

Summary of Results from the Newnham Conservation Area Review

Methodology

Exhibitions were used to raise residents awareness of the Newnham Conservation Area Review with display board used to illustrate proposals. This was complimented by a paper questionnaire that was available at the exhibition venue. Postage reply paid envelopes were also utilised to encourage residents to return their completed questionnaires. The proposals alongside an electronic version of the questionnaire was also posted on the NHDC Website. Outlook magazine and press releases were also used to promote the exercise during the six-week consultation period.

Response Rate

In total 12 people completed the Newnham Conservation Area Review questionnaire. This is a low response rate considering the publicity used to promote the event. Of this total, 11 completed the paper version of the questionnaire while 1 completed the survey on-line. In terms of breakdown of responses, 50% (6 respondents) were male and 42% (5 respondents) were female. In terms of breakdown by age, 83% (10 respondents) were aged 50 or above. 8% (1 respondent) was aged 35-49. There were no responses from the 34 or under age categories. In terms of breakdown by ethnicity 83% (10 respondents) were from a White British background. The other 2 respondents did not answer this question.

Key Findings

Satisfaction with the document used for Newnham Conservation Area (Part 1 of 3)

Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with the text, layout, photographs and plan used in the document. Satisfaction exceeded 75% for all of these elements, with satisfaction greatest for document text, photographs and plan which all scored 83% satisfied (10 people). No respondents gave a dissatisfaction rating for any of the elements of the document used for the Newnham Conservation Area Review. This clearly illustrates that the document was well pitched and used language that was appropriate for the target audience.

Overall satisfaction with the text used in the Newnham Conservation Area (Part 2 of 3)

58% (7 people) were either fairly or very satisfied with the text used in the document while nobody gave a dissatisfied rating. 33% (4 people) replied in the neutral to this question saying that they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

Level of agreement that Newnham has a register of Buildings of Local interest (Part 3 of 3)

Respondents agreed that Newnham has a register of Buildings of Local interest with 67% (7 people) either tending to agree or strongly agreeing. Nobody disagreed with this proposal but 17% (4 people) replied in the neutral saying that they neither agreed nor disagreed. When asked to comment on the text, layout and photographs used in this document again satisfaction is high. 85% (9 people) were satisfied with the photographs used, while 75% (9 people) were satisfied with layout and 67% (8 people) were satisfied with the text used. Only 8% (1 person) was fairly dissatisfied with the text used in the document. This person did include a comment which is shown below. This comment is however based on the scheme itself rather than the text used in the document.

'There is no mention of the footpath running the length of Ashwell Rd from Newnham Hall to Corner Cottages. This should be included and subject to a certain level of maintenance, to include the prevention of the Beech Hedge at Corner Cottage.'

Respondents were also given the opportunity to comment on any other suggestions for buildings of Local Interest for Newnham. Two respondents added suggestions and these are detailed below:

'While not strictly a building, the village water pump on the Green should be considered. It has been allowed to rust. It urgently needs to have the rust removed and to be repainted if it is still to exist in twenty years time.'

'Propose Including: The White House, Ashwell Rd, and small building between the agricultural buildings on the north side of Ashwell Rd included in 'Buildings....The demolition of which would improve its setting'.

Newnham Conservation Area – Proposed boundary changes

Respondents were then asked to comment on proposals to add 5 areas to the Newnham Conservation Area and to subtract 4 other areas. In terms of the areas to be added to the Conservation area there were significant levels of support for all 5 areas, with 42% (5 people) or more saying yes to each area being added. The proposals gaining the greatest support for inclusion in the Newnham Conservation Area were Area 1 with 58% (7 people), and Area 2 with 50% (6 people). Whilst these figures are not particularly high it must be noted that only 1 of the areas proposed to be added to the conservation area had a level of objection and this was only 8% (1 person). All other respondents remained neutral when asked this question.

Respondents were also given the opportunity to add comments with reference to the areas being added to the Newnham Conservation Area. In total, 2 respondents added suggestions and these are detailed below:

'In addition to the above, we suggest the area comprising the field between Areas 1, 2 and 3 with the Cat Ditch as its northern boundary be added, to maintain the quality of the views as described under 'Appearance and Proposed Boundary Changes'.

The tree area 3 is of little value. It is overgrown and has no worthwhile trees in it. The boundary line of the ditch is a more appropriate boundary to follow

Respondents were then asked to comment on proposals to subtract 4 areas from the Newnham Conservation Area. While there was support for the subtraction of Areas C & D respondents there was divided opinion on whether Areas A & B should be subtracted. In particular the subtraction of Area A should be considered carefully as whilst 17% (2 people) are in favour of subtracting 25% (3 people) are against this proposal.

A number of respondents also added additional comments with reference to the areas proposed to be subtracted from the Newnham Conservation Area and these are detailed below:

'Area a . Agree but would like the area south of ashwell rd should stay at least to the end of the brick barns.'

'I am reluctant to see the conservation area diminish esp in areas A & B. The large modern agricultural building referred to in a would not be addressed if outside the conservation area. I would also like to see the land that faces my property included in the conservation area. It has been targeted for housing development before which would be contrary to the statement in part 1 of 3 of the draft proposals. This shows a gap between St Vincent's church with views across fields which are well worth maintaining.'

'Area 'A' could be classified as improvement opportunity. The view of the agricultural buildings could be improved or shielded by a few strategically placed trees '