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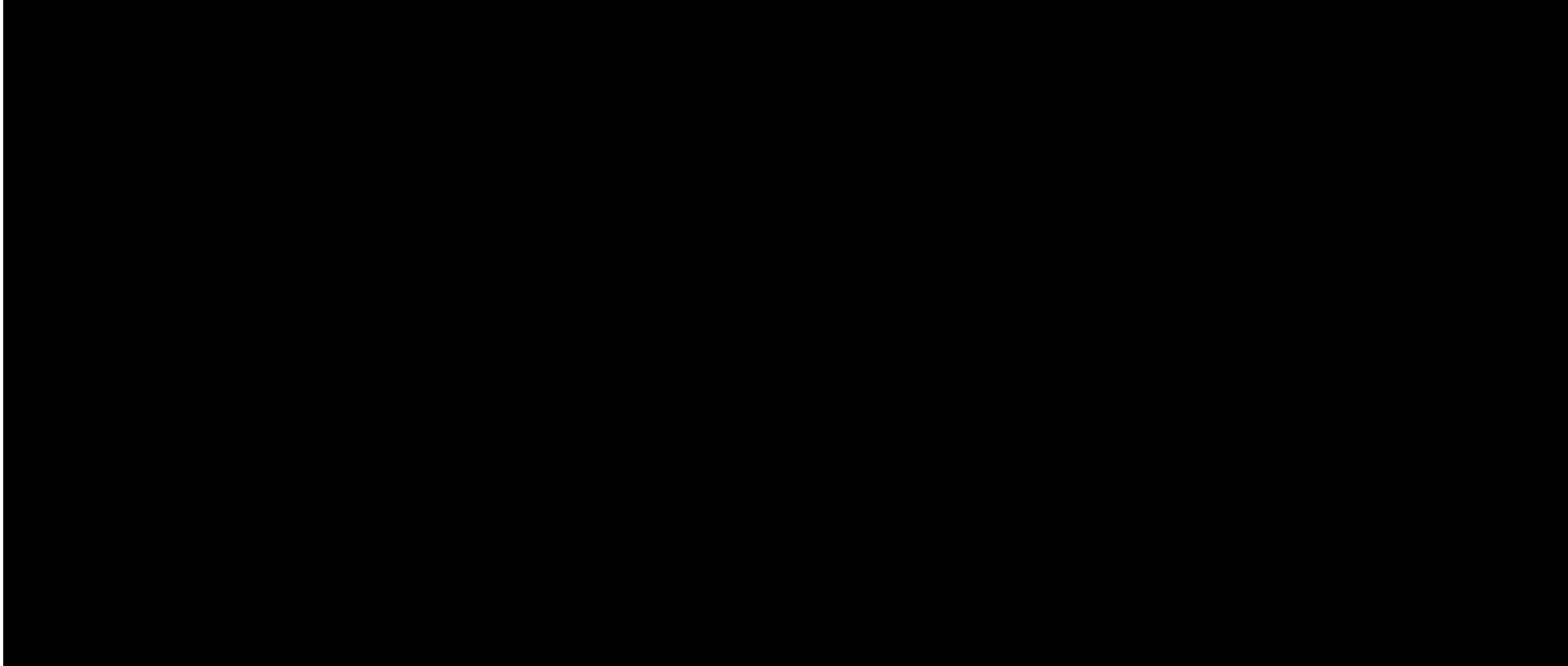
Dear Heritage Team,

I have read the CAAMP document with interest and would like to register my firm support for the designation of this important heritage landscape.

There are two areas that were not covered in the document that I would like to draw your attention to;

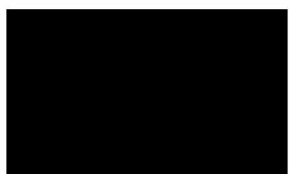
- The archaeological value of the landscape, which in addition to the obvious mediaeval value, is also steeped in prehistory. There is an undisturbed and unexcavated Neolithic causewayed enclosure (https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-1416-1/dissemination/pdf/9781848021877_ALL.pdf) within the proposed heritage area, and archaeological investigation as part of development applications has produced evidence of further prehistoric and Iron Age occupation.
- The Domesday Book lists Bentley as having "half a park". Dr Rosemary Hoppitt's book *Deer Parks of Suffolk* (<http://hoppitt.com/suffolkparks/>) includes a piece on Bentley's park; she speculates that the park was a 'half' because it was shared with the northern parish boundary, and Old Hall wood and the fields to the south of it were part of a Saxon hunting park.


