



# Proposed Northampton Boot and Shoe Quarter



## Consultation Response

### – Comments –

Conservation Section  
May 2011

**Proposed Boot and Shoe Quarter Consultation**  
**January – March 2011**

Additional information is in [square brackets].

***Officer responses to these comments are added in brown italics with a faint background***

**Responses to Q.3: Any additional comments on the boundary options.**

PB = preferred boundary, as indicated in Q.4.

PB	Comments on the boundary options
1	<p>[English Heritage] Although there are ‘hotspots’, the boot and shoe interest is distributed quite widely across the study area, as evidenced by the schedule of Boot and Shoe factories included in the survey of the area in 2000. We should note that the area is also significant as a relatively intact C19 inner suburb, with its terraced housing, public houses and other building types consistent with this. The whole of the study area would therefore seem to have sufficient interest to merit the protection that conservation area designation would afford. This would also avoid the potential confusion that could arise from the designation of a number of separate smaller areas in close proximity.</p> <p><b><i>Noted – the statistical summary demonstrates support for the larger area</i></b></p>
1	<p>[Northampton Industrial Archaeology Group] The larger boundary would enable the preservation of the streetscape of the greatest area.</p> <p><b><i>Noted – the statistical summary demonstrates support for the larger area</i></b></p>
1	<p>[Northamptonshire Association for Local History] One large conservation area would certainly highlight the street patterns and the relationship between the industrial and domestic buildings. Option 1 shows the extent to which the boot and shoe industry covered Northampton, and whilst the proposal for this option would cover many aspects unrelated to the boot and shoe industry, it would have the desired effect of informing persons unconnected with the town the importance of the boot and shoe industry to Northampton. Whilst Options 2 and 3 are in themselves quite compact, there would be a danger of losing a building or a small area which is of importance to the whole.</p> <p><b><i>Noted – the statistical summary demonstrates support for the larger area</i></b></p>
1	<p>[Northamptonshire Enterprise Ltd] I think all the Boot &amp; Shoe buildings should be kept as we are losing too much of the town's history. If it is conserved it will improve the look of the area.</p> <p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p>
1	<p>[Northants Green Party] We are in favour of Option 1, the one large conservation area, subject to it not becoming a hindrance to the reasonable day-to-day residential and commercial life of the area.</p> <p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p>
1	<p>[Playhouse Theatre] There may be a single, identifiable area, not a confusing cluster</p> <p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p>
1	<p>[St. James Residents' Association] From the outset, the proposal is a worthy one and should be adopted with option 1 being the preferred option as it is more inclusive and better represents the concentration of shoe related buildings in the proposed area. Rather than concentrate on isolated pockets of buildings it makes sense to base the area on an inclusive "whole" area as most buildings grew as a result of the Boot and Shoe and allied industries plus it will be easy to identify. The St James area should also be included.</p> <p><b><i>Support for option 1 is noted. With regard to extending the boundary to include the St James area, the Council is aware that other areas played an important role in the industry but it is considered that Option 1 incorporates an area sufficient to identify and demonstrate the character and development of the Boot &amp; Shoe industry over time.</i></b></p>
1	<p>[Town Centre Conservation Area Advisory Committee] We strongly support option 1 as the best alternative: it will afford maximum protection to the maximum area, and be easier for the public to understand. We also propose an enlargement to the area to include the Chronicle and Echo building: continuing the boundary SE along the frontage of Upper Mounts, and round the curve at the junction of St Michael's Road, until it meets the current proposed boundary (leaving the new Northampton College buildings outside the proposed area). The Chronicle and Echo building is also important to</p>

PB	Comments on the boundary options
	<p>the area's heritage, and links well with the adjacent civic buildings: the police station, fire station and Mounts Baths. All of these buildings need protection, and the Committee feel that this is an ideal opportunity to provide it. The Committee also fears that if these buildings are not included now, there is little likelihood of an opportunity to increase their protection in the future. If option 1 is not chosen, we would support option 3 as protecting the next highest area, but we do not feel that this multi-site approach would have the same clarity or impact on the public. Finally, option 2 would be better than no protection at all.</p>
	<p><b><i>Support for Option 1 is noted. The Chronicle &amp; Echo building is not identified as making a contribution to the proposed conservation area in the supporting documentation. After looking at its merits again in light of the response to the consultation, it is considered that as this building is not related to the Boot and Shoe industry and is relatively contemporary, therefore there is no merit in extending the boundary to allow its inclusion.</i></b></p>
1	<p>[Map provided including whole area from Barrack Road to Billing Road, Adnitt Road and beyond]. All this area was vital to the shoe industry once.</p>
	<p><b><i>Noted. The Council is aware that the industry was wide reaching throughout the town. However, it is considered that the area evaluated encapsulates an area which captures both the significance and character of the industry.</i></b></p>
1	<p>Above all no old factory should be allowed to roll into disrepair or a state of neglect so the largest catchment is most favourable. There isn't really anywhere in option 1 where the Boot &amp; Shoe character seems far away. The risks long term in option 2 &amp; 3 are far too high (mixed character, losing buildings altogether)</p>
	<p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p>
1	<p>Area is large but more defined. Option 3 is too disjointed and is more "areas" than "area". Option 2 seems too much of a compromise to the original area.</p>
	<p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p>
1	<p>Definitely needs an unbroken block of buildings to be recognised.</p>
	<p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p>
1	<p>Don't really need to include Mounts Baths/Police Station, as these have already changed use since the 1930's*</p>
	<p><b><i>Whilst these buildings are not related to the Boot &amp; Shoe industry they are important civic buildings which make a positive contribution to the local environment and are included for completeness.</i></b></p>
1	<p>I believe Option 1 protects all the important buildings / landmarks etc in the area. From a personal viewpoint, no. 1 Colwyn Road is the building used by Northampton Weightlifting Club and its existence will be enhanced by this conservation area.</p>
	<p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p>
1	<p>I don't feel either you or I have the "say-so" to differentiate one shoe company from the other to be 'boxed' into a conservation area - just because Trickers, say, is known for it Kinky Boots film, doesn't mean it's more important that a tiny concern, maybe making tools for the shoe trade - they are all of equal importance - Northampton as a whole is important for its Shoe Industry - not just its Town Centre!!</p>
	<p><b><i>Noted. The Council is aware that the industry was wide reaching throughout the town. However, it is considered that the area evaluated encapsulates an area which captures both the significance and character of the industry.</i></b></p>
1	<p>I live at The Water Works, 3 Stockley Street - it is not clear if this property falls into the area in option 1. The property was originally located in the back garden of Palmerston Road. To split the conservation area up into two or three separate areas means that there would be no continuity for your proposal and the control of the area for possible visitor/education attraction would be fragmented.</p>
	<p><b><i>3 Stockley Street is located within the Option 1 area. Support for this option is noted.</i></b></p>
1	<p>I think all Boot &amp; Shoe buildings should be kept as we are losing too much of the towns history if it is conserved it will improve the look of the areas.</p>
	<p><b><i>Noted – the statistical summary demonstrates support for the larger area</i></b></p>

PB	Comments on the boundary options
1	I think it will be less 'bitty' and more impactful if the larger area becomes a conservation area. <b><i>Noted – the statistical summary demonstrates support for the larger area</i></b>
1	I think the largest although including buildings that may have been changed will show how the area has changed over time and can draw comparisons with other time periods. <b><i>Noted</i></b>
1	I think they should be extended to include the shoemaking area begun in the 1840s, between the Wellingborough Road and the north side of the Billing Road from Alexandra Road east to the cemetery. This includes shoeworkers' houses, a school and a converted factory. <b><i>Part of this area, from Alexandra Road to Palmerston Road, is included within both options 1 and 3. The North East portion of the additional area suggested has seen considerable change and therefore it would be inappropriate to include this area within the conservation area. Billing Road has a recognisably different character the proposed conservation area and therefore it would be inappropriate to include it within the proposed boundary. The Billing Road is currently being evaluated for potential designation as a conservation area separately</i></b>
1	I wish Adnitt Road was included within the boundaries <b><i>Noted</i></b>
1	If the area is going to be true to the buildings we still have left, it should be the larger area as indicated. <b><i>Noted – the statistical summary demonstrates support for the larger area</i></b>
1	If you are going to preserve some of Northampton's history when most other historic buildings have gone - make the most of what we have NOW <b><i>Noted</i></b>
1	Jolly Good <b><i>Noted</i></b>
1	Keep it uniform <b><i>Noted</i></b>
1	Keep the area as one whole complete zone, than there will be less confusion as to who is in and who is out, and hopefully eliminate future "eyesores" which could spoil the overall effect. <b><i>Noted – the statistical summary demonstrates support for the larger area</i></b>
1	Large area preferred as covers more buildings and promotes an often neglected area as a more defined location, helping to drive forward change for the better and giving the area a sense of purpose and rejuvenation. <b><i>Noted – the statistical summary demonstrates support for the larger area</i></b>
1	One advantage of larger area is inclusion of Mounts Baths, Fire Station etc. It also protects the housing associated with shoe factories <b><i>Noted</i></b>
1	One area is less confusing for people and simpler to manage and have a standard overall smart appearance: i.e. signage, lighting, frontages etc. <b><i>Noted – the statistical summary demonstrates support for the larger area</i></b>
1	One large conservation area is much more preferable in our opinion. <b><i>Noted – the statistical summary demonstrates support for the larger area</i></b>
1	Option 1 gives scope to keep everything together. In the future new items/buildings of significance might be found outside the clusters (option3) then they might not be protected. To break the boundary up makes it confusing and messy. <b><i>Noted – the statistical summary demonstrates support for the larger area</i></b>
1	Option 1 is the most cohesive and will preserve the largest number of boot and shoe buildings. It shows the development of the industry more clearly. However, any option would have my support. <b><i>Noted – the statistical summary demonstrates support for the larger area</i></b>

