

Proposed Amendment to Section 13 of the Braunstone Village Conservation Area Draft Character Appraisal (March 2022)

As a result of recent consultations with Blaby District Council, the following amendment is proposed to Section 13 of the draft character assessment.

13.Capacity for Change

This proposed area in addition to the existing Leicester City Braunstone Conservation Area has escaped any large-scale redevelopment since the construction of the Butterfield designed estate cottages in the 19th century and the 1960's Bidford Road junction. However, the overall view along Main Street is dominated by the designated heritage assets. Throughout the 18/19c Braunstone Village attracted local and national artists to paint and sketch this "attractive/pretty village" In the 19c/20c photographers replaced the artist to record the village scene. Several of these photographs were used as the basis of a series of post cards.

Although expensive undeveloped areas survive within both areas, Bendbow Spinney and Church Fields in the City part and the farmyard of Manor Farm in Blaby's part. These areas are of historic, archaeological and ecological importance to local residents.

The prevailing character of the village is of a linear layout with a combination of the 17c rural architecture with 19/20c urban private housing. The periphery of the linear village is composed of mid 20c urban housing. However, these later developments have not encroached on the general setting of the core of the village as both its northern and southern limits are approached by sharp road bends.

This combination is mirrored in the villages which have now been absorbed into Leicester City, for example, Evington, Knighton, Aylestone, Humberstone, all of which are designated conservation areas and have had or are having, revised "Character Appraisals". Braunstone village remains "Unique" among these "urban Sprawl" village cores as it is divided between the City and County councils, this "uniqueness" should not exclude it from having a combined conservation area.

We can't demolish the recent (!960's) building of Bidford Road flats/shops that badly effect the setting of the listed "Village Shop" building but it should be included in the conservation area so that if it were to be demolished it's replacement would better reflect the setting of the "Village Shop"

Change must not come at the expense of degrading the character and scale that makes the area special, and alterations to properties need to be sympathetic to their context. Any new development should aim to preserve or enhance the character and street scene of the locality, be compatible with the existing building stock, the local townscape and provide opportunities for further archaeological investigation