I hope that this designation is successful, and I would like to thank all those involved in bringing it forward.



I have lived nearly all my life near Bentley and have always appreciated it's unspoiled farmland, bluebell woods, lovely views and historic buildings. I am heartened to know that there may soon be official recognition of what a precious and historic landscape it represents. I very much hope that those who have the power will make meaningful steps to protect this area while they can.

I am aware of the proposal for the construction of large solar panels and associated structures on good farmland in Bentley. I think this is a huge mistake. I wish Babergh-Mid Suffolk, and indeed Westminster, would encourage or demand that solar panels be put on industrial buildings, warehouses, garages etc, where there are large areas of flat roof instead of wrecking productive countryside and trashing the landscape.

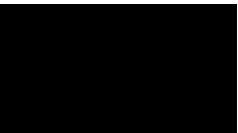




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Dear Mr. Isbell,

We fully agree with and support the conservation area designation, it is important to keep the natural and historic beauty of both the buildings and landscape. We are the owners of Malting Farm, one of the Grade II listed buildings within the boundaries of the area.





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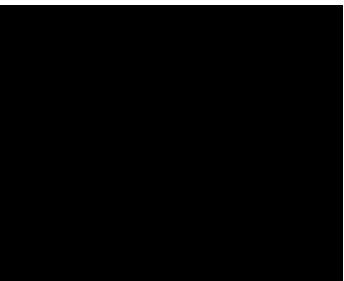
We wish to express our strong support for the proposed Bentley Historic Core Conservation area.

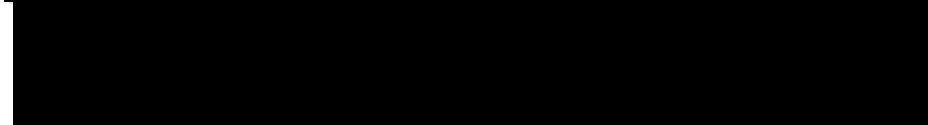
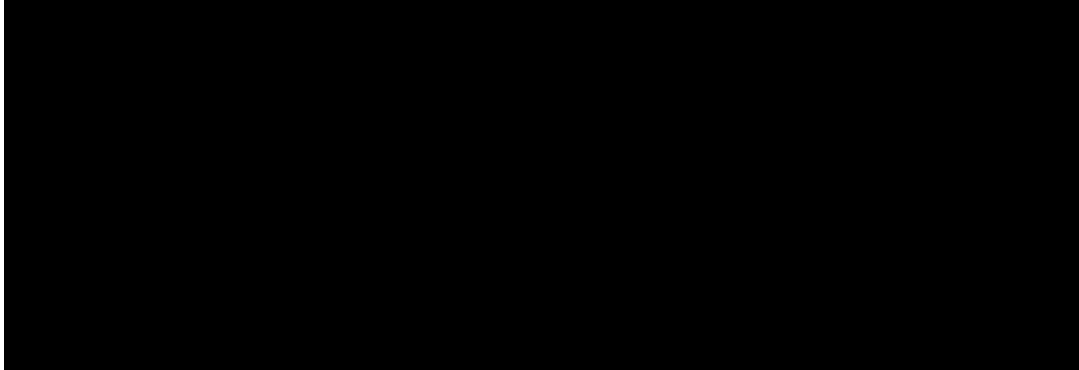
We live within the boundary of the proposed area. It is a beautiful, unspoilt and historic area of Bentley. We feel very strongly that this area should be protected. It is an area that is tranquil to live in and is enjoyed by many residents and visitors.

We strongly agree that the appraisal that has been carried out provides an accurate assessment of the character and appearance of the area and we agree strongly with the conclusions of the principles set out.

