

## Conservation is vitally important

THE preservation and enhancement of the Evesham Conservation Area is of fundamental importance. It defines the town. It includes most of the 160 Listed Buildings, including four Grade I (the highest) buildings – the Almonry, the Bell Tower, All Saints Church and the Round House (home of Nat West Bank).

It is a large area, which includes much of High Street, Bridge Street, Vine Street and news, Merstow Green and Port Street.

Owners and tenants of properties within the Conservation Area are urged to maintain their properties to a good standard; owners and

## WH SMITH BEFORE AND AFTER



tenants of Listed Buildings are required to maintain their properties.

The character of the Conservation Area should be considered when making changes to non-listed buildings, especially where those changes affect the external appearance of the building. This has not been an easy task in the last two years, with major constraints on business development due to resource, logistic and financial pressures. In consequence this important consideration has often been neglected.

Working with Wychavon District Council, the Vale of Evesham Civic Society (VECS) has recently completed an external assessment of all properties in the Evesham

Conservation Area. Properties in most urgent need of attention have been identified and their owners contacted, to alert them to the problems of their buildings.

In many cases owners do not live locally so are likely to be unaware of the problems developing. VECS has informed owners of business premises of the financial support that is available from the district council, in the form of grants that they may well be eligible to apply for; to get the remedial work carried out. Improvements to properties clearly helps business owners. If their neighbours respond in a similar way, it is possible to enhance the attractiveness of the main streets in the town, demonstrating a

collective pride in Evesham and its future, thus benefiting residents and visitors alike.

A good example of an early success can be found at W H Smith in their

prominent location on Bridge Street. A new panel has replaced the old one, which was battered and attracting unpleasant graffiti.

The whole frontage has been repainted and the shop signage refreshed. It has set a precedent which we hope will be matched by others in the town. We look forward to reporting more such triumphs through the Journal.

Come and join us in our worthwhile endeavours to create a more attractive and prosperous Evesham; there is a lot to be done.

**Gill Pawson, Chair  
VECS**