

# GILLINGHAM DORSET



## CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT PLAN



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been compiled by The Gillingham (Dorset) Heritage Action Group and contains an analysis of Gillingham Conservation Area's special character and proposals to enhance that character and its environs. The Group was set up in response to the area being listed on the 'At Risk Register' with Historic England.

The Enhancement Plan includes a comprehensive Action Plan (Appendix 1) which will be taken forward by relevant organisations and can be used to support bids for grant aid to enable the action plan to be implemented.

### **Governance:**

The Gillingham Heritage Action Group (HAG) is a sub-group of the newly formed Town Team set up in 2013 to address the factors in the decline of the Town Centre, including its 'At Risk' heritage status.

Town Team Committee drives the strategic planning with representation from the Town Council, District Council, Neighbourhood Plan, Three Rivers Community Partnership, Tourism Association and representatives from local businesses. The wider membership includes volunteers, community groups, artists and the School.

The Heritage Action Group is a working group with representatives of officers from the Town Council and Three Rivers Partnership, local business and volunteers. Invited groups attend meetings to discuss and develop projects including the Gillingham Local History Society, Town Meadow Group, Gillingham Imperial Silver Band.

The Heritage Action Group is being advised and supported by the Conservation Officer at North Dorset District Council and David Stuart at Historic England.

### **Evidence Base and Rationale**

There is a comprehensive list of evidence (Appendix 2) which has undertaken extensive research over the last 13 years and made recommendations as to how the town can develop given its transition from a rural town of 6,000 to one of the fastest growing towns in the South West with the largest population in North Dorset.

The Town's growth over the last fifteen years has resulted with the town lacking in identity as new roads cut off the historic routes and a new population of retirees and families move to the area due to its relatively affordable housing, its location to the train station for commuting and its convenient location to towns which offer the shopping and leisure expectations of a town. The result is that Gillingham centre offers a 'service high street' (ie chemists, hairdressers, professional services, optometrists, funeral care)

The Town is apprehensive about the significant extension to the South of the Town its impact on services, environment and social cohesion. It is central to the design of the town that all paths and cycleway link up and that heritage provide a destination and link between the old and new; as the town expands it is vitally important to conserve and integrate the

heritage of the town with the high street offer and in the promotion and identify of the Town.

## **2. PUBLICITY AND CONSULTATION**

The Heritage Action Group has worked with the following documents to identify the issues prior to any recommendations being made:

