

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
26TH MARCH 2009

**The List of Buildings of Local Architectural and/or Historic Interest (The Local List) –
Draft Proposals for Wolverley & Cookley Parish**

OPEN	
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	A Better Environment For Today and Tomorrow
CORPORATE PLAN AIM:	A Sustainable Environment
CABINET MEMBER:	Stephen Clee, Regeneration and Enterprise
HEAD OF SERVICE:	Head of Planning, Health & Environment
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APPENDICES:	<p>Appendix 1: Methodology and Criteria for Local List Properties;</p> <p>Appendix 2: The Draft Local List for the Parish of Wolverley & Cookley <i>This appendix has been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details).</i></p>

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present Cabinet with a draft Local List for the Parish of Wolverley & Cookley, and to seek authority to undertake a public consultation on the proposals.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to AGREE that

- 2.1 **The draft Local List for the Parish of Wolverley & Cookley, as set out in Appendix 2 to the Cabinet Report, be supported and that officers be authorised to undertake a public consultation on the Draft List before reporting back with a further recommendation.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 PPG15: Planning and the Historic Environment states that there are many buildings that are valued for their contribution to the local scene, or for local historical associations, and are not protected through Statutory Listing. It advises that it is open for planning authorities to draw up lists of such locally important buildings, and to formulate local plan policies for their protection.

- 3.2 In line with this advice, the Adopted District Local Plan states (in para. 8.11), the District Council's intention to compile a Local List of Buildings and Structures.
- 3.3 Objective 33 of the Local Plan is to "safeguard the particular characteristics of the District's urban and rural environments that are unique, or commonly associated with the District."
- 3.4 The criteria and methodology for the Local List of Buildings of Architectural and/or Historic Interest, was adopted by Council in October 2004 along with the initial Local List for Kidderminster.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 In order to be able to assess and justify properties for inclusion on the Local List, a set of criteria were adopted by Council October 2004 and are included in Appendix 1 of this report. One of the principle points is that whilst a property does not need to meet all criteria, it should meet at least one, and needs to be of a definite quality and character.
- 4.2 An initial survey of Wolverley & Cookley Parish has been undertaken, and an initial draft Local List has subsequently been drawn up, included in Appendix 2. This forms the fourth phase of the Local List, and future surveys will progress to the remaining rural areas of the District, as staff resources permit.
- 4.3 There are about 110 buildings and structures on the proposed Draft Local List for Wolverley & Cookley. These range from buildings and structures associated with the canal and its infrastructure, including toll-houses such as Debdale Lock House, locks and weirs, through to farm complexes, including Webbs Farm and Beechtree Farm, as well as more typical domestic houses, including the terrace of Wolverley Cottages. The Drakelow tunnel complex, together with the remnants of the Swiss Village, and the rock houses are also included, showing a clear history of the District, and some of its more unique architectural elements.
- 4.4 The Local List for the Parish of Wolverley & Cookley was considered by the Regeneration & Enterprise Committee on 18th March 2009 and the Committee's recommendations will be reported separately to Cabinet.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Arrangements for a public consultation on the draft Local List of Buildings of Architectural and/or Historic Interest for Wolverley & Cookley Parish can be undertaken within existing agreed budgets.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The proposed initial list for the Parish of Wolverley & Cookley has been drawn up in accordance with the procedure agreed by Council.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There are no risk management issues arising from this report. Any buildings that are worthy of inclusion but have not been currently identified can be subsequently included under the additions procedure agreed by Council.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 A draft List of Buildings of Local Architectural and/or Historic Interest for the Parish of Wolverley & Cookley has been drawn up following a survey of the Parish, continuing the previous surveys undertaken in Kidderminster, Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley.
- 8.2 The criteria and methodology for the Local List was adopted by Council in October 2004, and the survey for the current draft list has followed these criteria.
- 8.3 Cabinet are asked to agree that officers undertake a public consultation on these latest proposals, before reporting back with a further recommendation.

9. CONSULTEES

- 9.1 Head of Legal & Democratic Services.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 There are no background papers.