

## Cambridge Past, Present & Future

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FAO: Susan Smith

24 January 2012

Dear Susan Smith,

### Ref: Draft Riverside & Stourbridge Common Conservation Area Appraisal

Just this week our internal Heritage Working Group has discussed the revised appraisal and we welcome the offer to further comment. In areas we do not feel all our comments as made earlier have been fully integrated (see: [http://cambridgeppf.org/documents/riverside\\_08.11.pdf](http://cambridgeppf.org/documents/riverside_08.11.pdf)).

We very much welcome the retention of the frontage of Penny Ferry within the enlarged Conservation Area as well as the list of proposed additional Buildings of Local Interest.

#### Built environment

- A **master plan** to protect the various commons is required (e.g. Stourbridge Common, Fen Ditton Meadows) – covering historic and other built features as well as wildlife aspects; equally full integrated management plans
- Each common should develop (together with its Friends' Groups and wider community) adequate **management plans**. Where Fen Ditton Meadows straddles boundaries of local authorities partnership working should be engendered (not just at Friends' Group level but close liaison with SCDC required).
- **Streetscape** – more descriptions of greened front gardens and low walls in areas are missing; is there scope for more street tree plantings?
- **Is there not and impact or a character related to flooding in part of the CA?**
- **More analysis of missing street furniture** (e.g. particularly seating along popular thoroughfares/ main routes) as well as replacement with perhaps better quality in areas – themed design along riverside promenade and commons? What about lighting and identifying lighting columns etc worth preserving and enhancing and updating the Cambridgeshire County Council on this matter whilst they carry out their current PFI contract? EG should one develop special street furniture/ boundary treatments along the important "Riverside promenade". What about fencing and boundary treatment to the commons? Ditto litter bins, benches etc.
- **Chapter 4.2 – Riverside etc**
  - add more descriptive notes required on Chesterton's side of River and on the Penny Ferry and large meadow area.

#### Chapter 6 – Trees, Landscape & Open Spaces

- **Midsummer Common** – its very old traditional fairs should be mentioned.
- **Commons & Meadows**
  - clearly state which ones are Registered Commons and which have no such protection
  - what about other entrances – in what state are they – could they be improved? Boundaries including gate areas, signage, green space / wildlife/ heritage interpretation etc
- **Ditton Meadows** – mentioned poor edge to housing area – requiring screening in a sensitive way (as identified in Chapter 7)
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- Views from green spaces** – perhaps could be elaborated (also ref recent consultation Skyline Study – see CambridgePPF’s comments [http://cambridgeppf.org/documents/skyline\\_12.11.11.pdf](http://cambridgeppf.org/documents/skyline_12.11.11.pdf)). The green spaces along the River Cam and the associated corridor afford some very important and long views.
- **Trees** - Any veteran trees along the River or else?
- **Refer also to Strategic Open Space and Recreation Study** – in particular as this highlights publicly accessible green spaces and private areas (key somewhat now removed from maps) as well as under or over provision of publicly accessible open space in the city and per ward area.

### Chapter 7 - Key Characteristics

- add Street Furniture – coherence, overall quality and any missing along major routes?

**Chapter 8 – Issues** – we presume this list will also aid the generation of income to carry out environmental improvements (such as Planning Gain Obligations: Section 106, CIL etc)

- add improvements at River promenade as a feature space – improvements to railings, seating, signage etc including at Stourbridge Common entrance area
- add tree and other vegetation improvements to edge of Stourbridge Common and also Fen Ditton Meadows is required as well as were large newer development dominate green spaces and/or streets
- add – potential pressures/ threats due to other usages of commons such as further cycle access/ bridge, the Cam2 river bypass proposals etc.
- add need to develop coherent master plans as well as management plans for all the green spaces and the riverside promenade (work in partnership with local people and neighbouring Council)
- issues relating to fishing and mooring, potential upgrading etc needs to be included
- any scope for more tree planting in some roads?
- any other enhancing opportunities.

### References

- add draft Skyline Guidance
- add New Market Road Approached Study
- add OS & Recreation Strategy
- add reference to studies covering adjacent Conservation Areas

### Maps

- **Leper Chapel** as managed by CambridgePPF – the small green area to immediate north and south of the Chapel may not part of the City Wildlife designation (ref H6.3) – please check as we do not have a map at hand.
- **Meadow** between Fen Ditton Road & River Cam – map - This should be included not just as Green Belt land but also as separation meadow between Chesterton Fen and its residential and industrial area (akin to the Girton Gap at NW Cambridge development proposals or Fulbourn Gap as per East Cambridge Area Action Plan). This to keep the character and setting of the different neighbourhoods, cultural linkage of existing community and its grazing animals as well as green landscape link between Fen Road and the River. It is an important piece of land. Include description and nature of meadow surrounding part of the dwelling. Consider if this meadow should be designated as a City or County Wildlife Site.

### Appendices

- 1 – does this refer to the fully copied entry from English Heritage? Source of text needs to be clarified
- 2 – in the past CambridgePPF requested that the Penny Ferry pub is to be added to the BLI list but unfortunately the importance was not shared with the assessors.

## Map

- **Northern River boundary** – welcome more inclusion of area of northern embankment of river – however unclear on map as also blue boundary to north of Riverside road;  
St Andrew's the Less - church Area and adjacent buildings – also double boundary shown  
- **Green Spaces – e.g. Midsummer Commons** – add frontages of new developments where soft landscape is planned – to retain a quality boundary to the green spaces.

We presume that Cambridgeshire County Council has been consulted on all draft Conservation Area Appraisals as well as the City Council's Park & Recreation Team and the Pinder in charge of the river environment.

We reiterate our request with reference to a potential future study:

**River Approaches Study** – CambridgePPF welcomes the various Conservation Area Appraisals and Approaches studies covering the main highway roads to the city centre. However we consider it is of extreme urgency that also a detailed approaches study and where relevant conservation area appraisal updates are undertaken all along the River Cam – between M11 bridge and A14 bridge to better protect and enhance Cambridge's special river corridor and its semi-natural and heritage environment as well as recreational potential.

If you have any queries regarding this letter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards



Carolin Göhler

Encl – none

CC. Friends of Stourbridge Common & FD Meadows; Cambridge City Council: local councilors & Ecology Officer; Cam Conservators, Friends of Leper Chapel

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