



Historic England

Strategic Transport Team Central Bedfordshire  
Council  
Priory House, Monks Walk  
Chicksands  
Shefford  
Bedfordshire  
SG17 5TQ

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Our ref: PL00791631

15 December 2022

Dear Sir/Madam ,

Strategic Growth Team Central Bedfordshire Council    Our ref: [REDACTED]  
Priory House Chicksands Shefford BEDS SG17 5TQ    Telephone [REDACTED]

14 December 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Central Bedfordshire Parking Standards in New Development Draft Supplementary Planning Document**

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the Parking Standards in New Development Supplementary Planning Document. As the Government's adviser on the historic environment Historic England is keen to ensure that the protection of the historic environment is fully taken into account at all stages and levels of the local planning process.

We have reviewed the draft Supplementary Planning Document and very much welcome the preparation of this document to support policy in the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan and to provide guidance to developers and help guide the preparation and assessment of future planning applications.

Our detailed comments are set out below.

At the moment there is no mention of the historic environment in the SPD. Whilst we appreciate that these are standards for new development, it is still possible that there are historic environment considerations in these areas.



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We would suggest that there should be a paragraph or two in the SPD on the importance of the consideration of historic environment in relation to parking.

We would also suggest that the document could refer to the need for high quality design and good practice in relation to the public realm. Consideration of streetscape including parking arrangements is an area for exploration in the brief.

Historic England has produced guidance setting out good practice for street management, [Streets for All](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/streets-for-all/) <<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/streets-for-all/>> and further information on transport and the historic environment can be found on our [website](https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/infrastructure/planning-and-transport/) <<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/infrastructure/planning-and-transport/>>. These documents provide updated practical advice for anyone involved in planning and implementing highways and other public realm works in sensitive historic locations. It sets out means to improve public spaces without harming their valued character, including specific recommendations for works to surfaces, street furniture, cycle parking, new equipment, traffic management infrastructure and environmental improvements.

In particular we encourage you to carefully consider the likely impact of any proposals on the Conservation Areas and listed buildings. We suggest that you consider what could be done to minimise the impact, or indeed enhance the local environment perhaps through:

- a) fewer signs,
- b) using appropriate materials in keeping with the surrounding area,
- c) minimising paint on road/pavement,
- d) minimising barriers and where they are necessary avoiding red and white plastic barriers etc.

We would encourage you to use this opportunity to review whether all existing signs are necessary, whether they could share posts with other signs, and whether any other signs in the area are obsolete.

### **Conservation Officer Advice**

We encourage you to work closely with conservation officers in developing and refining these proposals. They will be able to advise on how to minimise the impacts on the historic environment and indeed identify opportunities for the enhancement of the street scene.

Finally, we should like to stress that this opinion is based on the information provided



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by the Council in its consultation. To avoid any doubt, this does not affect our obligation to provide further advice and, potentially, object to specific proposals, which may subsequently arise where we consider that these would have an adverse effect upon the historic environment.

If you have any questions with regards to the comments made, then please do get back to me. In the meantime, we look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

Historic Environment Planning Adviser, Planning Group

[Redacted]



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