

THE AYLBURTON MEDIEVAL HIGH CROSS (RESTORATION AND REINSTATEMENT)

THE CROSS IS AYLBURTON and AYLBURTON IS THE CROSS !

The High Cross is recognised by villagers and tourists alike as the centre point of the village. Villagers identify with the cross and it serves as a focal point and goes a long way towards fostering social cohesion. It is a key meeting and rallying point. However it has been severely mutilated over the years by neglect, vandalism and inappropriate restoration. Action is now needed.



The Cross
May 2017

Google

Our High Cross is not only a 'listed' monument but also an important 'scheduled' monument and marks the centrepiece of the Conservation Area. As far as can be ascertained the Aylburton Cross, the Clearwell Cross and the Lydney Cross are entirely unique in Britain in displaying large and impressive niches on each side of the centre section and must have involved considerable skill in their execution.

The Gloucester Cathedral masons have been commissioned by the Parish Council to conduct a feasibility study and to come up with recommendations, costings and a design. The study is now complete and the design for a new cross and proposals for restoration have now been approved by the Parish Council.

The cost of the study was kindly paid for by Lydney Park Estate. The cost of implementing the report however stands at around £53,000.

Any changes will require clearance by:

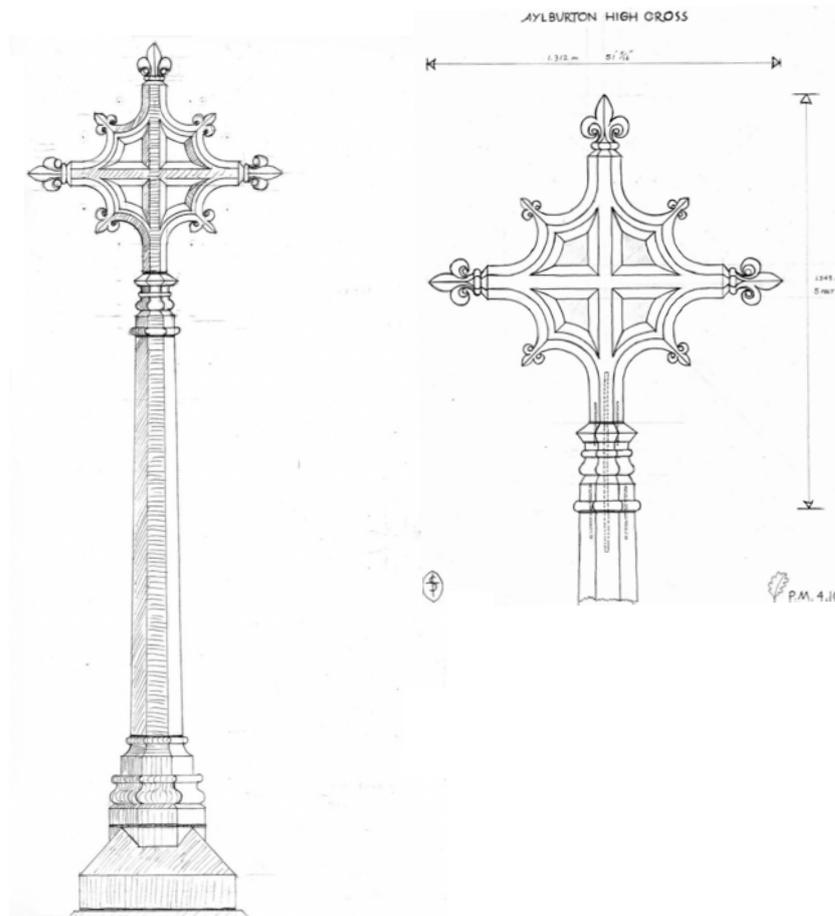
- Historic England
- Gloucester Council
- Forest of Dean Council
- and insurance will need to be considered.

There are no actual 'owners' of the Cross and the PC are the de facto custodians.

There follows a quotation by Pascal Mychalysin, the Master Mason at Gloucester Cathedral:

“In essence this is a civil project by the parishioners of Aylburton on behalf of the community and needs full village support. This project represents the will of the community to restore a mutilated landmark and demonstrate the manifestation of its civic pride which, when completed will bring back to life an important local landmark in the most spectacular fashion with a striking recreated new High Cross. This will demonstrate the highest of traditional skills and workmanship and all will be completed by the experienced Gloucester Cathedral masons.

This public statement, carved in the finest Forest of Dean stone will have a bold, dramatic and long lasting impact. Nobody driving on the road to Gloucester or Chepstow will ever fail to notice what will become the most spectacular and memorable landmark on this road.”



Proposed restoration of the Cross

The PC will be looking closely at various sources of funds but would now like to organize A CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE TO RAISE LOCAL SUPPORT. VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN THIS PROJECT ARE NOW NEEDED. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU COULD ALLOCATE A LITTLE TIME TO THIS EXCITING PROJECT.

WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE NOW WILL BE APPRECIATED BY MANY GENERATIONS TO COME.

PLEASE RESPOND to John Harrison at:

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