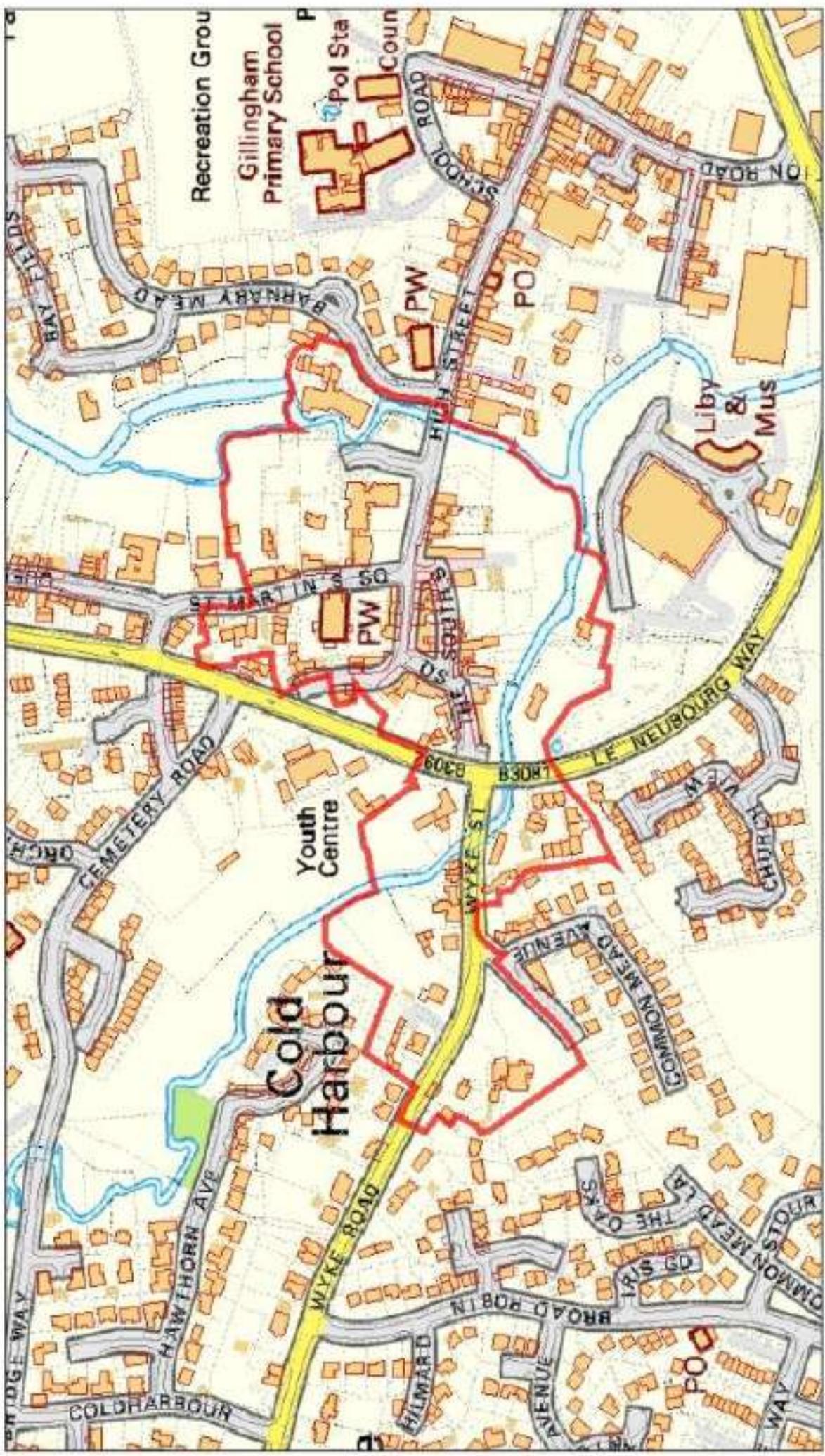
- The Gillingham Town Design Statement
- North Dorset District Wide Local Plan
- Assessing the Growth Potential of Gillingham Dorset, Atkins (December 2009)
- Community Action Plan, Three Rivers Partnership (December 2004)
- Gillingham Conservation Area Appraisal 2002
- Gillingham Landscape and Open Spaces Assessment
- 1997 Environment Agency River Corridor Survey

The Heritage Action Group has consulted the following groups and organisation prior to any recommendations being made:

- North Dorset District Council Conservation Officer
- North Dorset District Council Tree and Landscape Officer
- North Dorset District Council Economic Regeneration Officer
- North Dorset Countryside Rangers
- Dorset County Council Highways Department
- Dorset County Council Bridges Department
- Gillingham Town Council
- Spectrum Housing Association
- Three Rivers Partnership
- Gillingham Local History Society
- Gillingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Gillingham Town Team
- Gillingham Town Meadow Group
- Walkers are Welcome
- Local businesses within Gillingham Conservation Area and Gillingham High Street
- Gillingham Safer Neighbourhood Team / Gillingham Police
- Scottish and Southern Electricity

In order to ensure that the interests of local people, public bodies and other interested parties are taken fully into account, public consultation will take place. The consultation process will allow representations to be made supporting or objecting to the contents of the document, or to suggest further proposals to be included in it. The consultation process will help towards the document's legitimacy and strength.

Vision:



