



## REPLACING THE MISSING GAS LAMPS

By Simon Freeman, Gas Lamps Working Group

Many parishioners will recall that, following a positive response to a public consultation with parishioners in 2010, the Parish Council took ownership and commissioned the restoration of the 48 gas lamps within the Parish during 2011 to 2013. Of these, 27 are sited along Wells Road and it became apparent soon after the refurbished gas lamp lighting was fully commissioned that there were significant differences in the spacing between those gas lamps. A measured survey suggests that around 11 lamps are missing along Wells Road between the boundary with Great Malvern and the junction with Holywell Road. The assumption is that over the years these have been damaged beyond repair and removed.

The Parish Council is looking to promote a scheme to replace these missing gas lamps. The benefits would include a further enhancement of the footpath lighting along the Wells Road with the use of gas powered lights whilst minimising light pollution and a further partial restoration of the original Victorian "street scene". Original salvaged lamp posts would be used where available or faithful replicas. Original lanterns are unlikely to be available but, as has been demonstrated by the restoration of the existing gas lamps, modern replicas are virtually indistinguishable.

Malvern Hills AONB are providing invaluable assistance in putting together a bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Scheme. The indicative capital cost of the scheme is currently estimated to be in the range of £60,000 to £80,000. We will have to provide a contribution to the project in volunteer time and cash and will seek to apply for other grants from external bodies to cover the cash element. Any financial contribution by the Parish will be met from reserves and no increase in the precept will therefore be required to cover any of the capital cost. There will be a proportionate increase in the existing running and maintenance costs of the gas lamps which will be met out of current income. To assist with the bid, the scheme proposers are required to demonstrate "clear public enthusiasm for the scheme". The Parish Council is currently enlisting support from local bodies and organisations. Most importantly, support is needed from parishioners!

Please visit the following web link if you wish to register your support for this project

[Replacing the missing Gas Lamps Project- Register your support here](#)

