

## West Wiltshire District Council Draft Building Conservation Strategy - Responses Received (April 2004)

### APPENDIX 2

Name	Summary of Comments	Draft Council Response	Recommendation
Bradford on Avon Town Council	Very Concerned about the potential withdrawing of funds to support the historic built environment. Strongly recommends the Status Quo (Option 1). Alternatively Option 3 may be supported on the Town Council's terms, as they would operate their own independent scheme and request contributions from the District Council. All other options would cause the Town Council to withdraw its contribution of £10,000.	Welcome comments. Understand the concerns raised.	Option 5 is adopted
Bradford Historic Buildings Joint Committee.	Reminds the District Council of the legal obligation to ensure the preservation of Historic Buildings. It was also felt that maintaining the built environment is closely linked to the viability of the District, attracting productive residents and cash paying tourists to the area. Recommended unanimously that Option 1 is supported together with a substantial increase in the conservation budget.	Welcome comments. Propose modified review of grants to be put to Members.	Option 5 is adopted
Hilperton Parish Council	No specific comments to make.	N/A	N/A
Melksham Town Council	Welcomes the review. Unable to fully support any of the four options on grants but wished to make the following comment; " The practice of local involvement be continued, but that in future West Wiltshire District Council sets its own policy guidelines with regard to its own financial support. Applicants could then apply separately to the Town Council for further part funding if they wished."	Welcome comments. Propose modified review of grants	Option 5 is adopted
Melksham Without Parish Council	Welcome the strategy in principle. However, there was concern that the Strategy is very town orientated and does not give sufficient attention to conservation in rural areas. Their detailed comments were under three headings; <b>Key areas of work</b> ; welcome greater promotion	Welcome comments.  Discussions already in place to speak at meetings on	

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	<p>of the historic environment. Need for more proactive techniques and policy formulation, encouraging more involvement at Parish level.</p> <p><b>Present Grant System and Review;</b> Support Option 2 subject to inclusion of parish representatives as well as towns. Also needs to be a list of other grant sources available for the general public. Should Option 3 be favoured the CO should still liase with Towns and Parishes.</p> <p><b>Buildings at Risk Register;</b> At risk buildings can be through sale and development as well as from lack of maintenance without the knowledge of the public. As well as storing this information on the web site, it should also be publicised in West Wilts Matters to encourage people to report buildings unknown to the Council.</p> <p><b>Conservation Areas; Consider</b> that the priority for this area of work should be with new conservation areas before the non-protected areas are spoilt by new development. A more comprehensive approach should be taken involving all local groups and communities in being involved in reviewing boundaries and thereby ensuring more local ownership of conservation areas.</p>	<p>Historic Environment. Production of leaflets is one facet of work that will be more fully addressed once more resources are in place to assist.</p> <p>Modification to grants should assist in catering for the rural areas.</p> <p>Point noted.</p> <p>Priority still to be agreed but Officers recommend that priorities are towards regeneration of historic market towns and need to focus on these areas first before dealing with new designations.</p>	<p>Option 5 is adopted to ensure graeter spread of finances into rural areas.</p> <p>More proactive approach towards publicising Buildings and Risk should be considered.</p> <p>It is considered that it is more important to manage and review existing Conservation Areas before considering designating new ones.</p>
Trowbridge Town Council	It was resolved that the Committee preferred Option 1 for the Grant review.	Noted	Option 5 is adopted.
Trowbridge Historic Buildings Joint Committee.	Option 1 of the proposals to review the grant system be supported i.e. that the present system of administering grants remains unaltered.	Noted	Option 5 is adopted.
Warminster Historic Buildings Joint Committee.	Option 1 of the proposals to review the grant system be supported i.e. that the present system of administering grants remains unaltered Consideration should be given to the possibility of including Westbury within the Warminster Historic Buildings Joint Committee with a request for funding from Westbury Town Council.	Westbury Town Council have been contacted and awaiting their response to this suggestion.	Option 5 is adopted.
Warminster Preservation Trust	Welcomes the review. Agree that grants are the most obvious method of securing the preservation of Buildings at Risk but that the present grants on	The new strategy will ensure that all listed buildings, no matter what their listing status will only be considered for grant aid if they are on the Buildings	

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	<p>offer from WWDC are relatively small. WWDC are notoriously slow at issuing Urgent or Repairs Notices.</p> <p><b>Present Grant System;</b> Agreed need to review present procedures for operating grants. As there are limited resources in WWDC, to bring in an option that may run the risk of towns withdrawing financial assistance would seem foolhardy. If the Council was to go for Option 2, a centralised system, there would be a risk of grants aiding Grade I and II* on the Buildings at Risk Register rather than the majority of Grade II buildings.</p> <p><b>Review of Conservation Areas.</b> Warminster urgently needs a Conservation Area Appraisal. It is considered that issues such as under use of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors or above shop premises, shopping patterns, retention of redundant features and poor advertisement control should be addressed. Advice for residents explaining the law should also be provided.</p> <p><b>Other Issues; Need</b> to link through to other areas of Control such as Disabled access and Fire Regulations.</p>	<p>at Risk Register.</p> <p>If Option 5 is adopted then there will not be a centralised system except for those areas that fail to match fund WWDC for the relevant HBJC.</p> <p>It is recognised that the 5 towns all require a fully comprehensive Conservation Area Character Assessment.</p>	<p>Option 5 is adopted.</p> <p>It is recommended that the priority for the production of conservation area character assessments should be for the five towns initially.</p>
Westbury Town Council	<p>Indicated that they will be interested in joining with Warminster Town Council and making a contribution of £4,000 towards the HBJC.</p>	<p>This is welcomed and once the final contributions have been verified the Constitution for the Warminster HBJC can be amended to include Westbury.</p>	<p>Option 5 accommodates this alteration in the organisation of the current HBJC's.</p>
Wiltshire Historic Buildings Trust.	<p>Welcomes the opportunity to comment on the review. The Trust is represented on the Historic Buildings Joint Committees in Bradford, Trowbridge and Warminster and has made their comments on the grant review through these bodies.</p> <p><b>Buildings at Risk</b> Fully supports WWDC to take action where historic buildings are identified and the maintenance of an up-to-date register is clearly important. The proposal to utilise the limited grant resource on buildings in most urgent</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The strategy on this area is endorsed by the Trust and it is considered appropriate to go forward on this basis with a detailed survey of the BARS in the District.</p>	<p>Option 5 is adopted.</p> <p>The BAR survey will be fed into the allocation of Historic Building Grants</p>

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	<p>need of repair is logical. To further this aim the Trust is willing to consider a "back-to- back" arrangement in suitable cases.</p> <p><b>Conservation Areas.</b> Supports the preparation and publication of guidance and assessments in advance of further designations. A review of existing Conservation Areas as part of the appraisal process would seem sensible.</p> <p><b>Funding Issues;</b> The Trust outlined the threat hanging over funding from national bodies such as English Heritage and the need for WWDC to take positive action in this area to compensate.</p> <p><b>Policy and Guidance;</b> These views are supported.</p>	<p>Priority should be given to reviewing boundaries and production of assessments for existing conservation areas.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	<p>It is considered that a review of the existing Conservation Areas in line with the strategy on Market Town regeneration and production of Conservation Area Character assessments should go ahead.</p>
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