© Crown copyright and database rights 2011  
Ordnance Survey LA100019415



Scale: 1:3,440

Gillingham CA

Legend

Conservation\_Areas

0100 40 Meters

## ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL

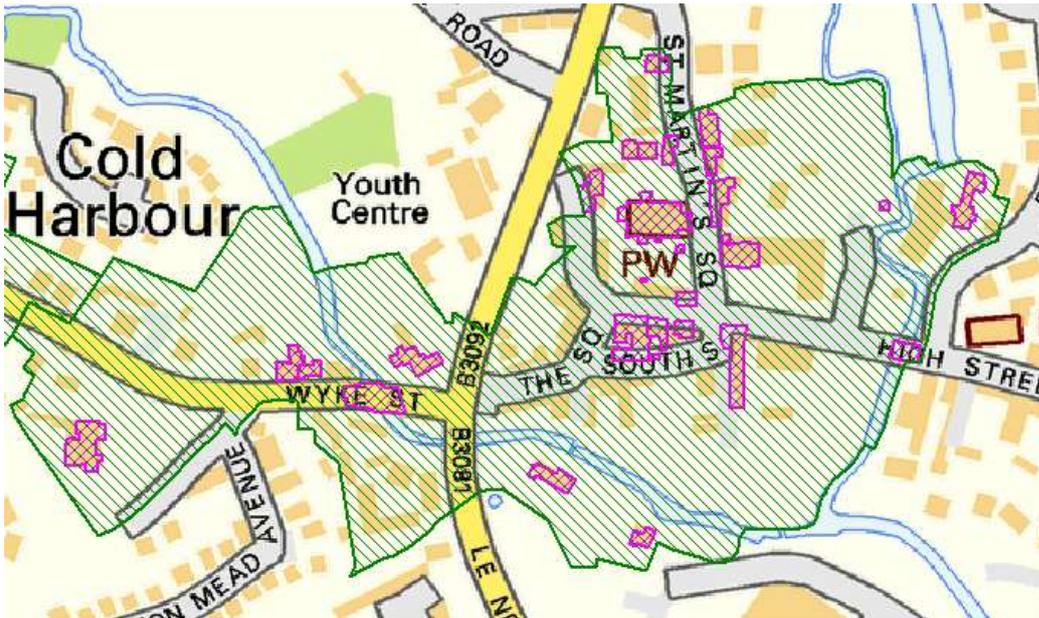
Gillingham Conservation Area lies at the centre of the town, focused upon the original settlement including The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, The Square, St Martin's Square, the Town Bridge and an area of Wyke.

The Gillingham Town Centre Conservation Area was designated in 1985, as a means of protecting the historic centre from the commercial development elsewhere in the town. The Conservation Area is focused around St Mary's Church, the Town Bridge, Wyke Street and The Square, which is thought to retain its basic medieval street form. The historic buildings range in style and age from traditional seventeenth century thatched cottages to a variety of Victorian styles. The central portion of the Conservation Area does have a unique feel, due to its quiet nature and density of historic buildings. However, the eastern area heading up the High Street does not share this feel, due to the addition of unsympathetic features. The links between the different parts of the Conservation Area has been reduced somewhat by the new road, Le Neubourg Way, which severs Wyke Street from the town centre. In reality, the areas feel separate although both are of primarily 18th century character. Of particular interest is the section containing Chantry Cottage and Chantry Ford. The character of this area has changed significantly since the Conservation Area was designated, due to the large supermarket and car park adjacent to it. However, the footpath along the Stour and between the cottages retains a rural feel and provides an island of nineteenth century countryside in the centre of town.



The Square lies just off of The High Street to the front of the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin. The relief road, constructed in 1992, cuts through the Conservation Area, cutting off The Square from Wyke. The Square and the Parish Church are now only accessible to traffic via the High Street and South Street.

The Group has identified 31 listed buildings within the Conservation Area.



The Conservation Area is bound by the River Shreen to the East and The River Stour to the South. In 1997 the Environment Agency initiated the River Corridor Survey, carried out by Chalkhill Environmental Consultants, which found that the aquatic vegetation of the Stour and Shreen Water was typically a clay-type, but with occasional gravel beds and water-crowfoot. Access to the watercourse is very difficult due to thick vegetation. The riverbanks are being cleared along the Town Meadow site, allowing clearer visibility of the river.



## 5. POSITIVE FEATURES

### 5.1 The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, is an historic and unique feature of the town. The earliest written word about the parish church appears in the Domesday Book of 1086. The chancel was built between 1250 and 1350 in the decorated style and stands today as

it was built, with very few alterations. One of the most beautiful areas of the church is the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, which was dedicated in 1922 and contains some beautiful carvings. There are many superbly designed memorials and tombs to some of the most notable people of the area, giving a good commentary on the social history of the town. This is a wonderful Grade I listed church and forms an important landmark in the town



## 5.2 Church Walk

The Parish Church has always occupied the highest point of the medieval settlement above terraces of the rivers Stour and Shreen. Church Walk runs adjacent to the church on west and north and the quaint cottages add to historic character of the area. Numbers 1 and Church Walk are a pair of cottages probably built around 1838 and are Grade II listed buildings. Museum Cottage was originally home to Gillingham's Museum from 1958 until 1980s when the town's collection of local artefacts was relocated to larger premises.