PB	Comments on the boundary options
1	Option 1 maintains the integrity of the conservation area <b>Noted</b>
1	Option 1 strongly supported as it best embraces the wider character of the Victorian Edwardian and later boot and shoe town including the best representation of its range of mixed residential, commercial & other activity. If this option is not possible, option 3 is preferred over option 2. [Suggested boundary drawn on map: option 1 with extension to include St Edmund's Hospital (surviving part), Vernon Terrace, Upper & Lower Thrift Streets and Billing Road from Alexandra Road up to and including the cemetery] <b>St Edmunds Hospital is a Grade II Listed Building and is therefore already protected from alteration or demolition. The area between Alexandra Road and Palmerston Road is included in both options 1 and 3. The area north east of St Edmunds Street has been significantly altered and therefore it would be inappropriate for inclusion in the proposed conservation area. Billing Road has a different character to the Boot &amp; Shoe area and is currently being evaluated for conservation area designation separately</b>
1	Option 1. Clearly captures the true 'Boot and Shoe' quarter, its growth layout and purpose. Option 2. Dilutes the whole to an extent that the purpose of designating it is in danger of being lost. Option 3. Not valid at all. <b>Noted – the statistical summary demonstrates support for the larger area</b>
1	Option 3 is too fragmented <b>Noted</b>
1	Options 1 and 2 give a unified sense of place and will go some way towards creating a benefit for the community. In addition a co-ordinated notion of historical and architectural value will be provided and potentially something marketable for the town - i.e. heritage trails, exhibitions, guided tours, podcasts. The disjointed and uncoordinated option 3 achieves the opposite effect and would result in no clear sense of place or belonging amongst visitors or residents. For the conservation area to work effectively option 3 cannot be allowed to go ahead. <b>Noted</b>
1	Shoe workers' houses and factories are being changed. Would be a good tourist attraction to have an area in keeping with the prime of the shoe production in Northampton/shire <b>Noted</b>
1	Some of the factory buildings in my area are really strong and attractive looking and I would be sad to see them knocked down or altered without care and attention being given to maintaining their façade. <b>Noted</b>
1	The larger area encapsulates the history of the area, the other two options leave the conservation area feeling 'disjointed' <b>Noted – the statistical summary demonstrates support for the larger area</b>
1	The three options include streets where a large number of! houses are abandoned (e.g. on St Michaels Road, near the Dance School) - would these be renovated as part of your scheme ? <b>Evidence from other areas demonstrates that Conservation Area designation acts as a catalyst for investment and improvement</b>
1	There are other buildings in other parts of the Town, e.g. Manfield's factory near Abington Park, which has, in my opinion been well re-used. Such efforts should be encouraged where possible. (Local List) <b>Noted</b>
1	While I prefer option 1 I recognise that 2 might be preferable for others. I think 3 would create a fragmented area. On one hand this creates pressures by identifying areas with stricter planning conditions and pushing development into the non-protected areas. This could result in an overall reduction of the quality of the neighbourhood. I would say the Mounts particularly has a strong cohesive neighbourhood feel and blocking some areas out of the eventual benefits of the protection might work against it. <b>Noted</b>

PB	Comments on the boundary options
1	With one large area basically everything is one place. <b>Noted</b>
1	Whilst ideally I would support option 1, a smaller area centred around the Mounts may be more practical in terms of funding the conservation plan. For me option 3 seems too fragmented. <b>Noted</b>
1	Why exclude the Earl Street area? <b>Most of the Earl Street area is included in the evaluation area, apart from the Chronicle &amp; Echo building, a relatively modern building which is unrelated to the boot &amp; shoe industry</b>
1	Would be best to preserve as many factories as possible, but maybe concentrate the potential cultural attractions of a "shoe quarter" to the areas closest to the town centre <b>Noted</b>
1	Would have liked my road/area to be included...Adnitt Road. <b>Noted</b>
2	[Map provided] Does it need to be restricted to a 'post boot and shoe' area - why not a general inner city Environmental Improvement Area including some fine Victorian Villas. Focusing on the black spots within the area. The "Mounts General Environmental Improvement" could be given priority over "Boot & Shoe Industrial Past". As the "Jubilee Area" it would focus on all the diverse social amenities of all cultural groups in the district, the goal being a safe clean environment where diversity is celebrated and fine features of the past are maintained to enrich its current residential use. <b>The Council has a duty to consider designating as conservation areas 'areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. National guidance is published with regard to how the special interest of the proposed area should be identified. The respondent highlights two 'black spots', one of which (Great Russell Street) is located within evaluation area and included in option 1. The other relates to the former St Edmunds Hospital, which is a Listed Building.</b>
2	A large area will dilute the overall objective and a scattered idea such as option 3 will also have no impact or improvement in recognising our heritage. <b>Noted</b>
2	I don't think this question is easy to answer as all 3 options have merits: my feeling is that, practically, option 2 would be the easiest to achieve. <b>Noted</b>
2	I like the cluster of small for option 3 in order to keep cost down, but to really concentrate on the works that would bring it alive and for the boot and shoe to stand out. My only concern is that option 3 doesn't cover the bottom of Spencer Road meeting the Kettering Road, which is an eyesore. <b>Noted</b>
2	I would consider that the Option 1 of the boundary options could be too extensive to adequately manage, better to make a good job of a smaller area. Option 3 could disjoint the overall effect of the plan. <b>Noted</b>
2	None of the boundaries take in Church's, Manfield and Sears' Factories, so why do half a job. The money would be better spent elsewhere. <b>The Council has a statutory duty to consider areas for designation as conservation areas, thus the current project enables the Council to fulfil that duty. The former Manfield factory is a Listed Building, Church's located some distance from the evaluated area and Sear's has seen significant change and therefore it would be inappropriate to include them.</b>
2	Option 1 Is too large an area to maintain and regulate effectively. Option 2 Appears to be the central area requiring conservation. Option 3 Too scattered and will lead to inconsistencies in regulation <b>Noted</b>
2	Option '2' does appear to be a more practical consideration in terms of management, policing of policy and costs, and as the budgets and planning of such proposals will require public benefit and

PB	Comments on the boundary options
	support, this 'midway' boundary option just may meet more sympathetic approval. <b>Noted</b>
2	Option 3 is too disjointed. Option 1 is far too large and incorporates too many buildings that have little or no connection, and also buildings that in all honesty would be better for being drastically altered in future. Option 2 is the best as it incorporates the main focus, would make for a good "quarter" of the town that people could easily walk around and get a flavour for the history without walking rows and rows of similar roads, and this area also links nicely with other good areas of town that should be promoted/celebrated including the town centre, Wellingborough Road and Kettering Road. <b>Noted</b>
2	Option one may be too large an area to apply quality. Option three far too disjointed <b>Noted</b>
2	Silly idea. I cannot see tourists coming to visit Northampton for the boot and shoe industry, so what is the point of spending time and money on these consultations when Council services are suffering from cuts? Conservation areas can inconvenience the people living there - nobody is allowed to watch Sky then?? - and this can deter buyers when selling property. I know someone living on Barrack Road and they wish they hadn't bothered due to the parking restrictions and petty objections they had to decorating the front of their property. <b>Noted</b>
2	The buildings to the north side of Colwyn Road, which back on to the Racecourse would 'all' be better placed in the new Kingsley Conservation Area. This is for several reasons; they particularly add to the aesthetic value of the Racecourse Park, many residents not only use their direct access on to the park daily but some use this access as their primary access, some of this row is already included in the Kingsley Conservation area and majority of residents feel they are more connected and part of the Racecourse than they rest of the area. Unfortunately the majority of this row of houses were left out of the Kingsley Conservation Area even though their railings were included. This simply doesn't make sense and has split the row not only between houses included/not included, but with the actual components of each estate. I would like to see the whole row be included in the Kingsley Conservation Area as the majority of these houses are different from the rest of the houses in the proposed Boot and Shoe conservation area both in terms of type of residents living in them (demographics) and in terms of their large size and internal architectural features (which are more in keeping with East Park Parade, Watkin Terrace and Barrack Road). The rear of many of these houses also consist of bay windows to view the park and a number of rear entrances to access gardens and directly on to the Racecourse Park. These houses only have one entrance to Colwyn Road. Many people also use the Park side entrances as their main entrance and not Colwyn Road. Either way, it is important that these houses are protected within a Conservation Area even if it had to be the Boot and Shoe Conservation Area. Kingsley, though would be a better fit and would avoid fragmentation of this side of Colwyn Road and be more 'in tune' with the feeling of the residents. <b>Noted – this issue can be considered as part of a future review of the Kingsley Conservation Area.</b>
3	Do not really like any of the options, but if I have to pick one it is Option 3. I suggest just preserving the shoe factories and listed buildings [Map provided], although most of the factories have already been turned into flats and probably have lost any features you may want to keep. As for the houses in between the factories, most already have aerials and dishes in places that would need planning consent under the proposed areas. How would you know if an extra one went up? The front aspects of the houses do not change much anyway so I see no point unless there is a unique feature which must be preserved, then that particular house could have a conservation order put on it. <b>Noted</b>
3	Please exclude buildings in Thomas Street <b>Noted - no reason has been offered for this request but doing so would create a small 'hole' in option 1.</b>
3	It protects as many buildings as possible <b>Noted</b>

PB	Comments on the boundary options
3	<p>If you choose a cluster of small conservation area your buildings you choose will not get over loaded with people.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
3	<p>Keep it Clean</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
3	<p>Keep it small, to keep costs down. Concentrate on keeping all well swept and street litter removed</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
3	<p>I am happy to support Option 1 or 2 although I feel I would prefer Option 3 as it would mean that money would be allocated for improving the areas that affect me most. A Cluster would help to define the specific areas and make the history seem more special.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
3	<p>We are in favour of OPTION 3 as so many of the buildings in the designated areas have already been changed to unrecognisable status. For instance Kettering Road does not resemble anything it did 30 years ago, when it had many locally owned shops, whereas now most shops along this street do not reflect the original culture of our town. Therefore it would better make sense to adopt OPTION 3, as it would target areas, where conservation of sorts is still somewhat possible. We note that this conservation option has been applied to a degree to buildings in the Abington Park area, where some buildings have been omitted from the conservation area around the Park rather than include everything on block.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
	<p>[Trickers] This is not enforceable, too costly and about 30 years too late!!</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
	<p>All of the boundaries include a significant amount of streets/ groups of buildings that make no contribution to the heritage that is to be conserved. I would prefer to see smaller clusters of streets located near an already identified building of interest. These clusters of streets should be selected for the amount of original features that remain on the buildings. In many cases the streets that have been identified as proposed conservation areas the buildings have already been altered and original features removed, cladding added, unsympathetic windows and doors added etc that to make them into conservation areas would make no sense and appear a little ridiculous.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
	<p>Church's factory and the Old Barratt's factory are not included.</p> <p><b><i>Barratt's Shoe factory at Kingsthorpe Hollow is a listed building and therefore well protected and Church's located in St James. It is considered that the evaluation area adequately reflects the character of the industry.</i></b></p>
	<p>I think individual buildings of interest should be conserved. There is little point in making residential houses part of the conservation area. A lot of houses have already got dishes on them and had windows and roofs modified. The terraced houses can not be changed dramatically without planning permission anyway.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
	<p>If you are going to "conserve" this dump, make the area as small as possible, thereby maximising the probability that one day someone will flatten it and start again.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
	<p>On-going management of the area must be taken into account. [Boundary drawn on map: Overstone Road/Hunter Street to Whitworth Road (upper) and Artizan Road (lower), Racecourse to Billing Road]. My suggestion is because experience will need to be gained here in Northampton in managing such a large conservation area, this will take time. At some future date a decision can then be made to increase the area if it is deemed desirable.</p> <p><b><i>There is an on-going rolling programme of conservation area reviews, which enables appropriate amendment to boundaries. The area suggested for inclusion would include an area which has seen significant change.</i></b></p>

PB	Comments on the boundary options
	I do not support any of the proposals <b>Noted</b>
	Option 1 plus grassed area adjacent to Kettering Road opposite junctions of Queen's Road, Grove Road and St Michael's Road. [Map provided] <b>One of the identified characteristics of the evaluation area is the noticeable lack of trees and green-space.</b>
	Small & medium enterprises have to be brought back into the neighbouring housing estates. HMO's during business conversions period. Advanced student training courses i.e. CCNA and MCDDBA for I.T. jobs - entry level positions for county-only based students. <b>Noted</b>
	Use existing planning procedures or alter criteria for buildings of special interest that have not already been changed. <b>Designation of a conservation area will enhance the opportunity to safeguard buildings from inappropriate change</b>
	We do not have a boot and shoe industry any more. Most of the factories are now flats. The area is full of buy-to-let houses with tenants who do not know or care about the shoe industry. My house is in all 3 proposed conservation areas. I will not ask for permission to change my windows or trim a bush! <b>Noted – designation of a conservation area will not generate a need to apply for consent to alter windows but will require 6 weeks written notice for works to trees above a certain size.</b>

### Responses to Q.7: Identify the top 3 priorities for improvements within the public realm

Many people just listed one of the suggested topics (building frontages, public spaces etc). Others provided more detailed comments within the topics. The total number for each topic is recorded on the left, while the detailed comments are displayed on the right. The number includes the detailed comments.

