

## **Cofferidge Close Listing Update, Feb 2012**

English Heritage has now completed their initial assessment of the application for Listing for Cofferidge Close. A technical report has been sent to the owners of Cofferidge Close and to MK Council for a consultation period during which time owners can make representations. English Heritage will then send their recommendation to the Secretary of State for a decision on Listing.

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There will be a 21 day consultation period during which owners can make representations. The owners are the real estate company CB Richard Ellis, who manage Cofferidge Close as an investment asset on behalf of an Australian Banking Group, and to the owners the townhouses.

Although the planning application for demolition does not include the residential development English Heritage say that the houses were designed as an integral part of the scheme and should also be considered for Listing.

Listing brings protection so that a building's significance can be properly considered in managing its future. Listing does not mean that alterations cannot be made, in fact in the vast majority of cases changes to a listed building are approved.

So even if Listing is approved it will still be possible to adapt the existing building to accommodate a slightly larger supermarket as well as continued health facilities such as the NHS Dentist and community uses.

In their assessment report English Heritage note that Cofferidge Close with its supermarket, small scale retail, offices, community, health, residential development and extensive landscaping, was designed at a scale sympathetic to the Conservation Area.

English Heritage note that the landscaping with existing mature trees make walkways pleasant for pedestrians, maintaining the historic rights of way linking the High Street with Horsefair Green and Market Square. They note that the green space and mature trees, some surviving from the orchards and gardens that preceded the Close, were carefully preserved when Cofferidge Close was built.

Milton Keynes is the most ambitious new town to be built in England in the post war period and preserving significant early design schemes is part of new heritage.