

## Wivenhoe Conservation Area Appraisal 2007

### Wivenhoe Town Council recommendations

1. First and foremost, street clutter needs to be greatly reduced, including a programme of placing underground services currently hanging from telegraph poles. A date could be fixed now for the completion of said programme, even though that date might be a long time ahead: a deadline would concentrate the minds of the utilities concerned. In the last month the unsightliness of the telegraph poles has been further increased by the addition of bright yellow “danger of death” signs, as if there had been a sudden outbreak of children climbing the things, which is, of course, not the case at all. There has also been a tendency in the recent past to introduce more and more road signs, with the increase in their number greatly accelerating since Highways responsibilities were taken back under the control of the County Council in 2005. In addition to their intrusive ugliness, particularly in the Conservation Area, a great many of them are an obstruction to pedestrians on already very narrow pavements.

2. There is considerable merit in the suggestion that the Conservation Area be extended to include the row of mainly late 19<sup>th</sup> century – Edwardian houses on the west side of Park Road (see picture 1 below), which the current boundary makes a special diversion to exclude, 6-12 Park Road and the north side of Queens Road (see picture 2) between the junctions with Park Road and Ballast Quay Road. There is a small number of late 20<sup>th</sup> century houses of little architectural merit peppered about in these suggested new areas, but overall the impression is of a late 19<sup>th</sup> to very early 20<sup>th</sup> century townscape. Inclusion of these parts of Park Road and Queens Road in the Conservation Area would provide some protection to the older buildings and also have some influence in the event of applications to alter any of the modern structures that have intruded on this scene. In addition it would protect the several large garden trees which are an important part of the scene.

3. We strongly recommend that the Borough Council makes a “direction” under Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995. As things stand, the Conservation Area status gives the local planning authority additional powers in certain fields, but many other aspects of developments / alterations remain wholly uncontrolled as ‘permitted development’, just as they are outside of Conservation Areas. In particular there is no control over replacement doors, windows and roofing materials for most domestic properties (except those which are listed).

Cllr Tom Roberts  
10 March 2007



1. Part of the west side of Park Road, currently excluded from the Conservation Area



2. Part of Queens Road currently excluded from Conservation Area. The large house in the centre background is in fact in Park Road, also excluded from the CA.