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## 5.3 THE SQUARE

To the south of the Parish Church is The Square. This is one of the earliest developments in the town and was once an important focal point of the centre. Significant change has taken place to the character of the Square.

Although the focus of retailing and commerce has shifted further towards Newbury, the area around the Square has still retained a diverse retail function. The construction of the relief road brought change to the Square by closing off the Square to Wyke and Cemetery Road, and making it into a no-through area. A consequence is that the Square has

become progressively quieter as retailing has gradually deserted this corner of the town. Recent uses for the former shop premises today include a veterinary practice, accountants, architect's practice, and kindergarten. A recent casualty has been the former pharmacy founded by William Samways around 1860, which at its closure in 2008 was thought to be the oldest continuously used pharmacy in the country. The Slade Building stands on the north west corner of the Square and is the former store of the Slade family. Today it is occupied by a bar and an arts centre with galleries, exhibitions, and meeting rooms. Opposite the Slade Building stands a popular Indian restaurant and the training rooms and headquarters of Gillingham Imperial Silver Band.

The Square still has much potential to become one of the key spaces in the heart of the Conservation Area.



#### **5.4 The Vicarage / Rawson Court**

The former vicarage is situated to the east of the parish church and is a Grade II Listed building. The former vicarage is a large and beautiful building set back from the road but which also adds character and interest to the conservation area. Its natural stone walls run along the High Street and Queen Street and incorporate a bus shelter and commemorative plaque marking the location of a well. The Vicarage, now sheltered housing has an irregular Arts and Crafts influenced design.



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The Vicarage Schoolrooms are situated in Queen Street and are today used by various local community groups. Activities held in the schoolrooms include a Sunday School, a playgroup, bingo and coffee mornings. The Schoolrooms are probably mid C19 though possibly incorporate earlier work. They are built of coursed rubble, tiled roof with stone slate verges, gabled left and half-hipped right with a brick stack left of centre. The schoolrooms are single storey, long range with two windows and door to left, 3-lightsquare-headed windows with 'Perpendicular' tracery and returned labels and between is a 2-centred studded C19 plank door. The schoolrooms are a prominent and well used feature of the Conservation Area and compliment the neighbouring properties.

DRAFT

**Gillingham War Memorial**

Gillingham War Memorial is a Grade II listed building and is situated at the rear of the public Car Park within the Conservation Area. The memorial takes the form of a Dorset medieval market cross with 2 steps and a square base.

The memorial was originally situated adjacent to the Town Bridge at the front of the car park.

Restored in ??????????????????

Important to conservation area because .....



The Town Bridge retains much of its original character.

History. Importance etc...

Add photo



The Town Bridge, which could be a focal point of the town centre, has limited views of the river and currently no access along the river's edge. The Heritage Action Group will be talking to the owners of the trees on the East side of the River Shreen to discuss the possibility of an application for tree work to open up the river and improve views of the river.

### **The Red Lion**

The Red Lion and the Pheonix Public Houses are important both in terms of the historical character of the town and the streetscape. The Red Lion is an attractive building, -----  
-----, The Pheonix ----- and it holds an important position on The Square.

### **Houses**

The original street pattern is still evident on the High Street and Queen Street. There are several houses that still retain their original characteristics .....

[Add photos](#)

### **The Old Lock Up**

The Old Lock Up situated in South Street is in good condition and features strongly in the street scene.

### **The Rivers Shreen and Stour**

The Conservation Area is bound by the River Shreen to the East and The River Stour to the South. In 1997 the Environment Agency initiated the River Corridor Survey, carried out by Chalkhill Environmental Consultants, which found that the aquatic vegetation of the Stour and Shreen Water was typically a clay-type, but with occasional gravel beds and water-crowfoot.

