

CLP HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TEAM
12th July 2017
MEETING

Our principal objective is that proposals for housing development in the Astons sympathetically accord with the wishes of the villagers as expressed in the Community Led Plan.

Present: Anna Dillon, Emma Lewins, John Short and Steve White
Apologies: Susanna Brunskill

1. Conservation Area Management Plan and Character Appraisal

- a. We thanked SB in her absence for a valuable draft report on necessary changes to the Astons' Conservation Area Management Plan and Character Appraisal. We discussed how best to proceed and proposed:
 - i. Following SB's lead, we should aim for a document that SODC can use to update its records and reports on both matters of fact and inconsistent reference to its own policies.
 - ii. We shall also update the current Plan of the Conservation Area.
 - iii. Factual matters we want to address include:
 1. New streets (Frimley Yard);
 2. New Houses;
 3. House extensions;
 4. Name changes;
 5. Changes to listing on Historic England's *Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest*;
 6. Recent changes in our understanding of the history of the Astons (Bronze Age remains in Frimley Yard);
 7. Changes to boundaries;
 8. Changes of use (Upthorpe Farm)
 9. Distribution of trees;
 10. Important views;
 11. Minor errors.
 - iv. We shall complete SB's work on factual matters by:
 1. Using the tree survey to be made by the CLP Environmental Group, chaired by AD;
 2. A survey walk through the villages as a group;
 3. Asking villagers to comment on changes to their homes. (see below).
 - v. Policy reference inconsistencies arise because the Conservation Area Management Plan and Character Appraisal were issued in 2005 since when SODC has issued a Core Strategy in 2012 and is currently finalising

a Local Plan.

1. When Astons' Parish Councillors and SODC councillors refer to matters in the Astons there is the possibility of confusion. Once the final version of the new Local Plan is issued by SODC, all references to the Astons in the Conservation Area Management Plan and Character Appraisal should correlate to its policy numbering system and current wording. Assuming the current draft will differ little from the final version, the analysis can be done now and held for a final check against the newly published plan.
 2. We did not discuss whether we should press SODC to issue a new version of the Conservation Area Management Plan and Character Appraisal with our amendments included to be contemporaneous with the new Local Plan.
 3. We believe parish councillors and villagers will find our report useful. We discussed whether it should be extended to include all points of the Local Plan that touches directly on the Astons.
 4. JS said he would join SB in this work.
- b. The previous minutes noted:
- i. EL/AD said they will review the Astons' History Group archive for any insights into changes over time.
 - ii. JS has had valuable correspondence with Chris Jack of Ecological Planning & Research Ltd and Patrick Stileman of FLAC Ltd about the protection of veteran trees.
 - iii. The output of this project will be a report to the PC and SODC with details of changes to the two reports needed to bring them up-to-date.

2. Astons' Constraints Profile

- a. AD confirmed she is now able to take the initial lead as we begin this project to create a Constraints Profile of the Astons. This will show where in the villages are ecological habitats, waterways and wells, and other impediments that developers, the PC and SODC should take into account when writing and reviewing planning applications.
- b. We should be aware of the Thames Valley Recording Centre and the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust. JS has learned that TVRC can supply a map of known sites in the villages and he will learn more about it with a view to purchase **JS**. Also, we know that BBOWT keeps an index of significant landmarks. JS to source and distribute.
- c. We hope to involve landowners.
- d. The output of this project will be a report with maps of known constraints to development in the Astons.

3. Planning applications review

- a. As a trial, we agreed to review the next planning application that might have contingent problems of geology and soil, ground water, access, etc. and suggest which questions regarding these matters the PC might ask the developer. If the PC and we believe this is useful, we would make it a standard procedure. As most planning applications are straightforward, we do not expect to look at more than a small handful each year. **ALL**

4. Dates of next meetings

TBA

Draft note to villagers for placement in the Village News and on the website:

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT CHANGES TO YOUR PROPERTY

The CLP Housing & Development Group is one of the project groups that sprung from the Community Led Plan. Our principal objective is that proposals for housing development in the Astons sympathetically accord with the wishes of the villages as expressed in the Community Led Plan.

We are updating the records used by the Parish Council and SODC when considering planning applications. Two key documents are the Conservation Area Management Plan and the Character Appraisal. There is also a map of the Astons' conservation area. All date from 2005 and include a number of inaccuracies that have occurred over time.

To help us, we'd be very grateful for information about your house. For example, has it changed its name in the last ten years or so? Has it been extended? Have its boundaries changed? Has it had a change of use? Is it newly listed by Historic England or had its listing status changed? Please get in touch with any member of the Housing & Development Group listed below.

Thanks

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