

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET  
THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2007**

**The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area – Results of  
Consultation on Proposed Boundary Amendments, Conservation Area  
Appraisal and Management Proposals**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:</b>	A Better Environment
<b>CORPORATE PLAN THEME:</b>	Enhancing Cultural Life
<b>KEY PRIORITY:</b>	Local Heritage
<b>CANINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor Anne Hingley, Planning Health and Environment
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	Head of Planning, Health & Environment
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Simon Roper-Pressdee, Ext. 2536
<b>APPENDICES</b>	APPENDIX 1 – Responses arising from the Public Consultation, with Conservation Officer's responses and recommendations.

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 For Cabinet to consider the results of the public consultation on the proposed boundary amendments, the draft Management proposals, and the draft Character Appraisal for the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area and to recommend adoption of the amendments by Council.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

The Cabinet is asked to **RECOMMEND** to Council that:

- 2.1 **The Conservation Area Character Appraisal, the Boundary Amendments (excluding SWC 5), and the Management Proposals be approved and the Boundary of the Conservation Area be amended accordingly under Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.**

**3.0 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

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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.
- 3.4 A report was submitted and agreed by the Cabinet on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2006 seeking approval for a public consultation on the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area Character Appraisal, Draft Management Plan and Proposed Boundary Amendments.

### **4. METHOD OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Following this approval, a public consultation was undertaken commencing on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2007 and was closed on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2007.
- 4.2 The consultation consisted of a small pamphlet being sent to each of the land-owners within the proposed boundary amendments, and all amenity groups with a vested interest in the Area and its infrastructure, outlining the proposed boundary amendments and management proposals.
- 4.3 Displays were erected both in the public library in Stourport-on-Severn, and in the foyer of the Worcestershire Hub in Kidderminster Town Hall on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2007, and were taken down on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2007.
- 4.4 The proposals were also published on the Council's web-site on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2007, including hyperlinks to email to enable web-responses.
- 4.5 A press release to the Kidderminster Shuttle was published on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2007.
- 4.6 A public meeting was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2007, later than originally planned due to inclement weather. An allowance was made to the closure of the consultation to allow for responses arising from this meeting.

### **5. RESULTS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Consultation responses were received via several mediums: by letter, by phone-call and by email.

- 5.2 A total of 12 responses were recorded, through a medium of consultation reply slips, letters, and emails: Most were supportive of the proposals; several respondents noted that graffiti and litter were an issue, especially in the Kidderminster area, and there were three suggestions for further additions to the Area.
- 5.3 Appendix 1 outlines the objections, and shows the Officer recommendations in respect of each objection.

**6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Arrangements publishing the Boundary Amendments 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.
- 7.2 Any amendments to the boundary of Conservation Areas are required to be published in both a local newspaper, and the London Gazette. This will be done if the amendments are approved by Council

**8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

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

**9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 The consultation on the proposed Amendments to the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area, the draft Management Proposals and the Conservation Area Appraisal has not identified any significant opposition, and Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council that these be Adopted.

**10. CONSULTEES**

- 10.1 Head of Legal and Democratic Services

**11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Cabinet Report December 21<sup>st</sup> 2006: Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area – Proposed Boundary Amendments, Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Proposals  
Planning Policy Guidance Note 15  
Adopted District Local Plan ( January 2004)  
Guidance On Conservation Area Appraisals : English Heritage (August 2005)  
Guidance on the Management of Conservation Areas : English Heritage