

# YOUR CHANCE TO PICK YOUR LOCAL GEMS

A unique Mendip project could see some of our hidden gems given special protection.

The district council is unveiling a new project which gives local people the chance to nominate buildings and monuments to appear in a local list of heritage assets in the district.

Those put forward for this new list may not have met the strict criteria to be protected by English Heritage's national protection list, but may be so important to local people that they need their own local recognition.

The idea of the list is not about placing heavy restrictions on buildings and structures, but instead highlighting their importance for local councils and particularly planning departments especially when dealing with potential demolition of all or part of a structure.

The initial stage of this project is focussing on Mendip's five largest 'towns'; **Shepton Mallet, Wells, Frome, Glastonbury and Street**, with a view to seeing how successful it is before rolling it out to the surrounding villages.

A team of heritage enthusiasts has now been signed up to help coordinate the project and take nominations from residents.

The local manager for Frome is **John Peverley, c/o Frome Town Council, 01373 465757, email llewellynj@frome-tc.gov.uk**

Conservation enthusiasts are already drawing up their own list by visiting towns and walking streets to discover the more unusual and interesting sites that might have local importance.

All nominations made by the public will be assessed by local historians and heritage experts to gain a better understanding of their local importance and to ensure they are not already on the national protection list.

Once final checks have been made a completed list will be drawn up and be subject to a period of consultation where the owners of individual buildings will have the opportunity to comment on the inclusion of their property within the local list.

Following this consultation, and any necessary changes, the list will be formally endorsed as the district's List of Heritage Assets of Local Historic or Architectural Importance.

This project already has the backing from the government which states that it "supports the use of local designation as it helps to build a sense of local identity and provides a means for local communities to identify and protect buildings that matter to them."

