

## Appendix 2 Case Study - Sevenoaks Society

The Sevenoaks Society failed in an attempt to save a local public house and their representations were dismissed by the Planning Inspector on the basis that the building was not locally listed. That decision prompted the Sevenoaks Society to realise that there was a real risk of locally valued buildings being lost unless there was a Local List.

Another local group, Sevenoaks Conservation Council made representations to SDC that it should deal with local listing and appeared at the public hearing into the Core Strategy to argue that it should contain some provision relating to local listing. SDC said it would accept the inclusion of an aim to have a local list and thus it was that the Core Strategy, adopted in February 2011, para 5.1.2 an aim to have a local list.

In about January 2013 the Sevenoaks Society formed a project team to begin planning the research and format of the Local List. At the outset, significant help was received from the English Heritage document 'Good Practice Guide for Local Heritage Listing'. It contained examples of what some local authorities had done and we were able to obtain further information about them from their websites. From that information, the Selection Criteria was formulated and a draft proposal put together to run the project which was put to SDC. The proposal was accepted together with the Selection Criteria.

Two pilot studies were undertaken and that experience led to some relatively minor changes to the Selection Criteria and gave confidence to proceed with the project. The project team expanded to include a local historian and a member who could organise the data management. It was agreed with SDC that because the project was estimated to take several years the project would be carried out in two tranches. This would help to keep the volunteers motivated and give publicity to the second tranche, hopefully attracting more volunteers.

Volunteers were recruited to carry out the historical research and to survey the roads within the Sevenoaks Town Council area and helpful prompt sheets devised to help the volunteers in their assessments. Over the course of the project at least 20 volunteers were involved and were crucial to the success of the project. Once the assessments of an area were completed the results were presented to the Selection Panel to adjudicate on the proposals. The panel consisted of a representative from English Heritage (now Historic England), Kent County Council, SDC (Conservation Officer) and Sevenoaks Town Council together with a local architect and a local historian.

Once the first tranche was complete the information was handed over to SDC to begin the formal process to begin adoption of the buildings and structures as the start of SDC's Local List.

Sevenoaks Town Council supported the project bestowing several grants and the use of a meeting room for the regular Selection Panel meetings.