



Appendix 9

Consultation Summary

Oldham Mills Strategy: Consultation Overview

A series of targeted consultation sessions and events have been undertaken to inform the preparation of the Oldham Mills Strategy.

A number of consultation workshops were initially held at Oldham Library on 12th & 13th February 2020 with stakeholders including:

- Association of Industrial Archaeology
- District Co-Ordinators
- Oldham Civic Society & Historical Research Group
- Victorian Society
- Oldham Local Studies & Archives
- Royton Local History Society
- Local Property Professionals;
- Officers from Oldham Council

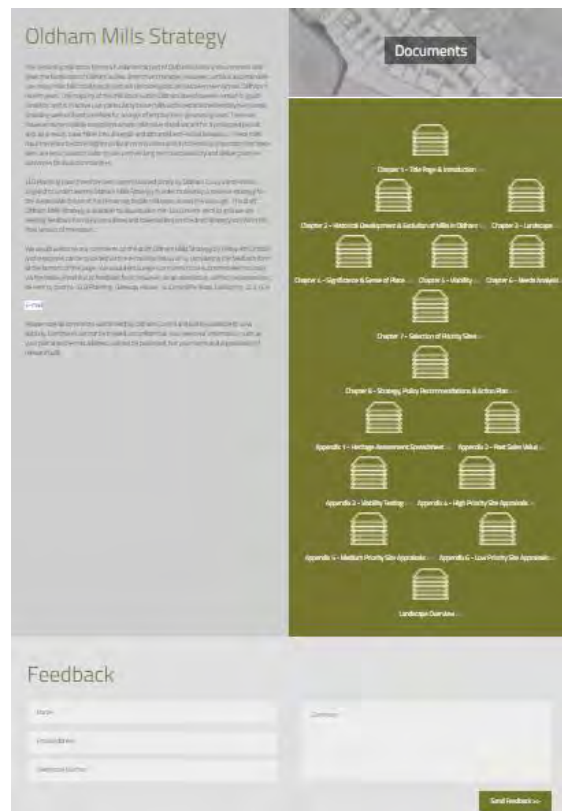
The key issues raised during the course of the consultation sessions can be summarised as follows:

- The group value of the remaining mill stock is key and may be of international significance. Oldham has the best conserved mill landscape of all Greater Manchester mill towns and careful management of the mill stock is therefore required to ensure that this group value is preserved.
- The mills are one of the few things that people nationally would associate Oldham with.

- Once the mills are lost they cannot be recovered and just because a viable use cannot be found in the short to medium term does not necessarily provide sufficient justification for their loss. The mills should be preserved as market conditions may change across the longer term and allow the buildings to be repurposed.
- There needs to be a step change in attitude that the mills are an asset rather than a problem.
- There is a view amongst some sections of the community that the demolition of the mills and redevelopment of the sites for housing is preferable to greenfield release.
- The mills provide a reminder of the faded glory of the town – maybe an unwelcome reminder.
- The mills are an important feature in the landscape but the challenge is securing a viable use. The mills are not generally configured to suit modern industry and conversion to apartments can be challenging.
- Funding is a key challenge in the re-use of mill buildings with limited funding streams available.
- The scope for the re-use of the mill buildings by the public sector should be considered.
- The identified need for housing across Oldham is primarily for family housing as opposed to apartments.
- Oldham's links with Manchester are important and a USP of the town and the mills could potentially deliver new housing and employment floorspace as a spin off of wider growth in Manchester.

A further two-week targeted consultation event on the draft Oldham Mills Strategy was held in October 2020 with the draft strategy hosted on the ELG Planning website with an email link and feedback form provided to enable consultees to provide comments on the draft report. The consultation exercise included mill owners, local councillors and other key stakeholders, with written responses received from the following:

- Oldham Council;
- Historic England;
- Oldham Civic Society;
- Tamecroft Associates (Slackcote Mill, Delph);
- Local developer agents;
- Historic groups;
- Internal Officers (Oldham Council); Goyt Properties (Earl Mill, Orme Mill & Majestic Mill);
- Cllr McLaren (Mills in Chadderton Ward);
- Hourigan Connolly on behalf of Mr D Jones;
- Rapleys on behalf of Bizspace (Albert Mills & Lumb Mill);
- CBRE on behalf of Estuary Park Property Holdings Limited (Elm Mill, Lily Mill No. 1, Lily Mill No. 2);
- Mosaic Town Planning on behalf of Q-Stat Limited (Fir Mill – Vernon Works)



Consultation Webpage:
[\(https://www.elgplanning.co.uk/consultation/oldham-mills/\)](https://www.elgplanning.co.uk/consultation/oldham-mills/)

The consultation responses received primarily focused upon the methodology adopted in relation to the landscape, heritage and viability assessments that have informed the strategy and also provided site specific information on individual mills.

Furthermore, the project team delivered two presentations to the Local Plan Members Panel to provide an overview of the project, including the overall aims and objectives; methodology adopted and details on the preliminary assessments and recommendations.

The views and responses received from stakeholders have been reviewed and incorporated into the final Mills Strategy, as appropriate.

The Oldham Mills Strategy will also form part of the evidence base for the emerging Development Plan and will therefore be subject to further consultation as part of the plan making process.