

Proposed Information Board

a) Background and general considerations

It was resolved that a report be prepared on the potential locations, design and estimated cost of an information board in the vicinity of The Gate Hangs Well at the eastern end of the village (P.1807/8).

The Millennium Information Board in Little Lane is on the Leicestershire Round circular walking route. It was supplied by WDS Signs Ltd, and installed by volunteers in 2000 at a cost of £886.50, with grant aid of £664.87 from LCC (p.666/5 refers). The sign is unobtrusive, robust, still in good condition, and continues to be appreciated by new residents and visitors to the village. The images on the board are now about 50% faded, even though it was printed with special inks and is sited in a shady spot. This sign represents the benchmark against which to judge other suppliers and designs.

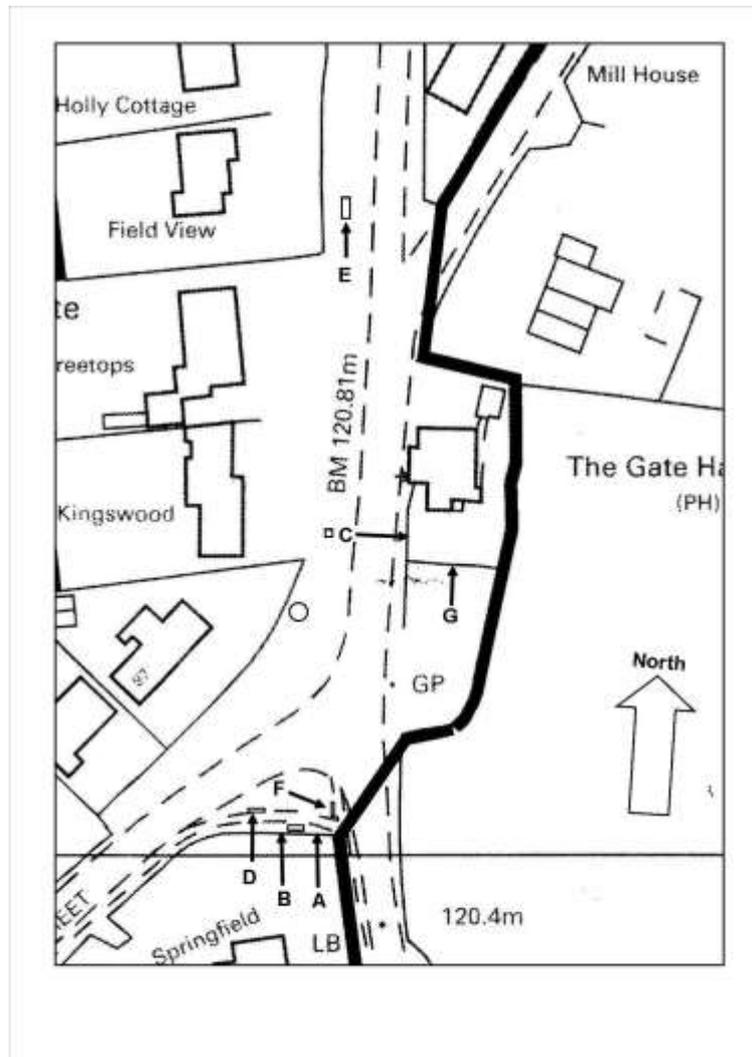
The visible information board itself measures 875 x 570mm, with a 20mm margin around the text. [A3 = 420 x 300 mm, so the board is roughly 4 x A3]. Text needs to be printed with capital letters at least 4mm high to be easily read by someone standing in front of the sign.

The Millennium Sign gives the general history of the settlement, together with an aerial photo showing the routes of public rights of way in the Parish. It would not be appropriate to duplicate this historical information on the new sign, but it might be useful to show the routes of public rights of way – particularly those at the eastern side of the Parish.



The Gate Hangs Well is now promoting itself to walkers, and the owners are interested in displaying a map of local public rights of way on the site or inside the building. In the past LCC RoW supplied a laminated map of local RoW free of charge, which was displayed in the pub. The Ordnance Survey can supply a 1:25,000 map centred on Carlton, mounted and framed for £150. Either one of these might be appropriate for display inside the pub.

b) Potential locations



There are seven potential locations, in order of preference:

- A On east side of Leicester Mercury seat (sign faces N, tarmac standing)
- B On west side of Leicester Mercury seat (sign faces N, tarmac standing)
- C In garden of Gate Hangs Well (sign faces W, tarmac standing)
- D On south side of BT equipment box (sign faces N, tarmac standing)
- E On south side of Barton Rd bus shelter (sign faces S, grass standing)
- F On west side of BT equipment box (sign faces W, grass standing)
- G In garden of Gate Hangs Well (sign faces S, tarmac standing).

