

Report of the Strategic Director (Services)

EXNING CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

Synopsis:

This report considers representations received during the consultation on the Draft Conservation Area Appraisal for Exning, proposes appropriate changes, and seeks adoption of the resulting document.

Commentary:

1. The Planning Committee meeting of 21 December 2011, agreed a public consultation draft of a Conservation Area Appraisal for Exning.
2. The public consultation took place between 16 January 2012 and 27 February 2012. Statutory consultees and key community organisations were sent a copy of the draft document. A presentation was made at the Parish meeting of 16 January 2012 and a notice placed in the parish newsletter. The documents could also be viewed on the Council's website, or obtained from the Planning Department if requested.
3. Exning Parish Council, Suffolk Preservation Society, and Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services responded to the consultation. Their comments have been summarised below and a suggested Council response is given for Members consideration. Full copies of the responses to the consultation can be obtained from the planning department if requested.

Exning Parish Council

4. The Parish Council have found the document very comprehensive and would like to thank those involved in its production. It is anticipated the PC will use the appraisal to inform planning decisions and feel it will have other uses in the future.
5. Councillors have been through the document and a list of corrections to the text/pictures are enclosed for your information.

Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) Response

6. The comments of the Parish Council are noted and welcomed and the typos and minor factual/layout errors have been corrected in the proposed adopted appraisal (See Appendix 1) where appropriate.

Suffolk Preservation Society

7. The Society commends the council for producing a thorough and detailed analysis of the area's significance. The document should provide a sound basis for future management of the area. We suggest that the townscape analysis plans are incorporated into the main body of the document rather than be relegated to the end of the appendices.

Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) Response

8. The comments of the Society are noted and welcomed. The importance of the townscape analysis plans are recognised however for ease of reference, production reasons and to reflect the format of the other appraisals produced it is suggested the appraisals remain at the end of the document.

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services

9. Only about 40% of the park connected with Exning House is currently in the Conservation Area and it is suggested the whole park is included. The C19th park is a significant element of the historic landscape of Exning. The Survey of Suffolk Parks and Gardens for SCC by UEA in 1992 -94 noted it was 'one of the best preserved in the county and is certainly of local and regional historic significance.'
10. A number of changes and additional text correcting typos and giving additional archaeological detail are suggested.

Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) Response

11. English Heritage guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals recognises the importance of parks and gardens both private, and public. Although the area suggested for inclusion is outside the settlement boundary and therefore would be protected as 'countryside', its importance is noted and given the historic connection to Exning House the inclusion of approximately 13ha of parkland to east and northeast of Exning House is supported.
12. The comments of the SCC Archaeology Service are noted and welcomed and the typos and additional archaeological information have been corrected and/or added to the proposed adopted appraisal (See Appendix 1) where appropriate.

Finance/Budget/Resource Implications

13. There are likely to be on-going revenue, and possibly capital funding implications from the ongoing management of the Conservation Area. The Appraisals were carried out utilising Planning Delivery Grant funds gained from central Government.

14. Any boundary change has to be advertised in the London Gazette and local press, which will incur a fee.

Environmental Impact and Sustainability

15. The adoption of Conservation Area Appraisals will assist the preservation and environmental enhancement of the Conservation Area.

Policy Compliance/Power

16. There is a statutory requirement for the Council to preserve and enhance its conservation areas.

Performance Management Implications

17. This work is carried out and monitored under local performance indicators, and falls within the Forward Planning Service Plan objectives.

Legal Implications

18. There are no direct implications. Issues may arise from the implementation of any management plan.

Human Rights Act and Diversity Implications

19. There are no direct implications.

Crosscutting Implications

20. The appraisal process may contribute in some instances, particularly in relation to environmental enhancements and improvements to the Public Realm. Appraisals also contribute towards planning control and other economic and community development agendas.

Risk Assessment

21. Failure to progress appraisals may result in criticism of poor performance and impede the Councils development control functions in the Conservation Area.

Council Priorities

22. The conservation appraisal process forms part of the LDF programme. Community engagement and communication. Economic Regeneration, Street scene and Environment and Transport.

Recommendation:

23. **It is recommended that Members approve the amendments to the Draft Exning Conservation Area Appraisal suggested above and attached in Appendix 1, and adopt the resulting document as planning guidance for development control purposes.**

Documents attached

Appendix 1: Exning Conservation Area Appraisal.

Nigel McCurdy
Strategic Director (Services)
5 March 2012

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Documents attached

CONTACT OFFICERS

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