

Newsletter. February 2018

Dear Everyone

Progress so far this year.

Conservation Area Revision

Thanks to everyone who advised us on this at the last Farmers Market and by email. We have set up a small task group to take this forward - Fergus Dowding is taking the lead. We have met the SSDC Conservation Officer who is taking responsibility, Adron Duckworth and have reviewed with him the many proposed changes. We await his response to our suggestions. To see his original map go to <http://martockplan.org.uk/Environment/ConservReview.html> and follow the link. As soon as we have his revised maps I'll put them there too.

Help with Task groups

Our team is still rather small in number and we want to encourage a few more volunteers to join the task groups. These groups are:

Natural Environment

Flooding and drainage

Conservation and heritage

Development strategy

Open spaces

The job involves as much or as little time as you have. The main job of everyone is to keep us all on track by bring together more brains and experience when we are reviewing in detail all the work as it is done. If you would like to help with other specific tasks - like mapping, research, policy development, so much the better. We are not asking for help with the heavy lifting (unless you like heavy lifting).

Please email me ac@asclegg.co.uk. Or phone at 823439 or 07774 044908.

“Non-designated Heritage Assets”

This is governmentspeak for good buildings that aren't listed. We have lots in Martock (We also have lots of listed ones, more than any other place in South Somerset). We want to give as much protection to the non-listed ones as the listed ones get. So we need to identify them. We need help.

We have thought about listing the following:

Redundant industrial buildings of note - so they are converted to new uses rather than demolished. Like Sparrows Works.

The remarkable collection we have of the rather fine Council Houses that the old Yeovil DC built in the first half of last Century

Groups of 3 or 4 small stone terraced cottages - we have many very good Victorian ones, particularly in Bower Hinton

Collections of buildings around a square or junction that harmonize well together - The Green, Pair Trees.

Outstanding individual buildings.

Other things like old phone boxes, old signs, etc. And the fine old cast iron stink pipe ventilating the old sewer in Higher Street

Please help selecting them. Email or come to the Farmers Market this week and stick your ideas on the map. Or both.

Garden Development applications

There is a steady stream of small applications to build extra houses in gardens. We need to develop policy on this for the Neighbourhood Plan. We need to ensure that the proposals fit in with the rest of the street and are not too cluttered. We need to be sure that they don't obscure the views we have of our finest buildings, that they don't destroy important natural habitats or block views that people enjoy when they walk. Etc.

Two applications were considered by the Parish Council this week, one at 56 Bower Hinton and a huge one in the grounds of Martock Manor next door to the Surgery (It will be the biggest house in the village, about three times the footprint of the Manor itself). The parish supported the first at last week's meeting, but not the second. If you are interested in either and want to comment, go to this 'View a Plan' website at <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/view-a-planning-application-online/> and search for 18/00143/OUT (Manor) and 18/0072/FUL (56 Bower Hinton). You can comment directly online or by email.

Planning application reference numbers

Something to bear in mind when you look at a planning application. There are three letters in the application reference number. The letters FUL mean full permission; all the design details will be there. The letters OUT mean Outline; almost always this means that the applicant wants to establish the principle of development so that the value of the plot goes up. It can then be sold and the buyer can put in their own full permission which can be for a completely different plan (and numbers of houses). Another set of letters common here is LBC, listed building consent.

More on Garden Development at the Farmers Market this Saturday. See you there.

Andrew