

Local Heritage List for Bromsgrove District – Overview and Scrutiny Board July 2024 update.

1. Since the last update presented to overview and Scrutiny Board in April 2024 the following progress has been made on the Bromsgrove Local Heritage list.
2. We have now published the draft lists for the parishes of Alvechurch, Belbroughton and Fairfield, Beoley and Dodford with Grafton, and carried out a six-week consultation process.
3. The consultation consisted of writing to all owners/occupiers to explain that the property was proposed for inclusion on the Local list, enclosing a copy of their list entry. We explained what the Local List was and directed them to further information on the website and asked them to comment on the list entry using the comments form. If they did not agree with the property being included on the list, we asked that they commented on how the property did not meet the criteria. They were also invited to contact us if they had any queries.
4. The Local Heritage List page on the Conservation Section of the website has been refreshed with up-to-date copies of the Strategy Document, the Local Heritage List information leaflet, nomination forms and objection forms. Copies of the draft lists for each parish are also available, as well as information on the consultation and the consultation events.
5. Consultation events for each parish was held in the village halls, from 3pm to 7pm (4pm to 7:30 pm Alvechurch) This was attended by two conservation officers. Copies of the list entries, the Strategy document, the information leaflet, comments form and nomination forms were all made available. The events and the Consultation were publicised by the BDC Comms Team using social media, and in addition to owners we wrote to parish councils and ward members, as per the strategy identified in previous reports.
6. Attendance at the consultation events was as follows.

Parish	Number of entries on the draft list*	Date of event	Attendees
Alvechurch	40	27/06/24	12
Belbroughton and Fairfield	42	12/06/24	6
Beoley	18	29/06/24	14
Dodford with Grafton	29	18/06/24	20

*The number of properties exceeds this number as one entry, for example with a farmstead, may cover more than one property. Letters were sent to all the properties covered by an entry.

7. We have had 20 written responses which can be summarised as follows

Positive 2

Objection 7

Query 12

8. The written queries ranged from requesting information on the implications of being locally listed, to why some buildings were not included or querying the descriptions on their building but not actually objecting. The objections and comments in respect of inaccuracies will all be followed up and we have already responded to comments on the implications of being locally listed. We received approximately 5 telephone calls these were all queries, but owners were satisfied with their property being on the list.
9. Most of the attendees at the consultation event were querying the implication of being on the list and were generally happy with their properties being included. Others wanted information on how to nominate properties they thought should have been included. 6 further nominations have been received, with the possibility of more from the Alvechurch History Society. Two organisations have been in touch outside of the 4 parishes to find out when their areas would be included.
10. We will now look at all the comments and nominations received, will prepare a response table and review the draft lists accordingly. We will then prepare a report for Cabinet with the final proposed lists. When the lists are confirmed, we will send out letters to all owners and update the website accordingly.
11. We continue to work on the lists for Bromsgrove Town, the parishes of Lickey and Blackwell and Wythall. In relation to Bromsgrove Town a meeting has been held with the History Group of the Bromsgrove Society and copies of our working spreadsheet has been made available to them. They are going to look at whether they can add to the information that we have already put together and nominate additional properties which they considered meet the criteria.
12. Since the previous report one conservation officer has left the Council, whilst we are in the process of recruitment, this vacancy has had an effect on the progress to date. In addition, the admin processes required to set up and carry out the consultation process took longer than expected. We have already begun to redesign this part of the process; we have brought in extra resource from within the team to manage the project leaving the conservation officers to focus on the technical assessment work. And additionally, also we have looked at better use of the GIS and databases to digitise as much of the process as possible again to help not only speed things up but also to pre-empt changes likely to flow from the corporate GIS strategy.

13. We are still hopeful of being able to meet the original 18-month timeframe for completion of the Local Heritage List, as suggested by members. But it is important to point out at this stage we will need to reprofile how we meet this deadline once we have implemented the back officer changes to the admin element of this work and also hopefully successfully recruited to the vacant conservation officer position.