#### Priority 1

1	Topic	Selected comments
62	Building Frontages	Houses and other original buildings associated with the industry which have been allowed to deteriorate or be degraded should be enabled to have a new lease of life by structural strengthening, cleaning and repairs. <b>Noted</b>
		Building frontages - many houses are now rendered, covering original brickwork <b>Noted</b>
		Building Frontages - more sympathetic renovation, windows & doors more in keeping with period properties. No large satellite dishes on fronts of houses. <b>Noted – designation of a conservation area will not control the alteration of windows and doors</b>
		Building frontages - restore all frontages to their original character as far as possible. <b>Noted – designation will not enable the Council to insist on the restoration of original character or features</b>
		Building Frontages - specifically original features of the industrial and residential buildings <b>Noted</b>
		Building Frontages, particularly the 'factory units' <b>Noted</b>

1	Topic	Selected comments
		<p>Building Frontages. To be maintained as close as to the original concept and design of the property where safety and common sense allow.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
		<p>Buildings- use sympathetic materials - ban satellite dishes</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
		<p>Regulation of the maintenance, decoration and sympathetic upkeep to all buildings within the 'quarter' even if this means a grant to assist residents to re-paint or maintain. There are a lot of distasteful treatments about the 'quarter' that detract.</p> <p><b>Noted – designation of a conservation area will not regulate upkeep and general maintenance of buildings.</b></p>
		<p>[Town Centre Conservation Area Advisory Committee] Building materials - we would like to see strong encouragement for using traditional materials. We would also highlight the benefit of retaining the visual integrity of the terraced housing by ensuring that houses within a terrace use the same materials, e.g. all using slates for roofing.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
		<p>Protecting the historic residential buildings within the area, including alterations to use, including careful consideration to multiple occupancy plans and general aesthetics is very important. I would also like consideration given to temporary alterations such as for sale or to let boards. Many of these (especially student lettings) are on display most of the year and detract from the general Victorian nature of the buildings.</p> <p><b>Noted. Designation of a conservation area will not bring under control 'for sale/to let' boards</b></p>
		<p>Controlled restoration of building elevations - decorations etc.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
		<p>To maintain and keep as many of the old factory frontages as possible</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
		<p>Roofs of empty buildings</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
		<p>Improving the frontages at Abington Square to give a good entry point</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
		<p>Kettering Road shop frontage from Racecourse to War Memorial looks and feels untidy.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
		<p>It would be nice to tidy up/do something with the empty buildings near St Michaels car park, where the print company that are always offering cheap flyers is based.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
		<p>Improvements should be made to the shoe factory on Overstone Road in the first instance.</p> <p><b>The economic downturn has impacted on this site</b></p>
		<p>G T Hawkins, not sure it's its NCC or owner - or both that's stopped this - red tape restrictions etc.</p> <p><b>The economic downturn has impacted on this site</b></p>

1	Topic	Selected comments
		<p>Restore the old factories, in particular The Globe Works building. This is one of the largest and first factories that can be viewed when you enter the Mounts/town area. Restore to a museum would be ideal - rather than studio apartment. Example such as the canal museum in Stoke Bruerne attracts many tourists - it would be great if the Mounts could do the same.</p> <p><b><i>The economic downturn has impacted on this site</i></b></p>
20	Clear up the rubbish, litter, stop flytipping etc	<p>Rubbish on the streets. Fly tipping a problem in the Mounts area</p> <p><b><i>The issue of refuse, litter and fly tipping is dealt with by the Council's Environmental Crime Team who pro-actively and actively deals with these issues. Cases can be referred to them directly.</i></b></p> <p>Litter and Flytipping (This is a major problem in the area)</p> <p><b><i>As above</i></b></p> <p>Cleaning streets to include fly tipping prevention.</p> <p><b><i>As above</i></b></p> <p>Clean up litter, sweep streets more often, remove flytipping quickly and encourage local community to take responsibility.</p> <p><b><i>As above</i></b></p> <p>Clean, safe footpaths - so one can look up as one walks along to view the architectural features</p> <p><b><i>As above</i></b></p> <p>Litter Free - do something about bin bags and rubbish collection for terraced properties that don't have bins.</p> <p><b><i>As above</i></b></p> <p>A decent graffiti removal program as the proposed area suffers greatly</p> <p><b><i>As above</i></b></p>
17	Road and pavement surfaces	<p>The roads and pavements are in need of desperate replacement and repair. Pot holes, uneven road surfaces, cracked pavements, etc, etc are just awful. Especially around the Palmerston Road area (St Edmund's Road is very very bad)</p> <p><b><i>Northamptonshire County Council is the highway authority and the Borough Council works in partnership with them with regard to street works in conservation areas. This issue will be highlighted with them.</i></b></p> <p>Improving the pavements. They are damaged, cracked and could be re-slabbed.</p> <p>Paving - very uneven and unsafe (Artizan Road)</p> <p><b><i>As above</i></b></p> <p>Proper relaying of the roads &amp; pavements, not just patch jobs which last only a short time. Dunster Street &amp; Bailiff Street are particularly poor roads. Pavements are in very poor condition in most streets.</p> <p><b><i>As above</i></b></p> <p>Pavements - As people will need to walk - pause to view and walk on</p> <p><b><i>As above</i></b></p> <p>Pavements and roads to be made good with appropriate street furniture. Trees to be planted.</p> <p><b><i>As above</i></b></p>
13	Signage	<p>Signage and shop fronts should be sympathetic to the conservation area - muted colours, no protruding signage</p> <p><b><i>Noted – the updated shop front design guide addresses these issues</i></b></p>

1	Topic	Selected comments
		<p>Clear signage when entering the conservation area</p> <p><b><i>This subject can be addressed as part of the ongoing management of the area once designated</i></b></p> <p>Remove street signage.</p> <p><b><i>Street clutter is a matter which can be addressed with the Northamptonshire County Council as highway authority</i></b></p>
12	Streets	
8	Public spaces	
6	Parking	<p>Full residents' parking including provision for visitors. Why should residents have to pay when the public can park in the public bays for free?</p> <p><b><i>Residents' Parking Schemes are the remit of the Northamptonshire County Council as highway authority</i></b></p>
6	Suggestions for enhancements	<p>Footpaths and roads- paving slabs/ cobbled areas etc could be introduced. The overall appearance of the street is very important. Maybe a few breaks in the rows of parking.</p> <p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p> <p>Paving - lowering curbs for elderly, disabled and pushchairs etc</p> <p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p> <p>[Ramprint Ltd] Green Areas - Planters, Shrubs, Hanging Baskets</p> <p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p> <p>Promotion of trees, plants and gardens</p> <p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p> <p>Trees</p> <p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p> <p>Improve street scene - begin to remove untidy and unsightly street furniture and phase in lighting, bins/seating that is sympathetic to purpose.</p> <p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p>
4	Lighting	
4	Use street furniture to give the area an identity	<p>Identifiable by different street lighting or similar street furniture for recognition like St Giles Street.</p> <p><b><i>Noted – this can be raised with the Northamptonshire County Council as highway authority</i></b></p> <p>It would be nice to make everything consistent to identify the area such as Victorian style lighting. Signs up outside historic places would also be good.</p> <p><b><i>Noted – this can be raised with the Northamptonshire County Council as highway authority</i></b></p> <p>Street furniture - particularly street lamps - need to reflect the area</p> <p><b><i>Noted – this can be raised with the Northamptonshire County Council as highway authority</i></b></p> <p>Improve street scene - begin to remove untidy and unsightly street furniture and phase in lighting, bins/seating that is sympathetic to purpose.</p> <p><b><i>Noted – this can be raised with the Northamptonshire County Council as highway authority</i></b></p>
2	Traffic calming	<p>Traffic calming/control - To restrict use of roads as 'rat runs'</p> <p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p>
2	Crime Reduction	<p>Crime Reduction, Alcohol and Drug mainly and related to being an area of deprivation due to high influx of immigration. Disbursement of immigration away</p>

1	Topic	Selected comments
		<p>from this concentrated area and an encouragement of business and development opportunity would help lift the area to better prosperity.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
Other comments		<p>Improve Abington Square, particularly access to the Garden of Remembrance</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
		<p>[Learn Today] Squares</p>
		<p>Make it a designated no drinking area to minimise anti social behaviour</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
		<p>Monitoring of existing identified key buildings and appropriate planning consent. Ensuring that any conversion of buildings takes into account the considerable parking issues in this area.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
		<p>Provide good, clear, accessible guidance which extends the understanding of the area and the practical aspects of helping protect its 'best' features and details. Also provide guidance which encourages high standards of design and use of good quality materials in alterations and new development and thereby complements / strengthens existing character.</p> <p><b>Noted – this is something which can be addressed through the planning process</b></p>
		<p>Planning permission only to be given for new buildings that complement the style of the boot and shoe buildings.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
		<p>Preventing shopkeepers displaying and blocking pavements with white goods and second-hand bikes etc outside their premises</p> <p><b>Noted. Obstructing the highway is a police matter</b></p>
		<p>Prohibit some advertising (in top windows)</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
		<p>Park Warden (permanent and full-time) for the Racecourse Park - especially Weekend and Evening</p> <p><b>Noted. The Racecourse is within the Kingsley Conservation Area</b></p>
		<p>Small &amp; medium enterprise high-tech industries to be moved into buildings, local people only into empty houses</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
		<p>Article 4's</p>
		<p>Upper Mounts</p>
		<p>Demolish almost everything, save for a few factories like Trickers. Get rid of the terraced housing. I live in it, and I will be moving out as soon as I can afford it. I think most people in this area live here for the same reasons. Stop being so emotional about horrible, cheap housing that is 100 years out of date.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>

## Priority 2

2	Topic	Selected comments
26	Lighting	<p>Improved lighting along St Edmund's Road</p> <p><b>Noted – this can be raised with the County Council as Highway Authority</b></p>
		<p>Lighting - retrograde street lighting to Victorian style would add character</p> <p><b>Noted – this can be raised with the County Council as Highway Authority</b></p>

