

Sevenoaks Weald Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan Consultation Responses

DC Chair, Vice Chair and Local Members;

No comments received

Sevenoaks Weald Parish Council: ‘ Weald Parish Council welcomes the draft proposals presented by Sevenoaks District Council for the establishment of a conservation area in Weald with the Village Green in its centre. The Parish Council is committed to protecting the village from inappropriate development and also preserving the character of the village and buildings of cultural and historic importance. The granting of Conservation Area Status is an important step in preserving the heart of the village for future generations. The Parish Council notes that they have received an email from SDC agreeing that private properties to the north east of the Village Green which are half in and half out of the Conservation Area will be removed from the Conservation Area and that the conservation Area boundary will be moved to their boundary with the Green.’

Carole Dooley (local resident- no address given) requests inclusion of the allotments, which are bounded on three sides by the proposed CA boundary and on the fourth by a public byway, as they contribute to the character of the village. Its use as allotments is a long held tradition and any alteration in this purpose would be detrimental to the ethos of the surrounding area.

SDC comments; the allotments are wholly in the Green Belt and so are protected from inappropriate development.

D and W Wallace-Holman, Inchcolm, Mount Pleasant Road : concerned about the boundary including properties on the east side of the Green

SDC comments. The boundary in this part of the Green has been redrawn to avoid the houses themselves. In order to ensure the protection afforded by CA status is given to the trees on this side of the Green, it is still necessary for the boundary to be slightly within the garden boundaries.

Hilary Ollie, Woodlea, Hurst Lane: move boundary to exclude houses and include allotments

SDC comments see above

Lucy Harris, Long Barn Road: as a resident of Long Barn Road(just outside the proposed conservation area) can I please offer my support to the implementation of the conservation area as outlined on the council website.’

Roberta Briant, Wild Cobs, Long Barn Road: concerns about the restrictions there would be re. permitted development limits if designated:

‘ Whilst the consultation outlines the ‘benefits’ to the village, if that means that benefits to individual home owners is diminished then I fail to see how fair that is ?

‘ additionally if this means that in future applying for planning permission (rather than permitted development) means that planning costs go up- then I also fail to see how that is fair- especially given that you are proposing to change the status of homes that have been purchased (recently or in the past) and that home owners suffer’ more red tae and ‘cost.

SDC comments. Further information given to correspondent. As the village is wholly within the AONB then PD allowances are restricted already.

Robert Hughes: agrees traffic is a problem but no solution offered. Weald as a whole would benefit from a well designed traffic calming scheme.

SDC comments. This is undoubtedly true, but SDC/WPC are not highway authorities and any such scheme would need to be a joint venture, with Kent Highways as the lead authority.

Mr and Mrs Medhurst, 8 Elmfield Close: 1. The villagers are capable of looking after the village along with the Parish council and SDC 2 We are suspicious of the need for a CA now what criteria has made SDC decide to try and make the proposal ? 3 there are inconsistencies in the areas included in the proposed plans e.g. inclusion of part of properties on east side of the Green.

SDC comments Correspondent advised that the initiative came from the Parish Council

Mrs M Marchant, Ooty, Hurst Lane: request for the plan to be more precise and concern about the boundary to the east side of the Green.

SDC Comments it is difficult to be more precise as 1. planning legislation changes regularly and the document would be in danger of being quickly out of date and 2. SDC is not in control of all matters which might affect the character of the CA

Mr and Mrs L Lemonius, Long Barn: 1 do not feel designation as a conservation area is the best way to achieve the preservation of the area. The most significant buildings are listed 2 the now deconsecrated church is of the 19060s, is in poor condition and is in need of redevelopment.

SDC comment. 1. Only two buildings in the area are listed so most are not currently adequately protected from demolition and replacement . 2. The former church is in the Green Belt, so alternatives are already limited. It could be converted to residential use. It is considered to be an interesting example of 1960s church architecture 3. Omitting it would leave a hole in the CA, unless Long Barn itself and the adjacent new house were also to be omitted.