

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING
21st DECEMBER 2006

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	A Better Environment
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Enhancing Cultural Life
KEY PRIORITY:	Local Heritage
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Anne Hingley
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Planning, Health & Environment
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APPENDICES	Appendix 1: Draft Character Appraisal for the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area Appendix 2: Draft proposals for Boundary Amendments to the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area Appendix 3: Draft Management Proposals for the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area. <i>The Appendices to this report are being circulated separately on a disc and there is a copy available for members to view in the Members Lounge and a public inspection copy is available on request.</i>

The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area Proposed Boundary Amendments, Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Proposals

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present Members with draft boundary amendments, a draft Conservation Area Appraisal, and draft Management Proposals, for the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Conservation Area, and to seek authority to undertake a public consultation on the proposals.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to **DECIDE** :

- 2.1 **The draft Conservation Area Appraisal, the draft Boundary Amendments, and the draft Management Proposals be supported and that officers be authorised to undertake a public consultation into the proposals before reporting back with a further recommendation.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990* places a duty upon every local planning authority, from time to time, to review and to determine whether any parts or further parts of their area are of special architectural and/or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance, and to designate them as Conservation Areas.
- 3.2 At present there are sixteen Conservation Areas in Wyre Forest District. The *Adopted Wyre Forest District Local Plan (January 2004)* advises that proposals for reviewing existing boundaries for Conservation Areas will be prepared and investigated; whilst the current *Business Plan for Planning Health and Environment Division* includes a commitment to publish draft management proposals, a draft Conservation Area Appraisal, and draft boundary amendments for the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area, by December 2006.
- 3.3 The effects of designation of a Conservation Area include stricter planning controls over demolition, minor development, the protection of trees, and stricter regulation of new development to ensure it preserves and/or enhances the special character of the Area. In addition, Local Planning Authorities have a duty to draw-up schemes for the enhancement of Conservation Areas.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area was first designated in 1978, and stretches from the Basins area at Stourport-on-Severn, through to the edge of the District, north of Caunsall, for over fourteen kilometres. This is the first appraisal undertaken for this Conservation Area, and the first Boundary Review.
- 4.2 The Character Appraisal sets out the important elements of the Area, identifying the elements which assist to, contribute to, and detract from the special character and appearance of the Area. This has been prepared in accordance with the English Heritage guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals (August 2005).
- 4.3 The Boundary Review has been undertaken in line with guidance contained within PPG15. This has examined the existing boundary of the Area, and how, if at all, the landscape within, and abutting the Area has altered over time. Many of the proposed additions to the Area are technical in detail, for example including bridges in their totality, as part of the canal infrastructure, rather than the boundary strictly following the edges of the canal and towpath.
- 4.4 There are five proposed deletions from the Area, identified as areas which are no longer identified as being part of the special character and appearance of the Area, including the scrap yard, south of Kidderminster.

- 4.5 The Management Proposals set out the policy framework within the Adopted Wyre Forest District Local Plan, for the management of the Area, with reference to liaison with British Waterways as the majority land-owner within the Area.

5. METHOD OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 5.1 In order to progress the Conservation Area proposals, it is considered that a consultation process should be undertaken with all affected persons. This would include British Waterways, the local Civic Societies, the owner and/or occupier of property within the boundary of the Area, and within any proposed alterations to the boundary, Parish and Town Councils, and other interested parties. The consultation would take the form of public notification of intent, through public displays, and through a mail-drop to each individual property and interested party, as outlined above, enclosing a leaflet describing the proposals, the effects on the owner/ occupier. The consultation would run for a period of 6 weeks, from mid January to the end of February 2007. There is also a requirement for a public meeting to be held during the consultation period.
- 5.2 The results of the consultation will be the subject of a future report to the Prosperity Panel, and Cabinet, in April 2007.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Arrangements for a public consultation on the draft Management Proposals, the draft Boundary Amendments, and the draft Conservation Area Appraisal can be undertaken within existing agreed budgets.

7. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The proposed Boundary Amendments, the proposed Management Plan, and the proposed Conservation Area Appraisal have been drawn up in accordance with the guidance produced by English Heritage.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 There are no risk management issues arising from this report.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 A draft Conservation Area Appraisal, draft Management Proposals, and draft Boundary Amendments have been drawn up, and Cabinet is asked to support the proposals for taking these forward to a public consultation, the results of which will be the subject of a future report.

10. CONSULTEES

10.1 Head of Legal and Democratic Services

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 Planning Policy Guidance Note 15

12.2 Adopted District Local Plan (January 2004)

12.3 Guidance On Conservation Area Appraisals : English Heritage (August 2005)

12.4 Guidance on the Management of Conservation Areas : English Heritage (August 2005)

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