We fully support the boundary changes that are being proposed.

We hope that this proposal will be passed to protect the area for us and future generations.





Subject: Proposed Conservation Area at Bentley



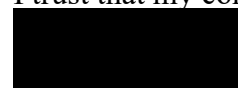
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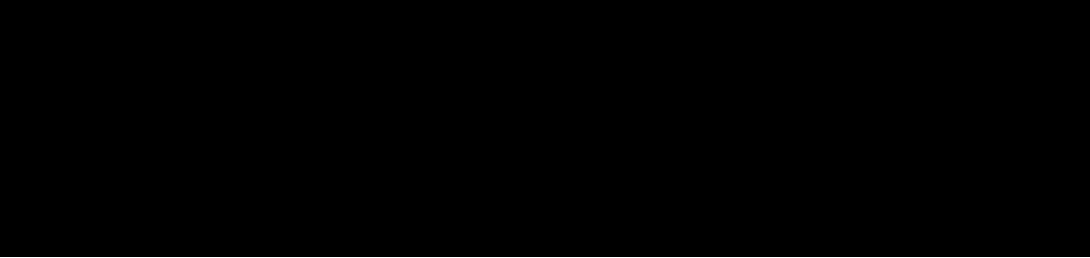
Good afternoon,

Having visited the drop-in at St Mary's Church and read the appraisal report I would like to make these comments in support of the proposal.


1. The area is well away from the more developed parts of the village and has remained relatively untouched by modern building work. Having confined development to the current building envelope it makes sense to keep new developments within that space. Bentley is not a large village suitable for big new housing estates; smaller infill developments should be enough to meet foreseeable future needs.
2. The area includes good arable farmland better retained for agricultural use.
3. The ancient woodlands within and adjoining the area retain a diverse flora and fauna not present in well managed modern plantations.
4. The assemblage of historic and architecturally interesting buildings ranging from the Middle Ages to Nineteenth Century is unusual and forms a valuable part of Suffolk's heritage.

I trust that my comments may make a little contribution to your decision making and remain,





Subject: Bentley Conservation Area

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Dear Sir or Madam


I would like to express my strong support for the proposed conservation area.

I have lived in Bentley for 25years and hugely appreciate the historic and unspoilt nature of the area which is proposed to be designated.

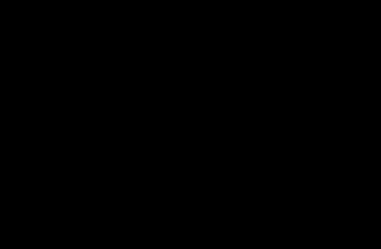
I am aware that it is loved and appreciated by very many people both from Bentley and from further afield.

