

Document 3

Summary of Sowerby Neighbourhood Plan Initial Heritage Consultation.

Sowerby, or as it was listed "Sorebi", was mentioned, in the Domesday Book (1086), as the principle settlement in the area of land that was the "Forest of Sowerbyshire". This covered the land on the south side of the River Calder and west side of the River Ryburn. These valleys were natural passages to and from Lancashire and Sowerby was in an outstanding position, being situated as it was, overlooking the confluence of the two rivers.

Sowerby grew from a small settlement of only 9 villagers, 22 smallholders, 11 freeman and 3 priests in 1086 to a town around the early part of the 1600's with number of buildings including farms, cottages, churches, chapels, halls, schools and shops. Some of these buildings are still here including Sowerby Hall built 1646, Castle Hill cottages built 1662. Old Field Hall which has had a house on the site since 1240 was rebuilt in 1630, and then the Palladian style house, Field House, was built alongside the Hall in 1749.

There are a number of original Georgian buildings in and around Sowerby, Field House been one of them, but there are two buildings designed by John Carr, who also designed Harewood House, these are Haugh End House built 1750 and White Windows built 1768.

During the 1700's more buildings were built including the Almshouses, built in 1728, which were a row of 6 cottages on Towngate, these were demolished around 1948 to allow the construction of the shops on Towngate and a new housing development. The Old Manse, built around 1750, was part of the Congregational Chapel built 1720 which was demolished in 1980.

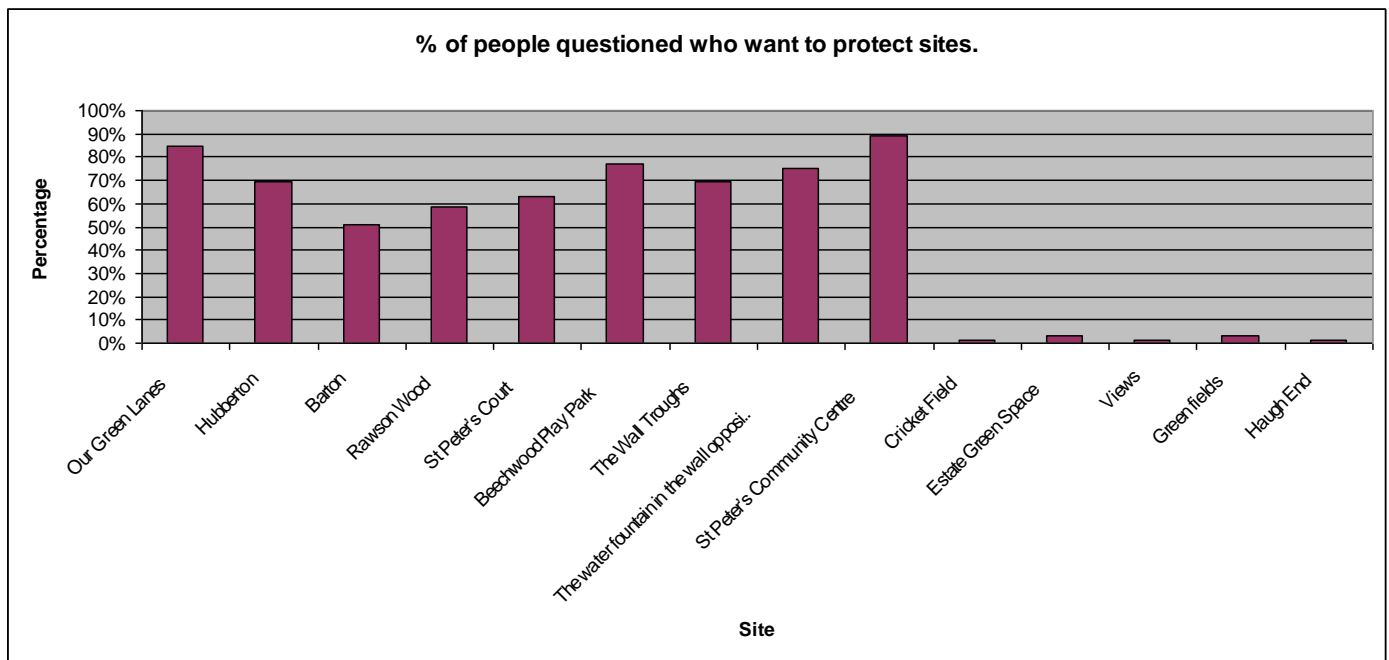
St Peters Church was built in 1762, this replaced a smaller church, it is a grade 1 listed building and still in use today. Across the road from St Peters Church are the old St Peters Sunday School, built around 1870, now the Community Hall and a triangle of cottages, St Peters Square, built around 1800.

Another building still in use today is the Rushcart Inn formerly known as the Star Inn which was built in 1798. This wasn't the only public house in Sowerby, the Kings Head Inn, built around 1802, was on Town Gate and demolished in 1948, it stood where the entrance to Newlands Avenue is today.

Around 1933 in between Fore Lane Avenue and St Peters Avenue a housing development was started, the Beachwood Estate. This was the start of the expansion of Sowerby Town.

After the demolition of the Almshouses and the Kings Head Inn in 1948, Another housing development incorporating Newlands Avenue, The Newlands and the Rooley’s to the south of Towngate in between Dean Lane and Rooley Lane was built. Then around 1978 between St Peters Avenue and Rochdale Road the Brockwell housing development was built.

The initial heritage consultation took place in St Peters Community Centre with a very reasonable turnout. The questionnaire was also distributed via hand delivery to recipients targeting local establishments, community groups and the local schools. We are currently at about a 2.6% response level (assuming an approximation of 2500 adults in the Sowerby Neighbourhood Plan Area). The raw data set can be seen on application by contacting the Sowerby Neighbourhood Forum at hello@sowerby.co.uk.



The protection of our community centre and green spaces are the highest priority, 90% and 85% respectively, with the heritage of Sowerby featuring highly with between 60% and 75 % of respondents wishing to have sites protected.

This data allowed us to produce the list of Non-Designated sites that is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan.