
TOWN MAPS FOR ROCHFORD (Min 32/01)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates Members on the options for the design of the town maps for Rochford.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 At the last meeting of this Committee, Members agreed that a bid should be made to the Cory Environmental Trust for the provision of two town signs for Rochford, subject to the design being reported back for Member approval.
- 2.2 Given the variations in cost for the provision of noticeboards and for the artwork, a grant application has not yet been submitted to the Trust. Several Companies have been consulted and asked to provide design options and an indication of the likely costs.
- 2.3 Appendix 1 to this report illustrates two possible designs for the noticeboard. Each of these would cost about £1,500 plus installation.
- 2.4 The companies contacted were also asked about artwork for the town map. Appendix 2 to this report provides an example of the type of map that, it is considered, would best reflect the character of the historic town.
- 2.5 However, it is likely that the cost of such a detailed map would be in the region of £3,000. A much simpler map could be provided at lower cost, or perhaps a combination of a simple map and some illustrative material. (See Appendix 3.) Whilst it is difficult to be precise, this alternative might reduce artwork costs to about £1,500 - £2,000.

3 DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The design of both the noticeboard and the illustrative material must be carefully considered if the final result is to do full justice to the character of historic Rochford.
- 3.2 It is considered that either of the designs shown in Appendix 1 would be suitable for the Town. Members' preference is sought on which option would be most suitable. As regards the artwork, the example shown in Appendix 2 is costly to produce, but would be the best option in terms of a visual illustration of the important buildings and features of the Town.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Members have agreed to pursue an application to the Cory Environmental Trust for the full cost of the provisions of Town signs
- 4.2 Based on the options outlined in the report, it is estimated that the total cost for the provision of 2 signs, artwork, as per Appendix 2 and installation would be about £7,000.

9 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

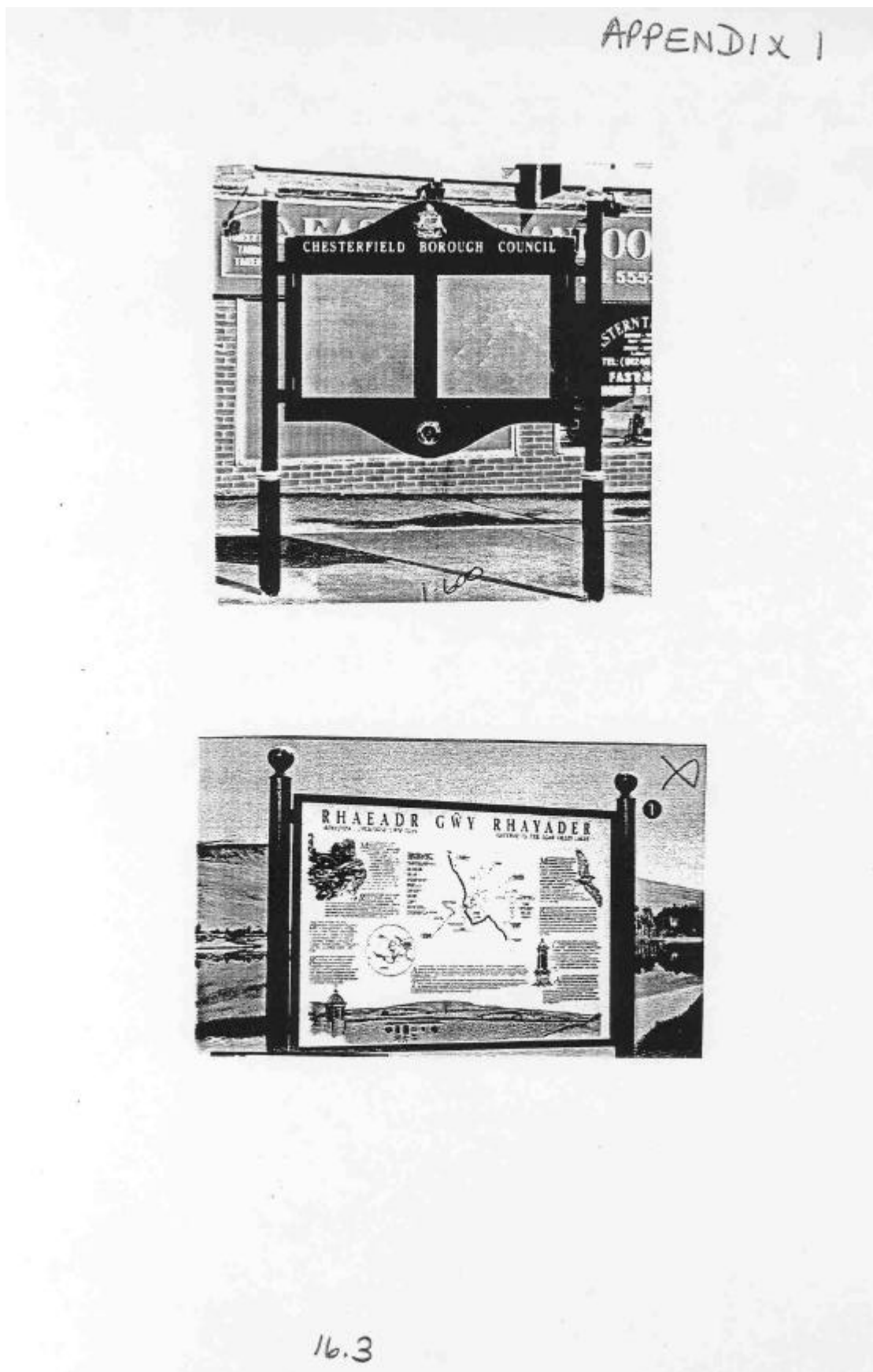
That an application be submitted to the Cory Environmental Trust for a grant of £7,000 to cover the cost of two town maps as outlined in the report. (HPS)

