

**St Faith's  
Conservation Area  
Appraisal  
&  
Management Plan**

July 2007

**PART I**

**INTRODUCTION**

FORUM  
Heritage  
Services

**&  
Context 4D**

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## Part I: Introduction

### 1.0 Purpose and Scope of Study

- 1.1 The St Faith's Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan are seen as the first steps in a dynamic process, the aim of which is to preserve and enhance the character and appearance of the St Faith's Conservation Area and to provide a basis for making sustainable decisions about its future management.
- 1.2 The appraisal and management plan aim to:
- Identify those elements of St Faith's which contribute to its character
  - Identify elements which detract from the character
  - Propose measures to maintain or improve the positive character, local distinctiveness and sense of place of St Faith's
- 1.3 The framework for the study follows the English Heritage guidance 'consultative documents'; *Guidance on conservation area appraisals* and its companion *Guidance on the management of conservation areas*, both published August 2005.
- 1.4 The importance of conservation area appraisals and linking these documents to management plans is now expressed in Central Government Best Value Performance Indicators BVPI 219a, b and c.
- 1.5 BV219a: Preserving the Special Character of Conservation Areas
- Indicator: Total number of conservation areas in the local authority area
- Reason: *To inform BV219b and BV219c*
- 1.6 BV219b: Preserving the Special Character of Conservation Areas: Conservation Area Appraisals:
- Indicator: The percentage of conservation areas in the local authorities area that have an up-to-date character appraisal.
- Reason: *'Clear and concise appraisals of the character of conservation areas provide a sound basis for their designation and management, and will inform local development documents (LDD's).*
- Together with BV219a and BV219c, this indicator (BV219b) will monitor whether planning and other decisions are based*

*on an informed understanding of the special character of the local historic environment and the needs of the communities it supports.'*

- 1.7 BV219c Preserving the Special Character of Conservation Areas: Management Proposals
- Indicator: Percentage of conservation areas with published management proposals.
- Reason: *'Appraisal and designation of conservation areas are not to be considered an end in themselves. It places a duty on local authorities to draw up and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas in their districts, and to consult the community about these proposals'*
- 1.8 The indicators emphasise the use of the English Heritage Guidance and the importance of involving the local community at the earliest stages.
- 1.9 The fieldwork, research and analysis for the appraisal and management plan were undertaken in April-May 2007. Whilst every attempt has been made to consider all aspects of the character of the conservation area there may be elements that have been omitted due to lack of space or inaccessibility (private land or restricted access). Applications which affect the conservation area should be considered on their own merits and in accordance with the policies of the Local Plan (and the emerging Local Development Framework). The appraisal and management plan should be used to guide and inform this process.

## **2.0 Consultation**

- 2.1 To be completed by Havant Borough Council/consultants on adoption of the appraisal and management plan.

## **3.0 Planning Policy Context**

- 3.1 Section 69 1(a) and 2 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 ('the Act') defines Conservation Areas as:

*'Areas of special architectural and historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'*

- 3.2 In addition, the Act puts particular emphasis on specific duties:

*'It shall be the duty of the local authority from time to time to review the past exercise of functions under this section and to determine whether any parts or any further parts of their area should be designated as conservation areas...'*

- 3.3 This is reinforced by the guidance set out in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment* (1994) and *Planning and Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (1990). In particular, the local authority should from time to time, formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of these conservation areas (management plan).
- 3.4 In order to undertake works of enhancement, the character of the conservation area needs to be clearly defined and understood (character appraisal). This is in line with government guidance on the management of the historic environment through *Informed Conservation* (English Heritage 2001). It also seeks to utilise some of the principles used in Characterisation techniques promoted by English Heritage.
- 3.5 Havant Borough Council has encapsulated the broad principles of this Government Guidance in its Local Plan policies presently contained within the *Havant Borough District Wide Local Plan (HBDWLP)* adopted Sept 2005. Policies HE1 to HE16 of the HBDWLP are directly relevant to the conservation of the historic environment.

#### **4.0 Other policy framework documents**

- Local Development Scheme (2007 – 2010) approved March 2007
- Havant Town Centre Urban Design Framework (Supplementary Planning Document May 2006).
- Landscape Character Appraisal – Havant Borough Townscape, Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment (Feb 2007)
- Public Realm Design Framework for Havant Borough Council June 2005
- St Faith's Conservation Area Review (Feb 1994)
- Shopfronts (supplementary planning guidance)
- Rollershutters (supplementary planning guidance)
- Advertisements (a design guide)