

Nomination for listing as an Asset of Community Value

Nominated land

<p>Area to be covered Please describe the nominated land including its proposed boundaries and exact location, address, postcode and a map attachment.</p>	<p>Freemasons Hall (The Masonic Hall) Silver Street Malmesbury SN16 9BU</p> <p>Former Chapel incorporating cottage, extensions and garden (graveyard) occupied by Malmesbury Freemasons since 1958 and purchased in 1974 (according to 'Malmesbury's Past, People and Places' published by Malmesbury Civic Trust).</p>
<p>Ownership</p> <p>Please state all the information you have on:</p> <p>(i) the names of current occupants of the land, and</p> <p>(ii) the names and current or last known addresses of all those holding a freehold or leasehold estate in the land;</p> <p>Please include a copy of the land registry entry.</p>	<p>The last transfer occurred 1974 prior to Land Registry digital filing and is not accessible online https://search-property-information.service.gov.uk/search/cannot-show-information/WBoyLXT2HipFFk9avJoKdw==</p> <p>https://apps.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityhistory/Church/Details/419</p> <p>The property is assumed to be owned by Wiltshire Freemasons, full details of ownership are known by James Pyle Estate Agents, Sherston, and is currently marketed by them</p> <p>https://www.rightmove.co.uk/properties/139252157#/?channel=COM_BUY</p> <p>Wiltshire Council Business Rates reference N14900480002999</p> <p>Planning consent March 2010 N/10/00765/LBC</p>

Community value

Your reasons for thinking that Wiltshire Council should conclude that the land is of 'community value', having regard to the definition in the Localism Act:

- current primary use of the building/ land or use of the building/ land in the recent past furthers the social well-being or social interests (cultural, recreational, or sporting interests) of the local community
- it is realistic to think that now or in the next five years there could continue to be primary use of the building/land which will further the social well-being or social interests of the local community (whether or not in the same way as before)

The Masonic Hall is a former Ebenezer Chapel, which was originally established c.1800 and subsequently rebuilt in 1848, and is located in the heart of Malmesbury. Since 1958, the property has been used as a Masonic Hall and has been extended offering a gross internal floor area of approximately 3600 sq.ft incorporating the 12m x 8m main hall and former chapel with its original (now hidden) balcony. The main hall has a typically high chapel ceiling and is lit by large windows to the front and rear. The adjoining cottage to the left has been incorporated into the property whilst over the years, various single storey extensions have taken place, creating ancillary classrooms and a large open plan reception room plus bar, WC facilities and kitchen etc. To the rear, the building opens to its own garden, now overgrown and unkempt.

The property, which is understood not to be listed (although sits within the Malmesbury Conservation Area), is now for sale and subject to obtaining the necessary planning consents, would suit a variety of uses and make an excellent arts centre and community facility.

Over the next three years, with current housing developments, Malmesbury Community Area's population will grow from 19,000 to circa 21,000, with a corresponding increase in primary and secondary school places and demand for local services, including the arts and creative opportunities for young people. There are currently no dedicated arts facilities or a youth centre, despite both being identified as priorities (ie. to be achieved within five years) in the most recent Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan February 2015, at which time they were earmarked for S106 and CIL support.

Caerbladon was set up in February 2022 as a Community Interest Company to address that void in terms of both increasing provision and access to the arts. Our partnership working extends across sectors, including with healthcare and community organisations, schools, the local museum and library service, environmental groups, the WOMAD Foundation and local authorities. We have compelling evidence of the pressing need for dedicated facilities for arts and youth creativity, and a wide base of local support for a new arts and community centre. In addition to our year-round exhibitions and events in various locations, Caerbladon CIC delivered the Pride of Place Malmesbury festival in 2023, run the annual Flying Monk Art Trail, and brokered two local collaborations with WOMAD festival. We initiated and ran the In Living Memory project with Athelstan Museum, and a series of participatory arts sessions for isolated older people.

We have achieved funding from the Malmesbury Area Board, the Arts Council of England, Malmesbury Town Council, the British Council, Jack Lane Charitable Trust, Warden and Freeman and Malmesbury Carnival. We are managing the Backbridge Farm Art Scheme for Persimmon Homes and Wiltshire Council using S106 monies to improve the local arts infrastructure and opportunities for local artists to contribute to

	<p>public art programmes.</p> <p>Larger commercial properties in the town centre such as the former Lloyds Pharmacy (now part of a betting shop chain), the former Barclays Bank (currently another charity shop), Lloyds Bank (which has been empty for three years), Knees (currently empty and on the market) and The Rajah on Market (closed for over three years), have not been developed or used sympathetically in furtherance of the social-wellbeing and social interests of the community. The opportunity for conversion or part-conversion to residential or office accommodation, for commercial gain and without any social housing provision, has taken precedence over ensuring that community benefit is delivered from acquisition of properties that were once providing valuable services for local residents.</p> <p>The Masonic Hall was originally designated for community use as a place of worship, so its loss to purely commercial development would be highly detrimental, and a missed opportunity to revitalise the building as an arts and cultural focus and meeting place for local people and visitors, young and old.</p> <p>As other chapels have closed over the years, they have primarily been turned into residential premises adding to the loss of public meeting places.</p>
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<p>Eligibility to nominate</p> <p>Please provide evidence that you meet the definition of a community nominator as set out in the regulations (i.e. a parish council or voluntary or community body with a local connection).</p> <p>If an unincorporated group please provide a list of 21 names on the local electoral register.</p>	<p>Caerbladon is a registered Community Interest Company recorded at Companies House 13949414. Copy of incorporation is attached.</p>
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Your details

Parish	Malmesbury
Community area	Malmesbury
Your organisation	Caerbladon CIC
Contact name	David Drake
Position held	Director
Address	Unit 4 Cranmore House Market Cross Malmesbury SN16 9AS

I confirm that all information provided is accurate and complete

Name	David Drake
Date	9 September 2023

Please return to assetsofcommunityvalue@wiltshire.gov.uk (scanned attachments can be accepted).

ACV/2023/00023

Freemasons Hall (The Masonic Hall),
Silver Street, Malmesbury, SN16 9BU



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