2	Topic	Selected comments
		<p>Street lighting to fit the image of the quarter</p> <p><b><i>Noted – this can be raised with the County Council as Highway Authority</i></b></p> <p>Sympathetic street lighting (similar to the Lamplighter pub)</p> <p><b><i>Noted – this can be raised with the County Council as Highway Authority</i></b></p> <p>To maintain an old style to the area, maybe old fashioned street lighting etc</p> <p><b><i>Noted – this can be raised with the County Council as Highway Authority</i></b></p>
20	Building frontages	<p>Sort out frontages. In particular satellite dishes that are already in place. Some houses have more than one, and are larger than standard Sky dishes. Such an example can be seen on St Michael's Road. Also, to stop people 'hanging' items outside the front windows - again often the case with houses on St Michael's Road. Also, to police the rubbish bags that are left out. Some houses still leave rubbish out days before collection.</p> <p><b><i>Satellite dishes will require consent should a Conservation Area be designated – existing dishes cannot be controlled retrospectively</i></b></p> <p>Community regeneration of derelict factories - not exclusively for dwellings. This would allow members of the public to see inside these historic buildings. At present regeneration seems limited to factory apartment conversions. Whilst any conversion from derelict is welcome, having something that visitors could enjoy collectively would be ideal. This should include appropriate signage, reflecting past industries and provide a link to the past. Recognising the place names of the area is vitally important and should be done sympathetically with correct period design.</p> <p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p> <p>Retaining the existing factory building frontages</p> <p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p> <p>Hawkins factory</p> <p>Improve the shop frontages on Kettering Road</p> <p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p>
19	Streets	
17	Signage	<p>Signage - company name and logo restored to every building, date (from, to) story, photos</p> <p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p> <p>Signage - Also to protect the buildings and not turn them into flats</p> <p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p> <p>Signage - make people aware of the area, create guides/heritage walks</p> <p><b><i>Noted – this is a project a conservation area advisory committee could undertake</i></b></p> <p>Signage - missing on lots of streets - signs marked up to reflect Boot &amp; Shoe CA?!</p> <p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p> <p>Signage - relative to the heritage, symbolism and architecture of the buildings mentioned above</p> <p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p> <p>Street signs easily identifiable</p> <p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p> <p>Unnecessary and unsightly signage will need removing</p> <p><b><i>Noted – the Borough Council works in partnership with the highway Authority in this respect.</i></b></p> <p>Informative signage</p>
16	Road and pavement	<p>Improved footpaths and priority for pedestrians and cyclist</p> <p><b><i>Noted</i></b></p>

2	Topic	Selected comments
	surfaces	<p>Improve the pavement on the main Kettering Road between Grove Road and beyond St Michael's Road, making it more even to walk on without the drainage area within the centre of the pavement</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>Dig up the roads properly and resurface them. Not just a pathetic resurfacing over the top, but a proper refurbishment. Some of the roads are like hills in the middle due to repeated cheap maintenance. Do the pavements at the same time and make them all consistent. Put telephone and internet cables underground to get rid of ugly telegraph poles. Install floodlights on buildings and get rid of lamp posts - they are unnecessary with such narrow streets.</p> <p><b>Noted – this matter will be highlighted with the Highway Authority</b></p> <p>Improvements to pavements and walkways, and to the many side roads that are badly in need of proper resurfacing</p> <p><b>Noted – this matter will be highlighted with the Highway Authority</b></p> <p>Work spent on improving the pavements and road surfaces to provide a visual sign that the area is looked after</p> <p><b>Noted – this matter will be highlighted with the Highway Authority</b></p> <p>Put immediate stop to unnecessary works - the water board has just dug up all the streets and made a mess of it, to put water meters in. No-one has asked for them: it's in case we ask!!! Enforcement of stricter rules for this must take place.</p> <p><b>Noted – this matter will be highlighted with the Highway Authority</b></p>
15	Clear up the rubbish, litter, stop flytipping etc	<p>There are problems with fly-tipping &amp; litter in the conservation area: that is not in keeping with its historical significance</p> <p><b>The issue of refuse, litter and fly tipping is dealt with by the Council's Environmental Crime Team who pro-actively and actively deals with these issues. Cases can be referred to them directly.</b></p> <p>Flytipping and general street rubbish is a big problem in Alcombe Road.</p> <p><b>As above</b></p> <p>The streets behind the St Michaels car park area could do with a bit of a clean up in general. Although the area is actually quite pretty and offers a good sense of the history, parts are very dirty and littered and could just do with a "spring clean".</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Streets - improve cleanliness of streets. Making furniture collection free would deter fly tipping.</p> <p><b>Noted – these matters can be raised with the Environmental Team</b></p> <p>Black old bins that are in the town centre. Not the silver ones. There are limited street bins. A general clean up.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>Stop fly-tipping</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>Removal of litter &amp; graffiti</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>Remove graffiti etc</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
9	Parking	<p>Cars parked on roads are an eyesore - as well as causing hazard - suggest low cost parking in car parks build solely for residents that can rent their own parking space. Limit the number of cars parked on residential roads.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>

2	Topic	Selected comments
		<p>Increase parking. Reduce all double yellow lines, they are not needed.</p> <p><b>Noted – the matter will be highlighted with the Highway Authority</b></p> <p>[Playhouse Theatre] Parking - could the playground of the [former] school on Clare Street be used for off-road parking?</p> <p><b>It would be important for the proposer to establish the need for Planning Permission</b></p> <p>Parking - Edith St / Ethel St area - insufficient - can be increased by making one way</p> <p><b>Noted – this can be highlighted with the Highway Authority</b></p> <p>Parking restrictions</p> <p>Review the traffic flow and parking situation. The Mounts area is overcrowded and parking is a huge problem. Possible one-way system in Upper Mounts and designated parking for shop owners would allow homeowners with 'quarter' permits to park in their streets.</p> <p><b>Noted – this can be highlighted with the Highway Authority</b></p>
9	Public spaces	<p>Public Spaces - maintaining - improving - to enhance community pride</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>Public spaces. Draw the public into the established heritage, history and structure of the town and shoe industry that surrounds them.</p> <p><b>Noted – designation should assist in this</b></p> <p>Safe public areas</p>
4	Squares	
2	Foliage such as trees/shrubs/planting	
Other		<p>Support homeowners and business owners in the conservation of their properties - whether this is with advice and appropriate grants where the conservation route is a more expensive option to take.</p> <p>The shops along the Wellingborough and Kettering Roads (closer to the town centre) need to be seriously looked at. They bring the area down, especially some of the 'food' shops that display foods across the pavements. The shops fronts are awful and should be controlled by the council if they wish to trade. These types of shops are not helping Northampton's image and they should be excluded (or drastically improved) if the conservation area goes ahead. Thinking about it, regardless of any conservation area these shops and this area of Northampton needs drastic improvement.</p> <p>Planning permission to take into account the use of buildings, in particular, to stop public houses being turned into private accommodation.</p> <p>To bring industry back into the unused factories for local people to work in (as the area was originally designed for) rather than converting them into flats as this puts a lot of people crammed into one area, some of the conversions already look like slums. At the time of building the work force would have lived worked and shopped in this area. Why not today?</p> <p>Improve area around former 'Soundhaus' (near Duke Street)</p> <p>Limit takeaways - we are already overrun</p> <p>Retain mixed use to reflect the historic pattern of diversity within the area. Retain non-domestic use where possible. It is the close association &amp; inter-relationship of a wide variety of components (former and existing factories, workshops, shops, public houses, clubs, schools, churches, chapels along with the pattern of streets, 'jetties' and other spaces), utilising a simple range of materials and finishes that helps make the area so distinctive and gives it special character. It helps makes this part of Northampton special.</p> <p>Vagrants hanging around, drinking on street corners</p> <p>Ways to enforce Landlords of HIMO's to maintain their buildings and to clear rubbish</p>

2	Topic	Selected comments
		Better / in-keeping street furniture
		A grant scheme to encourage fitting of traditional character wooden glazed windows (can be double glazed) instead of the sea of upvc windows which stripped every terrace of its identity and heritage.
		A publicly accessible and properly staffed archive of the industry should be established either in the Central Museum, which holds the core collections and has such an archive, or in a building of the period within the conservation area.
		Abington Square and Abington Street to become one/merge
		Boot and Shoe buildings to be recognised, restored if needed eg. Hawkins, please get it sorted out. Not many about even original windows.
		improvements in safety and security.
		Buildings of note to be identified and named linked into a walking plan and the town museum.
		Descriptive Plaques
		Discouraging of pigeon feeding
		Fewer posts, especially down Overstone Road (a count of these would be eye opening - what an eyesore and an inconvenience to disabled and push chairs at the last count)
		No cars allowed, bike sheds at rear. Small & medium enterprise student high tech businesses only.
		No more new builds or flats with inadequate parking

### Priority 3

3	Topic	Selected comments
36	Building Frontages	Building frontages and better unification of colours and styles and standard of workmanship.
		<b>Noted</b>
		Encourage retention of original detail including doors and windows along with factory metal windows, factory taking-in doors and external wall mounted winches, date-stones, painted signs and other contemporary details. Examples of painted signs range from an excellent small example at the junction of St Edmund's Rd and Denmark Rd where the earlier name for the former, 'Bird's Piece' is still legible, to wall painted commercial and former public house signs and adverts. Should Billing Rd frontage buildings be included, discourage conversion of front gardens to car parking and other hard paved surfaces. Such change detracts from the selling of the buildings and the wider area as well as being environmentally inappropriate.
		<b>A number of the issues raised can be considered as part of the consideration for applications for Planning Permission (where required). Billing Road is currently being evaluated for designation as a conservation area separately.</b>
		Building frontage - retention of original features - both commercial & domestic
		<b>Noted</b>
		Building frontages and character of buildings
		<b>Noted</b>
		Ensure properties are painted and decorated sympathetically (no more stone cladding: brickwork can be protected)
		<b>Noted – should a conservation area be designated, cladding will require planning permission.</b>
		Factories to be made good with appropriate windows etc., and relevant houses and shops to have appropriate frontages.
		<b>Noted</b>
		Any building alterations to be in keeping with the appearance of the area
		<b>Noted</b>

3	Topic	Selected comments
		<p>Any houses with original fronts have orders on them to preserve features.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>Frontages - keeping building exteriors well maintained.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>Trickers factory</p> <p>Owners of dilapidated buildings to improve their properties</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>Repair dilapidated houses &amp; warehouses</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>Shop fronts - particularly on Kettering Road.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>Strong control on external look of infill development (e.g. so a building with the appearance of 28 Colwyn Road could not be inserted into a terrace in the future)</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>New development - should be in keeping with the traditional style</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>Reinvigorate - return building frontages to former glory, encourage former factories to re-open for employment or as museum.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
23	Lighting	<p>Lighting: it would be nice to have old street lamps in keeping.</p> <p><b>Noted – this matter can be highlighted with the Highway Authority</b></p> <p>Low light pollution street lighting</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>Improve the lighting in the area and ensure that any replacement strategies conform to the conservation area.</p> <p><b>Noted – this matter can be highlighted with the Highway Authority</b></p>
23	Signage	<p>Clear signage on boundaries to indicate the Boot &amp; shoe Quarter</p> <p><b>Noted – this is an issue a future conservation area advisory committee may wish to address</b></p> <p>Distinctive signage would define the area from the other streets that are! not to be included</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>Good historic signage and lighting, and trees where possible</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>[Ramprint Ltd] Less Street sign garbage and more sympathetic signs</p> <p><b>Noted – this matter can be highlighted with the Highway Authority</b></p> <p>Signage - proper street signs, clean the old ones. Maybe include historical information and maps</p> <p><b>Noted – this matter can be highlighted with the Highway Authority</b></p> <p>Signage / interpretation</p> <p>Signage as Boot &amp; Shoe Quarter</p> <p>Signage. ...Where possible. Let the public see the business signs of yesteryear ...gravitate their interest, show our current populace who live within the proposed area as to the history that surrounds them, still.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>