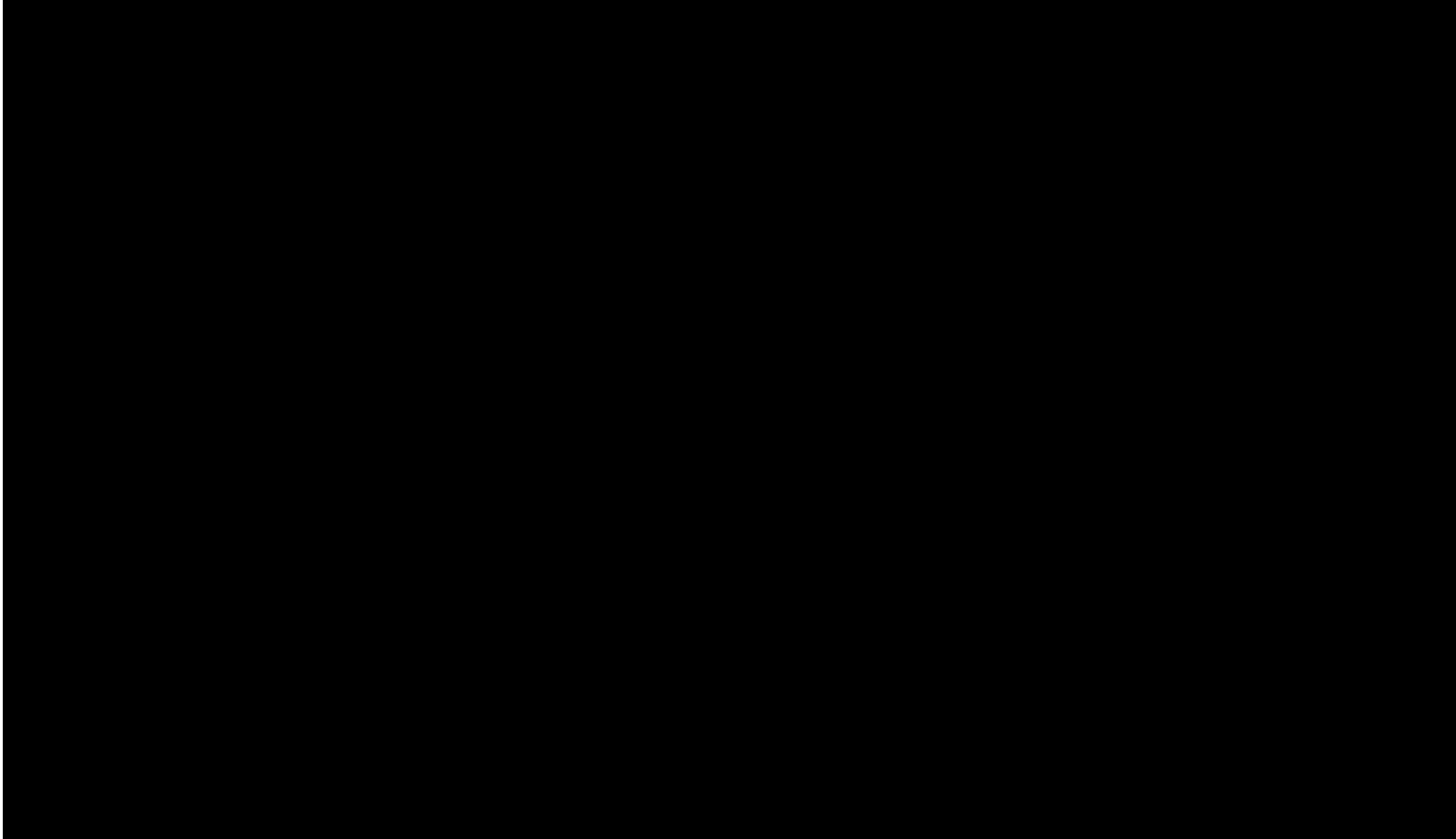
I urge the District Council to do everything within its power to protect it for future generations.

I attended the consultation event at St Mary’s Church on Thursday afternoon.

Unfortunately I was unable to talk to the officers due to the intimidating presence of a large party of people associated with . They were very obviously doing their best to monopolise the officers and stop others from expressing their support. This was obviously planned and most unattractive - I would like to apologise to the officers if they felt threatened. I felt extremely uncomfortable and left quite rapidly without feeling able to fill in a form and sign as a supporter.

Very best regards

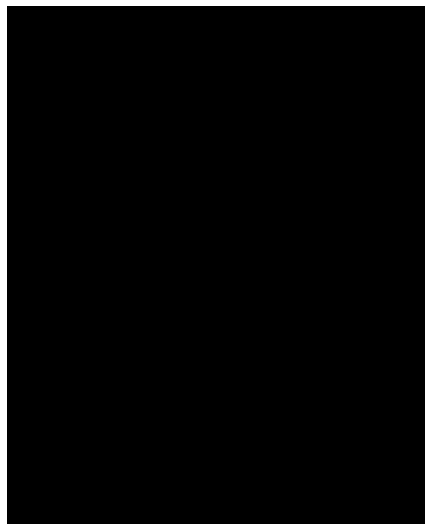




To whom it may concern

I write on behalf of my extended family of 9 who have lived in Bentley for 51 years to give our full support for the proposed conservation area in Bentley covering the Brockley Woods area. In this time we have seen a colossal increase in the volume of traffic in our village, including HGVs and this has had a detrimental effect on our village and the wildlife in this area. We have enjoyed the nature of Bentley for many years and lived here for 4 generations.

