

VDS progress update 06/06/19

A first exploratory draft of the VDS was produced through the collective efforts of the working group in January. Peter Bowman and myself then undertook to review and edit this further with a view to circulating and displaying it publicly during March/April. During this period, the Outdoor Learning Centre became a more pressing issue in the Village, so the wider public engagement work was postponed at this stage.

The review and editing work highlighted that the texts were still too 'wordy' to be engaging and many of the 'guidelines' proposed lacked compelling linkage to their related texts. The 'built environment' section, in particular, still lacked technical authority and was likely to cross over significantly with the focus of the forthcoming Conservation Area review/assessment being carried out by DDC's heritage experts. Following discussions with Rhian Morgan at DDC I decided that we should hold fire on further efforts until we had seen the results of the review.

The Conservation Area review has now been made available for public consultation (Mon 3rd June). Whilst its geographic focus is solely the designated conservation area in Great Everdon, it does indeed cover many of the elements proposed in the draft VDS in considerable detail. As a result, I will now need to work with DDC to establish how the two documents should be more usefully aligned to avoid repetition, maximise clarity and make good readable sense to Parishioners.

The Conservation area review contains a management plan which will form specific supplementary planning guidance for the main Village and is therefore an important document in terms of planning constraints and heritage protection. It is therefore very important that Everdon residents get involved and make comment during the consultation period.

Following discussion at the June Parish Council meeting (agenda item 18), I propose to issue an update note to all parishioners who have expressed an interest in the VDS to help clarify the positioning of the two documents and encourage them to comment on the CA review.

Ron Flounders

VDS working group