### **The Town Meadow**

The area between the Town Bridge and the Stour footpath is predominantly mown grass and also includes a newly laid roadway with access to the Red Lion car park.. A large willow adjacent to the footbridge linking the Conservation Area to Waitrose acts as a significant landmark and tree work will enhance this important tree. To the west of the footbridge the river is overgrown and vegetation acts to prevent access to the watercourse and narrow the river channel. There are a number of large trees and shrubs to the west of the footbridge, which act to shade the river. The area of the Stour leading to Chantry Ford has thick vegetation along both sides of the river. The section of Shreen Water from the Town Bridge to the confluence with the River Stour has many trees, including willows and alders. Access to the watercourse here is very difficult and the area is shaded extensively by the thick vegetation. There has recently been a site visit involving The District Tree and Landscape Officers, Gillingham Tree Warden and members of the Town Meadow Group and Town Council. An application for work to 18 trees on the site was submitted and approved an work was carried out in September 2013.

[Add Photos](#)

### **Negative Features**

A rather unsympathetic extension was added to the vicarage in [????](#) and the building is now used as warden assisted flats.

Some extensions and alterations to properties in the area, whilst well intentioned, have been made in a piecemeal and uncoordinated way. Although some are minor, they are detrimental to the character of the area. [Add photo of Chans and extension of Rawson Court](#)

Along the river bank to the east trees grow closely together and there is thick ground vegetation growth, making access to the watercourse incredibly difficult. The River Shreen has various items of rubbish which need to be removed. The group recommends

that the riverbanks are cleared allowing clear visibility of the river and the rivers are cleared of rubbish.

Within the Conservation Area there is little coordination of colour schemes, materials and finishes. This wide variation detracts from the continuity of the street scene.

The Square at present lacks something of an atmosphere. This is a pity given its prominent position and its past importance.

There is no interpretive signage to inform either the resident or the visitor to Gillingham of the Conservation Area. This seems a missed opportunity.

Street furniture in Gillingham is ill matched.

The pavements in the Conservation Area have been patched and repaired in sections over many years. There is little continuity of materials or finish, which gives an untidy appearance.

### **Jubilee Walk**

In 1977 Gillingham Rotary Club opened up a riverside walk adjacent to the High Street Car Park. Sadly, the Town Mill was destroyed by fire in 1982 and replaced with a block of flats. The Environment Agency has since built a flood defence wall as part of the flood alleviation scheme. Unfortunately the area has been neglected over time and is in need of attention.

Chans

Pedestrian bridge attached to bridge

Sse substation

Bus station

Signage

Raised planter

Jubilee Walk

Oak Tree

Proposals

The Square

This space at present lacks a sense of atmosphere and intimacy. It does however have the potential to be a focal point as it has been in the past. An enhancement scheme in this area could greatly improve the sense of place and result in more use of the space by locals and visitors alike.

A study of The Square will be undertaken to assess how the use of the space can be improved ??

### The War Memorial

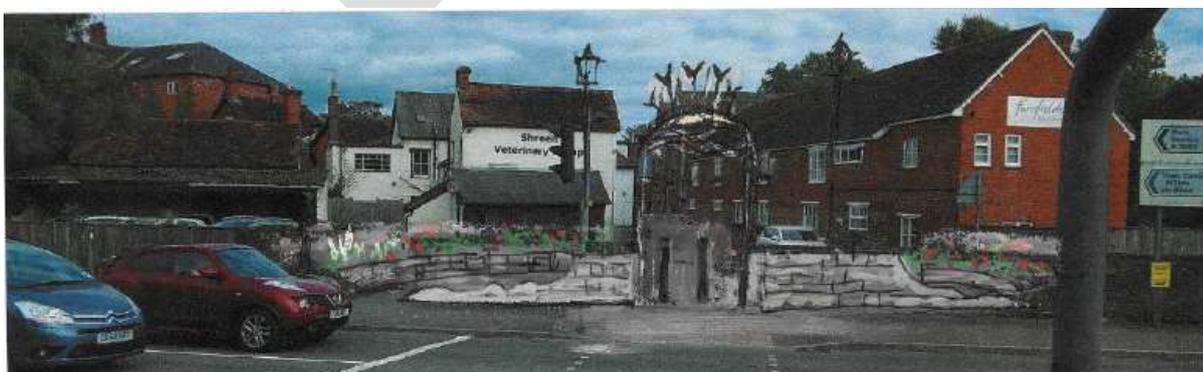
In its present position at the rear of the car park, the War Memorial is easily overlooked. It lacks the impressive setting it deserves but on a positive note has the space that is required for the Remembrance Day ceremony and quiet contemplation.

