Public consultation launched to seek views on Coates conservation area appraisal

Residents are being asked to have their say on a review of a Fenland village conservation area, including a revision to its conservation area boundary.

Fenland District Council has reviewed the Coates Conservation Area to better understand the character and significance of the area and assess whether the boundaries are up-to-date, to help preserve and enhance the area in future.

Now it has published a draft Coates Conservation Area Appraisal and management plan – and is seeking the public’s views. The appraisal includes a minor amendment to the conservation area boundary and proposals for the area’s future management.

Residents can share their views on the documents via a public consultation running from Wednesday, July 8, to Wednesday, August 5. Visit: www.fenland.gov.uk/consultations

Conservation areas are areas of special architectural and historic interest, formally designated by local authorities to recognise their interests and provide them with protection.

Conservation area appraisals set out the special qualities of the area, identifying elements of the built environment and natural features which contribute to their unique character, appearance and sense of place. Management plans focus on issues identified in the appraisal which may harm the special interests of the conservation area or may require further review. This information is used to set objectives to manage change, address issues and identify enhancements.

Conservation area appraisals also form an important part of the planning process, providing applicants with a guide to help ensure proposals developed are appropriate for the area.

Cllr Chris Seaton, Fenland District Council’s Portfolio Holder for Heritage, said: “As part of our duty to preserve or enhance conservation areas it is important to understand what makes it a special place and we do this by producing conservation area appraisals.

“An appraisal identifies features which make a positive or negative contribution to the character or appearance of the conservation area, and are an important tool to help the Council ensure they are properly looked after.”

Cllr Dee Laws, Fenland District Council’s Portfolio Holder for Planning, added: “This is an important community consultation exercise which will help determine the future boundary of the Coates Conservation Area and what is included in the revised appraisal document.

“Unfortunately we’re unable to hold a public consultation event due to the coronavirus restrictions, but I would urge as many residents as possible to familiarise themselves with the updated documents online and send us their feedback by August 5.”
A conservation area was first designated in Coates in 1976. The last appraisal of the conservation area was adopted and published in 1993.

Any comments or suggestions on the draft documents should be submitted by 5pm on Wednesday, August 5. They can be submitted by emailing: conservation@fenland.gov.uk or sent to: Conservation Section, Fenland District Council, Fenland Hall, County Road, March, PE15 8NQ.

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For more information contact Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226