

**OFFORD CLUNY CONSERVATION AREA CHARACTER STATEMENT
(Report by Planning Policy Manager)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Cabinet's approval for the attached document to be formally adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Huntingdonshire Local Plan.

2. CONSERVATION AREA CHARACTER STATEMENTS

- 2.1 The District Council is committed to the production of Conservation Area Character Statements to provide an analysis of the special interest of all the District's 63 Conservation Areas. These documents are intended for adoption as Supplementary Planning Guidance and are used to guide decisions on planning matters and other changes to the fabric of Conservation Areas to ensure that the character and appearance of Conservation Areas is not diminished or wantonly eroded. It is also hoped that the publication of such documents will help to increase public awareness of the special qualities that make the District's Conservation Areas unique.
- 2.2 It has been agreed by Cabinet that from the 1st April 2003, that conservation area boundaries would be reviewed during the production of the Conservation Area Character Statements. Please note that the Offord Cluny Conservation Area Character Statement was in production prior to the 1st April 2003 and therefore a boundary review is not part of this document.
- 2.3 The special character and interest of the Conservation Area is conveyed within the document through, maps and photographic illustrations as well as written text. Specific references are made to:-
- The historical development of Offord Cluny
 - The essential characteristics of the streets and spaces within the Conservation Area.
 - The important views and focal points within the village.
 - The public open space and pattern of development in the Conservation Area.
 - The prevalent architectural styles seen within Offord Cluny.

- Identifying the variety of construction materials, which contribute to the character of the village.
- The opportunities for enhancement presented within the Conservation Area.

3. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 3.1 A draft version of the Offord Cluny Conservation Area Character Statement was approved by Cabinet on 26th June 2003, and was subsequently put out to public consultation. Such a process of consultation was required to be undertaken before the document could be considered for formal adoption as Supplementary Planning Guidance.
- 3.2 Feedback that was generated from the consultation process was, in the case of this character statement, limited despite the document being sent to 18 consultees. All comments received had been considered with one resulting in an amendment being made to the text. No formal objections to the document were received.
- 3.3 Please refer to Annex 1 for a summary of the comments made by the consultees to whom this document was sent. The action taken against each comment is duly noted.
- 3.4 During the course of the consultation process a further enhancement opportunity was identified within the conservation area. Paragraph 4.1(x) has been inserted in the document to reflect this.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That the Cabinet consider the comments given in Annex 1 and paragraph 3.4 and agree to adopt the revised Offord Cluny Conservation Area Character Statement as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Huntingdonshire Local Plan.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Department of the Environment and Department of National Heritage
PPG 15: Planning and the Historic Environment

CONTACT OFFICER

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