Shaun Scrutton

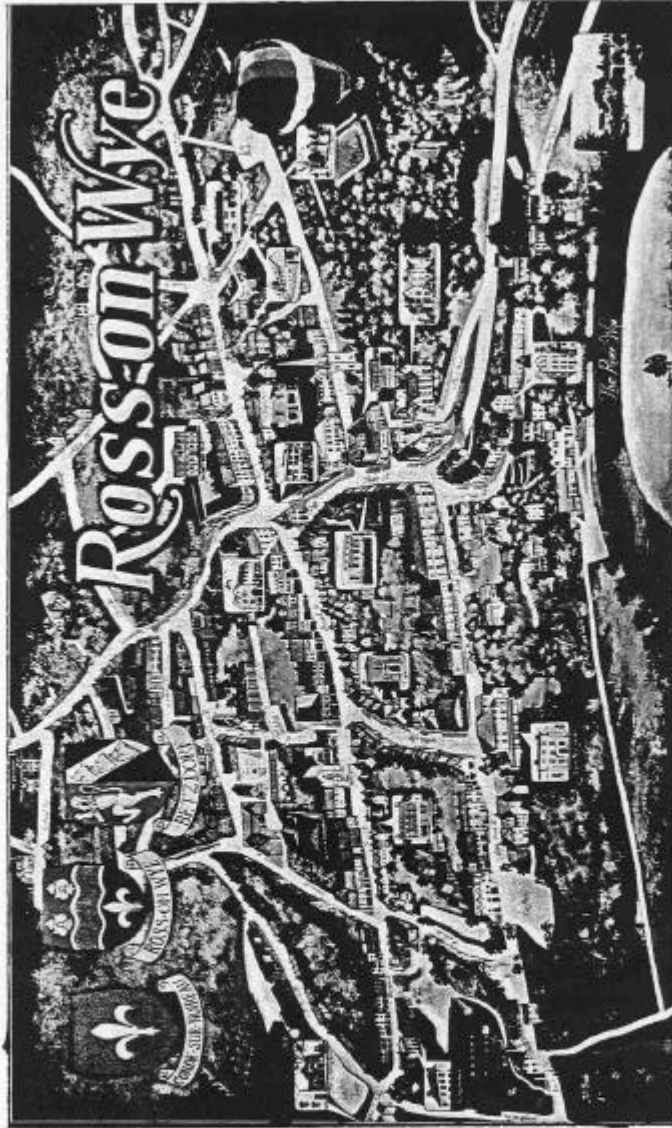
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APPENDIX 2



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APPENDIX 3

THE TOWN OF BUNTINGFORD

The Town of Buntingford was established before 1185, when the Knights Templars owned land and a mill here. It was formed out of parts of Layston, Wyddial, Aspindale, Throcking and Alwyck parishes clustered around the Roman Road, Ermine Street.

