
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	9th JUNE 2011	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Head of Community and Planning	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Philip Heath, Heritage & Conservation Officer Ext. 5936 philip.heath@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Conservation Area Character Statements	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Aston, Etwall, Melbourne, Repton, Seales, Stenson, Swadlincote, Willington and Findern.	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS16

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That the committee approves the extension of the conservation area boundaries at Lullington, Melbourne and Netherseal as set out in the draft conservation area character statements public consultation material.

1.2 That the committee approves the adoption of the draft conservation area character statements for Aston on Trent, Barrow on Trent, Bretby, Etwall, Kings Newton, Lullington, Melbourne, Netherseal and Newton Solney, subject to the minor amendments made as a result of public consultation. These are itemised in Appendix 1.

1.3 That approval of the Milton and Repton conservation area boundary reviews and character statements be deferred pending further consideration of the proposed boundary amendments in response to consultation comments.

1.4 That the consultation exercise be repeated in the same format for the next eleven conservation area character statements, i.e. Shardlow, Smisby, Stanton by Bridge, Swadlincote, Swarkestone, Ticknall, Trusley, Twyford, Walton on Trent and Woodhouses, with two drop-in sessions at Melbourne and Swadlincote respectively from 3pm – 8pm.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To consider the outcome of the public consultation exercise on eleven of the 22 draft conservation area character statements, undertaken between February and April 2011, and proceed to adoption of the revised boundaries and character statements as appropriate.

2.2 To consider the arrangements for consulting on the remaining eleven draft conservation area character statements.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The consultation for the first eleven conservation area character statements (letters A-R) ran from early February to April 8th, 2011. It was undertaken in line with the proposals approved by committee at its meeting on 27th January 2011 (minute ref. EDS/44). The conservation areas concerned were Aston on Trent, Barrow on Trent, Bretby, Etwall, Kings Newton, Lullington, Melbourne, Milton, Netherseal, Newton Solney and Repton.

3.2 The consultation documents themselves were very well received, with widespread approval of their content and presentation. Most of the written responses to the consultation came from Aston on Trent, Melbourne and Repton, itemised in Appendix 1, while the drop-in sessions at Aston and Etwall attracted the greatest amount of verbal comment.

3.3 Smiths Gore, as agents for the Church Commissioners, questioned the validity of the proposed Milton conservation area extension, and suggested a more modest extension of the boundary. These comments require more detailed examination and a considered response. A recommendation to committee about the final boundary will be made when this process has taken place, along with a recommendation to approve the character statement at the same time.

3.4 The Chairman of Repton Parish Council suggested a small addition to the Repton Conservation Area, over and above the extensions already proposed, comprising six properties nos. 23-35 (odd) Pinfold Lane at Repton. The owners and/or occupiers of these properties were notified of the suggestion by letter on 11th May with a deadline of 3rd June for receipt of any comments. A recommendation to committee about the final boundary will be made when this process has taken place, along with a recommendation to approve the character statement at the same time.

3.5 The responses to the consultation also included suggestions that conservation areas might be designated at Egginton and at Wood End at the south end of Repton village. These suggestions have been noted, but the consultees concerned have been informed that designation of new conservation areas is outside the scope of the current exercise.

3.6 Minor textual amendments have been made to the documents as set out in Appendix 1. In addition some small changes have been made by the Conservation and Heritage Officers to bring the documents up to date with developments that have taken place since the documents were first prepared. For instance, the gap site on the west side of Portland Street in Etwall is mentioned in the Etwall document but has now been redeveloped.

3.7 The consultation procedures for the first eleven conservation area character statements appear to have worked efficiently. It is therefore suggested that the consultation procedure for the remaining 11 character statements should follow the same pattern, i.e:

- contacting relevant contacts for whom we already hold details (e.g. local amenity and history societies)
- depositing hard copies of the consultation drafts in the libraries at Derby (Local Studies Library), Etwall, Melbourne and Swadlincote, at the Council Offices, and with officers of the appropriate Parish Council or meeting.
- contacting individually all addresses that are proposed for inclusion within an extended boundary.
- placing the draft documents on the SDDC website, with a facility for response.
- press releases.
- staffed 'drop-in' public exhibitions

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 All relevant costs can be drawn from existing budgets.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The District's conservation areas are a key component of its vibrant communities which offer opportunities for the future, such as tourism and job creation. The effective protection of conservation areas, through analysis and good management, enhances quality of life for all and safeguards the environment. Investment in conservation areas with a business/retail function can support local businesses by creating a climate for inward investment.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The District's Conservation areas are a key component of its attractive rural environment. Many of them are situated in areas of natural beauty, including several which are wholly or partly situated within the National Forest. Consultation on the conservation area character statements, and continued care for the conservation areas themselves, will nurture the existing strong sense of community and the value that people already place on the environment, culture and heritage. This in turn is likely to increase the percentage of people who feel that South Derbyshire is an attractive place in which to live.

6.2 Conservation Area Appraisals help to sustain the District's built heritage, a valuable and non-renewable resource. Investment in built heritage promotes tourism and improves environmental quality for all.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 The documents have succeeded in making residents more aware of the special qualities of their respective settlements and have been well received. They will be a useful tool both in the development control process and in furthering public interest and education concerning these areas.

8.0 Background Papers

8.1 Draft Conservation Area Character Statements http://www.south-derbys.gov.uk/planning_and_building_control/conservation_and_heritage/character_statements/default.asp

8.2 Consultation written responses received (file ref 13.3)