

Introductory Presentation

given at the start of the Public Discussion session of the Public Meeting

a proposed CONSERVATION AREA for SPROUGHTON

PUBLIC MEETING
15 January 2026

The following notes are what formed the introductory presentation made by Rhona Jermyn at the start of the Public Discussion session of the Meeting on 15 January 2026 (07.00pm]. They are provided for the record and as part of Sproughton Parish Council and Babergh District Council's commitment to transparency and keeping you informed

Greeting Good evening, everyone. Thank you for coming along tonight and for the care you show for Sproughton. It means a great deal that so many of you have taken time to be here, to hear about the Babergh District Council consultation on our village conservation area.

This is not a new project, the idea of a conservation area in Sproughton was floated in the Babergh Local Plan back in 2006, 20 years ago! which identified Lower Street, to be a possible area for designation as a conservation area. In addition, the Sproughton Neighbourhood Plan that was made in November 2023, resulted in our first Community Action stating: ***"The parish council will seek the designation by Babergh District Council of a Conservation Area, at the earliest possible opportunity."***

So what is the purpose of tonight I want to explain briefly what the consultation is about, why it matters to our community, and how each of us can take part so that old character and future of Sproughton village are shaped by local voices, your voices!

So what is a conservation area A conservation area is a place recognised for its **special architectural** or **historic interest**. The designation of the conservation area aims to protect the features that

make **our village distinctive** — the layout, the buildings, the open spaces and the views that give Sproughton village its sense of place.

So why does this consultation matter?

This consultation is not just a technical exercise. It is an opportunity for us to say **what we value** about **our village**

and **to influence how change is managed**. BDC will use the responses to shape policies and guidance that affect planning decisions, repairs, and any future development. **If we don't speak up**, decisions will be made without the benefit of our local knowledge and priorities.

So the Key points to consider

- **Heritage and character:** Which buildings, lanes, trees and views do we most want to protect?
- **Change and development:** Where might sensitive, small-scale improvements be acceptable, and where should stricter protection apply?
- **Public spaces and access:** How do we want green spaces, footpaths and village amenities to be preserved or improved?
- **Practical implications:** What would conservation guidance mean for homeowners, for repairs, and for new building work? If you have any concerns we have 2 planning officers here today who can help advise.
- A good example of how a conservation area can improve an area is street furniture. For example, the numerous signs on both the High Street and Lower Street really impact on the feel and character of the historical centre of the village, they are dominating and intrusive, however... they could be changed, and be more subtle.

So - How to take part?

- please **read** the information on the display boards and talk to any of us today.
- **You can respond in writing** — a short, clear letter or email saying what you value and why, is very helpful. We also have QR codes around the barn to scan with a smart phone – which will take you to a copy of the conservation document, there are also a copy of hard copies here today.
- **Use examples** — name streets, buildings or views and explain what makes them important to you. Personal stories and local knowledge carry weight.

Practical tips for responses

- Please be specific: mention places, features and reasons and
- be constructive: if you think change is needed, suggest how it could be done sensitively.
- **However:** Keep it local: the council needs evidence about the conservation area for Sproughton, not generalities.

Finally what happens next...

This public consultation closes on **5 February 2026**

In February/March 2026 - Heritage Team will consider the responses. Amendments will be made as appropriate to the appraisal document.

In Spring 2026 – A report will be presented to Babergh's Full Council who will decide whether to adopt the Conservation Area. If it is adopted the Conservation Area Appraisal becomes effective immediately.

Finally in the Spring/Summer of this year a Management Plan to be prepared, a management plan is a practical, time-bound programme that turns a newly adopted Conservation Area Appraisal into actions:

it sets priorities, policies, projects, responsibilities and monitoring so Babergh and the PC can protect and enhance the area after adoption.

So This is our chance to shape how Sproughton is looked after for future generations. Something close to all our hearts. Please take a few minutes after this meeting to tell us what matters to you, and to make your own response to the consultation. Together we can ensure that any protections are practical, proportionate and rooted in local knowledge.

On behalf of the PC thank you for listening and for everything you do for our village.



RHONA
Jermyn

Sproughton Parish Council

The Sproughton Conservation Area Consultation is running for a four-week period, from **Thursday 8 January 2026 to Thursday 5 February 2026**



Sproughton
Conservation Area Appraisal



On-line
questionnaire