

Upon completion of the survey work for a particular area, exhibitions have been organised to share the information. Two exhibitions have been held so far, in December 2006 at Fellowship House, and on the day of the Big Birthday Party picnic in the Free Church. Both were well attended by residents and non-residents. The purpose of these is not only to encourage interest in the project but also to formally consult residents on the content of the study. The eventual Appraisal will be adopted by Barnet as supplementary planning guidance so a programme of consultation needs to be built into this process.

The value of the Appraisal is that it will identify areas of particular sensitivity or where there is greatest pressure for development. It will flag up the positive elements of each part of the Suburb and ensure they are effectively protected. It will also identify the negative ones, for example where things have been altered wrongly or where an out-of-place addition has been made. As people become increasingly keen to maximise space and add value to their property, the importance of ensuring that any alterations that do take place are in sympathy with the style and historical development of the Suburb grows.



Knowledge of vulnerable areas and those which require special protection is an essential tool against the destruction of the integrity of the Suburb.

The Appraisal will also enable an understanding of the damage of incremental change, which is hard to spot whilst it is going on. These small changes individually appear modest and residents often misunderstand why they may not be approved by the Trust. But cumulatively each one eats away at the character of the place, slowly changing it and lessening its special interest. These changes can include the addition of dormer windows, hardstandings in gardens,

satellite dishes and house extensions but also replacement front doors and windows or eye-catching garden designs.

To date, surveys have been conducted of the Brim Hill area, Edmunds Walk and Deansway, Ingram Avenue, Oakwood Road and the Holms and Winnington Road. It is hoped that the project will be finished in 2008. This depends on the willingness of residents to volunteer and take part. We are keen to involve as many people as possible, and would be very happy to provide more information to anyone who wishes to help.

*David Davidson*

