

Last week's article was on the Marlborough Road toilets and reference was made to the Local List maintained by the Isle of Wight Council.

The quality of the Island's historic environment is not just about conservation areas or nationally listed buildings, although these are undeniably of vital importance. It is also about the contribution of unlisted buildings, parks and structures to an area's local distinctiveness and sense of place; such structures include the telephone kiosks commemorating the silver jubilee of George V in 1935, like this one in Church Street.



Recognising this, the Isle of Wight Council are working with local heritage groups and Town and Parish Councils to develop a local list of buildings and structures. Inclusion on this list does not confer protection in the way that statutory listing does, but it shows that they have an agreed historic and architectural interest.

For example the Ventnor Heritage Museum (below right) is on the list as it has original tiles, metal columns, a canopy and coloured glass in the top lights, although the second storey of the building has been the subject of unsympathetic modern alterations.

Another Ventnor landmark, The Winter Gardens (below left), is prominently sited and of very distinctive appearance. It is a focal point on the skyline, appears in numerous postcards and illustrations and has associations with notable local events, and is therefore significant for its social and cultural importance. There was some protest when it opened because it was modern architecture in a Victorian town.



Local people can suggest their own nominations for inclusion, but these need to meet at least two of the following criteria: historic interest; architectural, artistic and design merit; survival (does it remain in a recognisable form?); townscape merit (does it provide an important visual amenity?) and archaeological interest. Nominations are assessed by a small panel which includes representatives of the Isle of Wight Society, Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society, Isle of Wight Gardens Trust, the local RIBA branch, IWC Archaeological Team and IWC Conservation and Design Team.

Local Lists play an important part in recognising and celebrating the value of local heritage to communities by encouraging local people to identify what they consider important. Niton has included its Coastguard Station and, like Ventnor, its war memorial. Whitwell is represented with Wydcombe Park, and St Lawrence with Old Park. Details of the

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