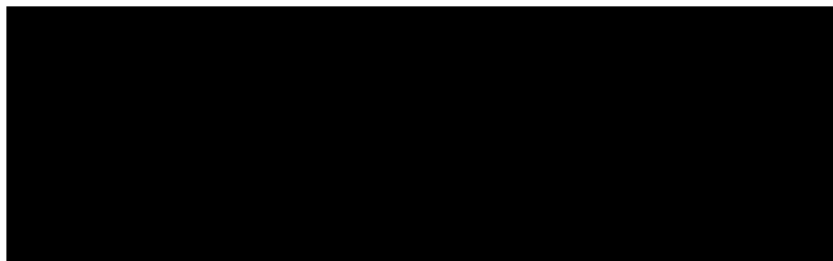
We wholeheartedly agree with the proposal for a conservation area and hope you will note that this email represents 9 family members from the village.



The historic village of Bentley consisted of scattered Hall houses and manors, in farmland around St. Mary's church. The historic houses are listed together with the Church and the great long barn, which form a part of a complex around Bentley Hall. The area is also surrounded by ancient woodland. The landscape is characterised by long views of many of the houses and the woodlands across open fields.

Bentley Parish council submitted, after consultation, a Neighbourhood Plan, which was overwhelmingly endorsed by the residents, which concluded that the residents wished to retain the village character and avoid inappropriate development.

I would strongly urge the adoption of the conservation area, to celebrate and protect the character and history of the area, While not preventing development, this would ensure any such development would be sympathetic to and maintain the character of the heart of the historic village.



[REDACTED]

Bentley Historic Core Conservation Area Public ConsultationI support this.

My husband and I know this unique and beautiful area well.

We must take proper steps to protect highly valued, unspoilt, productive and historic farm and wood land before its too late!

[REDACTED]



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Dear Sirs,
Bentley Historic Core Conservation Area. Public Consultation.

I am disappointed to inform you the notice regarding the consultation was not received by post. I have received a photo copy from another resident on Saturday 11th January. I further note, the consultation period includes the run up to Christmas, Christmas and the New Year holiday period. This and the manner in which it was intended to conduct the public meeting, has left a lot of ill feeling towards Babergh and Bentley Parrish councils. Thankfully, Babergh were alert enough to the strength of public opinion against this proposal to take control of the meeting.

The proposed conservation area is in a pleasant rural location of large flat fields, woodlands and hedging. In which there are a small number of Grade II listed properties, Old Barn, a church, farms, ancillary barns plus other residential properties. This is a description that could be readily applied to much of rural Suffolk and I fail to see what is so special about the proposed Bentley conservation area. I am not aware of another Suffolk conservation areas that is anywhere near as large by some factor of 10, nor have so many vistas been specified across nondescript fields.

- The area is not a registered battlefield
- There is no wreck site
- There are no notable parks or gardens
- It bears no ancient monument, historic or architectural significance other than a few listed buildings.

Anyone coming to the conservation area to view historic houses is going to be disappointed. All the houses are well screened and some distance from roadways and footpaths, so not visible except for one and Old Barn. Even the church is a disappointment, having made 4 attempts to access it for quiet contemplation after the traumatic birth of my youngest grandson, I found it locked on every occasion. What is the point of a locked church?

This area is blighted by the ever present traffic noise of the A12 on the western boundary and to the east the main railway line to Norwich. Passing trains are obliged to sound their horn when approaching the Station Road level crossing and the footpaths crossing a little further north. Both these arterial routes are clearly audible from my property.

The consultation makes great play on how the area has remained unchanged from various maps from the 18c on. This I would strongly dispute. The maps show the roads following old field boundaries and this has changed little over the years. However, the farms, fields, crops and vistas have changed beyond all recognition to an early 20c ploughman with his Suffolk Punch, whose days work was to plough a one acre field. These small fields have, over the intervening years, been amalgamated, hedges and ditches removed to accommodate the tractor and the dramatic increase in production. Within my lifetime, East Anglian sub 100 acre farms with their mix of cereal and animal husbandry have been bought/sold into larger cereal holdings with the loss of livestock and farmhouses becoming residential only. At no time has the conservation plan complained of this natural way forward to modernity despite the dramatic changes.

