

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
24th NOVEMBER 2009

Draft Ribbesford Conservation Area Appraisal – Consultation Proposals

OPEN	
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	A Better Environment for Today and Tomorrow
CORPORATE PLAN AIM:	A Sustainable Environment
CANINET MEMBER:	Councillor Stephen Clee, Planning, Regeneration and Enterprise
DIRECTOR:	Mike Parker, Director of Planning & Regulatory Services
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APPENDICES:	Appendix 1: Draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal for the Broome Conservation Area <i>The appendix to this report has been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details)</i>

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present Cabinet with a draft Conservation Area Appraisal for the Ribbesford Conservation Area, and to seek authority to undertake a public consultation on the proposals.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to DECIDE:

- 2.1 **The draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal, as set out in Appendix 1 to the Cabinet Report, be supported and that officers be authorised to undertake a public consultation on the Appraisal before reporting back with a further recommendation.**

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Adopted Local Plan states (in para 8.27), the District Council's intention to prepare appraisals for all Conservation Areas.
- 3.2 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.

- 3.3 The Ribbesford Conservation Area was designated in 1991 but until now no formal Character Appraisal has been prepared.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal has been undertaken in line with guidance from English Heritage published in February 2006.
- 4.2 In order to progress the Conservation Area Character Appraisal, it is considered that a consultation process should be undertaken with all persons and bodies with an interest in the Area. This would include the owner and/or occupier of properties within the boundary of the Area, the Parish Council, 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, the publication of the Appraisal on the Council's website and a display at the Worcestershire Hub, Kidderminster Town Hall. The consultation would run for a period of 6 weeks, from January 2010 to February 2010.
- 4.4 Local Ward Members and Members of the Community and Regeneration Committee have been consulted on the draft Appraisal. (Any comments received will be included in this report).

Method Of Public Consultation

- 4.5 If the consultation is authorised, this will run during January 2010 to February 2010.
- 4.6 The consultation will consist of a small pamphlet being sent to each of the owners and occupiers of all the properties within the Area, the Parish and Town Councils, the Civic Societies, and other interested groups.
- 4.7 A web-version of the Appraisal will be published on the Council's web-site, and facility to comment on the proposals on-line will be made available.
- 4.8 The draft Appraisal will also be held in the Worcestershire Hub in the Town Hall in Kidderminster for public reference, during the period of public consultation.
- 4.9 A results of the consultation will be the subject of a future report to Cabinet.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The proposed Conservation Area Appraisal has been drawn up in accordance with the guidance produced by English Heritage.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There are no risk management issues arising from this report. The Conservation Area has already been designated, and the Appraisal is a statement analysing the special character of the Area.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment Screening has been undertaken for Conservation Area Appraisals. This identified that Conservation Area Appraisals have no discernable impacts on the six equality strands.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 A draft Conservation Area Appraisal has been drawn up, and Cabinet is asked to support the proposals for taking this 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 Corporate Services

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Planning Policy Guidance Note 15

Adopted District Local Plan (January 2004)

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