



9 am to 4 pm Mondays to Fridays

Robert Scrimgeour
Principal Design and Conservation Officer
East Suffolk House
Station Road
Melton
Woodbridge
IP12 1RT

4th November 2019

Dear Robert

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: DRAFT CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

On behalf of Felixstowe Town Council, thank you for inviting feedback on the draft Conservation Area Appraisal document. The Council's Planning & Environment Committee welcomed this full, informative and well written Conservation Area Appraisal. Members enjoyed reading the history of Felixstowe, finding the document well-researched and interesting.

Committee welcomed the architectural photographic details within the text which provide a visual history of Felixstowe. They also highlight the collective value these smaller architectural details contribute to the richness of the Conservation Area architecture of the town, erosion of which will lead to a diminution of the architectural heritage of Felixstowe.

The document's reference to the few green spaces in Felixstowe were noted and Committee would encourage the District Council to ensure their preservation. The Committee would like greater emphasis given to the conservation where possible of trees and vegetation in the townscape and welcomes comments on page 24 regarding the preservation of trees.

The following are Committee's comments to references in the document:

Page 1 Felixstowe is approximately 10 miles from Ipswich cross country not the seven stated in the first paragraph. This is also mentioned under 4.1 on page 17.

Page 3 It would be useful to refer to the new Local Plan which will be adopted shortly.

Page 4 Second bullet point makes mention of the grid layout, with 'wide and spacious' streets - this may be true to some but generally not in the Victorian areas of the town.

The penultimate bullet point mentions 'Staffordshire blue kerb stones' and the value of maintaining them. Committee are interested to know whether these are still being preserved. At one time a stock was kept by Norse/Highways for pavement work – is there still such a stock or could investigations be made into having a batch produced and grant funding available for this?

The last bullet point mentions the town's wider coastal setting as a 'sea' defence, Members would like this changed to 'marine' defence.

Page 5 The description of the picture under 3 History and archaeology is incorrect. The drawing is depicting Martello Tower P and the Martello on the cliff is Martello Tower Q.

3.1 First paragraph, last sentence should read 'can still be seen at low tide off Cliff Road' and not Golf Road.

- Page 6 The picture of Felixstowe Lodge c.1830 has Martello Tower Q in the background and not R.
- Page 8&13 Both mention day trips by rail from London – Committee thought that most day trips made by rail were made from Ipswich (it was the steamers which brought passengers from East London).
- Page 11 Committee feels it would be worth mentioning that the Town Hall Gardens Shelter incorporated a large water holding tank – at that time the Urban District Council were responsible for provision of gas, water and electricity to the Town.
- Page 15 The second paragraph mentions the Triangle gardens being at the top of Hamilton Road when in fact the Triangle is in the 'centre' of Hamilton Road.
- Page 16 Where major public investment is mentioned. The Committee felt the £20m funding of the sea defences in 2013/4 should be credited for the replacement of the sand which has greatly enhanced the beaches upon which Felixstowe tourism relies.
- Page 17 Where it says at top of second column 'To the north of the town centre is the old fishing village of Old Felixstowe' this should read to the 'North East'
- Page 19 Second paragraph 'Development immediately outside the Conservation Area, and in some cases well beyond its boundaries, may have a significant impact on the character and appearance of the area. Relevant Historic England advice etc.' Committee recognise the intent of this paragraph but would caution its application in the resort area which has its own evolution change which is the essence of the town being a coastal resort. There is concern about the use of the words 'well beyond' its boundaries.
- Page 21 Last paragraph talks about the windows in the Conservation area. Committee welcome comments on the importance of replacing windows with like for like, if not with the same material certainly with same configuration of windows and enforcement of this should rigorously enforced.
- Page 44 First paragraph - The Triangle is in the centre of Hamilton Road so it should read 'In the central area, the Triangle was acquired and first'
- Page 45 The shop fronts pay no regard to the fine architectural detailing above. – Committee asked if we could be more stringent on signage?

The Committee would like to endorse the sentiments of undesirable changes which include inappropriate alterations of scale and detailing of original properties, highlighted with many of the shop fronts in the Conservation Area. They also note the comments on the loss of front boundaries and front gardens to off-street parking and welcome the public guidance and other advisory material aimed at positively enhancing the area are to be welcomed.

Yours sincerely,



Ash Tadjrishi
Town Clerk to Felixstowe Town Council