

Have your say on how the past can shape the future

Bournemouth Borough Council is after your say on what happens next with three areas of the town centre – Old Christchurch Road, East Cliff and West Cliff and Poole Hill. A brief questionnaire is now available online from the Council website and we want to hear your thoughts.

Bournemouth's town centre features a treasure-trove of buildings that inspire its residents and visitors. It's where Victorian Bournemouth began and its eclectic, architectural style is something to be celebrated.

These iconic Bournemouth areas form an important part of the town's identity. They have a legal status classification of special architectural or historic interest, called Conservation Areas.

They are also under significant pressure for change. Since Bournemouth's early beginnings it has always evolved, but now there is a real challenge facing the town. Bournemouth has regularly met its Government set housing targets at around 700 new homes a year. However, new targets facing Bournemouth may mean that this is significantly higher.

This comes within the added context of a new era for the wider Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area. So, we need to explore how we can accommodate these new homes and still ensure that Bournemouth remains attractive and vibrant and a place people want to be.

We need to understand what you think is valuable and should be kept in these three Conservation Areas, what you think can be changed and replaced, or whether they should be Conservation Areas at all. Also, if buildings are replaced – replaced with what?

How high should a replacement building be? How can quality new buildings sit well alongside old ones? Should quality contemporary style buildings be encouraged?

Councillor David Smith, Portfolio for Planning & Environment says: "This is a great opportunity for residents and those with an interest in the areas to have their say on key parts of the Town Centre and to help shape how they look and feel in the future."

We have three documents for you to explore. They have been prepared to address Town Planning decision making, which is a legal process, and means the documents are long, but easy to digest summaries are available for everyone. We'd like you to tell us what you think by answering a short questionnaire.

This work is part of a strategy for the whole of Bournemouth (Local Plan), which ties together the need for – a sustainable environment, a healthy society, local centres, all types of transport, housing, a thriving economy and jobs, natural environment, sport and leisure, a quality built and historic environment. It is about positive place making.

More information, documents and questionnaire are available on the Council's website: www.bournemouth.gov.uk/conservationconsult
Hard copies of all the documents can be viewed at Central (Town Centre), Boscombe and Westbourne Libraries during normal opening hours or the Council Customer Services Centre in St Stephen's Road during normal office hours.