

### Consultation Statement

## Springhead and River Wey Conservation Area Appraisal (CAA)

### Introduction

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

### Consultation Process

A walkabout was conducted with Local and Town Councillors and environmental enhancement projects for the management plan were highlighted.

The formal consultation started on Friday 10 January 2020 for six weeks, ending on Friday 21 February 2020 and included a public meeting held on Thursday 30 January at 7pm at Haslemere Methodist Church.

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

- Letter to all residents and businesses in the existing CA.
- Letter for key stakeholders including:
  - Haslemere Town Council
  - Lynchmere Parish Council
  - Chichester District Council
  - Surrey County Council Highways and Rights of Way
  - Statutory consultees (Historic England, Natural England and Environment Agency)
  - Thames Water
  - Relevant internal Waverley officers
  - Local Councillors

A hard copy of the draft Springhead and River Wey 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/springheadcaa](http://www.waverley.gov.uk/springheadcaa)

Whilst the consultation was focussed, it did not preclude other interested parties from responding. In addition to the webpage on the Council's website, a press release (Appendix A) was issued to inform the public of the consultation and public meeting and subsequently appeared in the Haslemere Herald on 17 January 2020.

Respondents were able to comment on the draft Springhead and River Wey 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 heritage inbox (heritage@waverley.gov.uk)
- By letter
- At the public meeting

A number of key questions were asked:

- Do you have any comments on the draft Springhead and River Wey 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 agree with the proposed joining of the two conservation areas?
- Are there any other areas that should be included or excluded?

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 appropriate, amendments made to the CAA.

## Consultation Responses

Ten people attended the public meeting where questions ranged from the reasons behind the appraisal and management plan, whether it would affect owners on a day to day basis and how the management plan would be carried out. Specific questions and our response are outlined below together with the 11 written responses which were received. They fell into one of five categories:

- 1) Key consultees
- 2) Comments on the draft conservation area appraisal
- 3) Comments on the proposed boundary changes
- 4) Comments suggesting amendments to boundary
- 5) Comments on the draft management plan

The comments are summarised below.

- 1) Key consultees

Consultee	Comment
Historic England	On the basis of the information provided, Historic England does not wish to offer any comments on this occasion.
Natural England	Natural England does not have any specific comments on this conservation area appraisal.
Haslemere Town Council	We did not receive a response from the Town Council but several Town Councillors attended the walk around and/or the public meeting.

- 2) Comments on the draft conservation area appraisal

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Officer Response</b>
Document provided a good coverage/background historical context and we are supportive of the overall objective. But it should not be used simply codify the status quo without proper consideration of issues on a case by case basis.	Conservation area designation is about managing change to ensure that any development/works preserves or enhances the character and appearance of the conservation area. Planning decisions will be still be decided the usual way, the document is just there to help inform this.

### 3) Comments on proposed boundary changes

The comments received were generally supportive of the proposed boundary changes to combine the two conservation areas with residents thinking it was logical and sensible. However, we did receive one objection for which no reason was provided for the objection.

### 4) Suggestions for other boundary amendments

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Officer Response</b>
Exclude the industrial use area. Should be kept to the attractive buildings in the area, the designation makes it more difficult to enhance the employment uses on the site.	It appears that the responsee misunderstood and believed this to be a brand new designation not existing. The railway line makes a much stronger boundary and officers do not believe that the designation makes it difficult to enhance the employment uses on the site.
Extend the area eastward along Sturt Road to incorporate the small cluster of listed buildings around Sturt Farm.	Although connected to the historic development of the area it is not industrial use with the river as its source of power it is therefore not considered suitable to form part of the designation. These buildings are also protected by the listing.
Extend the area southward at its eastern end to follow the course of the River Wey earlier.	The description provided by the responsee is not clear but even though the River Wey is an important part of the conservation area, it is only the elements which have been manipulated by man. This area is therefore not suitable to form part of the designation.
Amend the boundary within the curtilage of Sturt Meadow House to make more sense on the ground.	Following a site visit, Officers agree that the boundary should be amended to make more sense. A new line has been drawn with agreement of the owner and is outlined in section 3.9 of the document.

### 5) Comments on the Management Plan

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Officer Response</b>
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Fully support the idea of steering group to oversee the improvements identified.	This is great news, Officers are happy to attend any meeting where our expertise is required. Other groups have found it extremely useful to include Surrey County Council Highways.
The problem of the Himalayan Balsam should be addressed as it is an invasive species which detracts from the heritage of the area.	The management plan is about the built environment and therefore this is not an item which can be included in the management plan, we would advise you to discuss the maintenance of the land with the owners.
Management of the river that is being altered by the large number of Alder trees.	See above comment.
Support the utilisation of the power of the water but not sure how we would go about this.	This will not be a quick or easy thing to do which is why we only mention the feasibility study, which would be the first step. We would recommend setting up a steering group who could lead the project and identify funding sources.
No mention is made of the condition of Sturt Meadow Lane.	This road is in private ownership and only the beginning lies with the conservation area. It is therefore not appropriate to put into the management plan.

## Next Steps

The consultation has informed the necessary amendments to the document before being submitted to the Head of Service for sign off for adoption as a material consideration in the assessment of planning and Listed Building applications and to inform future environmental enhancement works.

## Appendix A – Press Releases

# Have your say on Springhead and River Wey Conservation Areas

Published Tuesday, 7 January 2020

**Waverley Borough Council is seeking views on a new Appraisal for Springhead and River Wey conservation area, which assesses the condition of the conservation areas and sets out potential enhancements.**

The council wants to ensure these conservation areas are preserved and enhanced for future generations. To do that, it is proposing the two conservation areas be combined into one, and views from across the community are being sought.

A public meeting will be held for the community to view and comment on the Appraisal on Thursday 30 January 2020 at 7pm in The Wesley Room, Haslemere Methodist Church, Lion Green, Haslemere, GU27 1LD.

The draft Springhead and River Wey Conservation Area Appraisal is open for comment from Friday 10 January 2020 until Friday 21 February 2020 and can be viewed online and comments submitted at [www.waverley.gov.uk/springheadcaa](http://www.waverley.gov.uk/springheadcaa).

Hard copies of the appraisal are available in the planning reception of Waverley Borough Council offices, The Burys, Godalming, GU7 1HR and responses can be sent via online questionnaire, by email to [heritage@waverley.gov.uk](mailto:heritage@waverley.gov.uk) or by post addressed to Planning Policy.

Councillor Andy MacLeod, Waverley Borough Council Portfolio Holder for Planning Policy and Services, said: “Springhead and River Wey conservation areas are important and well-loved community spaces, so it’s vital they are properly maintained and looked after.

“The two sites currently overlap, so it makes sense to treat them as a single entity and the detailed appraisal of the area’s character and condition will help us ensure its preservation. The information will also help inform planning decisions in and around the conservation area.

“We’d really like to hear people’s views on our proposals before we make any definite decisions. The consultation will run until 21 February 2020 so please make sure you take part if you want to have your say.”