The present setting of the War Memorial has been enhanced. A detailed planting scheme will be drawn up to help achieve this.

### **The Conservation Area boundary will be reviewed and revised.**

A revision of the boundary will strengthen the concept of a Conservation Area in Gillingham by focusing more tightly on the original, historic core of Gillingham.

### **General Proposals**



### **Lighting**

A new sympathetically designed lighting scheme will be introduced into the Conservation Area to help create an improved atmosphere and sense of place.

Traditional style street lighting will be introduced into the Conservation Area to help improve the atmosphere in the town at night.

### **Street furniture**

Traditional style street furniture will be introduced into the Conservation Area. A coordinated scheme of street furniture would improve the aesthetic appearance of the area and the use of the town centre by pedestrians. The furniture will be of a high quality and traditional style so as to complement the historic character of the area. The Council is considering an appropriate design for an improved bus shelter on the High Street which will take reference from the Constable's painting of the area and will also meet the specifications of the Council's Highway Authority.

### **Shop fronts**

The Heritage Action Group will encourage businesses to redevelop and maintain their premises and shop fronts in line with the North Dorset Guide to Shopfront Design.

Within the Conservation Area there are some good examples of traditional style shop fronts. **Add photo of Scenes** Other units within the area could also benefit from similar investment. More advice on style and design can be found in the North Dorset Guide to Shopfront Design and The Gillingham Town Design Statement.

### **Pavements**

The poorer sections of pavement will be re-laid in more sympathetic materials in keeping with the character and setting when the opportunity arises. The street scene would benefit aesthetically if there were more continuity in terms of the material and finishes of the pavements in the area. Paving will be re-laid on a phased basis with the poorer sections being implemented first. The first section to be re-laid will be the **grey slate??** paving adjacent to the Town Bridge.

### **Signage**

Signs indicating the presence of the Conservation Area will be positioned at the entrances to the Conservation Area **??????** It would be beneficial to make more of Constable's Painting of Gillingham Bridge. Signs indicating the existence of the Conservation Area and points of interest could raise awareness and encourage those passing through to stop.

The existing shopping focus along the high street requires some public realm improvements and improved linkages (through lighting and signage). The other major opportunity sites in the town centre are The Town Meadow located to the south of High Street; The car park located to the north of the High Street adjacent to the River Shreen, and The Red Lion Corner located adjacent to the River Stour between the High Street and Waitrose. The Town Meadow provides an important opportunity to link the 'historic hub' with Waitrose Supermarket and the community buildings to the south of the River Stour. The Town Meadow also offers an opportunity to provide a public open space on the High Street that could potentially at times be used for a farmers market or for public events. Part of the site could accommodate a band stand that could be used by The Gillingham Imperial Silver Band and other performing arts. The Square would primarily be retained as open space; however, there may be some potential to improve the outside area currently used by The Phoenix Inn.

The quality of the town centre environment is important to the vitality and viability of the town centre for a number of reasons:

- It can help create a sense of place and identify;
- It can help improve the image of the town;
- It can help improve footfall;
- It can help boost the night time economy; and
- It could help to attract visitors / tourism.

### **Implementation and Funding**

The Heritage Action Group will work in partnership with the Council to implement these proposals over a period of years as and when funding becomes available. Gillingham Town Council has awarded a small grant of £10,000 for Conservation works in the area around the bus shelter. If there is an approved Conservation Area Enhancement Plan, however, there is a greater chance of attracting finance from other sources such as Lottery Heritage Funds ??????. Some works may be able to be carried out as part of the Council's regular maintenance and replacement programmes in areas such as paving and street lighting. Other improvements may be implemented as part of private sector developments. The first step is to agree what needs to be done.

The Heritage Action Group will work in partnership with the council to obtain the co-operation and participation of landowners, business communities and residents to promote the proposals to enhance the architectural heritage of Gillingham Conservation Area.

### **Extension of the Conservation Area**

The Town Design Statement states that the design of shop frontages along the High Street and Newbury should be sympathetic to the historic character of the town centre. The recommendation of the Town Design Statement is to extend the area currently covered by the Conservation Area to include green elements and historic areas important to the character of the town. The Civic Society and The Gillingham Action Team have also made a recommendation that the conservation area is extended (These two groups were incorporated into The Three Rivers Partnership). The Heritage Action Group and Town Council agrees with these recommendations and recommends that the area is extended to include The Methodist Church, Lloyds Bank, Crocker's Hardware Shop and Natwest Bank. The Town Council has formed a working party to work on an application to extend the conservation area.