3	Topic	Selected comments
14	Pubic spaces	<p>Public Spaces - to regenerate and add value to this area of Northampton's Inner City</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>Public spaces, including streets should be upgraded to provide a recognised heritage trail (including signage). Above all, the dereliction currently extant should not be the defining image of the area. In order to keep the area in good upkeep I would welcome the expansion of the CCTV area to encompass the Mounts area. Vandalism is regularly reported and this could help preserve any aesthetic upgrades made as part of the conservation plan.</p> <p><b>Noted – a heritage trail may be something a future conservation area advisory committee may wish to address</b></p>
12	Clear up the rubbish, litter, stop flytipping etc	<p>Clean up and restore character to all streets, zero tolerance on litter and tipping, and all features as close to original character as possible. No shabby shop frontages.</p> <p><b>Noted.</b></p> <p>Dog mess and chewing gum on pavements. Don't tolerate it. Provide bins and impose fines.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>Litter control and street enhancement (trees or flower baskets) etc Better more regular street cleansing of dumped sofas, beds, TVs, rubbish</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>Keep it clean and tidy and a few trees</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>Less rubbish left out prior to recycling day</p> <p><b>Noted – the Council's Environmental Crime Team address this</b></p>
11	Streets	
8	Parking	<p>Parking - provide more for residents</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>Parking in Alcombe Road. Many months ago now portions of the pavement that struttred out into the road where removed to prevent flytipping (hasn't actually helped improve the problem) but no-one ever came back to sort out the now missing yellow lines. 'Free-for-all' parking now makes the T-junction in the middle of Alcombe Road dangerously obscured for those entering Alcombe Road from Alcombe Terrace.</p> <p><b>Noted – this matter can be highlighted with the Highway Authority.</b></p> <p>Increase in permit parking and removal of redundant "double yellow line"</p> <p><b>Noted – this matter can be highlighted with the Highway Authority.</b></p> <p>Removal of unnecessary double yellow lines</p> <p><b>Noted – this matter can be highlighted with the Highway Authority</b></p>
6	Greenery	<p>Establishment of maintained planted landscaped areas</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>Flower beds and investment with the community - provide planters and get the community to maintain, I will do my street</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>Introduce more greenery to the area in form of planters etc.</p> <p><b>Noted – one of the identified characteristics of the area is the lack of open space and planting</b></p> <p>Greenery - trees, shrubs, bins</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
2	Street furniture	<p>Public benches/seating in areas of particular interest</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>

3	Topic	Selected comments
		Provide more litter bins <b>Noted</b>
4	Road & pavement surfaces	Improvement of road surfaces in centre of town <b>Noted – this matter can be highlighted with the Highway Authority.</b> Fix broken pavements <b>Noted – this matter can be highlighted with the Highway Authority.</b> Pot holes in roads <b>Noted – this matter can be highlighted with the Highway Authority.</b> Potholes/state of roads <b>Noted – this matter can be highlighted with the Highway Authority.</b>
4	Traffic management	There should be a clear main route developed/preserved linking people through from town centre, through the Mounts to the Wellingborough/Kettering Road areas. This could be done with better lighting, and cleaning up of boarded up buildings and those buildings whose frontages that look untidy and desolate rather than historically diminished over time. This would make the route less intimidating as sometimes walking down there you can get a feeling it's a bit unsafe  Traffic management especially to discourage the high speeding and heavy vehicles that travel down St Michael's Road. <b>Noted</b> Remove mini roundabout at Earl St/Military Road and Clare Street junction - reinstate conventional rights of way. <b>Noted – this matter can be highlighted with the Highway Authority</b>
Other comments		Review street furniture lighting and benches, re- introduce trees in streets and introduce a really effective street maintenance programme. Foster a real sense of pride in the area and dispel the current attitude towards the Mounts area.  Increase living density of the area with reuse of factory buildings and convenience shops Encourage (tax breaks or something) return of proper little "artizan" type shops Encourage pride in area - residents need to improve their own exterior environment. Something needs to be done about the old hospital. For years now nothing has happened. DO SOMETHING!!!!!! A permanent publicity base, appropriate to the conservation area and a basic national industry, should be created to increase local, regional, national and international awareness of this industry and of its substantial Northampton remains. A self-guided heritage trail - I'm sure you'll be able to find a local pub willing to sponsor such a leaflet. Blue/plaques/small statues/sculptures to brighten the area General condition of adjacent areas Prevent shops being bill-boarded with posters and unnecessary advertising Minimal political interference by Cllr Church et al during the whole process More evidence of Police presence especially at weekends and evenings

3	Topic	Selected comments
		Stop the shop owners putting their wares on the pavements (Kettering Road)
		Re-introduce the trams and make Abington Square and Abington Street tram and pedestrian only

### Responses to Question 9 – Any other comments

These comments have been split into groups according to whether they are:

- ♦ In favour of the conservation area in principle
- ♦ Neutral about the idea
- ♦ Against the conservation area

Within each group, comments are grouped by the location of the responder:

- ♦ From within the evaluation area
- ♦ From the streets adjacent to the evaluation area boundary
- ♦ From elsewhere within Northampton
- ♦ From within Northamptonshire (excluding Northampton)
- ♦ From the rest of the country
- ♦ Finally, those who did not record their address

Comments <b>in favour of</b> the Conservation Area	From within the Evaluation Area
	I am pleased to see the Council trying to do something to protect the history and heritage of Northampton.
	I think this is really good idea and of benefit to the town and the local residents. I think it will support the history and legacy of the Boot and Shoe industry of Northampton, linking in with the museum and as a visitor attraction bringing valuable income into the town while improving this run-down area, giving a better quality of environment for us living locally.
	No-one knows about Cordwainers and Northampton's rich heritage in the shoe industry round here. I did a shoe design course at the London School of Fashion and it was amazing how much Northampton was mentioned, even now we still have the main leather factories and the only shoe last factory left in England. We should be proud of this. Would love to know who used to live in my house and story about how all these houses were built by the Northampton Town and Country Building Society.
	This is a very positive move in the right direction. Since 2006 when I bought my home, I've felt a tangible lack of enthusiasm throughout the town for its standard of upkeep, its heritage and its place in the development of the boot and shoe industry. This is an opportunity to really turn this around and give pride in the 'Boot and Shoe' quarter that should be celebrated, maintained and enhanced. Throw out the negative connotations of the 'Mounts' and give the area a new and inspiring name.
	Terrific idea – well done for the concept
	Hopefully the old buildings will be preserved.
	Reminds all concerned that the integrity of the neighbourhood needs care.
	I think it's great this is happening – history should be conserved and can only help improve the area we live in and preserve some of the beautiful Victorian frontages and buildings. It may also assist in reducing crime and increasing the market value of our properties. Thank you for the opportunity to feed back!
	I think this plan needs to be realised urgently given the amount of damage that has already taken place. The whole area is in danger of becoming totally run down and has been neglected for too long. I would like to see a museum house or building in the area. A house in the original Victorian workers' style would be of huge interest.
	Although I fully support the proposal to preserve these fantastic old buildings, the Council should also keep in mind that many people who live here are in the lowest wage bracket and could not afford to finance any radical changes individually. I would urge the Council to be realistic with any plans which involve high costs. To use an extreme example – making people replace their old doorsteps with marble or Victorian tiles.
	Any efforts to improve the area in partnership with the community is welcome.

I strongly agree with the Conservation Area proposal and as a resident I would be happy to pro-actively support this project in any way possible.

Improvements do need to be made to the area, if the conservation area will make this happen then I'm 110% for it. If however any government money allocated to the area 'get's re-directed to other projects' it would be one of the biggest losses for the town.

This is an unmissable opportunity to turn Northampton from simply a place to work to a place of tourism and recognised heritage, especially after so much missed opportunity and ruin in the 1970's. I would love to see a conservation area where the boot and shoe character is unmissable. I would love to see guided tours and opportunity for any member of the public to see inside a working shoe factory (perhaps as part of a new museum) but not just a static exhibition like the ones in Derngate. Affordable workspace for one-man shoemakers like myself would be another idea as part of a new museum. Northampton is famous in Italy and Japan amongst other countries and people I know here do not have a clue about this. Having been here for 3 years my entire passion for this area is based on the shoe industry. There is nothing else that gets my attention and yet the shoe industry is so hidden and misunderstood. Act now! Golden opportunity!

Consider making the area a business improvement district (B.I.D.) with revenues going towards improving the sense of place and building on the heritage. Negotiate with N.C.C./Borough Council/W.N.D.C and or regional growth funds to have subsidies or reduced taxes/rates (for specific period) to businesses (specifically boot & shoe) bringing former factories back to use. Encourage 'boutique' shoe manufacturers to use factories, work with Northampton University to provide degree/courses in leather work. Encourage these students / graduates to set up business in a proud Boot & Shoe Heritage site.

Plaques to mark out various boot and shoe companies. Factory on Lorne Road with eagle on front in dire condition outside – nice if done up. Generally all boot and shoe buildings restored would be great. Love the Globe works building near Hawkins. Please clean up our streets too.

I am not sure it is original but The Lamplighters public house is a well used and well maintained building that would become a landmark boundary building. It is quite unusual in terms of general pub architecture but equivalent to some of the others in the area that are protected. I have lived in the area for over 8 years and feel that the conservation area would recognise not only its unique appearance but strengthen a well-liked inner city neighbourhood. I would expect the benefits to take several years to come to fruition bearing in mind the current funding regime. I echo the comments in the document that refer to the lack of gentrification in the area and would think the degree of short term rental properties and HMOS, student housing, etc add to its diversity but give challenges to its implementation. It's outside the scope of the consultation but the area lacks a community venue that could be its focus. Using one of the run-down or ignored buildings could give the area a centre and perhaps perform the function of interpreting it. My employer used to have an office in Birmingham's jewellery quarter and I often thought that there were many similarities and options for development and improvements.

The building on Overstone Road is included in the Conservation area, but something really needs to be done to this building to preserve it for future generations, or it will be lost. I know this building needs considerable work, but once this is done, it is would be another beautiful example of the shoe factories.

Very much welcome this development, provided there are positive benefits for local residents through improvements in the local environment

I think it is in general a good idea but has the potential to be a little too far-reaching and not achieve the objectives that have been set. If a small area or series of small areas were selected then there would be greater opportunity to make a significant impact and create distinctive area that could be instantly identified other than being just the same as before but with increased planning restrictions which I feel would be the outcome of the large area (option 1).

I have lived in Northampton all my life. My family on my mothers side have lived in Northampton since the late 1700's and many of them have been in the boot and shoe trade. I am proud of my heritage and feel that this initiative is good for the town's prestige. The town, particularly the centre, is not what it was – it is encouraging to see some positive action for a change.

