



June 2017

Major Study Confirms Portland's Unique Character

As part of the work on the Portland Neighbourhood Plan a study has helped identify what makes the different parts of the Island special today. On the Town Council's behalf AECOM, a leading environmental consultancy, has taken a fresh look at Portland in 2017. Their Character Assessment Report provides important, up-to-date evidence to support the planning policies that will go into the Neighbourhood Plan. Government guidelines say neighbourhood plans should develop policies based on an understanding of the defining characteristics of an area. In doing so policies can ensure that development responds to local character and history, and reflects the identity of local surroundings and materials, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation.

The Character Assessment Report has identified six distinct "character areas" on Portland. It has made recommendations about how development needs to be controlled in the interests of protecting or enhancing their unique character.

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between Portland Port and the Town Council the study document also now includes a separate commentary by the Port concerning their land holding, which covers two of the character areas. This should be considered as part of the consultation.

Before the Neighbourhood Plan policies are written the Town Council is giving local people an opportunity to consider the Draft Character Assessment Report and contribute their own thoughts and ideas.

The Portland Character Assessment Report will be available on the Portland Plan website (www.portlandplan.org.uk) from **9th June 2017** and the consultation period will run until **9th July 2017**. You may make comment via the online form.

It will also be available via Portland Town Council's website.

Alternatively hard copies of the report will be available at the following locations during their opening times:-

Portland Tophill Library, Straits, Easton, DT5 1HG

Portland Town Council Offices, 52 Easton Street, DT5 1BT

Osprey Leisure Centre, Castletown, DT5 1BD

You may make written comments on the form provided and leave the completed form with the staff at the above locations.