

Meeting Date	8 th September 2021
Report Title	Swale Local Heritage List Listing Criteria
Cabinet Member	Cllr. Mike Baldock - Cabinet Member for Planning
SMT Lead	James Freeman – Head of Planning
Head of Service	James Freeman – Head of Planning
Lead Officer	Jhilmil Kishore – Senior Conservation & Design Officer (Projects)
Key Decision	Yes
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. To provide feedback to assist the Council's Cabinet in agreeing the final version of the Local Heritage List listing criteria for adoption and publication.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the content of the Local Heritage List listing criteria in order that the Local Plan Panel can form a view on whether the document, as set out, would provide a robust basis on which to develop the planned Borough Wide Local Heritage List, also to give consideration to whether in the long run, the proposed criteria would properly support the current adopted and emerging replacement local plan in providing a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the Borough's historic environment, recognising that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and thus seeking to conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance.
- 1.2 Feedback from the Local Plan Panel on this key requirement of the National Planning Policy, reflected under the current adopted Heritage Strategy (which commits the Council to the production of a Local Heritage List as part of its Action Plan 1 covering the time period of 2021-2023) is therefore sought as a key component of the consultation on the draft Local Heritage List listing criteria. Feedback from the Local Plan Panel (and from any other source, including the Strategic Management Team) will be reported back to Cabinet in the form of a consultation report and will assist Cabinet in deciding whether to formally adopt the listing criteria (as recommended with any changes arising from the consultation, or otherwise).

2 Background

- 2.1 The Swale Heritage Strategy and associated Action Plan 1 for the next three years was adopted in April 2020. Developing a Borough wide Local Heritage List is part of Action Plan 1 of the adopted Heritage Strategy.
- 2.2 As set out within the broad parameters of Heritage Strategy AP 1, public consultation commenced on Friday the 25th May 2021 and ran for a period of 6 weeks until Friday the 9th July 2021. Consultation letters were sent out to all the Parish and Town councils and local heritage groups on first day of consultation, inviting their input.

2.3 The main purpose of the proposed Swale Borough Local Heritage List is:

- I. To raise awareness of the borough's local heritage assets and their importance to local distinctiveness.
- II. To inform developers, owners, council officers and members about buildings within the borough boundary that are desirable to retain and protect.
- III. To help inform guidance and specialist advice to owners in the objective of protecting the character and setting of those buildings, structures, sites and landscapes.
- IV. To help the council in its decision making when developing local plan policy and site allocations, and in determining planning applications.
- V. To record the nature of the local historic environment more accurately.

2.4 A total of 14 responses were received from 13 different respondents. Two separate responses were sent by Bobbing Parish Council. The makeup of responses was as follows:

Local amenity groups/societies: 5

Parish/Town Councils: 7

Kent County Council and other local advisory and regulatory bodies, including adjoining local authorities: 1

2.6 The range of issues raised have a common recurring theme. Whilst the majority of respondents welcomed and expressed encouraging support for developing a Borough wide Local Heritage List and supported the listing criteria, very few actually responded to the listing criteria per se. The key themes which can be picked up from a review of the responses are as follows:

1. A particular desire to see the references made to Swale's natural environment (including trees) in the listing criteria.
2. Specific references to be made to building typology that emerged from Swale's industrial and agricultural heritage.

2.7 In conclusion, it is therefore proposed to adopt the listing criteria with essentially the same high-level vision but at the same time, absorbing much of the constructive feedback provided, which will strengthen the listing criteria and add value to it in the widest sense, as shown in track changed Listing Criteria document attached as Appendix B.

3 Proposal

- 3.1 That the extent and range of consultation responses received in relation to the public consultation for the Borough wide local heritage listing criteria be noted.
- 3.2 To recommend to the Council's Cabinet that the final version of the listing criteria for adoption and publication should be based on the background information and conclusion set out above at paragraph 2.7.

4 Alternative Options

4.1 With all the responses being very positive and encouraging for the proposed local heritage list project but providing limited constructive feedback in respect of suggested changes to the local list criteria, the scope for alternative options is at best very limited.. Therefore, it is recommended that:

- 1. Leaving the Listing Criteria as it stands without any further changes would be acceptable given the limited, but generally positive feedback provided. However, it is considered on balance that it would be beneficial to re-draft the Listing Criteria document to take on board the limited constructive feedback, particularly if it assists in strengthening wider community support for the listing criteria to represent Swale's Heritage for a long time to come.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 This is as set out in section 2 of this report with the resultant feedback set out in the consultation response table at **Appendix A**.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Supports the aim for a Borough to be Proud of by protecting and improving the built and natural environment.
Financial, Resource and Property	There are no financial implications at the present time, the updating of listing criteria document can be undertaken within available resources. However, the nomination process will be resource intensive (reliant on volunteers from parish councils, amenity society, heritage groups and the general public). This process would warrant an efficient programming of nomination, review, record and shortlist. For final selection of nominated assets, a selection committee is proposed to include representatives from Historic England, Kent County Council, Swale Borough Council and Cabinet members. Adequate liaison would be needed with the Swale BC GIS team.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	There is a statutory obligation on LPA's to consider the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas, listed buildings and designated heritage assets in determining development proposals
Crime and Disorder	The Borough Council is a founding member of Heritage Watch, which is an affiliation of heritage focussed organisations set up in liaison with the

	police force to tackle and reduce the growing problem of heritage crime (e.g. theft of priceless artefacts and lead roof sheeting from churches). This issue is covered in the Heritage Strategy document. A Borough wide Local Heritage List will further support this initiative.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	One of the three dimensions of sustainable development is its environmental role: contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment. The other two dimensions are a strong economy and a healthy and socially vibrant community
Health and Wellbeing	The health and wellbeing aspects of interaction with heritage assets and heritage related projects are referenced in the Heritage Strategy.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report

- Appendix A: Consultation Response Table
- Appendix B: Track changed Listing Criteria document
- Appendix C: Flow chart to show way forward after the listing criteria for Borough wide Local Heritage List is adopted

8 Background Papers

None.