Money and time needs to be spent in keeping the town clean and general maintenance of the area. i.e. keeping shrubs cut back, walk ways clean and user friendly – more rubbish bins and regular collection. I understand this is a growing community BUT it needs to be managed more effectively.

I hope this idea gets the go-ahead as it could have a really positive effect on my local area. Would love to see Hawkins, Trickers factories restored.

All conservation of our heritage is of paramount importance.

Generally, I feel there should be provision for the Victorian residential housing within the town centre. I would also recommend the former Irish centre and Soundhaus on Great Russell Street for listing due to its importance as a former hub of community arts and society. Regeneration of the Mounts area in particular is long overdue and I wholeheartedly welcome consultation on the matter. You may be interested in a piece of research-based work I recently completed as a part of my Masters studies in Graphic Design with Coventry University. My brief initially was to give a graphical identity to the town centre areas of Northampton. I found that much of Northampton's heritage was often overlooked, especially in the residential but former industrial areas of the town. I had recently moved into the Mounts area and I was immediately struck with the magnificence and beauty of the renovated factories and also the Victorian signage still in situ on the sides of people's homes. The areas immediately surrounding the town centre are often perceived to be dirty or run down, and whilst these areas have some problems, I saw a vibrant, multicultural community steeped in history. I consider local history to be integral to an area's future development and history should not be ignored. Initially my concept was to place Northampton's industrial (shoe) heritage back in the minds of local residents by way of signage or typographic design. As such I researched the graphic language of the local Victorian shoe industry, including charting and photographing key buildings still standing in the area. As far as possible I used traditional graphic and illustration techniques such as pen and ink and letterpress printing using my photography as a starting point. My final designs included elements of the areas themselves, including architectural gestures and links to past industry, commerce or key buildings or events. My research showed me that there was more to Northampton's industrial past than shoes. I wanted my work to become interwoven with the area it represented. Aside from the historical research carried out through Northamptonshire library services and the 'field' research done in the area, I secured ethical consent from the Coventry University academic research department to conduct a series of interviews with people living in the town centre communities. This provided the final piece of the design puzzle: talking to local people, connecting with the human element. This enriched my research and enabled me to identify the best way in which my work could be digested by the public. I produced designs for around nine areas including Mounts, Abington, Kingsley, and Phippsville, and it is my long term intention to work on designs for other areas – perhaps eventually all of the Northampton boroughs. I produced an initial run of limited edition t-shirts, many of which were given to friends and the local people who helped me with my research. I have forwarded copies of my work and critical paper to your conservation department for their interest. If you are interested in seeing my work on local heritage please contact me at [captainalexis@yahoo.com](mailto:captainalexis@yahoo.com). This project has been my small part to raise awareness of local history and I fully endorse any conservation plans for the town.

The Mounts has potential to be a really great area. At the moment, it is quite run down with a lot of litter and fly tipping. There are a lot of young professionals living in the area and the area has a lot of potential to improve. This conservation area is a great idea – but you need to do more than just labelling it a special area. If the improvements in Q7 were done (especially priority 1) it would make a huge difference in improving the town. The Lace Market in Nottingham is built on a similar heritage – could you take inspiration from that may be?

We need this CA and should do all we can to draw any additional funding / resources / opportunities by establishing it. Should become a tourist destination like the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham.

We need to conserve the original painted street signs – some are already gone, but those remaining need protection.

We see this as a very positive proposal to recognise this very important part of Northampton's history, affording it and this urban area the recognition it deserves. This part of the town has escaped the worst ravages of bomb damage and 20<sup>th</sup> century unsympathetic development. Every effort should be made to maintain this and enhance the aesthetic quality of the buildings and the sense of community in the area.

I thoroughly approve of the idea, however I feel it is too little too late, as so much has changed in the area; for instance we are one of the few people to have kept our sash windows and not double glazed. I think it would help people to agree to the scheme, if you make them aware of any grants that are available, stemming from being in a conservation area (if there are any).

I can see the benefits & agree with the scheme to preserve the nature of the area & prevent unsightly developments, but residents' lives are affected by the two issues, which I believe some measures should be taken against. – Street drinkers, attracted by shops selling alcohol 24 hours a day. – Litter, mainly from late night takeaways which flout their opening hours. Can some measures be taken to reduce these issues, such as reducing the hours for both the shops that sell alcohol & takeaways serving food? These shops regularly serve drunk people & I have witnessed selling to underage children, & report street drinkers to the police when I see them, but these measures would go some way to aiding the police.

Comments **in favour of** the Conservation Area

From streets adjacent to the Evaluation Area

Went to the drop-in surgery at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church and was very impressed with display and information provided. The two ladies running the surgery were very knowledgeable and extremely helpful. Full marks to them.

This should have been done years ago to prevent the loss of so many important buildings.

I think this is long overdue and much needed in the area to protect what the town has left of the industry. It will be exciting to see yellow AA signage showing the way to the Boot & Shoe Quarter. Very exciting times. For those that have replied via email, an email alert should be set up and sent advising of when the next drop-in surgeries will be before the consultation ends in March. The 2 ladies that were in the drop-in surgery on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan were fantastic. Very informative, patient and enthusiastic.

Comments **in favour of** the Conservation Area

From elsewhere in Northampton

[Northampton Heritage Hunters ] As a Heritage group we appreciate an effort is being made to preserve our local heritage.

Strongly feel this is very important. As a member of NIAG we have watched this with interest.

The more we can do to highlight our history and improve the “feel” of areas of the town centre the better! I think individual pockets of the town are in a disgraceful condition (e.g. St Edmunds Hospital) and am surprised the owners (both private and municipal) are allowed to get away with it. I’m sure I’m not alone in saying that I would happily pay a council tax “Construction Supplement” to help improve the town.

Along with preservation of the cultural heritage of the shoe quarter, there should be a reason for people to visit the shoe quarter – i.e. more mixed use buildings rather than just housing, otherwise it the area will be outwardly preserved, but visitors to Northampton still won’t appreciate its heritage.

I strongly support this plan. Please see [www.northamptonshireleather.com](http://www.northamptonshireleather.com) Please encourage use of the area for start up fashion, footwear, leather goods design and light manufacturing. NOTE; This industry is not dead! Over 120 firms remain.

It’s a good idea

[English Heritage ] The significance of the boot and shoe industry to Northamptonshire (and in particular Northampton) was highlighted in the publication “Built to Last”, which was published by English Heritage in 2004. The designation of a conservation area to conserve this significance is something that has long been regarded as desirable, and we therefore welcome the emerging proposals for designation. The joint English Heritage/CABE Urban Panel in their visit to Northampton in July last year were particularly supportive.

[English Heritage (CABE Urban Panel)] The Urban Panel visited Northampton in July 2010 and was very impressed by the large “Boot and Shoe” area of the town. The Panel expressed unanimous support of a Conservation Area designation. It considered that in addition to its historic and architectural interest, the area is also represented by a large amount of affordable housing near the town centre, the character of which could be maintained and reinforced by good conservation area policies. The Panel also commended an approach to the Heritage Lottery Fund to assess the possibility of a Townscape Heritage Initiative for the area to stimulate much-needed investment.

Better late than never. The splendid factories have gone, apart from pathetic, neglected 1892 Manfield’s, on Wellingborough Road (pioneer single-storey layout). The site of Manfield’s and Isaac Campbell’s 3½ storey pioneer factories, Campbell Square, need blue plaques. Preferred name: “Boot and Shoe Conservation Area” – not the others since footwear was made all over the town, including Kingsthorpe, St James, Kingsley & town centre.

I’m pleased to learn about this venture. Its late, but better late than never.

[Town Centre Conservation Area Advisory Committee ] We strongly support the designation of the conservation area, protecting this important aspect of Northampton’s heritage. However, it will be important to educate, monitor and enforce planning regulations for the designation to be effective. Encouraging the involvement of the active resident associations in the area would help, as would setting up a CAAC for the area. We would be happy to offer advice and support to any new CAAC, and feel that more interaction with the other CAACs nearby would be of benefit to us all.

Northamptonshire Industrial Archaeology Group believes that this was probably the most important area in the county in terms of the evolution of the boot & shoe industry and fully supports the proposal which would help to protect not just the former factory buildings but the whole streetscape of factories interspersed with Victorian terraced housing.

An excellent idea! I obtained my degree in Industrial Archaeology & Environmental Chemistry in 2002 with my dissertation on an area I called "Brier Lane Development" – this was an area from York Road to Palmerston Road, Abington Sq/Wellingborough Road to Billing Road. All the research material is in my Archive and I would be pleased to make this material (photos) and myself available. This dissertation is the survey of an area of Victorian Northampton between the Wellingborough and Billing Roads developed, unlike much of the town of this period, by private builders and speculators. It attempts a survey whilst developing a system and nomenclature for describing the architectural details associated with buildings of this period. Most of the Area of Study was rapidly developed between 1863 and 1884. The resulting pattern of land use included terraced streets of houses interspersed with pubs, shops, and small to medium factories, largely devoted to the boot and shoe trade. Information from documents such as the Census indicates that the houses were largely occupied by skilled boot and shoe factory workers, their bosses, middle-class tradespeople and professionals. The change from homeworking to factories is illustrated through the changes in occupations entered in the Census from 1871 and the death of garden workshops. The Architectural Detail Type-series developed during this study will in the future be extended and used for surveys elsewhere in the town.

The proposal to create a boot and shoe conservation area is very welcome. With careful and sensitive implementation this can help keep the area in good condition, making an important contribution to the quality of life of those living and working within the area. This in turn can strengthen the area's sense of cultural identity and support its economic well being. The former residents association (Thrift Streets & Vernon Terrace RA) did press NBC to establish a conservation area for its wider area as a means of helping safeguard the strong local Victorian, Edwardian and later historic character and valued sense of place. This familiar & distinctive character was recognised and greatly valued by many local residents but it was also one that is being eroded, including by development not in keeping (in scale, design and materials) with the area. One particular threat was from development in the gardens of local terraced houses. Such development was encouraged by the gardens being designated as 'brown field'. There was often strong local objection to such development. As a result, the residents association pressed for change of the 'brown field' designation. The evaluation report accompanying the proposal is a very useful document and will aid the vital process of extending understanding of the area. One related aspect worth highlighting, is the role of early building societies, bearing as it does on the form and nature of the terrace housing. Northampton may have been unusual in that some terrace house development was encouraged not by the private sector but by early forms of 'mutual aid' building society. The Northampton Town and County Benefit Building Society was the largest, a forerunner of what eventually has become the Nationwide today but many others also operated. They promoted the idea of personal thrift through mutuality. Such activity appears to have influenced the form of houses and streets. These early societies bought up land in various parts of the town, including within and outside the proposed conservation area. Land was purchased, plots laid out and allocated to members who could build or sell on. A building pattern emerged with groups of two, four or more houses being built in the same style but often with slightly differing, modest architectural embellishments, from those next door. Matching details within such groups provided variety between buildings in the same street. Variations in plan form also undoubtedly occurred behind otherwise similar frontages. The overall terrace coherence and unity was maintained but with variety between houses or small groups of houses reflecting work by different owners, builders or of different dates of building. Speculative building encouraged by the emergence of the early building societies, led to variety in the houses built – a feature still very evident across the proposed conservation area.

