

Dartford Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal And Management Plan Public Consultation Questionnaire

Dartford Borough Council is currently developing a Conservation Area Management Plan for Dartford town centre.

The town centre is a Conservation Area because its buildings and spaces, its churches, shops, houses, streets and parks, reflect the historic development of the town since Roman times, through the medieval to the modern period.

The appraisal and management plan:

- assesses what is special about the historic character of the Town Centre Conservation Area
- defines the boundaries of the Conservation Area
- identifies the issues that are facing the Town Centre
- sets out proposals and actions to ensure that the Council looks after this core area of historic interest.

The document will underpin plans for a Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) scheme (funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund), which aims to help communities like Dartford regenerate the historic parts of their towns and cities. The management plan also furthers the Council's commitment to making Dartford a place of quality and choice, to ensuring design excellence in all new developments, and particularly to promoting the heritage of the borough.

Atkins Heritage, the consultants commissioned by the Council to produce this document, have carried out a lot of research and exploration of the town centre, and have consulted with a wide range of interest groups in Dartford in the process of developing the plan. These groups include:

- Dartford Borough Council
- Dartford Borough Museum
- Dartford Archaeological Group
- Dartford Historical and Antiquarian Society
- Dartford Town Centre Forum
- Dartford and Gravesend Building Preservation Trust
- North West Kent College

The Council is keen to know your views on the proposals set out in the plan, and on what is important to you about the character of Dartford town centre. The complete draft of the Conservation Management Plan document is available to read online at: <http://www.dartford.gov.uk/planningpolicy/BackgroundStudies.htm>

Please take a few minutes to complete the following questionnaire. Your response will help to shape the future management, conservation and development of Dartford's historic character.



Q1: What is important to you about Dartford town centre?

	Agree strongly	Agree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	Don't know
Its attractiveness as a place to shop					
Its historical importance and development since Roman times, illustrated by its streets and buildings					
The park and green spaces					
The views from the town centre to East Hill and West Hill					
The town's industrial history					
The character of the area, with its variety of spaces, architectural styles and historic buildings					
The familiar landmarks it contains					
The spiritual feel of the place, reflected in the religious buildings and graveyards					

If there is anything else that you like or consider to be important about Dartford town centre please add it to the box below:

Q2: What do you think are the most important issues facing Dartford town centre?

	Agree strongly	Agree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	Don't know
The ground floor vacancy in buildings on the High Street					
The lack of people living in the area					
The gradual loss of character through inappropriate styles of modern shop frontages, their colours & materials					
The clutter created by too many signs, bollards, barriers, inappropriate paving etc.					
The unclear walking route from the train station to the High Street					
The traffic junctions at the foot of East & West Hill, which spoil the appearance and walking routes through the historic town centre					
The lack of information displayed about Dartford's history and importance					
Modern development, which may spoil pleasant views, and the scale & character of the town centre					
The lack of protection for Listed Buildings and other important historic buildings					

Q3: Do you feel that the following proposals will help to look after the heritage of Dartford town centre?

	Agree strongly	Agree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	Don't know
A list of buildings that are of local historical importance, but not protected by national designation, should be drawn up to ensure their protection					
Developers, builders & designers should follow guidance on enhancing & complimenting the heritage of Dartford					
New buildings and development should not spoil attractive views in the town centre and outwards to East Hill & West Hill					
The walking route from the railway station to the town centre should be more attractive and clear					
The north/south route along the River Darent should be more attractive and publicly accessible					
Better pedestrian access should be created between the grounds of Acacia Hall and Central Park					
Shop front designs should follow guidance for protecting Dartford's historic character					
Pavements, street lights, bollards etc. should be enhanced to be in keeping with the historic character of the town centre					
More information should be displayed and heritage trails developed to help people to understand the historical importance of the town centre					
Education packs for schools should be developed, to help children to understand the historical importance of the town					
Improvements to Central Park and the gardens of Acacia Hall should reflect the historic character of the area					

Q4: What do you think are the three most important improvements that could be made to enhance the character of the town centre?

1.

2.

3.

Q5: The map attached shows the conservation area boundary, and indicates its most recent extensions. The boundary is meant to include the main historic buildings and spaces in the town centre.

Are there any features included within this boundary, which you feel ought to be excluded? If yes, please say why.

Are there any individual features *immediately adjacent* to the boundary, which you feel ought to be included? If yes, please say why.

Q6: If you have read the draft conservation area appraisal, please use the space below to let us have your views on the document.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the respondent to provide their views on the draft conservation area appraisal. The box is currently blank.

Q7: If you have read the draft conservation management plan, please use the space below to let us have your views on the proposals and conclusions, or anything else about the document.

Please complete your details:

Name:

Address: No/ Name

Street:.....

Town:..... **County:**..... **Postcode:**.....



Tel:.....

Email address:

Dartford Borough Council would like to keep your details on file so that we can let you know about other events and activities within Dartford. If you would prefer not to receive this information please tick this box.



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-  Current Boundary of the Conservation Area
-  Proposed Alteration to the Conservation Area

Scale 1:5 000

The Boundaries of the Conservation Area,
 showing the most recent extensions
 Figure 14