



Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

Report of: Simon Roper-Pressdee
Conservation Officer
Date: 4th March 2010
Open

Ribbesford Conservation Area – Results of Consultation on Draft Conservation Area Appraisal

1. Summary

- 1.1 To inform Members of the results of the public consultation on the proposed Conservation Area Appraisal for the Ribbesford Conservation Area.

2. Background

- 2.1 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 architectural and/or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance, and to designate them as Conservation Areas.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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. Key Issues

- 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 architectural and/or historic interest, the character of which it is

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desirable to preserve or enhance, and to designate them as Conservation Areas.

- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 The Conservation Area Appraisal has been undertaken in line with guidance from English Heritage. The Management Proposals set out the policy framework within the Adopted Wyre Forest District Local Plan, for the management of the Area.
- 3.4 The Conservation Area Appraisal was the subject of a public consultation between 8th January 2009 and 19th February 2009. The responses arising from this consultation, together with the Conservation Officer's comments and recommendations are included in Appendix 1 of this report.

4. Options

- 4.1 **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:**
 - 4.11 **The first course of action is to adopt the current Ribbesford Conservation Area Appraisal;**
 - 4.12 **The second course of action is to shelve the proposals for the Ribbesford Conservation Area Appraisal.**

5. Consultation

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 Copies of the Draft Appraisal were available in both the Bewdley Library, and in the foyer of the Worcestershire Hub in Kidderminster Town Hall on 8th January 2009 and 19th February 2009.
- 5.3 The proposals were also published on the Council's web-site on Friday 8th January 2009, including hyperlinks to email to enable web-responses.

6. Related Decisions

- 6.1 There are no related decisions

7. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies

- 7.1 The Ribbesford Conservation Area Appraisal is in line with the key Heritage aim of the Adopted Local Plan “to safeguard and enhance the distinctive historic environment of the District”.

8. Implications

- 8.1 Funding for any consultation can be undertaken from agreed budgets within the approved Capital Programme.
8.2 There are no Equality implications.
8.3 There are no Partnership Working implications.
8.4 There are no Human Rights implications.
8.5 There are no E-government implications.
8.6 There are no Best Value implications.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

- 9.1 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.

10. Wards affected

- 10.1 The Ribbesford Conservation Area lies within the Ward of Bewdley & Arley.

11. Appendices

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Comments received during consultation, with Conservation Officer responses.
11.2 Appendix 2 – Final Ribbesford Conservation Area Appraisal (amended from draft) ***[Please note that due to the large size of this document, it has been circulated electronically, hard copies are available upon request].***

12. Background Papers

- 12.1 There are no background papers.

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