

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

From: Head of Economy	Report Number: M133
To: Strategy Committee	Date of meeting: 17 January 2013

ADOPTION OF COCKFIELD CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise Members of the results of the recent public consultation on Cockfield conservation area appraisal and to seek approval for the adoption of the document as non-statutory Supplementary Planning Guidance.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Conservation Area Appraisal document (Appendix A) be adopted as non-statutory Supplementary Planning Guidance with immediate effect.

The Committee is able to resolve this matter.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 None.

4. Risk Management

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Working on planning applications and appeals with inadequate and outdated (1973) information	High	Significant	Adopt new appraisal as recommended
Council not fulfilling its duties to 'review from time to time' its conservation areas under section 69 of Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	Low	Marginal	Undertake further conservation area appraisal work (31 in District)

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Extensive consultation has been undertaken as detailed below.

6. Equality and Diversity Impact

- 6.1 There are no Equality and Diversity implications arising directly from this paper.

7. Shared Service / Partnership Implications

- 7.1 This appraisal has been written in a format matching both Babergh's other conservation area appraisals and those produced for Mid Suffolk District Council.

8. Key Information

- 8.1 A conservation area appraisal sets out to define what is important about the area's character and appearance, describing its 'quality of place' so that we understand what it is we are trying to safeguard. It identifies the area's special features and changing needs through a process, which includes researching its historical development, carrying out a basic townscape analysis and preparing a character assessment. It thus becomes a vital tool for enabling the active management of the conservation area.
- 8.2 A public consultation exercise was undertaken between September and November 2012. This included letters to Cockfield Parish Council, Babergh's local Ward Member, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Preservation Society and English Heritage, requesting their views on the draft appraisal and its proposals.
- 8.3 In addition an open evening was held as part of a Parish Council Meeting on 27 September 2012 for members of the public to see the appraisal in exhibition format and give their views. The meeting was publicised locally and 17 persons attended. The appraisal document was also made available online at Babergh's website and a copy was available for inspection at Babergh's Planning reception with comments forms.
- 8.4 At the open evening, the implications of conservation area designation and a few local planning issues were discussed. A number of matters were noted: some of the protected trees around the green had gone; the Crinkle Crankle wall at Tudor Cottage was in fact modern; the new development at Home Meadow shown in one of the photographs was actually outside the area and there was a possibility of a future extension to the area to include Pepper's Hall and its parkland setting.
- 8.5 The Appraisal as now presented for adoption has therefore been amended to take account of these various comments as far as possible and corrects any other minor errors brought to our attention.

9. Appendices

Title	Location
A. Cockfield Conservation Area Appraisal	Attached

10. Background Documents

- 10.1 Cockfield Conservation Area correspondence and working file

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