

7 Street Furniture and Lighting

Street furniture

Traditional, black painted metal bollards, posts and other street furniture installed in recent years in the older parts of Whitchurch (A) complement existing black vertical railings in places such as the River Test and the Silk Mill. They sit comfortably alongside the local materials used in the buildings and boundary walls.

Other types of street furniture beyond the town centre include older style benches with metal slats painted dark green on Winchester Road and Newbury Hill. Residents are keen to see these benches retained and restored for future use.

Timber bollards and benches on the outskirts of the town and in

the amenity open spaces enhance the more rural aspect of town and parish alongside existing timber footbridges and post and rail fencing.

Road signage

Striking a balance between size/clarity of road signs and visual clutter in an old town like Whitchurch is always difficult.

Generally road signage in the town is sufficient without being obtrusive, an exception being the excessive use of posts at the railway arch in Bell Street (B). Road surface markings for additional traffic-calming measures are likely to go against the desire of most residents to preserve the town's rural character.

Street features and local detail

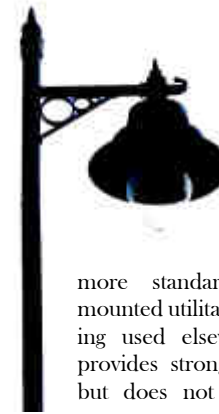
Features and landmarks that are unique to the streets of Whitchurch include the specimen *Gleditsia* tree with seat surround outside the Town Hall, the clock and flag-pole on the Town Hall, the entrance gate to the Millennium Meadow (E), the water-wheel at the Silk Mill, the old Hovis sign on Winchester Street (C), the partially-restored seed merchant's sign on Church Street, weather vanes, pub signage (D) and the White Hart statue overlooking the centre roundabout.

Hanging baskets and window boxes on pubs, businesses and private dwellings, are appreciated by both residents and visitors and add colour and variety to the street scene.

Local detail includes the various plaques on building frontages, such as the one on Lord Denning's birthplace on Newbury Street and the one about the Salvation Army located over the Beehive Stores. Individual features, such as door knockers, boot scrapers and intricate patterns of manholes display local colour and character for the passer-by.

Lighting

Traditional black metal lanterns and columns on Bell Street go well with the street furniture and local building character, and the wall-mounted lanterns are particularly effective around the Market Place roundabout, avoiding the need for additional columns. The



more standard, post-mounted utilitarian lighting used elsewhere (F) provides strong lighting but does not enhance



F

the local character of the older part of town.

Low-level amenity lighting has been used to great effect on some of the town's buildings, such as the Town Hall and some of the pubs, creating an attractive setting at night.

Residents have expressed their concern about light pollu-

tion affecting the town and the surrounding rural area. Typical examples are the floodlights at Long Meadow football ground, night traffic from the elevated section of the A34, security lighting on both residential and commercial properties and large numbers of light columns on the edges of the town, which adjoin countryside and are within the more rural areas of the parish.

Guidelines for Street Furniture and Lighting

- 1 Ensure that road, street and directional signs are erected only where absolutely necessary, are as unobtrusive as possible and do not impede pedestrian flow.
- 2 Install paving, bus shelters, street lights and other street furniture to respect the traditional character of the older part of town and the more rural character of the remaining built-up environment and parish beyond.
- 3 Ensure that when street, site and security lighting is installed or replaced, it is no brighter than needed for the purpose and that it is directed only to the area(s) required, without causing nuisance or pollution of the sky at night.
- 4 Maintain and refurbish existing street furniture and fixtures where their style is compatible with the style of the older parts of the town and parish.



A

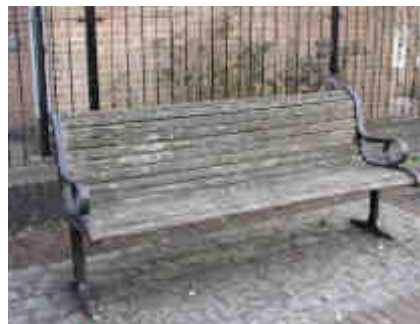


B



C

Benches: modern version (right) is solid and functional, contrasted with the traditional favourite all-metal delicate one (right, below)



D



E

