

TABLED AT THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 12

Adoption of Otford Village Design Statement

Paragraph 3.5 of the VDS provided in the Committee Papers, reflects changes that were made following the discussions with members.

Otford Parish Council has however provided an alternative paragraph which reflects the current situation regarding the Archbishops Palace Tower and Palace Field.

Recommended replacement copy:

3.5 The future of the Archbishop's Palace Tower and Palace Field

The remains of the Archbishops Palace' (c. 1518) are an iconic Otford landmark and amongst the oldest in the Sevenoaks region. They form an important part of Otford's identity. There has been a recent proposal that ownership and responsibility for the whole site be transferred from Sevenoaks District Council, to the Otford community. This proposal has been received with a great deal of local support.

However, the tower structure has already been registered as 'At Risk' by English Heritage and is in a progressively poor state. The District Council is currently undertaking essential structural works on the tower which were identified by their condition survey. Following this first stage, if the financial means can be found to restore the Tower to an acceptable state as a heritage asset which will permit it to be visited by the public , then there is every hope that the site can form part of an active community asset, benefitting the district. How the Tower may be enhanced and made of greater benefit to the village and district, will be a decision made with the support of English Heritage, the conservation architect and the outcome of much local discussion. (NPPF 6:55)