Failing the extension of the proposed area even beyond what is envisaged in the plan, there should be an assessment of the remains of this industry in other parts of the town to ensure other structures are retained and identifiable and, where possible, also conserved: the concept of conservation is often disliked as people think their houses will be treated as relics and their areas made artificial; but best practice shows it is realisable and can be interesting and popular.

I think this is a very worthwhile project vital to preserving the towns heritage.

[St. James Residents' Association ] Whilst, we broadly accept the proposal as a benefit to the town and in turn protecting our valuable industrial heritage we feel it does not go far enough. We feel that the proposal should also include St. James as a conservation area. Without prejudice to the many valid reasons for the area already proposed, we feel St. James also has many reasons to commend it as a "Boot and Shoe" conservation area and we feel the area is being overlooked. [Illustrated brief history in support of this supplied]. We hope ... those involved in the decision making will not forget other areas during this consultation, they are no less important than anywhere else, indeed combined with other important historical industrial buildings such as the Tram depot on St. James Road it gives us a rich seam of heritage to be proud of and a lasting testament to our forefathers who gave us what we have today and is what Northampton was built on.

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**Comments in favour of the Conservation Area**From elsewhere in Northampton

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Good idea to help Northampton take pride in its Boot & Shoe heritage.

...MAKE IT HAPPEN ! Bring this town's Boot and Shoe history to the fore !!!

I think it would enhance the profile of the town, bring trade and be a good link to the museum, a fantastic idea.

Using the shoe museum in my town has been a great pleasure used on many occasion with relatives and friends. They have enjoyed learning the history of may types of footwear. I have signed the visitor books available on many occasions. My favourite section is the rock-star, as you actually get too see some the footwear that they have worn at gigs – strange they may be sometimes.

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**Comments in favour of the Conservation Area**From within Northamptonshire

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I do think that there should be several of the shoe factories listed because they typify a specific design and architectural period. Many of the conversions from factory to dwellings or warehousing in the past 25 years have been done with scant regard to maintaining a sympathetic townscape or maintaining the symbolism the show factories offer. Key features have often been lost. With local listing this might be prevented in future. It may - or may not - be relevant now but I lodged a copy of my undergraduate dissertation with Northampton Borough Council Planning Dept and also with the libraries service at the Central Library. Bibliographical details appear below. It includes a significant sample of residents' interviews - from a sample area equating to the proposed Option 1, and also from the populace as a whole in Northampton. The premise of the research was centred on the idea that the sentiment and symbolism residents feel for the boot and shoe architecture and heritage would act as some form of preservation method. Interviews and questionnaires yielded a wealth of information relevant to your proposals. Bibliographical details: Blackmore, M. 1999. Sentiment, Symbolism and Shoe Factories. Leicester University.

[Northamptonshire Association for Local History] With regards to any proposal for demolition of buildings then everything should be done to ensure that the shell of the building is retained, with 'new build' being behind the original façade. This has been successfully achieved in other towns and cities where the building is of historic interest. With regards to alterations to properties the Association fully supports the motion that planning permission should be sought prior to any building alteration, be it windows, doors, roofs etc. The charm of the original dwellings must remain.

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**Comments in favour of the Conservation Area**From outside Northamptonshire

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You have a good cause. Keep it up. God Bless

I would like to see an improvement to the Hawkins Factory building on the corner of Overstone Road and St Michaels Road. This building is prominent at the start of the conservation area, a marvellous looking building and a disgrace that it has been allowed to get into the state that it is in now. I am in total agreement with the proposal and hope it is successful.

Great tourism potential and educational visits. Include a new boot and shoe museum and separate reconstructed factory and house to demonstrate homeworked shoe making. Visit Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter for inspiration.

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**Comments in favour of the Conservation Area**No address given

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Think it is a great idea. Be nice to have some informative plaques about what the buildings are. Area could do with regeneration.

[Northants Green Party] We are writing to support Northampton Borough Council's proposed Conservation Area subject to the following points: - We agree with all but one of the "distinctive features worth preserving" (listed on the third page of the council's leaflet) but would like to see the promotion of tree planting and the provision of safe public green/open space, where this can be done in sympathy with the current area in order to provide some necessary colour and health benefit. - We fully support the encouragement of local pubs, small local stores and small-scale local industry by reasonable means to put them on a 'level playing field' with national and international competitors.

Hopefully, your scheme would include 'tidying up' these streets in the conservation area and the streets surrounding it. Litter, graffiti, etc., are a real problem in the area, and any effort to improve these can only be a good thing. But would this increase the council tax? 2011 is a very tight year for families, and an increase in council taxes will put people against the idea of a conservation area.

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**Comments in favour of the Conservation Area**

No address given

I think this is a really good idea, and if done well could be a real addition to the town. Please try to continue the excellent work and replicate the standards that have been put in place in the St Giles' Street/Derngate area if at all possible, as these are really nice areas to walk along and it would be great to see this expand. I also think simple things, such as how you've lit the Market Square and put the flowers etc around make a huge difference to the appearance of the place and it would be good to continue this in the area around the Jaguar garage and St Michael's car park, linking down to the Wellingborough and Kettering Roads and would make them a far nicer place to walk and less intimidating. I think focusing on the smaller area would give the place a better sense of belonging and preserve the history well, as with the larger option one you would find you're lost in just a sea of houses rather than a cultural quarter.

A lot of the town's history has been destroyed over the last 50 years or so - preserve what we have NOW - but in a sensitive manner

I think this is a fantastic idea to help maintain this important part of Northampton's history

I fear the response to this consultation will be disappointingly low. My letter included neither "the accompanying leaflet" nor "the enclosed questionnaire". Not everyone has access to the internet, and there is little "spark" about the letter to encourage residents to seek out information at their local library. The town has neglected its heritage pitifully in the past, and even in my life time, significant buildings have been destroyed (Horton & Aldridge factory; Phipps' brewery) or ruined by inappropriate "improvements" (Barry Road School windows; Market Square cobbles). I wholeheartedly support the conservation of the little that is left.

**Neutral comments about the proposal**

From within the Evaluation Area

Parking: provide car parks, or encourage the use of existing car parks for shoppers and tourists - and move this away from residential street (residents to park only). This could help the area to look less like a car park and more like a traditional street.

How will the residents living in the area be affected, will there be a change in the Council Tax?

The boot and shoe area should be given an identity (so you know when your in it and when you're not): the best and most economical way to do that would be new street signs throughout the whole area? (See drawing on hard copy)

Road signs and information signs would improve visibility and pride in the area - and will encourage learning of all ages in the area.

The main issue would be not restricting parking due to the conservation area. There still must be efforts to provide and improve parking space ability by doing things like removing curved kerbs and out-of-date double yellow lines.

[Haynes & Cann Limited] Haynes & Cann is not correctly identified as a shoe factory on the plan. The background document contains no reference to Haynes and Cann as a current manufacturer (as we would have been when the document was drafted). Also there is no reference to the building in which we occupy the first floor, having previously been occupied by the Brevitt Shoe Company. I thought the document missed an opportunity to celebrate how much footwear manufacturing there was still left in Northampton relative to most (if not all) towns in the county where footwear manufacturing used to dominate. I do, however, applaud your efforts to conserve the town's industrial heritage.

I do have the concern that being a conservation area the need to ask for permission for many things is a bit off-putting. Also anybody wanting to sell their property could find difficulty as perhaps people would not like to buy in a conservation area knowing what it entails. My grandfather and my great grandfather were involved in the boot and shoe industry, so I think it is good that it is conserved.

I live in one of the listed buildings in Colwyn Road so are subject to greater planning restrictions than most residents anyway. However, I am Chair of our Residents' Association, and many residents are anxious about possible greater restrictions and possibly costs that they may have to take into account when renovating the outside of their homes.

What about support for business in the zone. Particularly for those related to boot and shoe, and for those businesses that serve them like local shops. Why can't Northampton begin producing boots and shoes again? Or at least produce something? Conservation for its own sake is rather pointless.

A little late for this to happen. I wonder where the funding will come from, but hope this will improve a run-down area.

**Neutral** comments about the proposal

From within the Evaluation Area

Considering the developments allowed over the last few years the new sector seems a bit too late for some factory buildings. I would also question why the Hawkins factory on the corner of St Michael's & Overstone Road has remained derelict for so long. It's an amazing building but it is getting an eyesore now!

I have a personal interest as my daughter works for Crockett & Jones

Where the Kettering Road borders the proposed conservation area is currently very shabby. It would be nice to see some investment into this area which is in keeping with the character of the proposed conservation ideas.

The Hawkins Factory is beautiful. This should not be made into flats. Would the shoe museum consider moving to this, bigger site and become a national museum? Whatever happens to this building it should be treated as the showcase of the area.

Consider grants to householders for maintaining original features on front of houses i.e. windows, doors etc. This encourages householders to be more aware of overall look of the conservation area.

[Colwyn Road Residents' Association] A number of residents are very positive about the proposals but some have concerns and questions. These include: ~ concerns about increased restrictions on residents when they renovate the outside of their homes, and possible resulting increased costs if brick, slate and timber are preferred building materials and replacement must be made "like-for-like"; ~ concerns about being able to prune or remove trees from gardens; ~ questions about cost implications for possible increases in Council Tax, or household insurance premiums or house prices; ~ questions about costs for submitting planning applications; ~ concerns about the cost to NBC of creating the conservation area, and then of monitoring and enforcing planning controls, especially at this time of great pressure on public finances.

Will references be made to the support industries within the town i.e. tanneries within Spring Boroughs (Wilson, Tilt, Pettits, British Chrome etc). Shoemakers Phipps Faire, Chamberlains shoe components. British United shoe machinery Co and many other famous footwear companies outside the designated area Church & Co, Barratt's, Norvic, Lotus, Sears and Manfield just to name a few.

I'm concerned that Council tax will be reviewed and I could be in a high bracket. How will this affect any planning permissions in the future? When will the works start - planned finish? What are the priority areas?

How will this be enforced?

Whatever you do - keep it tidy

Some streets are filthy and poorly maintained e.g. St Michael's Road - one would hope that more of an effort to maintain physical appearance of the streets will be made to show the buildings in the best of light.

Remember the 'Jubilee Works'? Why is this area inferior to 'Abington'? Could the difference be eradicated? Would it be further degraded by reference to its industrial past? Because the area is mainly one of Victorian heritage and in particular 1887, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Year, would it be a good idea to link this with Queen Elizabeth II and her Jubilee Year, by calling the project and area the Jubilee Conservation Area. There may be funding for Jubilee Projects.

Please do not invoke/include Article 4 for area/proposal. Whilst I support the development of a conservation area I do not believe the residents will have much to benefit without the commitment of public sector bodies such as Northampton Borough Council, Northampton County Council and the Highways Agency etc. to actually deal with the problems of the dangerous state of the pavements and road surfaces and to review the parking problems/reduce the double yellow line markings/increase spaces for parking. It is quite obvious that the student population impacts on parking spaces for year-round residents. I can rarely park outside my house, in fact it is a bonus to be able to park in my street!! - I long for the holidays when they leave the area and free up the spaces!! Please review the sites of street name signs to enable drivers to see them when approaching a road, not after you have passed it!!