In locations A, B, D, E and F a licence would be required from LCC Highways who would also require agreement from the affected frontagers. Locations C and G would require the agreement of the landowner. All post fixings in these locations would be in grass.

c) Design & costs

A design similar to the Millennium Information Board is recommended, fixed on vertical posts set in concrete. A lectern style board might be used in locations D and F, but would be likely to weather faster than a vertical board.

Graffiti and vandalism have not been a problem in Carlton, but are more likely to occur near the pub.

The proposed design is for a central map, with 15-20 paragraphs of text around it, interspersed with illustrations.

Company A has quoted £1,235 plus £85 delivery for a sign the same as the Millennium Board. Company B has quoted £1,195 plus delivery for a similar design but with the information printed on a 3mm thick aluminium panel.

Company C has not yet quoted.

d) Draft content

Carlton Gate

[central map of area showing RoW]

This part of Carlton is known as *Carlton Gate* because it was the location of a toll gate on the Hinckley to Measham turnpike road. This turnpike was constructed after the passing of the Act of 1st Authority in 1759-60 (33 Geo.II, c.47). One gate across the eastern end of Main Street controlled access to the turnpike, while another across Barton Road controlled the traffic along the turnpike and allowed the collection of tolls. The only original milepost from this turnpike to survive can be found next to the village nameplate on Bosworth Road.

[Photo of milepost]

The toll booth was situated on what is now a wide grass verge on the north western corner of the junction of Main Street and Barton Road. The census of 1841 records the occupation of George Holmes, a local resident, as 'gate-keeper'. A schedule of 1866 records that the local Turnpike Trust was almost out of debt with tolls of £1,250 and debt of £50 at an interest rate of 5%. The road had ceased to be a turnpike by 1872.

[Map ? from Tithe Map or 1st Ed OS showing toll booths]

The straight road between Carlton Gate and Market Bosworth may have been built by the Romans: there was a Roman villa near to the road at Market Bosworth, and medieval ridge and furrow between the two settlements respects the line of the road. Boundary ditches of Roman age have been excavated at the rear of Hall Terrace in the centre of Carlton. In these early times the Carlton area would have looked to the west, with strong connections with

Mancetter and Tamworth, and transport links along the rivers Anker, Tame and Trent. Carlton may have been part of a Celtic multiple estate before the Norman conquest in 1066.

The Gate Hangs Well public house was described as 'newly built' in the sale catalogue for the Bosworth Estate in 1885, and was sympathetically extended in 2019. The original sign in the form of a gate (now preserved inside the pub?), bore the rhyme:

*THIS GATE HANGS WELL
AND HINDERS NONE
REFRESH AND PAY
AND CARRY ON*

CALL AT THE GATE

*AND DRINK OF THE TAP
DRINK AND BE MERRY
AND KEEP OFF THE STRAP*

The *strap* was an old razor strop hung behind the bar, on which drinking debts were written.

[?old photo of pub or more recent one showing old sign]

Carlton Gate was known as Hoop Hall Gate before the 1950's, and this place name was used in censuses from 1861 to 1901. Hoop Hall was a building on the site of the present pub, and was at least in part a public house managed by the Collington family. Hannah Collington was listed as a publican in 1841, while Samuel Collington, probably her son, was listed as a wheelwright living at Hoop Hall in 1851, and as a publican and wheelwright in 1861. The 1871 census lists Elizabeth Collington as a publican, with her son, also a wheelwright. In small pubs of the day it was common for the woman of the house to run the bar during the day while the man worked at another full time job. The name Hoop Hall might refer to the iron hoops used to tyre cart wheels.

[? Possibly old map]

Opposite the pub is the Carlton Jubilee Post, erected by a group of volunteers to mark the Golden Jubilee Queen Elizabeth II and unveiled by the oldest and youngest residents on 3rd June 2002. The oak post has a decorative lead cap made by Paul Adams, and is inset with ceramic panels made by Ruth Schweining and Judy Taylor. The panels depict Carlton life past and present – for example part of a row of cottages which used to face onto Carlton Green, and St Michael's Church before it was Gothicised and dedicated to St Andrew. The post is set in a plinth of local Carlton Stone, and is surrounded by 'Carlton' daffodils in the spring. This well-known hardy variety of daffodil is believed to be named after the village, and was first grown in the 1890's and introduced in 1927 by P D Williams, the Cornish 'daffodil king'.

