

EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN 2015 - 2023



CASE STUDY

ECONOMIC GROWTH / ENABLING COMMUNITIES

HERITAGE ASSETS

Our Business Plan sets out a vision where we work with our local communities to protect their rural and coastal heritage whilst ensuring appropriate development can still take place to enable economic growth.

eastsuffolk.gov.uk/east-suffolk-business-plan



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Beccles Library, Blyburgate, Beccles
Felixstowe Library, Crescent Road, Felixstowe
Marina Centre, Marina, Lowestoft
Woodbridge Library, New Street, Woodbridge

DEVELOP CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS



WHAT WE DID?

One of the specific actions set out in our East Suffolk Business Plan for the Suffolk Coastal district was to develop criteria for identifying non-designated heritage assets whose heritage value merits consideration in planning decisions.

A heritage asset is defined by the Government's National Planning Policy Framework as a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions because of its heritage interest. Significance is the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest that can be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic.

In October 2015 and following public consultation, the Council adopted the criteria for the identification of non-designated heritage assets that are buildings.

These criteria are used in two ways. Firstly, by Planning Services, who are able to identify non-designated heritage assets as early as possible in the planning process, as encouraged by Government guidance. Secondly, by neighbourhood planning groups, to identify non-designated heritage assets for inclusion in their own neighbourhood plans so supporting policies can be included.

WHY WE DID IT?

Non-designated heritage assets are not part of the national list of historically or architecturally significant buildings. However, they are considered to be of local interest and are worthy of preservation.

These buildings are not protected in the way that nationally listed buildings are; however, identification as a non-designated heritage asset is a planning consideration when deciding planning applications. It refers only to the exterior of a building.

The Council's aim is to preserve the unique character of these buildings within the district, including elevations not visible from a public place.



THE DIFFERENCE THIS MADE?

The criteria provide publically available, and clearly understood, justification for identifying an unlisted building or structure as a heritage asset. The criteria has enabled the planning process to be clearer, and for the decisions made to be more readily understood and justified.

A key outcome from this work is that several historic buildings that otherwise may have been demolished have been retained as part of the substantial stock of traditional buildings that provides our district with its unique and attractive character.

Currently the criteria is only for use by Suffolk Coastal but will hopefully be adopted by Waveney District Council in due course.

"Whilst we welcome development, this cannot be at the expense of our unique environment. Part of our role, as the planning authority, is to ensure we safeguard the heritage assets in this District, which gives our area its quintessential and priceless character."

- CLLR TONY FRYATT
SUFFOLK COASTAL