

Invitation to Help Create a Local Heritage List for New Alresford

Introduction - Simply put, heritage is what physically remains of our history. The **Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group for New Alresford (NPAG)** is seeking nominations from local residents for such a list that will record local built and natural assets that help create and sustain our 'sense of place', are important to residents and visitors (which also contributes to the local economy), and are irreplaceable.

Historic England defines a Local Heritage List as including buildings, monuments, parks, gardens or other areas considered to be of special interest because of their local history, archaeological interest, architecture, design, townscape or landscape value and setting, and includes amenity and recreational value.

Local 'vs' national lists - Such *locally* identified assets are not as historically important as the better known category of *nationally* important buildings, monuments, and structures. There are many in New Alresford such as the Grade 2* St John's church, Grade 2 Toll House, the medieval bridge in the Soke and Bell House in Tichborne Down, formerly Alresford Union Workhouse. See <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/> Such assets are already carefully protected in planning law, so are not repeated on a Local List. Areas such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest are also protected for their wildlife, habitats and natural features.

What's the benefit and what's included in a Local List? - Creating a *local list* of heritage assets will be an important adjunct to the Neighbourhood Plan because the significance of such an asset, *including its setting*, specifically acknowledges that it makes a positive contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of the town. That 'local distinctiveness' may be modest and quirky, rare and exciting, or a widely cherished and familiar part of the local scene.

How are such heritage assets identified? They must meet robust and impartial selection criteria. These ensure that the list provides a good basis for planning decisions and is defensible at a planning appeal if necessary. Not every piece of our heritage is as important as the next: an item might be interesting but is it *significant* to the area's local heritage?

How will this list be compiled? – The Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group will assemble such a list, based on nominations and evidence provided by residents, together with input from local history experts. Such a list is created in conjunction with the Local Planning Authority, Winchester City Council, which 'adopts' the list of properly evidenced items that meet the criteria. Any such asset will then be a 'material consideration' in determining any planning application that may affect it.

Other preliminary notes

Owners - A 'Local Listing' does not result in any additional legal requirements for owners. But they may provide valuable information that can influence the decision about whether to add the item to the Local Heritage List or not.

Single or 'Group Value' - Assets can be single items or have 'group value' because there is an historic functional relationship between the assets, even if under different ownerships/use.

Age – For them to be listed, assets usually need to be over 10 years old unless of exceptional architectural, historic and/or townscape/landscape interest and usually more than 30 years. Before this, relatively little time will have elapsed for an objective and consensus view on their special interest to form.

Location – This list is for New Alresford. There are many other assets in the wider area but they cannot be included in Neighbourhood Plan list which specifically covers the settlement boundary of New Alresford as currently defined. It is hoped though, this project can help provide an example for other local areas wanting to create a Local List.

Include map of Settlement Boundary