**Changes to the South Lowestoft and Kirkley Conservation Area**

I am writing to advise that East Suffolk Council has commissioned a reappraisal of the Conservation Area through the London Road,  Lowestoft  High Street Heritage Action Zone project and you are being contacted as a consultee or represent an organisation who may have an interest in these proposals.

The existing South Lowestoft Conservation Area was designated in 1978,  extended  in 1996 and 2003, with an Article 4 Direction introduced in 1997.  The existing appraisal dates from 2007,  and the Council has a statutory duty to review its Conservation Areas from time to time which has led to this current review of the South Lowestoft Conservation Area. The revised appraisal has been drafted to reflect updated best practice guidance,  legislation  and local planning policy changes since 2007.  It is also proposed under this review to rename the Conservation Area the ‘South Lowestoft and Kirkley’ Conservation Area.

The revised appraisal also makes recommendations for the revision of the existing conservation area boundaries which would:

1. Include the full extent of the station building and platforms: extend the area to include the rest of the station and platform, as the boundary currently appears to dissect the building. The station is a notable mid-nineteenth century building, which makes a key contribution as an unlisted positive building, which makes a key contribution to our understanding of the development of South Lowestoft.
2. Include the Beach and Claremont Pier:  There is a strong historic association and visual relationship between the beach and Conservation Area.  The beach forms a key component of the Conservation Area, as the reason for the development of the South Lowestoft resort, and continues to play an important role in shaping the character of the area.
3. Include the railway bridge on Mill Road:  This bridge is an unlisted positive feature,  which follows the former line to South Quay.
4. Exclude the Toyota dealership: This building makes a negative contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.  Its massing, materials and expanse of glazing on the ground floor level are not in keeping with the area, and the introduction of parked cars, large signage and flags to the front of the building create a cluttered appearance.  These elements make a negative contribution to the street scape and the building lacks special interest, and it is therefore proposed that the boundary excludes this modern building.
5. Include the South Lowestoft Methodist Church: This church is of historic and architectural interest, and as well as serving an important role for the local community, therefore making a positive contribution to the area. It was built in 1962-1963 to replace old Lorne Park Road Church, originally built in 1904.
6. Include the London Road Baptist Church: This church, constructed 1972-73, was designed by the architect Wally Thomson,  of  Piper,  Whalley  & Partners who was also architect of the North Lowestoft Trinity Methodist Church,  built  a few years prior.  The church is of local architectural interest and is of value to the community.

Survey work for the reappraisal of the conservation area has taken place February to June 2021 and the draft South Lowestoft and Kirkley Conservation Area Appraisal and Management plan is now undergoing a six-week period of public consultation which will run from 15th July until 26th August 2021. East Suffolk Council would like to ask for your comments on the revisions to the South Lowestoft and Kirkley Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan. You can view the draft of the appraisal on the Council’s website: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/south-lowestoft-and-kirkley-caa>

In response to the current restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic,  physical  copies will be made available and posted out where possible  (free of charge)  on  request for those that are not able to view the relevant document and/or supporting documents online. To request hard copies of documents please contact the Economic Regeneration Team by email on economicregen@eastsuffolk.gov.uk, call 03330 162 000, or write to us at Economic Regeneration, East Suffolk Council, Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft, NR33 0EQ.

If you are unable to view the documents online and do not wish to receive documents by post, the Council is able to make arrangements for documents to be viewed in person,  by  appointment,  in the Council’s offices at either Riverside, Lowestoft or East Suffolk House, Melton, in a Covid secure manner.  Arrangements can be made by contacting the Economic Regeneration Team as detailed above. Please note staff are continuing to work from home and therefore it will not be possible to speak to staff in the office about the documents.  If you have any queries about the documents, please use the phone number or email above.

**Two drop-in sessions are being held on Thursday 5th August 2021 where you are invited to ask any questions or make any comments about the draft South Lowestoft and Kirkley Conservation Area Appraisal. Officers will be available to answer your queries and record your comments at:**

* **Parcels Office, Lowestoft Train Station, NR32 2EG between 12:30pm-3:30pm.**
* **The Kirkley Centre, 154 London Road South, NR33 0AZ between 5pm-8pm**

You can provide comments by emailing economicregen@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or in writing to, Economic Regeneration, East Suffolk Council, Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft, NR33 0EQ.

Comments will be taken into account and the draft document amended as may be necessary before being brought to Members of East Suffolk Council’s Cabinet to decide whether to adopt these changes and updated South Lowestoft and Kirkley Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and we hope to hear from you about this important proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Styles

High Street Heritage Action Zone Project Officer

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