[Guy Salmon Jaguar] Particular attention should be given to the cleanliness and state of repair of the streets and pavements within the conservation area

**Neutral** comments about the proposal

From streets adjoining the Evaluation Area

Existing factories could be encouraged to participate in Heritage weekend. Re-used factories could have info boards about their history displayed. Independent shoe shops could be part of the Quarter, e.g. Stuarts.

To keep the green space opposite Queensgrove Methodist Church green. No more development on the Racecourse – not even play areas. Green space only

**Neutral** comments about the proposal

From streets adjoining the Evaluation Area

As far as I can see, very little will change/be noticeable, as presumably these historic buildings do already carry planning protection re: the exterior. I don't see how you can make a feature out of any of the areas as the expanse is to great. Therefore, this exercise won't mean a great deal to anyone visually.

Having been born in Northampton and lived the majority of my life here. I am returning anyway. I would have been very interested in the above, but think I will be 150 miles away soon.

**Neutral** comments about the proposal

From elsewhere in Northampton

[Northampton University] The summary states that the first remnant of the boot and shoe industry in immediately north and east of the town. When English Heritage generalises about things from 1850 it doesn't recognise the locality shift in Northampton. The Historical Section is making guesses between Wood & Law 1847 and the earliest Ordnance Survey Maps in the 1880s, but there is a lot of documentary evidence for what happened over this time scale. They only then tackle the progressive development but again mostly from maps. We have a serious attempt to recognise an important heritage area based on archaeology style "lets look at maps and make guesses", followed by a documents section that is superficial stuff from text books (nearly as bad as BDP researching Northampton from two books in Manchester City Library). It hardly scratches the surface and is full of misunderstandings. There is some contemporary survey work but it needs the documentary underpinning. A lot of very general architectural material around listed buildings. The references list looks like something straight out of an archaeology report. Why are we using archaeologists to write local history? There is a vast amount of documentary material untouched. I bet none of this was carried out in the Record Office. [The boot and shoe industry in this area] applies only post 1875 and wasn't established until 1890. In terms of the surviving boot & shoe industry it is of course vital. However it means we are not celebrating the old boot and shoe areas. I've been researching tanneries and curriers rather than shoe trade but they are closely related. The traditional areas include Newlands, Silver Street/Bearward Street, Marehold/Upper Horsemarket (rough-stuff makers especially), Woolmonger Street, Horseshoe Street, The Green. Obviously all these areas are now unrecognisable for that. However I think it important to recognise that the conservation area is post 1880. For a long time the trade carried on in the old areas, and there were shoe factories in the old areas. The two continued up to the 1930s. There seems to be no intention to consider the association with curriers and tanneries. The plans talk about non-shoemaking without evidently recognising related trade. Shoe manufacturing and piecework and associated currying and tanneries caught fire a lot. There is a lot of history of the proposed conservation area wrapped up in fire reports. There were several instances of multiple arson in the trade, possibly rivalry or insurance, especially around 1902 and 1922. There is a lot of evidence from bankruptcies.

The designated area should not be exploited for political gain by anybody. The areas should be properly redeveloped for locally employable people by the currently employed business people. I'm prepared to lead and steamroller projects through via self-employed techniques, then focus upon known "brown field sites" which are known eyesores.

[Playhouse Theatre, Clare Street] Publish a guide book with short histories of the buildings and suggested walking tours. House the leather museum in a shoe factory - Hawkins? Put 'blue plaques' on factories, with the name and dates of occupants.

**Neutral** comments about the proposal

From within Northamptonshire

When NBC had a YTS unit they produced a booklet entitled 'Northampton remembers Boot & Shoe'. A reprint might be a source of revenue.

**Neutral** comments about the proposal

From outside Northamptonshire

Having left Northampton, I have moved to an area of London that has a large terraced area originally built for railway workers. The council does not seem to pay much heed to this and beautiful examples of terraced housing are being knocked down to be replaced by characterless, poorly built, and uncomplimentary flats, that seem to owe more in style to Scandinavia than Victorian Britain. Once these buildings are gone, they're gone for good.

**Neutral** comments about the proposal

No address given

You may find my Masters dissertation on Boot and Shoe building conversions useful in policy generation for alterations to the factories. It is on the SMR.

**Neutral** comments about the proposal

No address given

Restrictions on the residential properties in the area should be limited to building use and demolition. It is too late to impose rules like no satellite dishes, antennas and dormer windows. So many properties already have these that preventing more has no positive effect. The area also needs to be regenerated, preventing the use of better materials for doors and windows will reverse the regeneration, adding more cost to residents in an area that is certainly not affluent. It would be better to accept that UPVC and tiled roofs, while not in keeping with the Victorian heritage, actually help improve the standard of living and this will have positive benefits in time for the area.

As many of the old factories have already been converted into flats wouldn't it be easier just to conserve the buildings with features that need it. Most of the terraced houses do not need conserving. Any major changes would have to go through planning permission anyway.

Over the past few years I have given material e.g. shoes - lasts - patterns (paper), personal interviews e.g. types - recordings, interviews - recorded on C.D.s.

The tatty shops on the Kettering Road should be looked at in order to bring them in line with the conservation area

**Comments against** the Conservation Area

From within the Evaluation Area

Because of the council the Hawkins building is now an eyesore. Why don't you just let it be developed into flats? Find something better to do with your time rather than coming up with ridiculous schemes. I suppose the same person who came up with the re-development of Gold Street and Marefair is responsible for this scheme.

It is too little to late: the Councils of this town have let the Boot and Shoe industry go into a state of decline, the same as with the rest of our Town: it once was a very nice Town. The problem is now you cannot turn the clock back, which is what we think you are trying to do. To conserve something means to keep looking like it was when it was new: how are you going to do that when you have no money to spend? Take a look at the old Hawkins factory - you are leaving it to fall down. It should have been turned into a working factory museum instead of letting it go to rack and ruin like it has.

[Trickers] Nothing like bolting the stable door after the horse has bolted. Do not restrict progress with a plan that should have been implemented years ago!!!

Budgets are being cut everywhere with important services affected. Yet the council has decided to research and consult on this stupid scheme aimed at sustaining a poverty-stricken, out of date, dirty, deprived excuse for a locality which will only serve to make the lives of residents even more torturous by delaying and preventing modernisation and redevelopment of the area. The person who allocated funding for this harebrained scheme should be fired.

Conservation area - what a joke, I've just come home to find Anglian Water has just removed one of the last decent paving stones from outside my doorstep for a water meter, not only for me but the 4 flats next door as well! As all the factories are now converted to flats there's nothing left to conserve. When planning notices were posted I objected and said could they be included in the 'culture mile' that was being talked about at that time that died a death as well.

Although it appears and might feel like a nice idea to live in such a conservation zone, I think that we need to live in the century we are in and not feel like we are living in a version of 'The Black Country Living Museum' All the restrictions and planning permission required just complicates the lives of those living in the area.

My guess is the Mounts area will be your priority! Before you encourage tourists - PLEASE CLEAN IT UP - they can have a 2 day tour as there are plenty of beds and mattresses about - even a TV will be thrown (in)!! Please don't spend money on this as though it's going out of fashion! - if you get a 5-10% return on this, I'd be surprised. I do not agree with restrictions being put on buildings when improvements need to be made - because someone has a fad about making somewhere a Conservation Area!

Any plan to eliminate or restrict the development of an area could be the worst thing we can donate to the forthcoming generation and for all the future, that can be in the name of natural conservation, conservation of traditions or heritage. We need to conserve our own traditions and heritage of course, but the past is over. As a family, we are the real victims of anti-development movements. Regular power cuts, inadequate traffic facility and so many are some examples for that, from where I am. Again, we need to think about whether this is the right time to make decisions and spend in any aspect for that when we are in deep financial crisis.

No need to exist at all. I would rather the money involved in this idea be channelled to improvements in 1) town centre shops 2) roads

Comments **against** the Conservation Area

From within the Evaluation Area

How can you consider undertaking these proposal consultation plans in the financial climate?? Money far better spent on pavements and the dire condition of the roads! So easy to spend other peoples money. Cut the changes - ref Planning Permission not needed.

Too late, too many unsympathetic changes already, horse, door and bolted springs to mind. Where are we getting this money to waste when we haven't got any to look after people. I thought the Conservatives were going to use my vote to cut back on waste, obviously the same as the rest when in control.

There is a considerable concern that, with the demise of corner shops and retail businesses in general, that the proposed conservation plans will not allow these types of premises to be later converted back into residential dwellings after these businesses have ceased trading. This would then result in shops that nobody wants becoming empty that could otherwise provide much needed residential dwellings, if their owners were able to convert their premises (shop fronts in particular) into houses or flats.

I believe this is a pointless exercise, the areas marked on all of the maps have changed enormously over the past 30 years and although saving what historic buildings we have is worth while, these are the only buildings that should be affected by the proposal. Making someone apply for planning permission to put up a satellite dish when their neighbour has one before the change seems ridiculous. This proposal is a waste of money, in a time of saving budgets and trying to save jobs, when the country is facing it's biggest financial problems in history, how can a council be so flippant with peoples money. The council needs to remember the money in their budgets is the people's money, they are guardians of it, it is not theirs to squander on stupid ideas that will make the lives of those living in the area harder and full of red tape.

Comments **against** the Conservation Area

From elsewhere in Northampton

[Billing Finance Ltd] I am a director of A J Mackaness Ltd and we own 16 – 28 Wellingborough Road. We have owned the building for 3 years and for all of this time the majority of it has been empty. In our opinion we would not support the introduction of a new conservation area as we believe that it could lead to further red tape and bureaucracy which will negatively affect the chance of us letting the building. Although we recognise the fact that old and important buildings need to be preserved. We feel that that the council should be spending more time promoting Northampton Town Centre and providing incentives so that empty shops can be let. I sincerely hope that in these times of economic hardship and cut backs the council is setting aside the smallest possible budget to this project so that other areas: e.g. waste collection, policing etc are not affected.

Comments **against** the Conservation Area

From within Northamptonshire

Leave it alone. Abandon this idea. It is a waste of time and resources. I think this proposal is ill-conceived and entirely unnecessary and as such is a waste of council resources. I do not want the council to spend my council tax on inventing a conservation area where none is necessary. The long term impact of this proposal will have little or no benefit to anyone living in the area and will cause problems for existing and future property owners when wishing to alter or improve their properties in the future. Please abandon this wasteful project and concentrate on other priorities that will enhance the environment of our town, this one will not!

Comments **against** the Conservation Area

No address given

Do not agree with the whole idea.

Lived in area 40 years. Do not agree with proposals. We need good paving, lighting and most of all parking improvements. It seems a waste of our money not everything has been made into flats. We need to look forward, not back in time. Conservation area - usually means a place of beauty or nature, unspoilt green areas. How can terraced houses and factories be in this category.

This is a bad idea

It should not be a conservation area. I have lived in this area for over thirty years, if I want to make my single brick house more energy efficient - a PV roof or replace the single glazed wooden sash with upvc you want me to beg (and no doubt pay for) permission.