The Methodist Church



Crocker's Hardware Shop



Lloyds Bank



South side of Gillingham High Street. Natwest Bank.





**Gillingham Town Bridge**





John Constable painted this picture in 1823 and today the painting hangs in London's Tate Gallery. The photograph above is taken from the same position. Sadly you are now unable to see the bridge due to mature trees. The bridge could be a focal point in the High Street. Unfortunately, an electricity sub-station is situated immediately adjacent to the bridge. Local councillors and representatives of other organisations in the town have contacted the Southern Electricity Board and requested that the sub-station is relocated. Recently the company agreed to erect a wooden fence around the equipment but this does little to enhance the conservation area.



The bridge itself is in need of attention. The group is concerned that moss will damage the structure and have consulted the Conservation Officer regarding the problem. The group will also be contacting the Dorset County Council Bridges Department and volunteers are on stand-by to clean the stonework,



The extractor fan at 'Chans Take-Away' is considered out of character with the Conservation Area.

## Positive Action

In 2012 Gillingham War Memorial was restored and enhanced thanks to the support and generosity of local people and organisations.



In October 2013 three new shops opened in Gillingham's Conservation Area.



## Lighting



*Gillingham is a town built on a linear design with one main road carving the town in two, with developments of cul-de-sacs of the main road which do not link with another. The result is a town with little network connectivity forcing both car owners and cyclists onto the one road and pedestrians using the narrow pavements.*

*Fortunately these issues were identified via the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan visioning workshops and design principles were adopted in both documents, i.e: to ensure connectivity of paths, river corridors and cycle ways. Connectivity will enable easy access from all sides of the town for walkers, cyclists and wheelchair users and an opportunity to position the conservation area as a destination.*

**Vision:** The Conservation Area is enhanced and valued for its built and social historic importance and promoted as a destination; that adds value and connects with the high street to increase footfall in the town from residents and visitors to visit, and explore its historic charm and retail centre offer.

**Objectives:**

- To enable a vibrant area that offers a day/night time economy with restaurants, cafés, arts and markets that contributes to the high street retail and service offer.
- To create better linkages between the high street and other entrances/exits creating enhanced experiences of historic streets, lanes and cut-throughs.
- To create areas for social and leisure activities for people to congregate through the focus of a Town Meadow piazza and Bandstand enhanced Town Square and Town Bridge and its environs.
- To encourage and support businesses to help enhance their buildings and environs to reflect and promote the character of the area.
- To inform and educate residents and visitors of the conservation area and scheduled monuments through interpretation of the local history and links with the artist John Constable with information boards, apps, leaflets, signage and artworks.

**Policy:**

- *Planning policy to encourage arts, crafts, café culture..... / reduce business with high car usage eg: nursery.*
- *To support planning applications that aim to enhance the conservation area.*
- *Promote Day/night-time economy*

Proposals:

Ref:	Proposals	Cost approx./ visual
<b>1</b>	<b>To remodel the Town Bridge and its environs</b>	
1a	Options to enhance the Bridge and its links with Constable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review the options to improve the walkway, railings and its visibility/ appearance based on the picture from John Constable.</li> <li>- Removal of old electricity box and enhancement and viewing of the Bridge and River Stour from this side.</li> </ul>	
1b	To remodel the adjacent seating area 'Town Bridge Place' to include a timeline, planting, seating and replacement of floor tiles and renew the interpretation panels	
1c	Remodel the area of the War Memorial to incorporate the riverside walk, community use of the toilet block and planting to create a special place and link the area to the Town Bridge and Town Bridge Place to create a united area for leisure and contemplation.	
1d	Enhancement of the brick bus stop, adjacent to Rawson Court and brick wall, captured in John Constable's painting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Removal of the long flower bed to a shorter bed to replicate the size of the planting bed of the old war memorial to create unity. Use the space to create heritage style noticeboard and seating and provide a pleasant space and information point by the bus stop which sits between the Meadow, Town Square and Town Bridge.</li> </ul>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Town Meadow and its environs</b>	
a	To enhance the Town Meadow offer as central place for leisure with planting, heritage gates and railings, dry stone walls and signage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To commission a bandstand</li> </ul>	
b	To liaise with the Red Lion to open up their premises from the rear car park and use part of the car park to create a year round Piazza location.	
c	Encourage other eateries and business to open up their businesses to the Meadow and riverside location to enhance this area as the central location for leisure.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Historic Town Square and environs</b>	
a	To remodel the town square to provide a piazza from the rear of the Phoenix that provides a useful leisure space.	
b	To improve the exterior of buildings to reflect the character of the area.	
c	Encourage businesses with a day/evening cultural offer in the area and seek alternative spaces for businesses not best suited for the area, eg: with high car usage.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Signage, materials, artworks, Lighting</b>	
a	To enhance the character of the area through materials such as tegular paving to provide the knowledge and feeling that one is in a historic area with signage and interpretation boards throughout.	

