

Report to: **Strategic Planning Committee**

Date of Meeting 20 October 2020

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A



Heritage Strategy Monitoring Report and East Budleigh Conservation Area Review

Report summary:

Heritage Strategy Monitoring Report (2019 – 2020) and East Budleigh Conservation Area Appraisal Review and Management Plan 2020 (CAARMP)

Recommendations:

- 1 That Members note the Heritage Strategy Monitoring Report
- 2 That Members approve the East Budleigh Conservation Area Appraisal Review and Management Plan 2020 for adoption

Reason for recommendation:

To ensure

1 That Members are aware of the East Devon Heritage Strategy 2019 – 2031, its programme for delivery and progress during the first year, as detailed in the Monitoring report for 2019 – 2020

2 Formal adoption of the East Budleigh CAARMP 2020

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action
- Corporate Services and COVID-19 Response and Recovery
- Democracy and Transparency
- Economy and Assets
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Finance
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities

Financial implications:

There are no direct financial implications in the recommendations of this report

Legal implications:

Conservation Area designation provides an enhanced status for assets within the historic environment. It is a statutory requirement for the Council to review our conservation areas and an appraisal of the designation forms part of the Council's Historic Environmental Record and can be used as part of the evidence base for local plans and as a material consideration in making planning decisions. There are no other legal implications other than those within the report.

Equalities impact Low Impact

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk;

Links to background information <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/media/3413423/Final-Heritage-Strategy-2019-2031.pdf> <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/media/3720586/east-budleigh-conservation-area-appraisal-review-and-management-plan-2020.pdf> ;
<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/east-devon-heritage-and-local-heritage-assets/Monitoring-Report-Heritage-Strategy-2019-2020>

Link to [Council Plan](#):

Priorities (check which apply)

- Outstanding Place and Environment
 - Outstanding Homes and Communities
 - Outstanding Economic Growth, Productivity, and Prosperity
 - Outstanding Council and Council Services
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Report in full

Recommendation 1

1. The East Devon Heritage Strategy 2019 – 2031 was adopted by Strategic Planning Committee in March 2019. It is the first such strategy for East Devon, which provides a summary of the historic environment of the district, its significance and its benefits. It identifies the heritage issues in East Devon and develops objectives for the future through three themes:
 - Theme A: Understanding and appreciating our historic environment
 - Theme B: Positively managing our historic environment
 - Theme C: Enhancing and benefiting from our heritage
2. The strategy sets out a 12 year Action Plan for the delivery of its recommendations for the three themes. Each action has an estimated timescale of short (2019 - 20), medium (2021 – 2024) and long term (2024 – 2031) for its delivery. Further information, which is summarised in the Action Plan, includes details of which actions are the Council's statutory duties and an estimate of the resources needed for each.
3. The Heritage Strategy Monitoring Report 2019 – 2020 (appended) reports on how 17 of the 18 short term actions for 2019 – 2020 and two of the medium term actions for 2021 – 2024 have been successfully delivered in the first year. The Heritage Strategy Action Plan is provided in Appendix 1 of the Monitoring Report.
4. Short term actions have included:
 - The production, public consultation and adoption of a Guide to the Listing of Local Heritage Assets. Following adoption, setting up systems for the nomination, assessment, consultation, ratification, recording and publication of local heritage assets for the list.
 - The development of a process for communities to help deliver conservation area reviews including the listing of local heritage assets. The proposal of a suitable pilot scheme.
5. Medium term actions which have been delivered early are:
 - The creation of a Council cross-departmental Heritage Working Group to work towards joint objectives and coordinate projects and programmes. The group met three times during 2019 - 2020 and has been very productive.
 - Delivery of a pilot scheme conservation area review, including local listing, involving a community group. This fairly major project was completed during the first year and included

a new Conservation Area Appraisal, Review and Management Plan (CAARMP) for East Budleigh (recommendation 2).

The objectives of the East Devon Heritage Strategy 2019 – 2031 include

- Working with communities more
- Enhancing knowledge and understanding of heritage assets and their significance
- Positively managing the heritage assets of East Devon

Meeting these objectives, the East Budleigh Heritage pilot scheme was approved by Strategic Planning Committee in March 2019. Through a series of workshops in October and December 2019, the project helped to build skills and knowledge amongst the community to help protect and enhance the heritage assets of their area.

14 volunteers, organised by the Otter Valley Association, received training and were able to contribute effectively to the conservation area review and the assessment of items for the list of local heritage assets. Participants included East Budleigh residents, members of the Parish Council and members of the Otter Valley and Sid Vale Associations. Training was delivered by Locus Consulting, specialists in heritage training, supported by EDDC staff comprising a Planning Policy Officer and a Conservation Officer.

All participants reported an improvement in their knowledge and understanding of conservation areas. Many very positive comments were made, with volunteers finding the training enjoyable, informative and inspirational.

The Heritage Strategy Monitoring Report (2019 – 20) includes a summary of the pilot scheme, with details of partners, the funding secured (including Sustainable Development Fund through the East Devon AONB), the training delivered and publicity during and after the project. The report also suggests ways in which the project could be taken forward in the future.

Recommendation 2

6. The East Budleigh Conservation Area was designated in 1973 and an appraisal was published in 1999. It was subject to an interim review by the Conservation Officer in 2008, in the form of an addendum to the original (non-digitised) appraisal.
7. A conservation area appraisal sets out what is special in terms of its architectural quality and historic interest. A management plan is an important tool in setting out how these qualities can be conserved and enhanced.
8. The new East Budleigh Conservation Area Appraisal, Review and Management Plan recommended for approval meets all of the latest legislation, policy and guidance, in particular Advice Note¹ revised by Historic England in February 2019. This has meant production of a new document and template including:
 - A complete review of information from the original appraisal and interim review
 - New sections including a Statement of Special Interest
 - A new management plan and template
 - New digitised maps (following surveys by the volunteers) and photographs
 - The listing of local heritage assets within the conservation area

The new template is much easier to read and in future can be used to update other conservation area appraisals and reviews, and in the formulation of new conservation area management plans.

9. During the East Budleigh heritage training workshops, possible boundary changes were discussed in detail and advised on by Locus Consulting. It was agreed that there would be no boundary change to the existing conservation area. Full details are presented in section 15 of the new East Budleigh Conservation Area Appraisal.
10. The East Budleigh CAARMP draft document was consulted on extensively with a core group of the project volunteers, who contributed very positively to the document both during and following their training.
11. Following amendment and approval by the Conservation Officer, the document was circulated and presented at the East Budleigh Parish Council (Zoom) meeting on May 26 2020 where it was very well received. It was then placed on the Council's Heritage and Local Heritage Assets webpage.
12. Details of the East Budleigh CAARMP 2020 were also placed on the East Budleigh Parish Council notice boards for a minimum of 6 weeks from August 5th 2020 inviting comments from the public but none were received during this time.