

Consultation Summary

Marine Gardens

As part of the review of Conservation Areas in Worthing, the Council consulted on the following document:

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/Media.170533.smx.pdf>

This report summarises the representations received and the Officers' responses.

Proposed Marine Gardens Conservation Area

The Council received **10** representations (9 reps submitted via the online consultation form). These included:

- **1** written representation from Historic England (statutory consultee)
- **1** written representation from Friends of Marine Gardens
- **7** representations from local residents
- **1** representation from Romney Court Management Company Ltd

The issues raised in these representations are presented below, along with Officers' responses to these comments.

Historic England

Issue	Response
<p>We welcome the research that has been carried out to support the designation of this conservation area including a review of the 20th Century Society's themes and draft criteria for the consideration of 20th century conservation areas. We agree that the area around Marine Gardens resonates with some of these themes and criteria.</p> <p>We support the tightly drawn boundary for this conservation area as the NPPF, paragraph 191, makes it clear that 'local planning authorities should ensure that an area justifies such status because of its special architectural or historic interest, and that the concept of conservation is not devalued through the designation of areas that lack special interest.'</p>	<p>The Council welcomes the response from Historic England and notes that Historic England supports the conservation area boundary designation at Marine Gardens.</p>

Special architectural and historic interest

Question 1:

In general has the draft Character Appraisal adequately identified the Conservation Area's special architectural or historical interest?

- Yes - 9 representations
- No - 0 representations
- Not answered - 0 representations

Any additional comments?

No responses received

Question 2:

Do you think the Conservation Area has any other aspects of special interest which should be included in the appraisal?

- Yes - 1 representations
- No - 8 representations
- Not answered - 0 representations

Any additional comments?

Issues raised and officer response:

Issue	Response
<p>Surprised that you have not included the property to the West of Marine Gardens as far as George Vth Avenue. There are buildings here of the same era and constructed by the same company plus an expanse of green which needs to be kept free of modern development. I am not sure but I gather that parts of Burlington Court are listed but I cannot see the reasoning which excludes these properties.</p> <p>NB - This comment has also been submitted in response to Q4 & Q7.</p>	<p>These buildings, while of a comparable age to those within the conservation area are quite altered, and were not considered to meet the threshold of intactness for inclusion in the CA. A note has been added to the Conservation Area Character Appraisal (see paragraph 2.22) to explain the reasons for excluding properties in the wider area originally proposed by the Worthing Society.</p>

Character and appearance

Question 3

In general, has the Appraisal adequately identified the good and the harmful features of the Conservation Areas?

- Yes - 8 representations
- No - 1 representations
- Not answered - 0 representations

Any additional comments?

Issues raised and officer response:

Issue	Response
The appraisal does not show the ugly electricity box under a bright yellow waterproof cover. This is located on the outside of the wall to the North West of the gardens. It is shown in figure 41 of the appraisal.	We are aware and if the conservation area is designated the infrastructure provider will be informed.

Question 4

Do you think the Conservation Areas have any additional good features which should be identified in the Appraisal?

- Yes - 2 representations
- No - 7 representations
- Not answered - 0 representations

Any additional comments?

No responses received

Boundary of the Conservation Area

Question 5

Do you agree with the proposed boundary for the conservation area?

- Yes - 8 representations
- No - 1 representations
- Not answered - 0 representations

Any additional comments?

No responses received

Conservation Area Management

Question 6

Do you agree with the management proposals set out in the draft Character Appraisal?

- Yes - 9 representations
- No - 0 representations
- Not answered - 0 representations

Any additional comments?

No responses received

Question 7

Are there any other actions that you consider are needed to preserve or enhance the conservation area?

- Yes - 5 representations
- No - 4 representations
- Not answered - 0 representations

Any additional comments?

Issues raised and officer response:

Issue	Response
Allocate funding for garden improvement	This comment has been forwarded to the Councils' Parks Service for their consideration.
Disabled access to sunken rose garden	This comment has been forwarded to the Councils' Parks Service for their consideration.
Removal of unsightly disused electricity box covered in yellow tarpaulin mentioned earlier in my response and shown in figure 41	We are aware and if the conservation area is designated the infrastructure provider will be informed.
The wording of the conservation review stresses the criteria being "Special Architectural or historic interest" there is no mention of the value of open spaces. Does this mean the planning department would approve the development of the gardens, such as building houses or flats in Marine Gardens as long as its design is in keeping with the local area. Can open spaces not be included as "valuable"?	<p>Marine Gardens are on the Local Interest List. An exception at Marine Gardens might include redevelopment of the cafe building as it approaches the end of its life. This would be subject to a full planning application, and should designation go ahead, further controls would be levied to ensure good design in the CA.</p> <p>The Worthing Local Plan (2023) contains Policy DM7: Open Space which seeks to safeguard existing open spaces. The new conservation area at Marine Gardens will add an additional level of protection for the open space.</p>

Further Comments

Issues raised and officer response:

Issue	Response
It is generally a positive proposal, I am glad the buildings will achieve listed status.	Noted.
I very much hope the Marine Gardens Conservation Area goes ahead as this is an important part of Worthing heritage. Please also consider restoring the Lido, which is another very important part of Worthing	This comment has been forwarded to the Council's Place & Economy Team for their consideration.

<p>heritage, and much missed by those who remember it. Other towns have managed to restore their lidos. I am sad and disappointed that Worthing has not. The facilities the lido currently houses are, in my opinion, detrimental to the town. The restoration of the lido would significantly enhance that part of the seafront and bring visitors to the town, as well as providing a much needed leisure facility to aid the health and well-being of residents. Along with the pier and other attractions, it would be a jewel in our crown.</p>	
<p>If there is strong local opposition to this consultation and it is decided not to proceed, could we propose that the area be reconsidered to just include Marine Gardens and its surrounding walls.</p>	<p>Marine Gardens and the walls already benefit from some protection as they are on the Local List.</p>
<p>I support the proposal to designate this area as a conservation area to preserve the buildings and character.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>