



## Regeneration & Enterprise Scrutiny Committee

Report of: Simon Roper-Pressdee  
Conservation Officer  
Date: Wednesday, 18th March 2009  
**Open**

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

- 1. Purpose of Briefing Paper**
  - 1.1 To inform Members of the List of Buildings of Local Architectural and/or Historic Interest (The Local List) for the parish of Wolverley & Cookley, and the proposed arrangements for public consultation.
  
- 2. Introduction/ Background Information**
  - 2.1 Planning Policy Guidance 15 (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
  - 2.2 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.
  - 2.3 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." This reflects the Council's corporate plan objective of preserving our local heritage to enhance the cultural richness of the District.
  - 2.4 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.

**3. Key Issues**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Arrangements for a public consultation on the draft Local List for Wolverley & Cookley Parish can be undertaken within existing agreed budgets.

**5. Conclusion**

- 5.1 A draft List of Buildings of Local Architectural and/or Historic Interest (Local List) has been compiled for Wolverley & Cookley Parish, 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 Committee**

- 6.1 Officers are of the opinion that there are three 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 the List, and its contents;

- 6.3 The second course of action is to adopt the List included in Appendix 2, without going to a public consultation;
- 6.4 The third course of action is to postpone the proposals for extending the Local List to the Parish of Wolverley & Cookley, and to the rest of the District.

**7. Background Papers**

- 7.1 There are no background papers

**8. Consultees**

- 8.1 Head of Legal and Democratic Services

**9. Appendices**

- 9.1 Appendix 1: Criteria and methodology for the Local List
- 9.2 Appendix 2: The Draft List of Buildings of Local Architectural and/or Historic Interest for the Parish of Wolverley & Cookley.

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