

RESPONSE TO BECKERMET CONSERVATION AREA PROPOSALS

The Parish Council has discussed the current consultation about changing the requirements in conservation areas. A number of residents have also made comments, and these have been incorporated.

- People feel that you should have contacted the properties in the area directly, rather than relying on the system that you have used.
- There has been very little support for the proposals to change the requirements in the Beckermet Conservation Area.
- Whilst there are some interesting buildings in the village, it is hardly very special and does not warrant the suggested extra restrictions. Restrictions should be proportionate. The examples of the bad practice that you cite with which we agree could have been stopped by CBC, using the existing arrangements.
- The village has already evolved, and should be allowed to continue to do so. There is concern that people may be deterred from making reasonable developments (or even moving in) by the extra cost, uncertainty, and bureaucracy. The area could then deteriorate.
- In these days when you can get PVC that looks quite similar to wood, the restrictions on PVC are particularly unwelcome. Likewise, it should be reasonable to replace sash windows with other types.
- Also, the cost of Westmoreland or Welsh slate is quite prohibitive when compared with other slates that are available.
- As long as things are done sensitively, alternatives such as new methods of construction, new construction materials, and improved energy efficiency should be allowed.
- Many of the properties have already changed from their original state. What matters is that changes blend in; not that they should always remain as before.
- The ambiance of the village may become determined by the nearby presence of nuclear reactors. It seems strange to worry about retaining the look of the village, when councils are encouraging the construction of the nuclear station.
- There has been concern that there may be pressure to backfit the new requirements in some areas. E.g. reposition satellite dishes, change building arrangements. A statement on this subject is needed.
- There is no mention of whether grants would be available to offset extra costs.