby all TWBC and T&M Councillors, our MP and neighbouring constituency's MPs. We will meet with all of the candidates for the May 2020 election for Capel Borough Councillor and keep press attention on the campaign and its key issues.

If Full Council are happy with the PSP then the **Regulation 19 Public Consultation** will begin in October.

If we are unhappy with the PSP we have to decide if we use external professionals to state our case during reg19, or if we wait to use their services during the Planning Inspector's public hearings in May 2021 (or both). This is a complex decision that has a lot of variables, not least the level of funding available to us, which in turn is dependant on how we can express our issues and encourage cash donations in February/March 2020.

*Please check TWBC's report at <https://beta.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/local-plan/consultations> to make sure that your comments have been correctly noted and to read other people's comments about the proposed developments in the draft Local Plan.*



## *How can I help?*

The support we have received from everyone in the last six months has been incredible and we are so grateful. There are a number of ways in which you can help us to continue in to 2020 and strengthen our campaign.

### *Keep supporting Save Capel*

If you have received this newsletter by email—Thank You! - you are a Save Capel supporter and will continue to receive email updates including newsletters, reports and press clippings. In the fullness of time we will also be asking for donations to our fighting fund. Details will follow in 2020. You may also like to follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook. We really appreciate your support. Please do send your comments and ideas to us. Local knowledge and hearing about campaigns and issues across the UK are always of interest and can be very useful to the campaign.

### *Become a Save Capel Member*

Please join Save Capel as a member (via [savecapel.com/member](https://savecapel.com/member)) if you would like to be involved in the structure of the campaign and the way in which it is managed. Members will be invited to **annual meetings** to elect an Executive (formerly the Steering Team). They will also be consulted on governance (e.g. the adoption of a Constitution). Membership is free and will not require a significant time commitment. The annual meeting will last a couple of hours at a local venue in January and any extraordinary meetings will be kept to a minimum—perhaps two a year at most. To **vote**, we will require your physical presence at meetings. Votes will be administered by secret ballot. Communication of meetings and minutes will be via email.

### *Join the Save Capel Executive*

The Save Capel Executive will be elected in January to meet and communicate (via email) regularly so that decisions can be made on a range of topics. We hope to have **7 members in the Executive team**, all making a commitment to stay in post for a year. In 2019, meetings were monthly and lasted around 2 hours. Emails were pretty much daily! Being part of the Executive will require stamina and in 2020 will undoubtedly involve managing the contracts and performance of external professionals. It can be very rewarding and strong risk management, legal and financial skills will be hugely beneficial to this group and the campaign as a whole. Decisions in 2019 included: [Levels of access to information \(public/restricted/confidential\)](#). [How to establish a charity/bank account](#). [Public update meetings format/advertising](#). [Neighbourhood Plan team evolution](#). [Strategy](#). [Landowner comms](#). [Lobbying Cllrs/MPs](#). [March timings/invitees](#). [Fundraising event spending/timing/focus](#). [Petition distribution/monitoring](#). [Flyer distribution/wording](#). [Reputational risk, data protection](#). [Press and 3rd parties](#). [Team's actions/minutes/comms](#). [Castle Planning fees/mgmt/output](#). [Mineral Plan hearings/input](#). [Consultation response target/advertising/guidance](#). [Brownfield study scope/objectives](#).

Decisions on the Executive will be made by a simple majority at meetings or via email votes. Save Capel's funds are held by a charity called the Capel Greenbelt Protection Society (CGPS). See overleaf for some more information about CGPS. The Save Capel Executive team (SCE) will have a process for authorising spending and assessing contractors. CGPS will then facilitate the spending and contracts authorised by SCE.

If you can give us your time and skills in 2020 please do step forward to join the Executive via [savecapel.com/nominate](https://savecapel.com/nominate). Any Save Capel member can be nominated to join the Executive by two other Save Capel members. A vote by secret ballot will then be held at the Save Capel annual meeting on January 29th. We would like all nominees to submit a short statement for display on the website explaining why they would like to join the Executive. Please do feel free to ask any of the 2019 Steering team any questions. They are Andy Rankine, Dave Lovell, Farah Brooks-Johnson, Hugh Patterson, Joanna Ginsberg, Maggie Fenton, Mark Ginsberg, Mike Howells, Robert Assirati and Stewart Gledhill. They would be happy to hear from you and would like to encourage new nominees. Email addresses can be supplied via [savecapel@gmail.com](mailto:savecapel@gmail.com) if you need their contact details.

