

Update on Local Heritage Asset Listing Project

Members will recall that in 2014 a small team embarked on a local heritage asset listing project, in partnership with East Devon District Council and Devon County Council's Historic Environment Team, and the Fairlynch Museum. Nominations were sought from the general public and two exhibitions were held in 2015 with information about the 279 nominations that had been received for the draft list of local heritage assets. These included street scene features, Victorian, Edwardian and Arts and Crafts style houses, as well as rural buildings and landscape features. All the nominations can be viewed on the OVA website under the 'Built Heritage' section.

The next stage of the project was to assess the nominations against the agreed English Heritage selection criteria. These included rarity, age, aesthetic value, group value, historic association and evidential value. Further research was done, and one of the team undertook a detailed analysis of Budleigh Salterton's unique and distinctive character, to help inform the process. We had meetings with East Devon District Council officers with responsibility for local listing, and were pleased that a planning policy, EN8, in the Local Plan 2013-2031, specifically mentioned local listing.

EN8 – Significance of Heritage Assets and their Setting

When considering development proposals the significance of any heritage assets and their settings, should first be established by the applicant through a proportionate but systematic assessment following the East Devon District Council guidance notes for 'Assessment of Significance' (and the English Heritage guidance 'The Setting Of Heritage Assets') or any replacement guidance, sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of the asset. This policy applies to both designated and non-designated heritage assets, including any identified on the East Devon local list.

In April 2016 details of assessed local heritage assets in the lower Otter Valley were sent to East Devon District Council for further consideration. The Sid Vale Association also undertook a similar exercise in their local area. East Devon District Council then had to check them, and if they agreed, had to ratify the list of local heritage assets. Unfortunately, no further progress was made on this important planning matter, due to lack of staff resources at EDDC. However, in 2018 East Devon District Council published their Heritage Strategy. Following on from this, they approved a Guide to Local Listing of Local Heritage Assets, that can be viewed at:

<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/east-devon-heritage-and-local-heritage-assets/>

EDDC have now started a 'list of local heritage assets' which is used by planners when development proposals are being assessed for planning permission for locally listed buildings. This list can also be viewed on the above web information page, and so far a number of assets in East Budleigh and Budleigh Salterton are now listed.

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