

PROPOSED CONSERVATION AREA FOR HUGGLESCOTE

Area of special architectural and historic interest centred on Dennis Street

By LEE GARRETT



Dennis Street

HUGGLESCOTE residents are being asked for their views on a potential conservation area to help protect the character of the village.

The potential conservation area plan has been proposed by North West Leicestershire District Council (NWLDC) and would see such a zone, which is an area of special architectural and historic interest, centred upon the village's Dennis Street.

Hugglescote has been proposed for the conservation area after it was found that it met the district council's own statutory definition for such a zone, while it also met the authority's own criteria for identifying heritage assets - a criteria they adopted last June.

Speaking of the plans, Jim Newton, head of planning and regeneration at NWLDC, said: "Conservation areas are intended not solely to protect individual buildings but to protect the general character of the area.

"It's not about preventing change. It's about managing change in a way that works with the areas' special character."

In a character appraisal document that villagers can

view online, NWLDC describe Hugglescote as containing a "concentration of buildings that predate the reign of Queen Victoria", with some having been built as far back as 1757.

Grade II listed timber framed building as well as grade II Georgian buildings also form part of the village and why it has met the criteria for a proposed conservation area.

If given the go ahead by

residents, any future developments within Hugglescote would have to be more widely advertised with notices on site and in the press due to the nature of the area in the aim of protecting it.

For any plans that are green lit, they will reflect the existing in design, materials and scale.

Mr Newton continued: "When we are considering planning applications within conservation areas, we're required to pay special attention to the preservation or enhancement of its character or appearance. Building uses, materials, scale of buildings, street furniture, surfacing and spaces between buildings are all issues which may affect the quality of an area.

"I would encourage as many Hugglescote residents as possible to share their opinions on this plan."

To help residents express their views, they can read NWLDC's appraisal of Hugglescote.

To see the plans and comment on the proposals, visit www.nwleics.gov.uk/hugglescote

The deadline to share an opinion is Friday, July 21.