b	Create artworks at key entrance/exits to make a statement that one is entering/exiting a heritage area eg: Wkye, Town Meadow , St Martins Square? – and possibility at Newbury roundabout to indicate, direct and re-inforce Gillingham as a town with distinct heritage offer.	
c	To review all the signage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- From the highway eg: B3092 main sign into town from Wyke</li> <li>- Within the town</li> <li>- Station</li> </ul>	
d	Install heritage style lighting in the conservation area and in the high street where appropriate.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	
a	Develop a range of interpretation panels throughout the area. Produce guide books, Apps, leaflets and experiences to interpret the history.	
<b>6</b>	<b>Design</b>	
a	Encourage compliance and best practice on built heritage	
<b>7</b>	<b>Extend the conservation area to include ?????</b>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Public Realm enhancements</b>	
	Upgrade road and pavement surfaces, seating, bins, signs to reflect the conservation area's character and design principles set out by ???	

## Surveys, Consultation and Engagement

	<b>Report</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Target Audience</b>	<b>Findings</b>
1	Gillingham Business Survey By North Dorset District Council May 2015	Survey	Retail businesses on the High Street	Lack of understanding of the relevance of how a heritage enhancement plan can contribute to the priorities the businesses identified to help the town prosper, for example responses on what improvements to the town centre would improve it as a destination: (Q?)cultural events (92%), Town Square or Piazza (75%), café culture (67%), improve local parks (39%). (q ?) – Attract more people/make more lively (100%), improve Street furniture (58%), improve public realm (25%) (Q43) Positive impact of a new market in the town centre would have on their business 94% positive impact.
2	Heritage buildings by Gillingham School members of the Town Team	Engagement	Young People	Photographs taken by young people to illustrate what they perceive to be good or bad heritage in the conservation area.
	Town Team – First Impressions Group 2013 & 2014	Walkabout x 5	Community	
	Town Team Workshops 2013	Workshops x 2	Businesses	
	Bus Shelter & environs 2014 & 2015	Options consultation	Community Eg: Party in the Park and Town Meadow.	Liaison with NDDC conservation officer, Highways Authority, Gillingham History Society, Town Council to establish parameters in designing options for this area.
	Heritage At Risk Assessment 2014	Assessment	Set Criteria by Historic England	Listed with Historic England as a conservation area at risk due to general decline of the area
	Heritage Walkabout 2014 & 2015	Walkabout	Community and relevant orgs	
	Atkins Report – 2009 Assessing the growth potential of Gillingham (pages 125+)			Formal town Park – The Red Lion site and the council car park opposite would provide a good opportunity for a centrally located town park of approximately 0.5 hectares
	Gillingham Open Spaces Report – 2005 (page 14)	Consultation	Community and stakeholders.	Achieve park or area for public use through any development of the Red Lion site. Commission layout for a formal park on this site.
	Neighbourhood Plan	Visioning	Community	Report (page 13) Ambition between now

		Workshop	and stakeholders	and 2016 the town will become a place where people can enjoy focal areas of public space which can help define the character and form of the town (Environment); new businesses and social uses (eg: café culture) have significantly improved the quality and vitality of the town centre (Economy); where regular events and festivals strengthen community life and draw visitors to the town. (Culture and Leisure)
	Gillingham Town Design Statement 2012			To extend the area currently covered by the Conservation Area to include green elements and historic area important to the character of the Town.
	Dorset Historic Towns Survey – Gillingham. Dorset County Council funded by English Heritage.			

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