



Martock 2030

Martock Neighbourhood Plan

Newsletter 5 - July 2017

Historic buildings

Martock is an ancient settlement known for its beautiful buildings. We have 200 buildings listed by Historic England as of national importance. (Ilminster has 154, Crewkerne 167). We have many other buildings that are important and attractive but are not nationally listed. In the Neighbourhood Plan we want enhance and strengthen our reputation for beautiful buildings. We want to make sure that both new buildings and alterations to existing ones look good and fit in. This will help us all to take pride in the village, and to enjoy living here – Pride of Place.

Listed buildings are of all kinds

Bower Hinton Farm barn is a fine listed 19th Century agricultural building. The details are typical of many Bower Hinton buildings at the time, particularly Sparrows Works



How Martock evolved

We are five villages in a line fitting in valleys at the bottom edge of low hills to the East. The old houses are built close together following the track of ancient roads along the bottom of the hills. This gave us a terraces of houses - such as the next picture - which

made them warm and safe and made talking to our neighbours (before phones) easy. Behind the houses was arable and grazing land so there was always a view of nearby higher countryside.



Typical older Martock. Terraces of of varied houses, mostly Hamstone, close to the road with small gardens at the front and bigger ones behind.

The Conservation Areas

Our old street scene is preserved by Conservation Areas in Martock and Coat. The Martock Conservation Area includes the houses along the main road from Higher Street, Bower Hinton in the south as far as the Precinct. It also extends along to the end of East Street.

The Conservation Area does not stop development but ensures that building changes, or felling trees, can only happen if the street scene is preserved.

We hope to work with the South Somerset conservation Office to review the Conservation Areas as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. We would like to include the North Street scene as far as the Bakers Arms so that we include more of our older and important buildings.

Other small extensions like one to include old Sparrows Works could be added. We would like more suggestions.

More information and maps of the conservation areas can be found on www.martockplan.org.uk/Environment/Builtenv.html)

Important buildings that are not listed

The Sparrows Works building pictured has been the first view of Martock from the



south for some 150 years. It is an important part of our history. It is a fine industrial building with many 'Bower Hinton' features such as the window lintels and the curved corners.

We could put it on a list of locally important buildings. These are buildings that are not significant nationally, and so are not on the Historic England list, but which are important to us in the village. They may

have local historic significance or they may be architecturally important. Or they may just simply look good.

A recent Planning Inspectorate Appeal ruling gave some locally listed buildings the same protection as those on the National List

Tell us about other buildings that you would like to see on the local list.

Last century South Somerset became well known for some well-designed Council Houses designed by the Yeovil architects Petter and Warren (Petter was a member of the Westland family).

These are two examples. There are many more around the village. Should we locally list our collection?



How to influence the design of new buildings so that they fit in with the old ones

This is quite difficult and often has not been done well in the past. We will be developing a 'Village Design Statement' that tries to show what it is about the older buildings in the village that makes them important.

One thing is that they are built in hamstone but there are also many other 'design references' that we should list; the mullions, the window shape and size, the roof styles, the differences between houses in the same terrace, the small front garden spaces, the

A new terrace that incorporates some design ideas from the terraces around them. The houses beyond and opposite are eighteenth century.

The new ones are gradually mellowing with time and becoming an unobtrusive part of the street scene.



occasional gap through terraces that give views of other houses and glimpses the hills beyond, This list goes on. Help us with it. Send a list of features that you think are important characteristics of old Martock.

We will also list features that are **not** characteristic of Martock which we hope they will avoid.

We hope to be able to persuade builders of new houses to use this list so their designs complement the existing houses. This has not always been done very well in the past and we have not been able to do anything about it because we have not had any documents with the evidence such as the Village Design Statement.

Please help

You can help in many ways.

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- ▶ Find out more and make comments on the *MartockPlan* website.
- ▶ Join the *Plan* email forum to find out about the plan as it develops. Comment on the ideas.

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