Buntingford, whose name probably derives from the ford which crosses the road adjacent to St Peter's Church and haunted by bunnings, because of its situation on the main road from London to York became an important thoroughfare town. Much of its prosperity derived from travellers and their needs. Two of the inns, **The Bell and The George and Dragon**, were ancient at the time of the Spanish Armada but are now used for other purposes. Another, **The Black Bull**, still thrives. Many of the fine Georgian houses in the High Street, and some of the Victorian buildings, have themselves medieval foundations and features.

The coming of the railways severely damaged the town's prosperity and although a branch line was built to Buntingford from the Hertford to London line, this was closed in 1964 and the track removed although the station building survives.

St Peter's Church, at the South End of the High Street, was formerly the Chapel of Ease to St Bartholomew's Church at Layston, some half a mile to the east of the town but has now become the parish church. It was built of brick in the years 1614 to 1626 as money was collected by the Vicar, Rev Alexander Strange, and contains a brass plate showing Strange preaching to his congregation. St Bartholomew's Church Layston, now has no roof to its nave. The chancel, however is well preserved.

Other places of worship in the town are **St Richard's Roman Catholic Church**, in Station Road, which was built in 1913 and is dedicated to Mr Robert High Baines, priest and historical novelist, whose inspiration it was but who died before its completion. **The Congregational Chapel**, now the United Reformed Church, is in Baldock Road.

Each of the other three parishes, which are in fact separate villages, has its own parish church: **St Giles at Wyddial**, **St Mary at Aspindale** and **Holy Trinity at Throcking**. There is no longer an Alwyck Parish.

Next to **St Peter's is Bishop Ward's Hospital**, the Buntingford Almshouses, eight small dwellings, built with stone dressings, arranged along three sides of a courtyard open to the street. The founder, in 1684, was Seth Ward, son of a Buntingford attorney, who was one of the founders of the Royal Society and later became Bishop of Exeter and then of Salisbury. These 'stateliest almshouses in the county' (Pevsner) have been attributed to Sir Christopher Wren, whom Ward taught mathematics at Cambridge, and alternatively to Robert Hooke.

Buntingford Grammar School, now Layton Court, was founded early in the seventeenth century through the efforts of Alexander Strange. Among its pupils was Seth Ward who was taught by the Master, the earliest distiller, John Meriton. **The Red House** was the family home of the famous artist and theatrical designer, David Lauder Fraser, where he did much of his work.

The Bridewell, in Wyddial Road, was the House of Correction for Edwinstree and Olney, for short term prisoners, men and women, and for those waiting trial at the Assizes in Hertford. Nearly in the Cage, a small brick building of the eighteenth century, in which were incarcerated drunks and other petty nuisances overnight to sleep off their stupor. **The Union Workhouse**, built in 1836-7, to house the poor of the sixteen parishes in the Buntingford Union, caused this fund in 1933 and for some years the building was used as the offices of the Braughing Rural District Council. It is now a hotel for the homeless. Of the now the largest employee in the town, the **Buntingford Tannery**, nothing now remains except the **Master Tanner's House** and the small estate of modern houses.

Buntingford is now the smallest of the five main towns of East Hertfordshire. Twelve councillors make up the Town Council which is administered from the Manor House situated on the Market Hill.



The Manor House
Buntingford Town Council Offices



The Vicar's House
High Street



18th Century
House



The Rectory
High Street



The Rectory
High Street



The Rectory
High Street



The Rectory
High Street