



The Civic Society For Milton Keynes

Conservation and Archaeology Team
Milton Keynes Council
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By email to conservationarchaeology@milton-keynes.gov.uk

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Dear Sir

CONSERVATION AREA REVIEW PROGRAMME

We have the following comments upon the review:

a) GENERAL

The Street Furniture of MK is a highly distinctive but little understood part of the city's design heritage and MK Forum is currently undertaking research into the subject. It is our view that the Council should prepare a Design Handbook to cover the matter and guide new installations and replacements. Such items are of particular importance in Conservation Areas (witness recent concerns about the replacement of the lights at Cofferridge Close) and the upgrading of street lamps to LEDs is a particularly sensitive matter, especially when dealing with wall mounted globe lamps (see eg Vicarage Road, Bradwell). We think that it is important that the Reviews should mention the importance of Street Furniture, its importance to the overall quality of the area and specify that any alterations are properly considered as part of a totally designed package and not *ad hoc* installations.

b) MILTON KEYNES VILLAGE

We propose that the Conservation Area boundary be extended to include the dwellings in Little Hame and Manor Close. They were developed in the early 1970s by Wates and are amongst the best private houses in the city. Whilst there have been a number of changes to the properties, the

original character and form is still largely intact and adds substantially to the character of the village. The scheme was designed by Milton Keynes Development Corporation (Trevor Denton) and built by Wates and consists of single storey L shaped dwellings wrapped around completely private gardens. The clear design influence are the housing schemes in Denmark (eg Fredensborg and Kingo) designed by Jorn Utzon, designer of the Sydney Opera House.

c) GREAT LINFORD

1. Pp 4 and 6: The houses on the east side of the Green were designed by *MacCormac and Jamieson*. The designs were approved by MKDC in July 1981 and so the construction period was probably 1981-83.
2. We propose two extensions to the Conservation Area Boundary:
 - a. The inclusion of Pritchard Court Sheltered Housing (architect Martin Richardson). Richardson was one of the country's leading housing architects in the 1970s and 80s and his work at MK (in Bradwell Common, Great Linford and others - see Pevsner) helped to establish his reputation. Pritchard Court is a high quality example of his work and its inclusion within the Conservation Area would help to give it protection from unsympathetic alteration. We also believe that there is an argument to extend the area further to include the adjoining housing in Hartley (also designed by Richardson) for the same reason.
 - b. The inclusion of Hazelwood (architect MKDC), which is widely acknowledged as one of the best housing schemes in MK and is one of only two projects in Milton Keynes to have won a Civic Trust Award (in 1980). The citation reads "Hazelwood is a relaxed and very comfortable place to be in. The two loose concentric rings of houses create a variety of pleasant spaces. They are ingeniously deceptive, giving an impression that the planning came about quite effortlessly and naturally. The handling of the car courtyards with covered porches is extremely successful - a welcome relief from the average solution in segregated car/pedestrian neighbourhood developments. Both hard and soft landscaping have been very well handled with delight round every corner". Hazelwood would form a natural extension to the Conservation Area and its inclusion would help recognition of this highly important scheme and protect it from degradation.

d) BRADWELL

1. The key on Map 1 refers to MK Village.
2. We do not support the assertion that the houses at the northern end of Atterbrook that a negative contribution to the Conservation Area. On the contrary, the scheme is sensitively designed for its village context and we feel is a positive rather than a negative influence and should be identified as such to guide potential redevelopment of infill sites. The frontage to Vicarage Road is substantially similar in appearance to nos 2A and 17 Vicarage Road, which have not been identified as making a negative contribution.

e) SHENLEY CHURCH END

The key on Map 1 refers to MK Village.

I hope that you find these comments of use and would be pleased to discuss them in further detail if you wish. The extensions that we have proposed relate to submissions that we have made as part of the New Town Heritage Register consultation exercise.

Yours faithfully

TIM SKELTON
CHAIR

Please reply to 40A Colesbourne Drive, Downhead Park, Milton Keynes, MK15 9AN
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Revision A