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Furneux Pelham
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25 January 2017

The Conservation Officer
East Herts Council
Wallfields
Pegs Lane
Hertford SG13 8EQ



To whom it may concern:

Having recently taken note of some information in circulation from East Herts council re the conservation area around Furneux Pelham i thought i would make the following observations:

1. The ford at the end of Violets Lane, is, impassable to any normal vehicle, however, this does not stop modified 4x4 vehicles and motorcross vehicles tearing up Violets Lane on a Saturday and Sunday at unsafe speeds (dog walkers and children at play) to see how far they can negotiate said ford.

I understand that some signage will be erected this week, i am unsure of what it will say, but frankly, i think the boundary, just past number 22 The Old Brewery should have some sort of obstruction to prevent vehicles trying to access this route to prevent further land erosion and perhaps more importantly to avoid injury to persons on foot.

2. Local companies who operate in and around Furneux Pelham have large HGVs - sometimes 18 wheeler HGVs -who regularly use the roads in the area.

Excluding local farmers who use the roads, i would suggest an enforcement of weight restriction on the Albury Road and the Causeway to prevent constant wear and erosion which must be soaking up a huge part of the budget for road maintenance.

I would suggest that any company who wishes to use these tiny B roads apply for a permit from the Council, at a rate depending on their volume of traffic.

3. It would be nice that dog poop bins be installed, perhaps one by the football pitch and another at the other end of Village near the church, including dog poop bags dispensers.

Although granted it should be common sense to remove dog litter, people perhaps forget that just because they live in the countryside, its not very green to leave a steaming number 2 on the pavement.

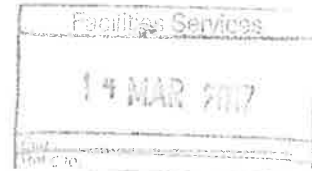
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[REDACTED]
FURNEUX PELHAM

BUNTINGFORD

HERTFORDSHIRE [REDACTED]



13th March 2017

Dear Sirs,

**Furneux Pelham Conservation Area – Character Appraisal
and Management Proposals
Alteration of Boundaries**

I live at the above address [REDACTED]. I was unable to attend the consultation on the above draft Character Appraisal on 8th February 2017 owing to absence abroad, but have now returned and have been able to read the document. As a long-standing resident I do appreciate and support the Council's efforts to up-date the designation. A few relatively minor matters concern me, but there is one particular matter on which I wish to comment, namely the alteration of the boundaries of the Conservation Area by de-designating two patches of land on the eastern and western sides of The Causeway, south of [REDACTED]. De-designating them appears to run counter to principle.

1. I consider first the patch of land to the east of The Causeway.

The field to the south of [REDACTED] and the adjacent field next to Tinkers Hall Farm, referred to in para. 5 (ii) (f) and (i) of the draft, until very recently constituted a single field in single ownership. The ownership is now split but both parts are identified as open spaces of particular importance to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area (para 5.ii) and although they are not identified as giving an important view (para. 5.15) (perhaps because they are not generally visible to the public) they do in fact afford an important view to [REDACTED], and have done so for some 200-300 years. There is no suggestion in para.5 that any part of these fields is not of importance to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. It would be absurd if there were; it is the whole area, bounded on three sides by long established hedges and tree borders, which can be said to be of importance, or to give an important view.

I note that an express purpose of the draft is to ensure that the boundaries of the Conservation Area "align with distinct changes of character with outside areas such that the Conservation Area is both cohesive and defensible" (para1.8); but there is no change of character between the major part of the two fields which it is proposed to retain in the Conservation Area and the small patch which it is proposed to de-designate.

Two possible reasons are advanced for this possible boundary change:

- (a) Para 8 of the draft says that the boundary changes in relation to the patch of land in the south-west corner of the whole field are proposed "to remove areas of no special

interest". There is however no evidence and no argument to support the alleged lack of 'special interest' of this area in isolation, and none is available. It is simply part of an important single open space.

- (b) Para. 5 (18) gives a different justification: the proposed boundary changes are said "to relocate the boundary to locations that correctly define the relevant change of character from settlement to countryside". There is however nothing to justify the (implied) allegation that there is any such change of character between the patch of land in question and either the rest of the field or the area generally.

Neither of these reasons holds water. The plain fact is that if the bulk of these two fields is important to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area, so is the whole of them; and this small patch should remain in the Conservation Area, as it has been for many years. To change the boundary to exclude it would not be defensible (para.4.11)

2. I next consider the patch of land across the road from that considered above (i.e. on the western side), which is subject to different considerations.

This patch of land is, or incorporates, the old village rubbish tip, long disused as such. It has over the years been allowed to become a very pleasant wooded area and a refuge for wild life. It forms a strong defined boundary between the developed part of The Causeway and the open fields beyond, and it has a positive impact on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area, in much the same way as the dense wooded area just beyond the stream to the west of The Causeway, which is specially included in the Conservation Area for just that reason (see fig.69 in the draft). It also provides an attractive approach to the village and to the Conservation Area in particular.

It may perhaps be noted that this wooded area beside The Causeway has recently been cleared of much undergrowth, and fenced along the road frontage. The incidental effect had been to improve the general appearance of the area but also to lead to a suspicion that this may be a prelude to development.

Development of this area would radically damage the character and appearance of this part of the Conservation Area and of the approach to the village, and might incidentally lead to the development of other land nearby. There is here a serious potential threat to the Conservation Area and the draft should take account of it (as the draft itself acknowledges in para. 1.)

Summary

In short there is no justification for the proposals to de-designate either of these areas, and very good reason for not doing so. These particular proposals should therefore be removed from the draft.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

East Herts District Council

Wallfields, Hertford.