

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL – 19 JULY 2023

Recommendation from the Cabinet Planning and Parking Panel on 22 June 2023:

50. LEMSFORD VILLAGE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT AND CONSERVATION AREA DESIGNATION

The Panel received the report of the Assistant Director (Planning).

A review of the Lemsford area had been undertaken by the Council's heritage consultant, Essex Place Services, and a Draft Character Assessment was produced. The assessment identified areas of special architectural or historic interest within the Lemsford area and included a discussion on the suitability of conservation area designation as well as a suggested conservation area boundary. Existing assets such as listed properties would remain in place and the conservation area would act as an extra protection.

A six-week consultation was carried out on the Draft Character Assessment. Letters were written to 140 addresses in the area, 40 statutory consultees and 3 local resident groups were contacted as part of the consultation. Seventeen responses were received in response with the majority being overwhelmingly in support of the conservation area designation.

The comments received have been considered by officers in conjunction with Council's consultant Place Services, and a final version of the Character Assessment has been produced and included an amendment to the conservation area boundary.

It was clarified that conservation area designation is a matter that would need to be taken into account in deciding a planning application or on an appeal against a planning decision. Also, should the area be designated a conservation area, alterations/works that have already been carried out will not be the subject to retrospect assessment.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the results of the public consultation which took place for six weeks in February and March 2023 be noted; and
- 2) That the Panel recommends to Cabinet and Council that Lemsford Character Assessment is to be adopted and Lemsford is designated as a new conservation area.

The reports of the Cabinet Planning and Parking Panel can be viewed in full here:

<https://democracy.welhat.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=266&MId=1639&Ver=4>