

## **CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL**

### **I WEST TARRING**

#### **Location and Topography**

West Tarring is located almost 2 miles north west of Worthing town centre about 1½ miles inland from the sea.

#### **Origins and Development of Settlement**

The village of West Tarring lies in the southern section of the ancient parish of "West Terringes" mentioned in the Domesday book. The historic nucleus of the village consists of the High Street, South Street and Church Road; their junction having presumably been the site of the market place for which a Charter was granted in 1444.

Although engulfed in later development the Conservation Area has a clear identity as a village settlement which pre-dates Worthing town centre.

#### **Architectural and Landscape Qualities**

This area's special architectural or historic interest stems from the retention of its medieval street pattern, with many of the present buildings dating back to this period.

Properties in the High Street are typically two-storeys with steep pitched roofs forming irregular terraces abutting the back edge of the pavement. A number of the buildings have medieval timber frames, although for the most part, these have been subsequently 'updated' with flint, brick and rendered facades. The street elevations are quite simple, having few projecting features, leaving the differing building heights, chimney stacks and window fenestrations, to give this road its unique character. Windows are predominantly timber sash, whilst the roofs are of slate, clay tile and some Horsham stone slabs.

The buildings on the northern side of Church Road have been set back to form a staggered terrace following the curve of the road. Most of these 19th century buildings are finished in white render and slate roofs set behind low flint and render walls. The dwellings on the southern side are 20th century brick buildings contributing little, other than mass and scale, to the streetscene.

Properties in South Street are typically detached two-storey buildings, some abutting the pavement, whilst others are set further back in their own individual plots. Most of these buildings date from the 19th century, a couple having been converted to residential properties from previous uses. The materials are a mixture of flint and stucco, red tiles and grey slates. Viewed along the road, the overall impression of interest and character stems from the curve of the road and the spaces created through the juxtaposition of the buildings with the road. The open feel by the recreation ground is an important element of this character.

Glebe Road was not constructed until 1893, and was shortly followed by the row of simple semi-detached white rendered and slate roofed cottages set back along its northern side.

## **Roads and Surfaces**

Considerable interest derives from the survival of the medieval street pattern. The narrow intimate High Street is especially important. In this street and other parts of the Conservation Area the pavements are of a traditional red blue brick with granite kerbs which contributes considerably to the character and appearance of the area.

## **Greenery and Open Spaces**

The recreation ground is an important open space adjacent to the Conservation Area, particularly essential to the setting of St. Andrews church in certain views. The space created at the junction of High Street, Church Road, South Street and Glebe Road is believed to be the original market place site. It is well defined by the surrounding buildings and radiating streets, and it would be a desirable enhancement to reduce the occupation of this area by motor traffic.

## **Enhancement Opportunities**

### South Street

- Permit the filling of the gap in the streetscene at Nos. 5-7 Market House, South Street, Tarring with a two-storey pitched roof development which uses brick and clay tile, is sited on the back of pavement line and retains existing off-street parking
- Screen the site of "Market Cottage" as a temporary measure until redevelopment is secured
- Repair and replace the lamp standards
- Pave the east side to match the west side in brick paving
- Replace signs at the recreation ground entrance with signs of special design

### Church Road

- Remove overhead lines pole
- Design and implement landscaping scheme for verge/planting at front (north) of church. This should reassess pedestrian desire lines and seats provisions
- Replace lighting to Church House driveway
- Reassess provision of seats, bins, signs etc in Church House grounds

## Glebe Road

- Replace paving
- Provide planting to screen sub-station
- Provide wall/planting to Scout Hut frontage
- Design and implement scheme for layout and surfacing of the Old Palace entrance, car parking, fencing and setting generally
- Replace telephone kiosk with K6 relocated outside post office
- Remove overhead lines pole

## High Street

- Design and implement planting scheme for open space at north end. This should also consider seat and bin provision
- Replace bus stop
- Replace street name signs
- Replace footpath sign
- Provide boundary planting and lighting to Fairfield frontage
- Brick pave rear pedestrian access ways
- Resurface and tidy Vine car park. Scheme would include clearing plant growth and providing designed structure planting
- Resurface Gospel Hall frontage
- Replace gates and surfacing to Boys Club entrance
- Replace litter bin at Post Office
- remove all overhead lines, poles and aerals
- Remove all surface mounted junction boxes (Nynex) and cables
- Design and implement pedestrian enhancement scheme for High Street between Glebe Road and Vine Car Park



**Notes:**

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