

## **Note on the AVDC Conservation Areas Supplementary Planning Document:**

### **Emilia Hands, Conservation Areas Officer, Aylesbury Vale District Council**

The AVDC Conservation Areas Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared to provide additional guidance to parties about the interpretation and application of the Council's Conservation Area policies. The Conservation Area SPD explains the policy framework for this guidance and summarises the process by which Conservation Areas within Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) are designated, appraised, monitored and managed.

The Council shares the objectives of the planning system to protect and manage the built historic environment. Careful management of new development and monitoring change within the District's Conservation Areas is crucial to ensuring the future preservation and enhancement of the historic built environment. The SPD is made up of four main sections :

#### **Section 1**

- Introduction and Purpose of the document

#### **Section 2**

- Conservation Area Review – setting out the Council's approach

#### **Section 3**

- General Principles of Conservation Area Management– setting out the broad approach to common themes in Conservation Area Management

#### **Section 4**

- Achieving the General Principles- setting out the advisory and regulatory powers available to the Council, and how local communities can preserve and enhance their areas.

The SPD has been out to Public Consultation since late January. The consultation ended on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March and we have received some helpful suggestions from Sandy relating to additions to the document and minor amendments to wording.

We will be writing a report on the consultation responses and making the necessary revisions to the document soon. The SPD then has to be signed off by AVDC Councillors and formally adopted. Formal adoption cannot take place until the AVDC Core Strategy has been adopted. The earliest date that we have for Core Strategy adoption is September 2010, but this may happen later in the year or early 2011.

## **Other AVDC Conservation Area Documents:**

The SPD forms part of the emerging AVDC Local Development Framework, and acts as an important linking document between the LDF policies and AVDC's Conservation Area Appraisals, Management Plans and associated documents.

#### *Conservation Area Appraisals*

Conservation Area Appraisals contain the written justification for designation. They are an essential tool within the planning process and are used to inform design proposals and planning decisions within a Conservation Area.

#### *Conservation Area Management Plans*

Due to the number of Conservation Areas within the District and the length of time it would take to produce management plans for each one, AVDC has adopted a two stage approach to Conservation Area

##### *Stage 1: Aylesbury Vale District Wide Strategy (AVDWS)*

The AVDWS identifies key management issues which are found throughout the District, and sets out short, medium and long term goals for their monitoring and management.

##### *Stage 2: Conservation Area specific Management Plans*

Individual Conservation Area Management Plans draw on the Conservation Area Appraisal and the AVDWS to provide detailed design guidance and identify the management issues specific to each Conservation Area.

In addition, AVDC have the following document which is not referenced in the SPD:

#### *Model Strategy for Conservation Area Management Plans:*

This document was written at the same time as the AVDWS, in partnership with English Heritage. It is intended to be transferable, so that English Heritage can distribute it to all LPAs to provide extra guidance on the preparation of Conservation Area Management Plans.