



Regeneration and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee

Date: 15/10/08
Open Report

Report of: Amanda Hall
(Assistant Conservation Officer)

Church Street Conservation Area – ConservationArea Appraisal

1. Purpose of Briefing Paper

- 1.1 To inform Members of the proposed draft Conservation Area Appraisal for the Church Street Conservation Area, and the proposed arrangements for public consultation.

2. Introduction/ Background Information

- 2.1 The Adopted District Local Plan states (in paragraph 8.27), the District Council's intention to prepare appraisals for all Conservation Areas.
- 2.2 A Conservation Area Character Appraisal sets out the special architectural and historic characteristics of a Conservation Area and is intended to provide guidance for planning decisions.
- 2.3 The Church Street Conservation Area was designated in 1993 but until now no formal Character Appraisal has been prepared.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 The Draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal has been undertaken in line with guidance from English Heritage published in 2006.
- 3.2 In order to progress the Conservation Area proposals, it is considered that a consultation process should be undertaken with all persons and bodies with a vested interest in the Area. This would include the owner and/or occupier of properties within the boundary of the Area and other interested parties. The consultation would take the form of public notification of intent, including a press release, a mail-drop to each individual property and interested party, and the publication of the Appraisal on the Council's web-site. The consultation would run for a period of 6 weeks, from November 2008 to December 2008.

- 3.3 The results of the consultation will be the subject of a future report to the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, and Cabinet, in January 2009.
- 3.4 This Conservation Area Appraisal was originally intended to be accompanied by a Management Plan, to help identify and present proposals that, in addition to managing change, would also preserve and enhance the Area.
- 3.5 However, in light of the emerging Kidderminster Regeneration Prospectus, which concentrates in part on elements of the Church Street Conservation Area, it is proposed that the production of a Management Plan for this Conservation Area be postponed until after the publication of the Kidderminster Regeneration Prospectus, anticipated in April 2009.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Arrangements for a public consultation on the draft Conservation Area Appraisal can be undertaken within existing agreed budgets.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 A draft Conservation Area Appraisal has been written for Church Street Conservation Area, and Committee Members are asked to recommend to Cabinet to support the proposals for taking these forward to a public consultation, the results of which will be the subject of a future report.

6. Options for the Panel

- 6.1 Officers are of the opinion that there are two potential courses of action that could be recommended to Cabinet to agree, as set out below.
- 6.2 The first course of action is to agree to undertake a public consultation to gauge the opinion of all affected persons, with a report back to Members at the end of the consultation period, to indicate the level of public support for Character Appraisal;
- 6.3 The second course of action is to shelve the draft Conservation Area Appraisal.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 Guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals: English Heritage February 2006.

8. Consultees

- 8.1 Head of Legal and Democratic Services
- 8.2 Local Ward Members have been consulted on the Draft Appraisal document and any comments received will be reported verbally to the Committee

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1: Draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal for Church Street

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