

APPENDIX i: TABLE OF REPRESENTATIONS, AND THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANY CHANGES TO THE ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT IN RELATION TO THEM – FOR RE-DESIGNATING SHEERNESS- MARINE TOWN. C.A.

Rep. No(s).	Representation By	Summary of Representation	Officer Response	Recommendation
1	Local resident	Although anything which helps keep our local heritage is a good thing , really it's a bit too late for marine town or sheerness as a whole, we have lost so much here due to council incompetence, example the old house at home pub in sheerness which should of been a listed building is now going to be pulled down probably set fire to before that , perhaps marine town should have money spent on cleaning it up before anything else now because it's an eyesore everywhere	Noted	No change to the assessment document needed.
2	Local Resident	I am a resident of the Marine town conservation area and have lived here for almost 44 years. My house was built in 1907 but I believe many of the houses in the street date back to around 1850 and the pub(s) Heights of Alma and the Hero of Crimea (no longer a pub) were named to commemorate the Crimean War. Indeed, Alma Street itself is named after the Battle of Alma. The area, once a community with shops etc has gradually gone downhill despite the efforts of some residents, schools, and the local council.... it is about time that the history was recognised, and money invested to spruce the area up. It has potential and with the close proximity of the beach should be protected.	Noted.	No change to the assessment document needed.
3	Local Resident	I'm not sure Marine Parade has anything left to save, have you seen the state of the beautiful houses turned into flats, it just looks awful. You need to focus on Barton Point Coastal Park, the cafe needs a serious revamp and opening up very soon I fear it won't be open for the summer now! Marine Parade also needs a major clean-up it looks very dirty, tired and unloved.	Noted	No change to the assessment document needed.
4	Neptune Terrace Residents Association	The majority of residents at Neptune Terrace ME12 2AW would welcome their inclusion within the Marine Town Conservation Area, particularly if it brings some much needed attention to the ongoing plights of residents to sympathetically improve the immediate vicinity. Residents who have spent	Noted	No change to the assessment document needed.

PROPOSED SHEERNESS-MARINE TOWN. C.A. – REPRESENTATIONS, RESPONSE & RECOMMENDATIONS TABLE (Continued)

Rep. No(s).	Representation By	Summary of Representation	Officer Response	Recommendation
		<p>the past 2 decades working alone, without the help or assistance of the local authority, to improve the situation here at this incredibly unique and historic seafront location.</p> <p>I say improve the situation at this location because there wasn't an issue with the ongoing maintenance of the area until the start of the 21st century. Prior to this time, and as far as senior residents can recall, the entire area was regularly serviced and maintained by the local authority of the time, throughout their lifetimes and the 20th century!</p> <p>Since around 2000, the local authority and KCC has progressively withdrawn services from Neptune Terrace and the surrounding area, the bijou car park, the beach approach slope and the land in and around 13 Neptune Terrace, being the former Bait and Tackle shop, and all council owned land!</p> <p>Examples of neglect despite the efforts of residents to reinstate services that were withdrawn without any consultation or notification are as follows...</p> <p>The Neptune Terrace approach, car park and No.13 The Neptune Terrace Beach approach slope, car park area, in and around No.13 and Neptune Terrace footpath itself is inexplicably no longer swept by street cleaners, nor weeded by groundsmen. If it were they would have undoubtedly noticed a large oil spillage around No.13. Quite honestly, if it wasn't for the efforts of individual residents the area would be in an utter state being as long unruly weeds attract litter blown in the wind, and also the temptation for dogs to leave faeces!</p>		

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		<p>The integrity of the surface in some areas of the Neptune Terrace car Park, and pedestrian areas in front of Cain’s Amusements, and No.13 is in a poor state of repair, trip hazards are present and require immediate attention. Additionally, this is all recorded as council land!</p> <p>Neptune Terrace Footpath The Neptune Terrace footpath itself is woefully compromised due to the local authority having not undertaken any maintenance work to this flag-stone footpath in well over two decades! Indeed prompted by a story in the local newspaper in January 2007 (attached pdf) regarding the dangerous and hazardous condition of the uneven paving stones along the terrace, there was an attempt by the Sheppey Local Engagement Forum in 2009 to address the situation. However, despite funds being raised they promptly run out during the period of works and only 2/3 of the flag-stones were lifted and re-laid leaving the rest to continue to deteriorate. Indeed, so poor was the quality of the workmanship, since the project was abandoned the flag-stones have loosened and moved revealing gaps of easily 4-5cm in places allowing substantial water ingress between the flags, and we believe saturating the ground below and currently showing signs of subsidence in a southerly direction against the retaining wall of Fountain Cottage, Redan Place, ME12 and sinking in other areas! The structural integrity of the Neptune Terrace footpath honestly needs attention as soon as possible, left unattended residents foresee a time when the footpath is permanently closed for safety reasons!</p> <p>In the past two decades virtually every enquiry made to the local authority regarding issues in the Neptune Terrace area have resulted in the eventual response that Neptune Terrace is private land, however this is well know to residents and had never been an issue to the local authority in the last</p>		

