Canewdon Church Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan Public Consultation Responses

3. Statutory Protection

Representation 811: COMMENT
Mr V Newby [8411]
Page 4 - listed headstone on plan is in the wrong place

Response:
ECC Officer response: Mr Newby is correct, the headstone is wrongly marked on our records and the map requires amendment.
RDC Officer response: It is recommended the map is amended to correct this error.

Recommended Action:
Amend the map on page 4 to correct the position of the listed headstone.

5. Origins and Development

Historical Development

Representation 812: COMMENT
Mr V Newby [8411]
Page 8 - 5.16 I dispute some of the comments made in this paragraph. I was present when the human remains were unearthed and all that was present were a skull and part of one shoulder. How the archaeologists can make the assumption that this was a wealthy individual probably buried in the 18th Century I have no idea. No pieces of a decorated coffin were found and no attempt was made to date the human remains which were buried with due ceremony in the churchyard shortly after discovery. I commented on these inaccuracies when I saw the first draft but I note that they are still included.

Response:
ECC Officer response: Mr Newby may not have been aware that in the soil around the skull a number of very small and corroded iron discs were found, along with an iron coffin handle. These were later identified as being upholsterer's tacks used to decorate the outside of the coffin. These tacks were datable to the 18th century. This information is contained in the report on the excavation noted in the bibliography, which can be consulted at the Essex Historic Environment Record at County Hall.

RDC Officer response: It is recommended that no changes are made with respect to this representation.

Recommended Action:
No changes

6. Character Appraisal

Spatial Analysis

Representation 813: COMMENT
Mr V Newby [8411]
Page 13 - 6.7 Reference is made on the 5th line to a footpath. This should just be 'path' - there is no right of way through the churchyard, only a path to the church door from each end.

Response:
ECC Officer response: Amend text accordingly.
RDC Officer response: Agreed. It is recommended that the text is amended.

Recommended Action:
Page 13, Paragraph 6.7, line 5. Amend 'footpath' to 'path'.

Character Analysis

Representation 814: COMMENT
Mr V Newby [8411]
Page 18 - 6.16 As 6.7 on 7th line. (Reference is made on the 7th line to a footpath. This should just be 'path')

Response:
ECC Officer response: Amend text accordingly.
RDC Officer response: Agree with ECC. It is recommended that the text is amended.

Recommended Action:
Page 18, Paragraph 6.16, Line 7. Amend 'footpath' to 'path'.

Representation 815: COMMENT
Mr V Newby [8411]
Page 22 - 6.20 Reference is made within this paragraph to an identification board that had been stolen. This notice board has now been replaced by the Parish Council, but the Domesday plaque is still missing.

Response:
ECC Officer response: Amend text accordingly.
RDC Officer response: Agree with ECC. It is recommended that the text is amended.

Recommended Action:
Page 22, Paragraph 6.20. Amend text to reflect that the Domesday plaque is now missing.

Canewdon High Street Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan Public Consultation Responses

1. Introduction

Representation 816: COMMENT
Mr V Newby [8411]
Reference is made throughout this document to the village pond. I would point out that the pond is on private land, it belongs to Canewdon Educational Foundation who allow public access at the moment. In the past a seat and various notices have been installed but all ended up in the pond! Main comments here relate to Page 27 - Problems and pressures - Public Realm: most of the street furniture referred to in this section has been installed by ECC highways eg lampposts and railings around the pond. I don't know that the Parish Council has the power and we certainly don't have the money to alter these.
Response:
ECC Officer response: Amend text to note pond is on private land and acknowledge problems caused by vandalism. Regarding ECC Highways, we recognise that there is a need for closer co-operation with Highways to achieve more sympathetic solutions when works are required in conservation areas.
RDC Officer response: Comments noted

Recommended Action: Where reference is made to the village pond, amend the text to note pond is on private land and acknowledge problems caused by vandalism.

6. Character Appraisal

Problems and Pressures

Representation 817: COMMENT
Mr V Newby [8411]
Re paragraph 6.23 on page 28 - the Parish Council has, in the past, when commenting on planning applications, has said that buildings are out of scale or context with the street scene but this comment does not seem to have been taken into account. Does this mean that, in the future, once these documents have been approved that more strict development controls will be applied?

Response:
ECC Officer response: The appraisal will become a material consideration in considering planning applications and can be used to try and persuade private owners and others to improve designs of any new development in the conservation area.
RDC Officer response: When adopted as an evidence base document the appraisal can be considered as a material consideration in planning applications and also will be of value when developing policies for the Local Development Framework. The appraisal will not become part of the development plan and it is the Council's intention to include policies in the Core Strategy and other Development Plan Documents that help ensure developments are in keeping with the character of areas.

