

Please note that this document is included as background evidence and is not planning policy

WHITCHURCH VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSETS

1. Whitchurch Cricket Club

This is a very important outdoor recreation facility providing playing opportunities for fifty adult members and vital training and playing facilities for up to 100 boys and girls aged between 7 – 17yrs old.

2. Whitchurch Village Fete Field

This is the venue for the annual Whitchurch Village Fete which attracts approximately 3000 visitors. In 2013 over £6,000 was donated to various local charities from the proceeds of the fete. This brilliant social event is well known around the district and would be sadly missed if this field was not protected.

3. A37 Old railway bridge

A characteristic railway bridge built for the Bristol to Frome railway, a fine example of substantial engineering.

4. Various Finger Posts

Whitchurch Village has four different finger posts it would like protected. English Heritage has details on finger posts on its website and urges Councils to protect them.

They are irreplaceable landmarks in our countryside and together with post boxes and old phone boxes must be kept in good condition.

If any development happens in Whitchurch we must make sure they are protected and made a feature of.

5. The Backdrop to the Village

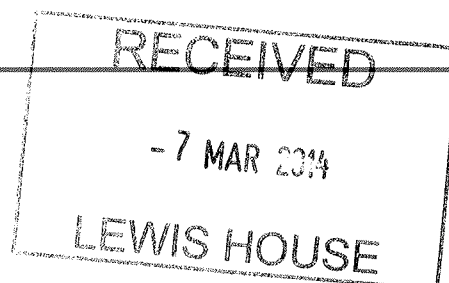
The hills that make up The Dundry skyline and the prominence of the locally named Maes Knoll Tump remind villagers that we really are “next door” to the countryside and a major gateway to the beautiful Chew Valley area.

Wherever you stand in the village this iconic backdrop serves to remind one that we rub shoulders with the greenbelt, that we have an important responsibility to protect this wonderful country for generations to come.

Maes Knoll Tump is an important reminder of local pre-history with the remains of an ancient earth fort clearly visible at its’ highest point. It is a connection to the past that should always be our guidance to the future!

6. The Milestone

Built into an old stone wall, this lovingly preserved milestone must have stories to tell of teams of coach and horses on the first leg to London or encouraged on their final leg of the journey to the important city that is Bristol. Often unnoticed and lowly in its design, how many travellers have been touched by the information steadfastly given over hundreds of years?



7. Whitchurch Village Community Gardens/Allotments

Allotments are a way of growing your own fresh produce and a great way of getting fresh air and an opportunity to make new friends and good for the environment.

Working an allotment provides healthy food and creates a habitat for birds, butterflies and wildlife.

Allotment gardening can bring people together from all age groups and more experienced gardeners can pass on their knowledge to younger or less experienced ones and bring people together from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Working an allotment offers healthy, physical recreation for people of all ages and can be very therapeutic.

8. Whitchurch Village Play Park

The park is a recreation facility for children, easily accessible from the village, with a footpath, which gives them the benefit of playing, fresh air and exercise. It also enables parents to sit and relax in the fresh air while the children entertain themselves. In addition there is a family area where they can picnic, play games including football shooting practice and even a game of cricket.

9. Various Fields, Open Spaces & Public Footpaths

The fields between Blackacre and Maes Knoll tump should be listed as a protected asset. These fields provide an essential area for dog walking, exercising and enjoying our local environment. They are a huge asset to our village, enabling people to socialise, lead a healthy lifestyle and escape the rat run of modern day life. They also give us some natural space rather than being a built up village. They have developed over the years and provide a chance to look back at their history, i.e. the train line. They are a unique asset for the village and one that must be protected. It's imperative these fields are protected for future generations to enjoy.

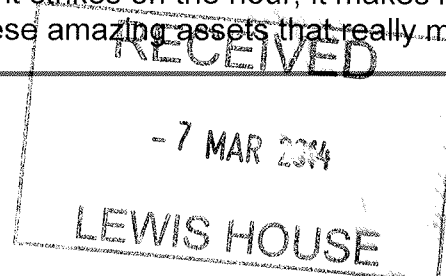
The fields between St Nicholas Church and Maes Knoll tump should also be protected. I also love the beautiful view over the fields, it fills me with joy and contentment and happiness to be able to watch the seasons change. I am so lucky to live here with these amazing assets that really must be kept and protected for all to enjoy.

The footpaths and open spaces from Norton Lane to Blackacre should be protected. We have a great network of public footpaths in these areas around the village where I and a good number of dog walkers enjoy peace, quiet and fresh air every day. This must be preserved at all costs - it's good for the soul.

10. St Nicholas Church and Hall

St Nicholas Church including the clock and the church hall, which was formally the original village school, should be protected.

I love the sound of the clock bell when it strikes on the hour, it makes me feel safe. I am so lucky to live here with these amazing assets that really must be kept and protected for all to enjoy.



11. Whitchurch Village Primary School

The current Village School is now 100 years old and should be a protected asset. Clearly when it was built it was intended that its frontage to the road would be compatible stonework to many of the properties along the road.