Further, there are other signs of modernity in that electric pylons cut through the area as do countless other, lower powered, wooden poles supplying electricity to residences.

A new unstoppable change is also coming to rural areas which may or may not be detrimental. Although the date has been pushed back, the government insists the roll out of heat pump's to replace boilers will continue. Inevitably, this will cause major problems for owners of old drafty properties. Old ill fitting single glazed windows, doors and floorboards are notoriously prone to drafts which would completely overwhelm any heat generated by a pump.

Currently Listing departments recoil in horror at the thought of replacing windows and doors with heat efficient alternatives but the fact is the current government demands installation of heat pumps making it impossible to heat these houses without changes to the Grade listing rules allowing such elements as double glazed glass.

I note with some concern the consultation is critical of stone clad cladding, close lap fencing, system built sheds/barns and the properties of three garage businesses. I find this criticism outrageous as any necessary permission to erect these structures must have been obtained at the time and therefore the owners have the absolute right to quiet enjoyment of their property.

The consultation document makes no mention of Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1995. Any discussion of this Article is conspicuous by its absence and the obligations this places on residents within a conservation Area.

All properties are required to be recorded as a local Land Charge. Residents and businesses in a conservation area will need permission from the Council before making alterations such as cladding, inserting windows, installing satellite dishes, solar panels, adding conservatories or other extensions, laying paving or building walls. These activities already require planning permission, an additional layer of bureaucracy is not going to add to their protection.

Further, I note the Council is able to add to the types of alterations that need planning permission by making an Article 4 Direction. This is used to protect unmentioned features particular to the area from being lost without the need of permission. Unless residents have specific information on the impact of these aspects they cannot make a reasoned judgement.

The cutting down of trees or doing any pruning work under conservation rules will require notifying the council six weeks in advance and receiving written approval. As the proposed conservation area is excessively large, heavily wooded and hedged this is going to place a huge burden and expense on the planning departments time and finances.

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires the council to review the conservation area and its boundaries and formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of the area. If the conservation area is implemented will there be a requirement for those identified in the consultation document as being unattractive, dilapidated, inappropriate, uncharacteristic amongst other adjectives to change or alter their properties. This would be grossly unjust and unlikely to happen.

As for rural businesses, all involved in the council should be actively helping in attracting business into their areas to maintain a healthy economy not raising obstacles, such as building an MOT business to look like a railway station. I strongly suspect adoption of the conservation area is intended to strangle any future growth to the rural economy this country so desperately needs.

If adopted this conservation area will simply add another layer of bureaucracy to the area without any benefit. All the buildings of significance are covered by the Grade Listings and none are threatened in any way. All that will be achieved is that it will become a “curtain twitchers charter” of spurious petty dislikes generated by Article 4.

The obvious elephant in the room is the ongoing planning applications for the gravel pit and the solar farm. This, like Brexit, has been an ongoing saga for a number of years now, with any decision made by council and disliked by the Parish being put aside on technicalities and the implementation of a “Project Fear” within the local community.

From the perspective of Important Views, it is interesting there are 7 marked vistas across the proposed solar farm. This by far is the highest number marked of any one area on the plan and across a most unremarkable field to distant hedges. How has the Council come to the view this field as being central to it’s argument?

I strongly suspect this consultation has no relevance to guardianship of the area but a blatant attempt to manipulate the planning process by adding this conservation area and if accepted, applying it retrospectively to the planning applications.

In consideration that these application are now some two years old, have been delayed and delayed it would be totally unjust to now add yet another unforeseen hurdle. If the bid by the Council for this is successful, making the conservation area to be applied retrospectively and the planning applications therefore fail, I believe both planning Applicants will have adequate justification for legal action and/or an appeal to the Secretary of State.

Under no circumstance can I support this application as I consider it spurious and hope it fails.

