

Report to	<b>Planning Committee</b>
Date	<b>8 August 2013</b>
By	<b>Director of Planning</b>
Title of Report	<b>Alfriston Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (CAAMP)</b>
Purpose of Report	<b>To approve a draft of the Alfriston CAAMP for public consultation purposes</b>

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**Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to: Approve the consultation draft of the Alfriston Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan attached at Appendix I.**

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The consultation draft of the Alfriston Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan has been prepared by Officers of the National Park Authority. The text of the draft is attached as **Appendix I**.
- 1.2 The appraisal will satisfy the statutory obligation to periodically review conservation areas, placed on Local Planning Authorities by Section 71 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The document formulates recommendations for preservation and enhancement within a formal Management Plan.
- 1.3 There are no extensions proposed to the boundary of the Conservation Area
- 1.4 Once a final text has been agreed and adopted, it will be used to produce an attractive, professionally designed and illustrated final document based on the National Park Authority's style guide.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 As Local Planning Authority, SDNPA has responsibility for planning policy matters, including conservation area designation and review. A rolling programme of Conservation Area Appraisals is now underway, giving some priority to the larger settlements in its early stages.
- 2.2 Conservation Areas are a local designation. In previous guidance, Central Government has not sought to fetter the judgement of Local Planning Authorities to assess potential extensions to conservation areas from a local perspective, as they think fit. However, the National Planning Policy Framework contains the following paragraph, 127:  
*“When considering the designation of conservation areas, Local Planning Authorities should ensure that an area justifies such status because of its special architectural and historic interest, and that the concept of conservation is not devalued through the designation of areas that lack special interest.”*  
The current proposals for extension have been considered against this test and are thought to comply with it.
- 2.3 Note that, as the document is a draft subject to change, the numbering of figures within the text and by the illustrations have not been inserted. This is to avoid any errors and will be done once the document has been finalised.

### **3. Consultation**

- 3.1 Once approved for consultation, the draft document will be the subject of a six week consultation period, with an electronic version of the document being available from the website and paper copies in the locality. Specific consultations will be sent to East Sussex County Council, Wealden District Council, Alfriston Parish Council and English Heritage
- 3.2 Following the consultation period, a summary of comments received and any changes to the draft text suggested in response to those comments will be presented to committee and a text presented for formal approval.

### **4. Resources**

- 4.1 The cost of producing the CAAMP and undertaking the public consultation has been met from the planning policy budget.

### **5. Risk management**

- 5.1 Physical and environmental risks invoked by the recommendation are not significant.
- 5.2 Risk: were SDNPA to neglect the timely implementation of proposals arising from Conservation Area appraisal recommendations without good cause, a reputational risk to the National Park Authority could arise.

Mitigation: to ensure that the recommendations within CAAMPS are built into the work programmes for the SDNPA and its partner organisations through the South Downs National Park Management Plan and its action plans.

### **6. Crime and Disorder Implications**

- 6.1 It is considered that the proposal does not raise any crime and disorder implications.

### **7. Human Rights Implications**

- 7.1 The proposal has been considered in light of statute and case law and any interference with an individual's human rights is considered to be proportionate to the aims sought to be realised

### **8. Equalities Act 2010**

- 8.1 Due regard, where relevant, has been taken to the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equalities Act 2010

### **9. External Consultees**

- 9.1 None

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Appendices	Appendix 1 – Alfriston Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan
SDNPA Consultees	Director of Planning, Director of Strategy and Partnerships, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Operations, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer & Legal Services
Background Documents	