

Consultation Statement

Godalming Crownpits Conservation Area Appraisal (CAA)

Introduction

Waverley Borough Council prepared a draft Conservation Area Appraisal for Godalming Crownpits and carried out an associated consultation. This report outlines how the consultation was undertaken, who was involved and how responses were considered.

Consultation Process

The consultation started on Friday 12 December 2014 for six weeks, ending on Friday 23 January 2015.

The following methods to inform the public of the consultation included:

- Letter to all residents and businesses in the CA
- Letter for key stakeholders including:
 - Town Council
 - Surrey County Council
 - Statutory consultees (English Heritage, Natural England and Environment Agency)
 - Relevant internal Waverley officers
 - Local Councillors

A hard copy of the draft Crownpits CAA document was made available at Planning Reception, Council Offices, Godalming (Monday to Thursday 9am – 5pm and Friday 9am – 4pm) and a copy could be viewed online at:

www.waverley.gov.uk/crownpitscaa

Whilst the consultation was focussed, it did not preclude other interested parties from responding. In addition to the webpage on the Council website, a press release (Appendix B) was issued to inform the public of the consultation.

A full summary of the consultation responses is set out below. The main issues have been identified as a result of this process and where practicable and appropriate, amendments made to the CAA.

A walkabout was conducted with Local and Town Councillors and environmental enhancement projects for the management plan were highlighted. This gave participants the opportunity to raise questions, but also to gain feedback on the content.

Respondents were able to comment of the draft Godalming Crownpits CAA in a variety of ways:

- Via the online Innovem (consultation) database accessed via the website (with no need to register)
- By email to the conservation inbox (conservation@waverley.gov.uk)
- By letter

A number of key questions were asked:

- Do you have any comments on the draft Godalming Crownpits Conservation Area Appraisal, and should it cover any other issues?
- Do you have any comments on the draft Management Plan, and should it cover any other issues?
- Do you believe the Godalming Crownpits Conservation Area boundary should be amended (either extended or reduced)? If so, please identify where the boundary should be extended or reduced, what it should include or exclude, and why?

Consultation Responses

8 responses were received to the draft document. An additional anonymous response was also received. The responses fell into one of three categories:

- 1) Key consultees
- 2) General comments on the CAA and Management Plan
- 3) Comments suggesting amendments to boundary

The comments are summarised below.

1) Key consultees

Consultee	Comment
English Heritage	<p>Consider the appraisal a thorough assessment of the CA which clearly identifies what is special about the Godalming Crownpits Conservation Area.</p> <p>Recommend further information regarding the setting of the CA in the wooded valley and how changes to this may impact on the character and appearance of the CA.</p> <p>Recommend assessment of small changes to the architectural detailing of the CA.</p> <p>Response: The report has been updated accordingly.</p>
Godalming Town Council (GTC)	GTC agreed they had no response.
Godalming Trust	<p>The CAA is well drafted and presented. Recommend inclusion of the Godalming Trust Design Awards within Section 4.4 'Celebration'.</p> <p>Response: The report has been amended accordingly.</p>
Natural England	No comment

2) General comments on the CAA and Management Plan

Respondent comment	Waverley response
Consideration should be given to more parking bays. Increased parking would mitigate issue of cars parking on yellow lines.	This is a specific Highways matter and not a matter which the CAA should address. However, the document recognises that parking is a significant issue within the Conservation Area (CA).
Parking bays on Brighton Road should be removed to allow free flow of traffic; the recreation area should be turned into a pay to use parking area for Crownpits residents as Holloway Recreation Ground is a short walk away.	From a conservation perspective Officers do not support this proposal as the recreation ground is integral to the character of the CA. It would be for the landowner to take such a proposal forward with Surrey County Council Highways.

3) Comments suggesting amendments to boundary

Respondent comment	Waverley response
Inclusion of Busbridge Church and the war memorial	Busbridge Church and the war memorial are located within the Munstead Conservation Area and are Grade II* and Grade II listed buildings respectively. They are better related to the Munstead CA and therefore inclusion within Godalming Crownpits is not necessary.
Inclusion of Holloway Hill recreation ground and the woodland which borders it looking down onto Brighton Road	The woodland, in part, is included within the CA. English Heritage guidance is clear that areas of open landscape which have no historical connection to the CA should not be included within the designation. Therefore the inclusion of Holloway Hill recreation ground is in part not necessary and in part not appropriate due to the current guidance.

Next Steps

The consultation has informed the necessary amendments to the document before being submitted through the committee process (Executive and Full Council) for adoption as a material consideration in planning applications and to inform future environmental enhancement works.

Appendix A – Consultees

- Surrey County Council
 - Highways & Parking
 - Landscape
 - Rights of Way
- Waverley Borough Council
 - Local Ward Councillors
 - Officers from Planning, Environmental Services (Rob Anderton), Community Services (Matt Lank/Jane Bowden),
- All commercial businesses in CA
- English Heritage
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Southern Water
- Godalming Town Council
- Godalming Trust
- The Owner/ Occupiers in:
 - Brighton Road
 - Crownpits Lane

News Release

Issued by Waverley Borough Council

Date: 11 December 2014

Godalming Crownpits Conservation Area Consultation

Local residents are encouraged to have their say on Waverley Borough Council's draft Conservation Area Assessment for Godalming Crownpits. The Crownpits were designated as a Conservation Area in 1984 and the current consultation is about enhancements and a possible extension to the area.

Councillor Brian Adams, Executive Member for Planning, said:

"Conservation Areas have considerable weight when determining planning applications. As one of 43 Conservation Areas in Waverley we are keen to ensure that the Crownpits area is preserved and enhanced. Local people can help to define what contributes to the special character, sense of place and historic context of the area and what improvements are needed".

Councillor Tom Martin, Ward Member for Godalming Holloway, hopes that local people will take a strong interest.

"The listed buildings and 19th Century bargate cottages give the area a special character. Upgraded signs, tree planting and a repaint of the telephone box are among the improvements that could be made. There is also potential to extend the Conservation Area to include more Victorian cottages. Local residents' views on these ideas and their suggestions for other enhancements will be highly valuable and I hope there will be a good response to the consultation".

The draft Godalming Crownpits Conservation Area Assessment is open for comment until 23 January 2015. It can be viewed online and comments can be submitted at www.waverley.gov.uk/crownpitscaa.

A printed version of the document is also available at the planning reception of Waverley Borough Council, The Burys Godalming, GU7 1HR, and responses can be sent by email to conservation@waverley.gov.uk or by post for the attention of Jennifer Samuelson.