

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
23 AUGUST 2012

Report of Director of Planning and Housing Services

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## **SOMERSAL HERBERT CONSERVATION AREA CHARACTER APPRAISAL**

### **SUMMARY**

The report advises on public consultation undertaken in respect of the Draft Somersal Herbert Conservation Area Character Appraisal and recommends its approval with modifications to reflect the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Somersal Herbert Conservation Area Character Appraisal be approved with modifications to the text in Section 8 (Conservation Policy and Legislative Context) to comply with recent changes in national planning policy.

### **WARDS AFFECTED**

Norbury

### **STRATEGIC LINK**

Conservation Area Character Appraisals are undertaken for designated and proposed Conservation Areas. These will be of considerable assistance in delivering the Council's corporate aim of protecting and enhancing the environment.

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## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Partnership and Regeneration Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012, it was resolved that the Draft Somersal Herbert Conservation Area Appraisal be approved for a six-week period of public consultation. It was further resolved that the results of the public consultation exercise would be reported to the Partnership and Regeneration Committee, outlining any responses received during that period (Minute 391/11 refers).
- 1.2 The Draft Appraisal was subject to public consultation between 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012. Copies of the Draft Appraisal were distributed to key stakeholders including Somersal Herbert Parish Meeting, local Ward Member Councillor Bull, Derbyshire County Councillor Councillor Lewer, and Derbyshire County Council (Environmental Services and Highways Departments). Notification of the Appraisal was also provided to the Parochial Church Council via the local vicar.
- 1.3 As no alterations were proposed to the boundary of the Conservation Area there was no requirement to notify individual residents and/or owners of land, although the Chair of the Parish Meeting kindly distributed information to each householder. Posters

advertising the consultation period and the public advisory meeting were distributed around Somersal Herbert and a formal public notice was published in the local press. The Draft Appraisal document was available to view at Ashbourne Leisure Centre, Matlock Town Hall, and on the District Council's website.

- 1.4 A public advisory session was held at on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012 (between 4.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.) and was attended by the District Council's Conservation Officers. Approximately eight local residents attended.

## **2.0 REPORT**

- 2.1 Despite local residents attending the public advisory meeting, no formal written comments have been received in respect of the contents of the Conservation Area Appraisal and there are no proposed changes to the boundary of the Conservation Area.

- 2.2 However, since the Conservation Area Appraisal was produced in draft form in February 2012, national planning policy changes have emerged. Prior to March 2012 the relevant national planning guidance was Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning and the Historic Environment but this was revoked and superseded by the National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012. In this respect, Section 8 (Conservation Policy and Legislative Context) of the Draft Appraisal now requires revision in order to take account of these changes in national policy.

- 2.3 It is therefore recommended that the Draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal is approved, but with modifications to the text in Section 8 to comply with recent changes in national planning policy.

## **3.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 3.1 Legal

The proposals are in accordance within the statutory framework. The legal risk is, therefore, low.

- 3.2 Financial

There are no financial risks arising from this report. The cost of the Conservation Area Character Appraisal Programme can be contained within existing budgets.

## **4.0 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, environmental, health, legal and human rights, financial, personnel and property considerations.

## **5.0 CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## 6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
Reports to Partnership and Regeneration Committee	23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2012 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2003 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2004 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2008
National Planning Policy Framework	March 2012
The Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide - English Heritage / Department of Culture, Media & Sport / Communities and Local Government	March 2010
Guidance on Conservation Area Character Appraisals - English Heritage	2006

## ATTACHMENTS

None