

Part C: About the Asset

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| Name of asset | Garth Hall |
| Address or location of asset | 18 St John's Road, Mortimer, Reading RG7 3TR Land Registry Title Number BK439156 |
| Description of the asset and its boundaries (you are encouraged to attach a photo and/or a plan as supporting evidence). Please read the accompanying guidance notes. | <p>The land on which Garth Hall stands was purchased by Miss Capron in 1915 with the intention of providing a club for the use of the young men of the village. She had the hall built and since then it has been used for all types of recreational meetings and activities. In 1942 a trust was drawn up which appointed the YMCA as trustees of the property which stated that 'it has been and is being used as a club for the benefit of young men and other persons in the locality'. Subsequently in 1959 a new trust was set up in transferring the premises to the British Legion 'in fee simple but subject to the trust that the premises should be used for the purposes of a Club'</p> <p>The Royal British Legion has maintained and used the building since that day, also letting it out for many village and community events including birthday parties and dancing classes. Additionally a rifle range was created at the rear of the building, used by the Mortimer Rifle Club.</p> <p>About 18 months ago, following a refurbishment of the building by the Mortimer & District British Legion, the interior was upgraded and the building brought up to a good standard for public use. Unfortunately the builder replaced the slate tiles with concrete ones, causing the roof timbers to be compromised and the building to be closed for safety reasons. The British Legion has decided it is unable to underake the cost of the necessary repairs and we believe that it is the intention of the RBL HQ to sell the hall/land possibly for development. The building is not derelict and the roof is fairly easily repairable. The Parish Council has already commissioned and received a full comprehensive condition survey of the building and has taken advice as to the cost of the roof repairs necessary.</p> <p>Documents Attached:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Location Plans x 2 2. Photograph of the Hall 3. Photograph of the dedication plaque from the hall 4. Land Registry Form 5. Copy of the Conveyance dated 20 March 1942 6. Copy of the Deed of Appointment from the YMCA to the British Legion dated 11 May 1959 7. Declaration of Trust by British Legion dated 11 May 1959 |



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| <p>Does anyone live at the asset? If yes, please give details</p> | <p>No</p> |
| <p>Reasons for nomination: Why do you believe the asset is of community value? <i>(You are encouraged to attach supporting evidence)</i></p> <p>Any information entered here may be copied and passed onto the owner of the property you are nominating; the rest of your nomination will not be shared with the owner.</p> | <p>The Parish Council believe that the hall was given to the community of Stratfield Mortimer and that it should continue to be used for that purpose. There is a very high demand for hall space within the Parish to meet the social interests of the community as a whole. Mortimer is a vibrant village, with many clubs and societies, some developed from the Parish Plan refresh in 2009 through the creation of Mortimer Village Partnership. Over 50 groups are active in the village and the Partnership itself organises many village events, hence meeting facilities and hall space are always in high demand and generally oversubscribed. Since Garth Hall has been unable to be used this situation has been even worse. Garth Hall would be especially valuable to the thriving Youth Club that was set up following the Parish Plan Refresh, with 55 affiliated to Mortimer Village Partnership , so meeting facilities and hall space is very valuable to the community especially for the Youth Club set up following the Parish Plan Refresh. Garth Hall is an important village amenity and it is vital that the whole community does not lose this opportunity to continue its use.</p> <p>The Parish Council's intention is to maintain and manage the Hall as a community asset. The resumption of the use of the Hall as a venue for local clubs and societies, for classes and meetings, including Parish Council meetings would contribute greatly to the vitality of the villlage and its role as a rural service centre in the coming years.</p> <p>To fund this the Parish Council would take out a loan from Public Works Loan Board and would therefore also be able to replace the roof and it is anticipated that the Hall could soon be back in use, certainly within 12 months at most. In view of the confidential nature of our discussions with the British Legion, we have not thought it appropriate to consult the whole community at this stage. Howver, the Council firmly believes that the local community will certainly consider this proposal as furthering the strength of the community.</p> |
| <p>Current owner's name and address (if known)</p> | <p>The Royal British Legion, Haig House, 199 Borough High Street, London SE1 1AA</p> |



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| Date nomination submitted | 20.03.2013 |
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You are encouraged to attach photos, maps, plans and other documents to help us correctly identify the asset and to support your nomination.

