

9. Modern Development

Development in Manaton during the second half of the 20th century has had a mixed impact upon its character and appearance. Neither of the two houses built on the east side of the green (Pillars and Fernstone) were purposefully detailed to reflect the hamlet's distinctive characteristics, but their discrete siting in large garden plots means their incongruity is well concealed. The only other significant building to be constructed was the Parish Hall in the 1960s. Its detailing is likewise incongruous, and so too its scale and proportions which, in particular, create a very broad gable at the front. Unlike the new houses built nearby, it is very much open to view once the lane to Neadon is entered, and together with its tarmac surfaced forecourt, is incompatible with the character of the Conservation Area.

Other more recent developments have been rather more positive towards preserving and enhancing the Area's character, including the thatching of the prominent wing to Ivy Cottage and the conversion to workshops of part of the range of farm buildings at Town Barton which had become redundant.

Elsewhere in the Conservation Area, in and adjacent to the sports ground, various community facilities have been provided including a traditionally styled pavilion on the far side of the sports field; a not unattractive timber bus shelter just off the crossroads, and behind it a well concealed and suitably surfaced car park (Figure 33 below). None of them have a harmful effect, although it is fortunate that the nondescript garage sited in the car park is hidden from general view.



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Figure 33 The Car Park and Bus Shelter near the crossroads