[Photos unveiling of Jubilee Post and post showing plinth and daffs]

? para about Carlton Stone with photo of Manor House Farm Barn

The Diamond Jubilee in 2012 was marked by the planting of a sessile oak tree (*Quercus petraea*) near the Jubilee Post by the youngest resident with help from her mother. At this time volunteers were working to create the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard, a small public open space at the edge of the village between Nailstone Road and Barton Road. The fruit trees in the orchard include a Shackerstone Apple, also known as Dumelow's Crab, Dumelow's Seedling or occasionally Normanton Wonder.

[? photo of Shackerstone apple tree in Jubilee Orchard]

Dumelow's Seedling was first cultivated in 1790 by Richard Dummeller, a Shackerstone farmer, and became widely grown locally. It was propagated and sold commercially from 1820 under the name 'Wellington' and was one of the most popular cooking apples in England until Bramley's seedling became widely available in 1856. Richard Dummeller Thompson (1858-1930), whose mother was Ann Dummeller of Shackerstone, farmed at Bufton in the late 19th century.

The cross roads of Bufton Lane, Lount Road and Nailstone Road is known locally as Harry's Grave, and marks the north-eastern boundary of the Parish. There is a spring nearby, and the 'grave' part of the name is probably a corruption of the Old English word *græf* meaning a pool in a hollow. Nearby fields are variously listed as Harvey Grove, Harveys Grove, Harveys Grave, Harveys Grave Close, and Harrys Grave Close in local tithe maps. The identity of Harvey has yet to be established.

[Photo of Mill House]

Mill House in Nailstone Road is the oldest remaining building in Carlton Gate. It is partly built of Carlton Stone, and probably dates from at least the 18th century. A wind mill named

Sparrowble Mill stood in the field across the road, and is marked on the 1st edition OS map of 1835. The underground foundations comprised three brick pillars, so the mill was probably a post-mill. Local field names of Mill Close and Upper Mill Bank date from 1786 and 1849, respectively. A note book has recently come to light which includes notes of the corn being ground at Sparrowble Mill between 1857 and 1869. At this time a *strike* was two bushels, or 112 pounds in weight.

[Photo extract of mill record book]

The oldest institution in Carlton is the Carlton Charity Lands, established by gifts of land by Simon Geffrey (or Gessrey) in 1317, Thomas Tymson in 1431, and John Hoore in 1481. The funds were originally used to finance apprenticeships, but are now used to provide grants to help young people with training, equipment and materials at the start of their careers.

[? Indenture or other old document from Charity Lands/ROLLR]

The name *Carlton* derives from the Old English *ceorl (en a) tun* meaning settlement of the free men; *Bufton* at the crossroad to the north derives from *abufan tun* meaning above the settlement. Carlton does not appear in Domesday Book – at that time it was a chapelry of Market Bosworth, along with Coton. The earliest documentary references to the village are as Karlintone in a Feet of Fines of 1202, Karleton in an Episcopal Register of 1209-35 and an inquisition dated 1270 when Roger de Quincy Earl of Winton died seised of four knight's fees. There was a church - *capellam de Karletone* – in 1220.

In the itinerary of 1280 Carleton, Bosworth, Coton and Shenkerton answered collectively as one vill. Until the 20th century, Carlton village consisted of four small groups of dwellings at Bufton to the north, Carlton Gate at the eastern end, central Carlton (around the church), and Carlton Green at the western end. Later built development has consolidated into the linear village we see today.

Carlton became a separate civil parish in 1866, and a separate ecclesiastical parish in 1868. In this connection it is interesting that the church building was gothicised by Goddard & Son of Leicester in 1867. This was when the windows were altered, the distinctive saddleback top was added to the tower and the dedication changed from St Michael to Saint Andrew.

[?Photo of current church and drawing from Nichols of St Michael's]

The local landscape is one of enclosed fields, with nucleated settlements and scattered farmsteads. The local names of Eastfields, Westfields, Northfields and Common Farm recall the early open field system of agriculture, and traces of ridge and furrow ploughing are still clearly visible in fields around the village. The process of enclosure and the creation of outlying farmsteads may have begun in Saxon times, but had been completed by 1674: there was no enclosure act for Carlton.

In the census of 1801, the population of Carlton was 160 living in ** dwellings, and by 1851 this had increased to 290 in 64 dwellings. In 2020 there were 311 registered electors living in 153 dwellings.

Additional information about the history of Carlton can be found on the Millennium Information Board in Little Lane, off Shackerstone Walk. Articles about the history of Carlton can be found on the Carlton Parish Council website at www.carltonpc.co.uk

This information board was erected by Carlton Parish Council in 2021 with the help of a 50% grant from the Parish & Community Initiative Fund of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. The text is by Richard Liddington and Chris Peat, and the maps and illustrations are reproduced by kind permission of the Record Office for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland, Market Bosworth Society (?) and Richard Liddington.

C J Peat 1st September 2020