

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
23RD MARCH 2010

Ribbesford Conservation Area Appraisal – Consultation Responses

OPEN	
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	A Better Environment for Today and Tomorrow
CORPORATE PLAN AIM	A Sustainable Environment
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor S Clee
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Mike Parker, Director of Planning & Regulatory Services
CONTACT OFFICER:	Simon Roper-Pressdee, Conservation Officer Ext 2536
APPENDICES:	<p>Appendix 1: Responses arising from the Public Consultation, with Conservation Officer responses and recommendations.</p> <p>Appendix 2 : Amended Conservation Area Appraisal</p> <p><i>The appendices to this report have 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 For Cabinet to consider the results of the public consultation on the draft Management proposals, and the draft Character Appraisal for the Ribbesford Conservation Area and to agree the final documents.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to **DECIDE** that:

- 2.1 **The Ribbesford Conservation Area Character Appraisal, as amended by the recommendations contained in Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report, be approved.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Adopted Local Plan states (in paragraph 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 Conservation Area Character Appraisal and subsequent consultation have been undertaken in line with guidance from English Heritage published in February 2006, the Council's protocol on Public Consultation.
- 4.2 A report was submitted and agreed by the Cabinet on the 24th November 2009 seeking approval for a public consultation on the Ribbesford Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Draft Management Plan.

METHOD OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 4.3 Following this approval, a public consultation was undertaken commencing on Friday 8th January 2009 and was closed on Friday 19th February 2009.
- 4.4 The consultation consisted of a small pamphlet being sent to each of the land-owners within the Area, and all amenity groups with an interest in the Area and its infrastructure.
- 4.5 Displays were erected both in the Bewdley Library and in the foyer of the Worcestershire Hub in Kidderminster Town Hall on Friday 8th January 2009, and were taken down on Friday 19th February 2009.
- 4.6 The proposals were also published on the Council's web-site on Friday 8th January 2009, including hyperlinks to email to enable web-responses.

RESULTS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 4.7 A total of 5 consultation responses were received via letter, email and phone-call.
- 4.8 Appendix 1 outlines the responses, and shows the Officer recommendations in respect of each response.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from the Conservation Area Appraisal.

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. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 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.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 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.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The consultation on the draft Conservation Area Appraisal for the Ribbesford Conservation Area has not identified any significant issues, and Cabinet is asked to agree that these be approved, subject to the minor amendments recommended in Appendix 1, and the final document in Appendix 2.

10. CONSULTEES

- 10.1 Head of Legal and Democratic Services

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Planning Policy Guidance Note 15
Adopted District Local Plan (January 2004)
Guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals: English Heritage (August 2005)