## *Capel Greenbelt Protection Society*

When Save Capel sprang to life, we knew quite quickly that we would need to attract donations from community fundraising and corporate donors. We were very lucky to have initial funding from Capel Parish Council to raise awareness of our plight and to help us to engage a planning consultant. After much discussion, we decided to set up a long term charity that would be a meaningful and positive step forward for the community across a range of projects to protect the greenbelt in Capel and nearby. Save Capel's strategy is aligned to the aims of this new charity—the Capel Greenbelt Protection Society (CGPS).

CGPS was founded by five Trustees: Dave Parrish (Chair), Konrad Legg (Vice Chair), Martin Pengelley (Treasurer), Emma Ivory (Secretary), Farah Brooks-Johnson (Save Capel Co-ordinator) and the vital support of Robert Assirati, who set up the bank account and charity registration, involving a huge amount of form filling and chasing.

CGPS Trustees aim to meet four times a year. At present they have been looking at how best to establish the charity to serve Capel's needs. The Radlett Society and Green Belt Association ([www.radlettsociety.org](http://www.radlettsociety.org)) have been very helpful in this regard, as have the London Green Belt Council and Campaign to Protect Rural England.

CGPS is a long term charity that has Save Capel campaign as one of its projects. It's impossible to predict how long Save Capel will have to exist as a campaign. We hope it's an 18 month project rather than 5 or 10 year project, but regardless of its length, we know that it will be well served by CGPS to facilitate Gift Aid and provide a contract participant with the ability to limit personal liability from the SC Executive.

In parallel to providing practical support to the Save Capel campaign, CGPS will be working on other projects in 2020 and beyond and look forward to launching their website and building links with more greenbelt related organisations very soon. **A CGPS Trustee will sit on the SC Executive as an observer.**

## *Capel Parish Council*

When the draft Local Plan was first made public, Capel Parish Council (CPC) quickly set up a working party, from which Save Capel evolved. CPC have been a key part of Save Capel's development and we owe them a great debt of gratitude. We look forward to continuing our close working relationship to oppose the Local Plan as it stands.

As a parish council, CPC is part of the lowest tier of English local government, but also the one closest to its residents. There are nine councillors elected by voters on the electoral role in Capel. CPC is one of around 9,000 parish and town councils in the UK. Their direct responsibilities include the Recreation Ground, the allotments in Five Oak Green and the Memorial Cottages, as well as the maintenance of other small structures round the parish such as the water trough in Tudeley. They have also provided the defibrillators in the old phone box in Tudeley, at Capel Primary school, and the cricket pavilion.

CPC also represents local opinion in their dealings with other government bodies including Tunbridge Wells Borough and Kent County councils, and the Tunbridge Wells MP. They are a statutory consultee on planning applications, and these are regularly dealt with by their planning committee. The Parish Council Flood Committee also deals with the Environment Agency that maintains the Alders Stream as a critical watercourse, Southern Water, South East Water and Kent Highways.

[NB for the viewers of the 'Vicar of Dibley': the CPC represents the civil parish of Capel, it has nothing directly to do with church or ecclesiastical parish of Capel, although the boundaries of both are almost the same].

The current CPC Councillors are: Hugh Patterson (Chair), Maggie Fenton (Vice Chair), Charles Mackonochie, Heather Roberts, Ashley Saunders, Chris Parker, Trevor Sawyer, Jim Young and Suzi Rich. There is an election in May 2020 involving all CPC Councillors. Their website is at [capel-pc.org.uk](http://capel-pc.org.uk) and their Clerk, Emma Ivory, can be contacted via [clerk@capelpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@capelpc.co.uk). **A CPC Councillor will sit on the SC Executive as an observer.**