

Wirksworth Civic Society
Townscape Working Party Meeting

Tuesday 2nd August 2005

Draft Notes

Present

Colin Pidgeon. Chair, CS
Ian Dare, Chair, Working Party
Janet Pidgeon, Minuting Secretary
Adam Lathbury
Marian Vaughan

Apologies

Gerry Vaughan

Key points from meeting:

- Members of group reported on pilot audits :

ID - Market Place & West End

Area audited, including alleyways & courtyards using list & maps; features still there & generally in good condition, apart from outside Building Society. In some places it is difficult to distinguish between original features & reclaimed ones resulting from Wirksworth Project; map does not differentiate. Some areas & features need to be added, including Cook's yard & paving outside Teddy Bear Shop.
ID has produced a list in a different format.

AL - Greenhill

Map accurate but some private areas merit recording; condition good; small remnants of original paving left, probably condition no worse than earlier. A lot of development up, using local stone.

C&JP – The Dale

Generally little change but some disgraceful areas particularly in front of the playground which was locked; unclear where setts have been removed or tarmaced over.
Some drains affected by debris washed down pathways; some gutters lacking lids or broken; seat in bad condition.
Roof of Electricity Board building in dangerous condition.
Also noted that Old Coop building is in very poor condition; area on left of car park has unmarked, unprotected deep drop; space at back of Dale House filled with rubbish.
Parts of crown Yard in bad condition.

- Audit of amenities & Town Fabric:
To be kept separate from Paving Survey
Buildings needing attention to be logged at CS Committee meetings & kept on record; District Council to be informed.

- Queries on survey of retail & business use of premises:
-What was the benchmark?
-Clarification of status of 'Off the roll'?

- Boundaries of CS remit:
Areas outside boundaries could be most at risk; members to be encouraged to report on them if they wish to participate.

****Conclusions & proposed actions:***

- Pilot considered to be successful
- CP to inform MR of drop at edge of car park in The Dale & of playground being locked
- CP to inform Electricity Board of state of roof
- AL to work on user-friendly format starting with Greenhill
Other details could be added to list & map eg. handrails.
Responsibility for maintenance to be identified & suggestions to be passed on to District Council.
This exercise to set benchmarks.
Audit could be carried out biennially.
Proforma to be produced for next meeting.
Sheets to be produced for each area.
- Sheets to be posted on website
- Display to be produced for Christmas Party
- MR to be reminded about photos of sensitive views
- Meeting to be requested with District Council before Christmas Party to discuss findings
- Channel of communication to be set up with District Conservation Officers, Tania McBurnry & Dr Mark Askey through liaison with Mike Ratcliffe so that CS can make representations when appropriate & necessary
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- Membership to be invited to participate via regular agenda item on building fabric at Committee meetings

Next meeting:

Group to meet Tuesday 6th September at 7.30pm at 10 Summer Drive

Main Agenda item:

-Format for survey

