

Malcolm Carter

From: Stuart, David <David.Stuart@HistoricEngland.org.uk>
Sent: 07 September 2015 15:58
To: Malcolm Carter
Subject: AKNP Scoping Report for Consultation

Dear Malcolm

Many thanks for this consultation. My apologies for not getting back to you before now.

I confess that I haven't been able to look at any of the supporting documents previously brought to my attention and fear the dropbox link associated with them may now have expired. However, I don't think that matters too much in the context of the Scoping exercise.

But I have been able to look at the Conservation Area Statement, the link for which you kindly have subsequently sent me, and the few comments I have on this and the Scoping Report are set out as follows:

1. Section f. (P14) of the Scoping Report sets out the essential heritage baseline information. It refers to notable historic buildings but it would make sense to identify all the heritage assets in the area ie the number and grade of listed buildings, for example, or heritage assets on the National Heritage At Risk Register. I would include undesignated heritage assets in this list but appreciate such information may not exist and note that the Plan proposes to address this point in Objective HC2.
2. The issues affecting the historic environment should then be identified and Section 5.2 sets out to do this (P20). But this limits itself to the threat to the historic character of the area from inappropriate new development when traffic, the condition of historic fabric, and possible erosion of character from permitted development (and others?) may also be issues worthy of recognition and capture.
3. The SA Appraisal questions are then set out in Appendix C: Sustainability Appraisal Framework (P44). These questions seem to cover relevant themes pretty well, and include supporting the delivery of actions in the Conservation Area Statement. Though the Neighbourhood Plan Objectives (HC1 & HC2, P4) are quite specific and respond to particular aspirations relevant to the area they are also on their own quite limited in their potential scope when considering the issues which the baseline information is beginning to identify. Are there opportunities for enhancement, for example, which might be identified and used as a schedule to inform the application of any CIL financial contributions?
4. The Conservation Area Statement is an impressive document which covers in detail the development history and character of the area. This builds upon the current Statement which dates from 1998. The effectiveness of any update relies on it being adopted by Wiltshire Council as the local planning authority and utilising best practice guidance such as that prepared by Historic England (English Heritage as was). It is not clear whether the format and content has taken account of these considerations. While the vocabulary used to define such reports is not that important such exercises these days tend to fall into "Appraisals", which identify character, significance and issues, and "Management Plans", which set out proposals (ie policies, interventions, delivery mechanisms, funding inputs etc) for addressing relevant issues. The range of possible issues identified in the Statement - ie threats, opportunities for enhancement, etc - is relatively modest. Not only does that make one wonder whether the Statement really has captured all it might but makes it difficult to understand where the evidence to inform the SA (re point 2 & 3. above) has or should come from.

I regret that I am unable to invest more time and effort than this, due largely to the need to represent Historic England in all neighbourhood plan activities across the south west! I would therefore recommend that your principal point of liaison be the planning and conservation teams at Wiltshire Council who will in turn be able to help identify when liaison with us on particular issues is desirable and appropriate.

Further information on heritage in neighbourhood plans is available on our website <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/plan-making/improve-your-neighbourhood/>

Good luck in your continuing endeavours!

Kind regards

David

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From: Malcolm Carter [mailto:malcolm.carter@btinternet.com]
Sent: 28 July 2015 15:29
To: Stuart, David
Subject: AKNP Scoping Report for Consultation

Dear David,

Ashton Keynes Neighbourhood Group is currently preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Ashton Keynes Parish in Wiltshire.

To accompany the development of the Ashton Keynes Neighbourhood Plan, a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is currently being undertaken to inform and influence the plan-making process.

A Scoping Report has now been prepared for the SA.

On this basis, please find attached the Scoping Report for your comment. The consultation period will begin today 28th July and ends 1st September 2015. This incorporates the statutory five week period for scoping consultation.

We look forward to Historic England's comments. In the meantime, if you have any questions on the SA process currently being carried out for the Ashton Keynes Neighbourhood Plan, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best regards,

Malcolm Carter

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