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Deputation to HBC Council 25th September 2019: Old Bedhampton Conservation Area Review.

- Conservation Areas are **special** places. Places with a **duty** to protect and enhance them. Places that provide **benefits** that can be, **and are**, freely enjoyed by present **and** future citizens.
- **History** has provided Bedhampton with a **varied** collection of heritage assets popular with the whole of the Borough and beyond...formal and informal recreation, a contribution to health and well-being for **all generations** and to social cohesion
- Bedhampton residents see the guardianship of these assets as a **shared** civic duty on behalf of the future of the Borough.
- In the light of the Council's lack of resources, action was taken to secure the resources needed to commission the **much overdue** review of the Conservation Area in accordance with the Council's brief and to be conducted in full collaboration with the officers.
- The Review has brought together local knowledge and experience with that of experts. This has uncovered **yet more** evidence of both **ancient** and **more recent** history; the impact of **pre-settlement seasonal movements** determined by the form of the landscape particularly journeys around the obstacle created by Portsdown Hill; **links** from the rich coastal salt marshes to the resources of the Forest of Bere; the significance of **access to and from** Langstone Harbour, **so important for centuries** that the advent of the railway, unlike many other places along the railway track, provided bridges to safeguard this. More work needs to be done on such aspects.
- Residents are naturally **disappointed** that conservation area guidance is **yet** to embrace ways to include the evidence of the **entire** heritage assets found within the historic setting of the village.
- The Borough may be able to find **complimentary ways** to do this as part of the **5-year strategy** for ongoing work on the protection and enhancement that will follow the designation.
- Residents will be **happy** to continue to work with the Borough on these issues and **especially** ways to safeguard the character and amenities of the roads and public spaces, which form the parts of the designated area over which the authority has **most** influence.
- Residents **support** the proposed boundary extensions and the 'satellite' designation related to Manor Farm.
- The Review took **much longer than planned** through circumstances beyond the control of the parties. **Patience and stamina** came into play. Residents **fully appreciate** and **thank** the members and officers for their time commitment and consideration of **all** the matters that arose.
- At a time when the Council is considering its **Vision** for the Borough and the contribution it will make to Regeneration, **our heritage assets** can play a **significant** part.
- As President Kennedy said, " We celebrate the Past to awaken the Future". Inspiring words.
- Thank you.

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