

PELSALL AND RUSHALL LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

13 FEBRUARY 2007

CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISALS AND MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR PELSALL

Conservation Area Appraisals give an overview of the history and development of each Conservation area and try to define what it is that makes them special. They also identify specific features which contribute towards their character, for example historic buildings and buildings which are locally significant, important green and open spaces, significant views, natural elements such as trees, and features which help make an area locally distinct. They may even include intangible qualities such as activities, sights and smells which are characteristic of a place. The documents also identify elements of the area that could be improved or may be at risk.

Conservation Area Management Plans are the next step after area appraisals. They provide guidance through policy statements to assist in the preservation and enhancement of the Conservation Area. This is a direct response to the 1990 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act which places a duty on local planning authorities to formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of its conservation areas.

Each management plan is based around the following objectives:

- To assess and define the threats and opportunities within the area and how these impact on the significance of individual elements and of the Conservation Area as a whole.
- To provide policy guidance to ensure that the significance of the Conservation Area will be maintained whilst changes occur rather than being lost or damaged and that opportunities for enhancement are maximised.
- To establish and define the significance of the Conservation Area as a whole and of the individual elements found within it i.e. architectural, historical, archaeological, ecological, social, industrial etc.

The Council have 18 conservation areas and have developed a rolling programme of Appraisals and Management Plans. Within the first year 5 have been undertaken which will be reported to Cabinet in February this year. Next years programme has been agreed and the two Conservation Areas in Pelsall will be subject to Appraisal and the Development of Management Plans.

Funding for the appraisal is secured within the new financial year from the Council's Capital Programme. Consultants will be appointed to undertake the work and it is envisaged that tenders for the work will be sought in March with a view to an appointment being made in April 2007. The consultancy period will last between 4 and 5 months and detailed public consultation will take place during this period. The plans will then be put to Cabinet for approval.

For any further information please contact Simon Tranter, Regeneration Manager – Environment on 01922 652543 or tranter@walsall.gov.uk