

Appendix B

Public Engagement

A public engagement event was held in the Sommerville Weir Hall in the village on 30 May 2019 to inform anyone interested of the preparation of the conservation area appraisal and to obtain views and comments.

A consultant from Austin-Smith:Lord who prepared the appraisal for Inverclyde Council was in attendance along with a Council planning officer. They were available throughout the event to discuss the appraisal and answer questions. Two short presentations were also made with question and answer sessions following.



One of the short presentations during the public engagement

In total, 44 people attended the event with 9 leaving written comments. Below is a summary of the subjects on which comments were made.

Comments

What is good about the CA?

- the unique village feel and architecture for future generations
- it retains the essential character and historic environment
- it should provide protection when development applications are considered
- the influence it will have on future developments to retain village character
- the sense of place and atmosphere
- the architectural style
- the scale and character of the buildings

- idyllic quiet setting
- a place for local people
- it looks as it did years ago
- well-kept and maintained
- spacious surroundings
- the openness without garden boundaries
- pleasing appearance
- the quality of the visual environment

How could the CA be better?

- more local involvement with owners better public transport
- better maintenance eg clear gutters re-instate the pond and the missing fountain
- resurfacing road and controlling the uniformity of speed bumps enforce keeping it looking amazing
- some cosmetic additions in style of existing features eg street lamps
- improve broadband and mobile reception
- greater clarity on what the conservation area is and how it impact on people living and working there
- the character of the surrounding green spaces should be explicitly reflected in planning considerations

What would you like to see happen in the CA?

- set up a group of Council, Quarriers, home owners from in and around CA to ensure longevity of the village
- protect it
- continue to prevent further development
- get the majority of the buildings listed to reflect the quality
- government funding to resurface road
- use it more for school trips and other educational purposes
- create a museum using old Quarrier's artefacts
- greater community use of the spaces
- no new residential building
- a more strategic planning process involving contributions from all stakeholders to clarify how area can be conserved and enhanced as a living village rather than a museum.

Individual comments were also made relating to financial responsibility for grounds maintenance, the extent of Quarriers' ownership of buildings and the underestimated volume of traffic in the village.