

## **Deputation by Mr Keith Mayor to the Operations & Place Shaping Board on 17 July 2019**

The Old Bedhampton Conservation Area is within a beautiful little village and worthy of protection and this review is an excellent opportunity to provide and expand that protection, enhancing the area even further for future generations.

I was surprised that Lower Road was not included in the Conservation Area when I initially visited Old Bedhampton.

The Council ignored the independent Conservation Review recommendations to include all the additional areas in their consultation review version without any reasons provided for the limited selection and when questioned at the drop in session had no real explanation as to why. The main reason seemed to be a reluctance to have a thin strip of land within the Conservation Area along Lower Road to include the farm cottages and the Old Manor Farm. I was also informed the distance to Old Manor Farm was too far away from the Conservation Area but this is simply not true. The pub north of the main road, which is recommended to be included, is a further distance away from the existing Conservation Area than the Old Manor Farm. At the drop in session, there was also a denial that Lower Road was a sunken lane and that Narrow Marsh Lane was an ancient road and therefore of little significance. The revised recommendations look unbalanced in surrounding the village and also includes a car park.

Since moving into Lower Road in 2005 I have strived to maintain the bank on the front of my garden to provide a sympathetic setting and enhance the entrance to the Conservation Area.

It would be a great loss if all the residents along Lower Road built walls and removed the banks to provide driveways as one resident has already done. There is nothing in place to prevent everyone else from concreting their front gardens and removing the grass bank which creates the sunken lane. I recently had a new driveway built with a narrow entrance and wall only half way down to preserve the grass bank and street view appreciated by all that use Lower Road.

I have also used Narrow Marsh Lane on many occasions to walk down to the railway bridge over the years and would like to see some preservation of this historic railway bridge before the bridge falls into disrepair.

I strongly believe the Old Manor Farm, cottages and sunken lane of Lower Road, which is perhaps not the best example of a sunken lane in the country but certainly the best in the borough, should be included within the Conservation Area.

Narrow Marsh Lane is an ancient road and is clearly an important heritage asset worthy of inclusion in the Conservation Area and also the railway bridge, which would benefit from some restoration.

The field between Narrow Marsh Lane and the current Conservation Area should also be included as this provides the setting and is associated with the farm buildings in Lower Road. The non-native *Leylandii* type conifers, to the east of Narrow Marsh

Lane, are reaching their end of life and the Conservation Area setting will be significantly improved by their removal.

This is our opportunity, and the duty of elected Councillor's, to provide the enhancements and protection needed to preserve this superb area for future generations. Now is the time to be brave in making the right decision to create a vision for the future of this jewel within Havant.