

**WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES VILLAGE PLAN
HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT STUDY GROUP**

Street Furniture and Signage

Whitchurch is a very attractive village set in beautiful surroundings with the river on one side and the start of the Chiltern Hills behind. The High Street in particular is both pretty and architecturally interesting. However, the signage and street furniture are often ill-matched and poor quality, and this detracts from the overall look of the village. A detailed survey of the signage and street furniture has been carried out with the aim of identifying areas that could be improved. The results of the survey are summarised below under 5 headings: Signs and boards; street lights; bollards and barriers; seats and bins; village maintenance. The aim is to improve the quality of our street furniture and create visual harmony.

1. Signs and boards:

There are many road traffic signs, including speed limits, priority signs, warnings of road narrows, which give a cluttered and messy appearance to the village. Although many of the signs are probably necessary, it is felt that some of the signs could be removed. These include:

- The Chilterns AONB sign at entrance to the village from the toll bridge (Fig 1).
- The School signs on the High Street, which are nowhere near the school (Fig 2).
- The Road Narrows sign (on the same post as School sign), which again is some distance from where the road narrows.
- The Road Narrows sign on the lamp by Geoff Weir's gate (Fig 3).
- Improve and clarify into one, signs on northern approach to High Street narrows (Fig 4).



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

There are several different sign designs in the village, for example

- Street Name signs in Eastfield Lane, Hardwick Road and Manor Road (Fig 5)
- Village Hall signs (Fig 6)



Figure 5



Figure 6

It is recommend that the Street Name signs are replaced with those of a traditional design, with a green background, similar to the previous Eastfield Lane sign design (suitable signs are available from The Cast Iron Co.).

It is also recommended that the Thames Path signposts should be painted green or black.

Notice Boards:

Village notice boards are essential but the Parish council board is out of character with other notice boards in the Village (Fig 7).



Figure 7

2. Street lights

At present there is a motley collection of poor quality street lamps in the High Street (Fig 8).



Figure 8

We recommend the replacement of the four High Street lamps with traditional designs, similar to that at the Toll Bridge (Fig 9).



Figure 9

3. Bollards and barriers

The bollards at the narrows by the Ferryboat should be replaced by cast iron bollards [with reflector band if necessary] (Fig 10).

The wooden bollards at the entrance to the church drive should also be replaced by cast iron to match, and the owner should be encouraged to remove the concrete and metal posts behind them.

The barriers at each end of the cut between Eastfield Lane and Swanston Field should be painted green or black, or preferably replaced by good quality railings (Fig 11).



Figure 10



Figure 11

4. Seats and bins

The seat at the entrance to Hardwick road needs refurbishment.and the sign post behind it repositioned.

The seat at the entrance to Manor Road should be replaced.by one that matches.
All bins should be replaced with cast iron bins in a traditional style. The bins are located in

- Hardwick Road
- Manor Road
- Opposite the Greyhound Pub
- Eastfield Lane by cut.
- Eastfield Lane by school
- Hardwick Road at end of Muddy Path.



Figure 12



Figure 13

5. Village maintenance

The grass bank at the junction of the High Street and Hardwick road would be improved by the planting of shrubs (Fig 14).

The upkeep of the grass and flower areas should be regularly attended to, in particular:

- Muddy path.
- The wildflower banks along Hardwick Road.



Figure 14

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