



Date: 14th February 2022

Our Ref: Local Heritage List Project 2022

Contact: Caroline Peach/Sally Lloyd-Jacob

Email: heritage@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Local Heritage List Project

I want to encourage you to get involved with BCP Council's Local Heritage List campaign.

Dorset and BCP Councils are working together on this project, which is being managed by consultants LUC. We are asking our local communities to highlight and celebrate their local heritage.

A Local Heritage List is a way to identifying 'heritage assets' (buildings, structures, gardens and designed landscapes and other sites and places) and make sure that their value to us is taken into consideration in planning decisions. These assets do not have statutory protection (unlike, for example, listed buildings) and are vulnerable to loss or detrimental change.

Nearly two years of Covid-19 restrictions have meant that most of us have got to know our local areas and its hidden history better than ever before. This opportunity to recognise what we have found on our doorsteps could not be more timely.

We are inviting nominations for the Local Heritage List during an eight-week period of public consultation (starting 14th February), using an online interactive mapping system. The idea is to make it easy for everyone to nominate heritage important to their local community. When the list is finalised, the information will be easily accessible.

We particularly want to identify heritage assets which might not yet be known about or appreciated. For this reason, we are keen to receive nominations for heritage assets which are not in Conservation Areas, and which have not already been identified as locally important in adopted Neighbourhood Plans. There will also be the opportunity to remove heritage assets that are on the current Local List.

Details are on BCP Council's website www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/localheritagelist and there will be two online sessions for members of the community to meet council officers and understand the project a little better. If you are interested in being involved with one of these, please could you let us know using the email above and we will send through more information.

Please have a look at the website, let those in your organisation or community know about the project and consultation and get involved.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Peach
Urban Design & Conservation Manager

Background Information

As part of the government's 'Build Back Better' initiative, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, in association with Historic England, launched a funding scheme to help local authorities develop their local heritage lists. Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council joined forces to apply and were subsequently one of 22 areas that were awarded funding.

There are already in existence several sources that may be used for the identification of non-designated assets in the combined area, including three separate local lists for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, conservation areas appraisals, historic town assessments and the Historic Environment Record (HER). Although this seems at first glance to already be a comprehensive resource, there are several reasons why further work is needed. It has been at least 7 years since any of the existing local lists were updated. They all contain different levels of information on the assets and it is not always clear how the decisions to include them were made. Likewise, some conservation areas have appraisals whilst others do not, those that have them are not always up to date, and not all identify individual assets of local significance. Similarly, the neighbourhood plans and historic town assessments were not specifically concerned with the identification of non-designated assets and have varying levels of information on that front.

During the public consultation, we will be asking for key information from the public, including photos, to help with the next stage of assessing the suitability of the asset to go onto Local List. The assessment will be against particular criteria, which we will also be sharing. Depending on the scale of the response to the consultation, this assessment stage may take some time to complete.

Following on from the assessments, an updated list will be brought forward with a recommendation by Council officers. The timing of this is again dependent on the scale of the response to the consultation and time needed for the assessment.

Ultimately, we will have a new BCP, community led local heritage list, which will celebrate what we value and become a material consideration for making planning decisions.

Online sessions

These will be:

Thursday 3rd March 7pm

Tuesday 8th March 10:30am