Recommended Action: No changes

7. Management Proposals

Representation 818: COMMENT
Mr V Newby [8411]
Again, Management proposals on page 29 are all very well but who will pay for them? Page 30 - para 7.2 - I note that the front garden of Lucknow has recently been covered with hard core to provide a parking area.

Response:
ECC Officer response: We recognise that funding may not be available for a major improvement scheme in the short term. However improvements can be made incrementally in the long term as opportunities arise, for example when replacement becomes necessary.
RDC Officer response: Comments noted

Recommended Action: No changes

Paglesham Churchend Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan Public Consultation Responses

7. Character Appraisal

Character Analysis

Representation 521: COMMENT
Mr R Berrecloth [8264]
Paragraphs 7.17, 7.24 I refer to the report on the churchyard which states that this has become overgrown and overwhelmed with scrub, etc. At the time of the inspection, and before the report was written, the churchyard had not been maintained for some while, as the people who did maintain this could no longer do so. However, since April 2007, the PCC has organised a rota of volunteers who now maintain the churchyard on a weekly basis. The grass is cut, and areas which have been overwhelmed with bramble and scrub have been treated and cleared. Some of the graves have had growth cleared also. Ivy has been removed from the walls and some guttering cleared. There is a programme in place to continue this. As far as possible the growth on the boundary wall will also be cleared. We are also drawing up a maintenance plan for minor repairs, such as re-pointing stone/brickwork, which will include the boundary wall. Paragraph 7.18 The PCC is aware that the boundary wall is in need of attention.

Response:
ECC Officer response: We note that the PCC are taking steps to address concerns about the condition of the church and churchyard, including the boundary wall. We also hope that in recognising the problems the PCC face in this regard this document may be useful in support of grant aid applications.
RDC Officer response: It is suggested that a sentence is added to paragraph 7.17 noting that there is now a rota of volunteers in place to help maintain the churchyard.

Recommended Action:
Amend the end of paragraph 7.17 to state: ".....some of the gravestones are overwhelmed with scrub (Fig. 27). Although it should be noted that since appraisal a rota of volunteers has been established to help clear scrub and maintain the churchyard. The wall is suffering in places under the weight of encroaching vegetation particularly on the west side. On the south side the boundary wall along the street edge is in poor condition, with open joints and crumbling bricks."

Problems and Pressures

Representation 522: COMMENT
Mr R Berrecloth [8264]
Paragraphs 7.17, 7.24 I refer to the report on the churchyard which states that this has become overgrown and overwhelmed with scrub, etc. At the time of the inspection, and before the report was written, the churchyard had not been maintained for some while, as the people who did maintain this could no longer do so. However, since April 2007, the PCC has organised a rota of volunteers who now maintain the churchyard on a weekly basis. The grass is cut, and areas which have been overwhelmed with bramble and scrub have been treated and cleared. Some of the graves have had growth cleared also. Ivy has been removed from the walls and some guttering cleared. There is a programme in place to continue this. As far as possible the growth on the boundary wall will also be cleared. We are also drawing up a maintenance plan for minor repairs, such as re-pointing stone/brickwork, which will include the boundary wall. Paragraph 7.18 The PCC is aware that the boundary wall is in need of attention.

Response:
ECC Officer response: We note that the PCC are taking steps to address concerns about the condition of the church and churchyard, including the boundary wall. We also hope that in recognising the problems the PCC face in this regard this document may be useful in support of grant aid applications.
RDC Officer response: Comments noted.

Recommended Action: No changes

8. Recommendations

Representation 523: COMMENT
Mr R Berrecloth [8264]
Paragraphs 8.1, 8.2 The maintenance of the church is a heavy responsibility of the PCC. The churchyard is now being maintained, and gives a more positive impression of a cared for church. The west window and tower face is in need of urgent repair. The PCC plans to carry out repairs to these. The PCC has raised approximately £20,000 so far, but this has taken many years. Last September "Friends of St Peter's" was formed with the specific aim of raising money to repair the west face and window. Five years ago, English Heritage helped to fund the clean up and repair to the inside of the tower belfry, with replacement stainless steel guards fitted internally to the belfry

windows. A new door was made for the top of the tower. This has kept invading pigeons at bay. Applications to English Heritage and the Lottery Fund have proved fruitless since that time, but we will keep applying. However, we have asked the church architect to draw up a schedule of works regarding the repair to the west face and window, so that we can ascertain the true cost. We will decide the level of work we can afford, and go ahead on that basis. At the present time, we are still awaiting the schedule, before making any decision regarding the extent of the work. At the same time we have been in contact with Friends of Essex Churches, Essex Environmental Trust, and have yet to contact English Heritage. We will visit the site www.english-heritage.org.uk for further advice and information. The Archdeacon is fully supportive of our work. It should be noted that as a small parish, the PCC bears a heavy responsibility for the maintenance and care of the parish church. We are fortunate that the parishioners and those outside the parish share this responsibility with us. The fact that the church is opened daily to visitors is unique in the area. The visitors' book is a testament to the number of people who come from all parts of the world and comment on the warm, welcoming feeling the church has and appreciate the fact it is open. The PCC will endeavour to continue and improve the present state of the church building, the churchyard and boundary wall. These are important to the life of the parish and to our local heritage.

