



Whitchurch

Hampshire

DESIGN STATEMENT

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The Whitchurch Design Statement 1

What is the Whitchurch Design Statement?

The Whitchurch Design Statement has been produced to illustrate the distinctive character of town and parish, as seen by residents, and to provide a set of guidelines that will help to preserve this character for future generations.

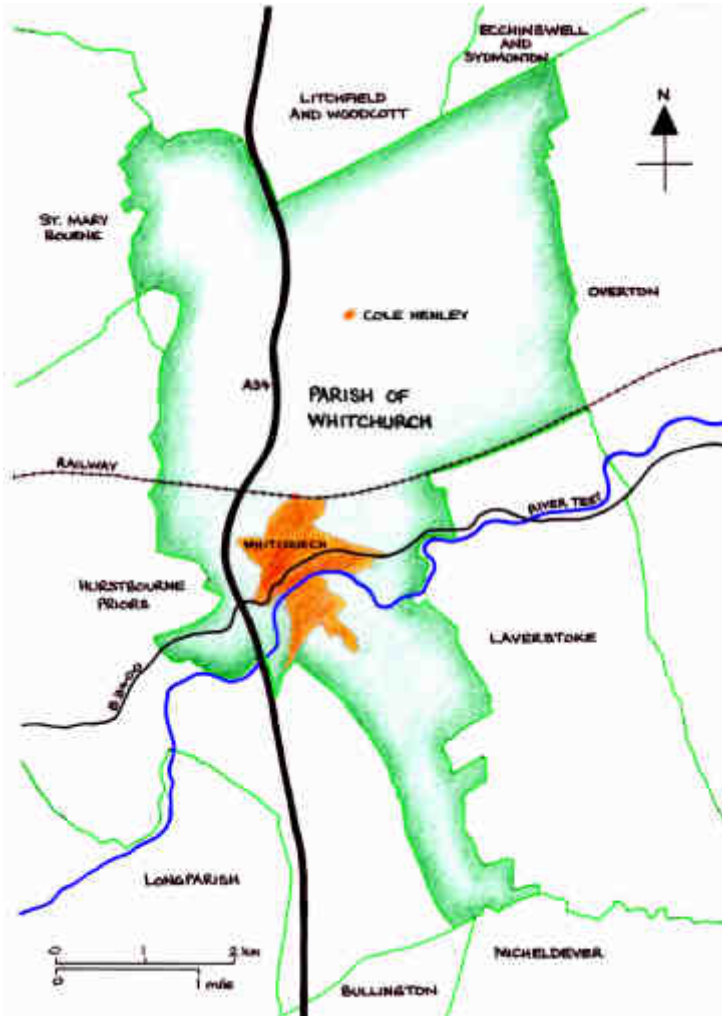
This document was adopted by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council on July 22, 2004. As supplementary planning guidance, the statement must be used by all parties in the planning process as an active planning document when making or reviewing planning applications. The document should also be referred to when changes are proposed that may not require planning permission but will affect the appearance of the parish.

There is other supplementary planning guidance used when making planning decisions that affect Whitchurch. In drawing up this statement, we have often referred to such guidance in our work, but our aim here is to give the local view by describing how Whitchurch seems to those who live and work here.

Why does Whitchurch need a design statement?

Almost all communities in the south of England are under pressure to allow more development. When properly enforced, the guidelines in this statement will help to balance these pressures against the desire of the residents of Whitchurch to preserve the character of the parish.

The Parish of Whitchurch



Who is the design statement for?

The statement has been written with two groups of people in mind:

- those who propose any changes that may affect the appearance of the parish or the quality of the environment, such as land and property owners, developers, public utilities, commercial organisations, government bodies and agencies.

“Whitchurch should not become so large that it loses its character. We need to encourage people to use facilities we have”

- Public Opinion Survey

- those who assess and decide on proposed changes, for example, members of the Whitchurch Town Council, who are consulted on all planning applications affecting the parish; the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, as the local planning authority, whose officers and Development Control Committee determine the applications; and the Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State, who have the final decision about the outcome of planning appeals.

How to use the design statement

Those who are proposing to make any changes that will affect either the appearance or the quality of the environment within the town or parish should review them with this statement in mind.

Such changes may include new development (including roads, access, lighting, parking and associated works), changes to a building, changes to site boundaries, loss or planting of trees and hedgerows, features, and structures or change of use, particularly in rural areas.

Ask the question: “Will such a change go against any of the guidelines?” If in doubt, read the description and look at the photos, drawings and maps that come before the guideline to see what is meant and why it is there.

If the proposed change conflicts with these guidelines or other planning guidance, seek advice from the local planning authority or try to redesign the change so that it fits the guidelines. By doing so, you can avoid having to withdraw the application or having it rejected. You will also help to keep Whitchurch a special place in which to live and work.

How was the design statement compiled?

The statement was drawn up by a group of volunteers (“the team”) using feedback provided by local residents in many different forms. Section 8 gives the details of this extensive consultation process.

