

APPENDIX A

RATBY CONSERVATION AREA

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Approximately 40 residents attended the public exhibition held at the Methodist Church on 16th December 2013 from 15:00 to 19:00. The aims and objectives put forward in the management Plan were generally supported by all residents. Some residents, however, took the opportunity to make additional comments which are referred to below.

One resident felt some 'give and take' was required by the Authority when taking decisions on house improvements referring to current day energy conservation pressures that conflict with conservation area considerations. *It is appreciated there can be conflict concerning these matters with residents wanting to making improvements using plastic double glazing windows and solar panels etc. Green initiatives should be encouraged, however, if they become too visually prominent, conservation areas lose their special character and the reason for their designation.*

Attention was drawn to problems of brambles overhanging the public footpath that cause an obstruction at the bottom end of Chapel Lane forcing residents to walk on the carriageway. *This matter has been raised with the County Highway Authority and it has responded stating it will carry out an inspection and send a letter to the owner.*

A couple of residents felt the 'umbrella' hanging basket stand on Main Street is unsightly and should be removed. The baskets resemble black mushrooms and are not in keeping with a village environment. *It is accepted the Umbrella Stand is an incongruent feature in the conservation area. The stand was installed by Ratby Parish Council. In the summer when the baskets are in bloom, they do provide a splash of colour on Main Street.*

The resident at 111 Main Street drew attention to an old barn sited in the curtilage of his property and queried whether it should be identified as an 'Important Local Building' on the Appraisal Map. *The building has been inspected and found to have been significantly altered and now has a flat roof. In the circumstances, it is considered that the building doesn't warrant being listed as an 'Important Local Building'.*

He also raised concerns over a retaining wall that runs up the common boundary of his property and adjacent housing site at Bumblebee Close. The wall is starting to lean in two different directions and a gap is developing. A gas meter is attached to the wall and there are concerns it could fracture and cause an explosion. *The Borough Council's Building Control Section is currently checking on this risk.*

One resident stated that he totally agreed with comments in the Management Plan regarding the proliferation of street furniture. He felt that there are far too many road signs. He also raised concerns that the view of oncoming traffic at the junction of Station Road and Chapel Lane is poor and needs improving. *The highway matters raised will be forwarded on to the County Highway Authority.*

The vicar of St Philip and St James Parish Church stated the north entrance door into the church is to be restored and currently there are problems with the metal windows at the Church Rooms starting to rust and the matter is to be dealt with. *It is gratifying*

to hear that work is being undertaken to help keep the traditional character of the conservation area.

A standard response has been received from Western Power Distribution (WPD) putting forward comments that are aimed to help protect its business interests when development is being considered. WPD is responsible for the electricity distribution covering the Midlands, South West and Wales to provide power to industrial, commercial and domestic users. The Company has requested that when development is being proposed in the immediate proximity of its network and equipment, its guidance is taken into account and where appropriate, is consulted at an early stage. In relation to the Ratby Conservation Area, the Company does not object to the under grounding of some power cables providing any costs involved are met by developers. *WPD's response is noted. The Company is on this Authority's statutory consultation list and is consulted when planning applications and development proposals are put forward that could affect its interests.*

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