Response:
ECC Officer response: We note that the PCC are taking steps to address concerns about the condition of the church and churchyard, including the boundary wall. We also hope that in recognising the problems the PCC face in this regard this document may be useful in support of grant aid applications.
RDC Officer response: Comments noted. As has been stated, when the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan is adopted as an evidence base document it may be of help to the PCC in supporting applications for funding.

Recommended Action: No changes

Shopland Churchyard Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan Public Consultation Responses

3. Historical Development and Archaeology

Representation 794: COMMENT
Mr W Edgar [8407]
Para 3.7 There was no service in 2007.

Response:
ECC Officer response: Amend text accordingly - service held most years.
RDC Officer response: Agree with ECC. It is recommended that the text is amended accordingly.

Recommended Action:
Page 5, Paragraph 3.7. Amend text to state that the annual open air service is held most years rather than every year.

5. Character Analysis

Representation 795: COMMENT
Mr W Edgar [8407]
Para 5.5 The main cause of damage to gravestones is badgers. Entirely so in the case of figure 16 and the North East corner. The Benton Graves are constantly threatened, figure 13. The areas the badgers successively occupy are then colonised by scrub. They are protected from disturbance!

Response:
ECC Officer response: Amend text to indicate damage is mostly caused by badgers.
RDC Officer response: The appraisal does not attempt to identify the possible causes of damage to the gravestones. It is not appropriate to include possible causes of damage within this evidence base document. It is recommended that no changes are made with respect to this representation.

Recommended Action: No changes

7. Recommendations

Representation 796: COMMENT
Mr W Edgar [8407]
7.2 The past regime has probably been as good for wildlife as

any. The natural colonisers of the site are Elder, Sycamore, Nettles and cow parsley. All rabbit proof. It is not suited for a wild flower meadow.

Response:
ECC Officer response: No further comment on the wildlife potential of the site - specialist advice would be required.
RDC Officer response: Comments noted. Paragraph 7.2 notes that an assessment of the sites importance for wildlife would be needed if such a recommendation was to be implemented. It is recommended that no changes are made with respect to this representation.

Recommended Action: No changes.

Representation 777: SUPPORT
Mr Peter Richards [8381]
I would like to give our strong support for the woodland burial ground - as far as I know the nearest is the Maldon cemetery. It must be the most sensitive and natural use bringing in some income for its maintenance. I am certain that the diocese would support the idea and, of course, it would still be a wildlife harbour.

Response:
RDC Officer response: Comments noted. It is the Council's intention to adopt the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan as an evidence base document. The recommendations in the appraisal would need to be enacted either through the use of the document as a material consideration in planning applications or through its use as evidence base for the Local Development Framework.

Recommended Action: No changes.

Representation 819: SUPPORT
Mr Ian Yearsley
The grave of Philip Benton the author of *The History of Rochford Hundred (1867-68)* is buried in the churchyard. Apart from his historical writings and extensive local farming activities, he was, amongst other things, overseer, surveyor and churchwarden at Shopland. Shoplands' bible, which still bears Benton's name is now in the care of Sutton Church nearby.

I write to ask therefore if you would consider some sort of information board about Benton as part of your appraisal of the area. It would be a suitable way of commemorating him and at

the same time it would provide an enhancement to the churchyard and probably help with tourism in the district.

Response:
It is proposed that this suggestion be added to the management plan, so that it can be investigated further to see if a suitable commemoration can be provided.

Recommended Action: That this proposal be added to the management plan proposals.

8. Conclusions

Representation 797: COMMENT
Mr W Edgar [8407]
8.0 I am not clear what authority the R.D.C. has in the matter. Presumably the proposed plan, 8.4 would be advise to the parochial church council. Opening for general burials would require the participation of Shopland Equestrian centres owners, for access and car park. Suppose Sutton Church, or the present volunteers, particularly Mr & Mrs R Murrell of Shopland Equestrian Centre were unable to continue maintenance. Who might be empowered and willing to take it over?

Response:
ECC Officer response: No further comment - further information on management is contained in bibliographic reference 'Practical Notes on Trees in Churchyards'.
RDC Officer response: It is the Council's intention to adopt the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan as an evidence base document. This can be used as a material consideration in planning applications and to provide evidence for the Local Development Framework. It is suggested that no changes are made with respect to this representation.

Recommended Action: No changes.