12. Whitchurch United Reformed Church

The current building dates from 1867, it having been a replacement for a smaller Chapel on another site. Although the current name of Whitchurch URC was registered in August 1972. The URC has had a prominent role in the life of the village since its foundation in 1817.

13. Saltwell Viaduct

The significance of the viaduct as the current boundary between Bristol & B&NES The importance is really self-evident as a crucial crossing of a 'river' on one of the country's main routes, the A37. I assume that prior to its construction there would have been an older, much smaller bridge (or even ford) down in the valley by the 'river' which would have been adequate for most pre-motorised vehicles. Photos of the plaque marking its 'strengthening' in 1997, and view over the parapet of Brislington Brook 'tributary' are also included.

14. Scout Hut

The scout hut is an important part of the village as it serves the beavers, cubs and scout groups. These 3 groups meet in the hall and it is the base for all the activities the children can accomplish as part being a scout. The groups also help the local community around them in projects to help them work towards and achieve their badges.

15. The Millennium Clock

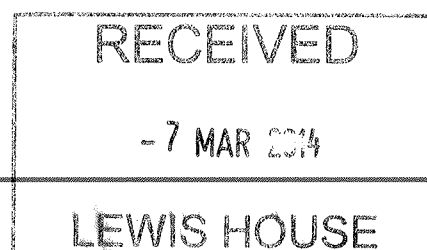
The hard work of people within the Parish raised a substantial sum of money to fund this clock and it was always seen as a legacy for future generations as well as a very special commemoration for the new millennium in 2000. The clock is seen as a significant and visible landmark in the Village.

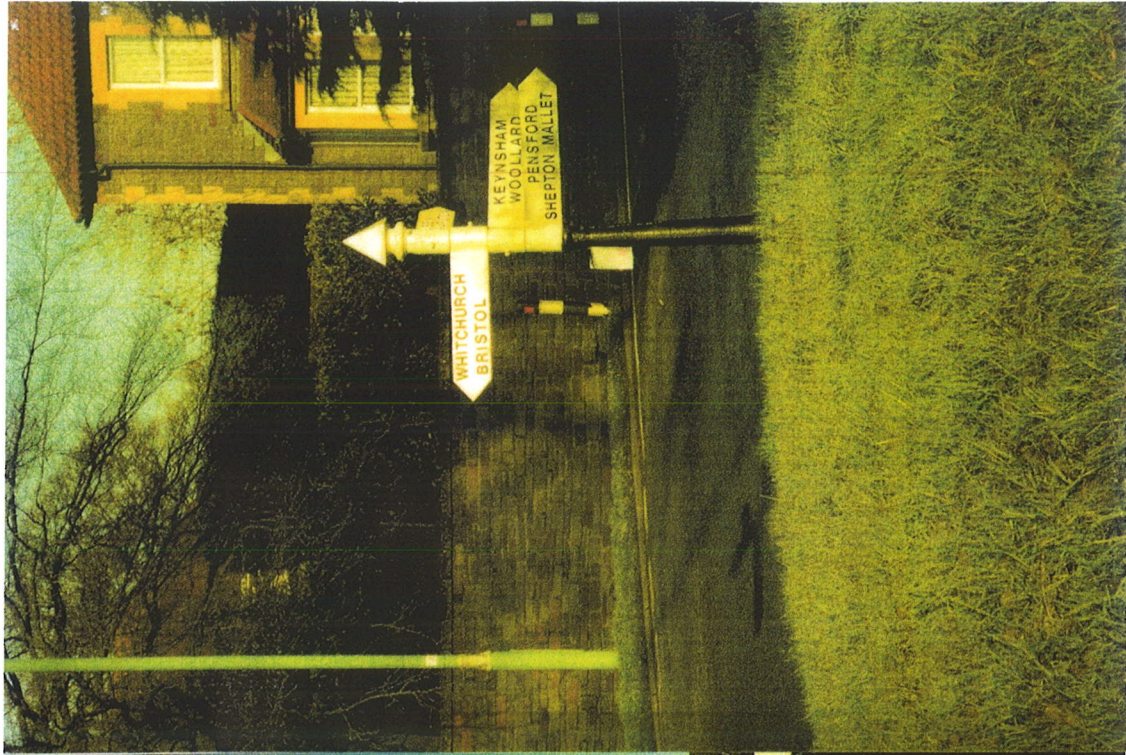
16. The Millennium Garden

The Millennium Garden is the focal point at the centre of the village and should be protected as it is a valuable face of the village. A beautiful eye catching attraction as people drive through the village.

17. The Public Rights of Way/Footpaths throughout the Village

All the historic and long-standing public rights of way and footpaths which are used by many residents should be protected. There are too many to obtain photos of them all. (They are marked in green on the map enclosed).





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- 7 MAR 2014

4. Various finger posts

13. Saltwell Viaduct



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LEWIS HOUSE