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		<p>century. The entire area including the Neptune Terrace footpath were maintained and everything that remains was provided by the local authority of the time. We know from consultations with Natural England during the coastal pathway project, that Neptune Terrace has an absent landlord, although neither NE, nor residents, have any idea as to who that maybe, they have been absent for as long as anyone can recall and land registry searches reveal nothing. Theories are the land could be the property of the Catholic Church, or maybe the Royal Navy, being as both were very prominent in the area when Neptune Terrace was built in around 1835.</p> <p>It is now considered an Historic Public Right of Way.</p> <p>However, this fact did not deter the local authority of the past from recognising the significance and importance of the Neptune Terrace footpath being as it provides the ONLY DIRECT LINK BETWEEN THE EAST & WEST SHEERNESS PROMENADES and as such was appreciated for this fact and maintained at public expense, being as it is primarily the general public who rely upon its existence and is a vital thoroughfare.</p> <p>Unbelievably, Neptune Terrace FOOTPATH was included in the Sheerness cycle route without any consultation with the local residents whatsoever. This has resulted in cyclists regularly speeding along the terrace footpath at the expense of the safety of pedestrians, residents and customers leaving the businesses of Cains Amusements, The Neptune Snooker Club and the care home for vulnerable adults at 8, 9 & 10 Neptune Terrace, alike. Customers and residents regularly and innocently step out onto the pathway from their various direct-to-path doorways, and often into the path of speeding cyclists, or more recently electric scooter riders. Additionally</p>		

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		<p>pedestrians have needed to dodge motorcycles and quad-bikes, all seen using the footpath as a means of escaping the law, being as these vehicles are more often than not unlicensed and uninsured. To end this particular madness we would welcome the removal of the Neptune Terrace footpath from ANY cycle route, and the installation of safety and calming measures, e.g kissing gates, chicanes, etc. Basically anything that is appropriate being both practical and aesthetically ‘fitting’.</p> <p>Neptune Terrace Street lighting Obtaining the provision of sympathetic street lighting for this 200 year old terrace has been very problematic despite the simple request initially made by a resident in 2013 to Kent Highways for the provision of x2 Victorian Street lanterns to light the way of pedestrians along here, and to evoke a sense of the historic past. The resident approached Kent highways and was told that when she noticed future renewing and updating of local street lamps to immediately resend her request and the appropriate street lampposts would be provided given the unique location. This instruction was duly undertaken, however what followed became an absolute fiasco of misunderstood email exchanges between different council departments to the extent where we now have x3 inappropriate lampposts located in the original x2 lamppost locations, and unbelievably all three lampposts are all different designs, and all are completely inappropriate!</p> <p>As you will surmise Neptune Terrace is in need of some much needed urgent attention and much recognition of its unique character and significant importance to the fabric of the Sheerness Seafront Promenade. We hope the proposed future inclusion of Neptune Terrace in the revised Marine Town Conservation Area will begin to provide long overdue physical maintenance here, and the recommencement of those basic council</p>		

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		<p>services the majority of Council Tax payers currently enjoy, e.g. street cleaning, weed control, highways maintenance, appropriate street-lighting, and the reintroduction of litter bins to this public beachfront location. To name but a few.</p> <p>Regarding the cherishing of our historic areas, we have seen the removal of Victorian hand rails in and around the Neptune Terrace area being partially replaced by plain scaffold tubes, litter bins removed, a Victorian drinking fountain at Redan Place removed, the destruction of King Neptune himself when he was blown from his niche during the hurricane of 1988. It would indeed be heartening to see some of this reinstated.</p> <p>Primarily residents would very much like to see some actually physical and observable enhancements being made in this unique historic and publicly important site, rather than empty words, unrealised ambitions, and tick-box exercises.</p>		
5	Local Resident	<p>As a long-term resident of Marine Town with an interest in the preservation of the area I would like to say how delighted I am that there is to be a full appraisal of the current situation with a view to indicate the way forward to preserve the unique heritage of the locality. It is my regret that that I have only just learnt of this consultation with the deadline of today so my response will be brief and parochial.</p> <p>I have lived for 32 years at Shrimp Terrace raising a family here. I notice that Shrimp Terrace features prominently in the photographs supporting the consultation plan which is, I assume, a recognition of Shrimp Terrace’s value to Marine Town’s heritage offer. Apart from the size of the terrace and the imposing nature of the seaward view, Shrimp Terrace stands out because so much of the frontage is original and intact. My concern is that</p>	Noted	No change to the assessment document needed.

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		<p>the distinctive terracotta facing has over the years degraded and in my experience this erosion of the terracotta has accelerated – any period of heavy rain reveals a fine film of terracotta particles on the floor – with the result that the porous, soft stone underneath is revealed. This results in damp penetrating the front of the house. This problem will only get worse. I fear that owners, such as myself, are caught in a dilemma. Do we seek to preserve our properties by attempting to waterproof the fronts in ways that may and probably will destroy the uniform and homogenous look of the terrace such as applying different tinted concrete facings or do nothing and so allow the damp to further penetrate and the housing stock to further decline?</p> <p>This kind of issue is, I’m sure, widespread. I wonder what have been the ways forward elsewhere?</p>		

Officer's Note:

Most of the comments received have highlighted the poor state of the current Conservation Area, although the public consultation responses do not require the document to be updated, but it is envisaged that once the proposed Management Plan is implemented, it will result in a much-improved Marine Town Conservation Area and, hopefully, could eventually be taken off the Heritage -at Risk register.