

BLACK COUNTRY - LEVELLING UP HOUSING & COMMUNITIES

The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has provided funding for the four BC authorities to review and update their Local Lists of heritage assets.

The heritage consultant TDR Heritage has been commissioned to co-ordinate the project.

Local Lists are intended to recognise the significance of buildings and structures which, whilst not being important enough to make the Statutory List which offers legal protection, do nevertheless display some historic character and distinctiveness which is important to the identity of an area.

The idea of this initiative is that individuals and societies can nominate buildings to be added to the Local Lists.

Dudley Borough has just updated its Local List, which was adopted on 13th September.

Walsall and Wolverhampton Local Lists have not been updated for several years so there may be lots more structures which warrant inclusion.

Sandwell, has barely started on it's Local List, having only surveyed about half of West Bromwich and half of Smethwick. This is where the real challenge for us all lies, to make sure that everything worthwhile in Sandwell gets Locally Listed. This means looking particularly at the towns of Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Tipton and Wednesbury.

The question here is whether the Black Country Society could co-ordinate the BCS submissions, or simply leave it to individuals to submit as they see fit, whether claiming to be doing so on behalf of BCS or not. It doesn't matter how many nominations are made or by whom. TDR Heritage will draw up a definitive list to submit to the Local Authorities for adoption.

All the relevant information, including the nomination forms, can be found at [<blackcountrylocallist.org.uk>](http://blackcountrylocallist.org.uk)

There's an interactive map on this website that shows all the existing Statutorily Listed and Locally Listed buildings, so that you can easily spot buildings that are not included, but perhaps should be.

Please be aware that anyone wanting to participate only has until 14th February to do so.