

Dear Mr Tice,

## **Draft Smiths Green Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan consultation**

Thank you for notifying Historic England about the above consultation. As the Government's adviser on the historic environment, Historic England is keen to ensure that the protection of the historic environment is fully taken into account at all stages and levels of the local planning process.

We welcome the production of this appraisal and management plan for the Smiths Green Conservation Area and are reassured by considered and sound approach outlined within the document, and clear and accessible presentation which expresses a compelling narrative of Smiths Green's history, character and heritage.

Due to the thorough nature of the appraisal and management plan, our feedback can be considered minor observations or suggestions:

- The use of an information panel on p.12 is a helpful addition to the document. If there is opportunity to add one or two more to add context to other aspects of the appraisal, this would only add value.
- Inclusion of a photograph of Moat Cottage to be included within the heading 'Key Buildings – Designated' to remain consistent.
- We welcome the opportunity for enhancements in relation to 'wayfinding on the approach to and within the settlement' (p.36), removal of overgrown vegetation to reveal the 19<sup>th</sup> century listed pump (p.37), as we believe this will further enhance and promote the historic environment and the importance of Smiths Green's heritage.
- In relation to the 6.2 Public Realm, we would recommend regular periodic monitoring of existing street furniture shown in fig.17 to ensure these items are routinely maintained and do not fall into disrepair and negatively impact the village green. Further guidance on signage and street furniture can be found in Historic England's 2018 [Streets for All](#)

One additional point to add is on p.43 'Funding Opportunities', while the Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas is still in place, like all funding streams, it is subject to review, and it may be that other heritage focused funding streams may be more suitable. We would however, be happy to discuss and advise on potential funding routes in the future.

To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on or, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise as a result of the proposed conservation area appraisal, where we consider these would have an adverse effect on the historic environment.

Historic England, Brooklands, 24 Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge CB2 8BU

Telephone 01223 58 2749 [HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)

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Historic England

If you have any queries about this matter or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ross McGivern  
Historic Places Advisor, East of England



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