

## COUNTYWIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNTYWIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2000 IN MEZZANINE ROOM 3, COMMENCING AT 2.30 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 5.00 PM

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Mrs A R Bainbridge

#### Member

Mr C Cashman  
Ms B Hurman  
Mr C B Oliver

#### Organisation

Aylesbury Vale District Council  
Bucks Archaeological Society  
Wycombe District Council

#### Officer

Mr B Giggins  
Ms S Gray  
Mr S Kidd  
Mr A Kirkham  
Mr J D L Pickard  
Ms J Tiddy  
Ms J Wise

Milton Keynes Council  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
Aylesbury Vale District Council  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
Wycombe District Council  
Buckinghamshire County Council

#### Co-opted Member

Mr M Farley

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

The Head of Administration received apologies from Mrs C Aston (Mrs A R Bainbridge substituting), Mrs E M Lay, Mr B Morsley, Mrs J M Woolveridge, Mr M G Hatt, Mr M Andrew, Ms L Stone, Mr R Evans, Mr G Friell and Mr M White

### APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

#### RESOLVED

That Mrs A R Bainbridge be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

## **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

### **RESOLVED**

The election of Chairman for the Committee was deferred until next meeting.

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr M Farley declared a general interest in the areas covered by the reports on the Agenda.

### **1 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2000 were confirmed.

### **2 MATTERS ARISING**

#### **Buckinghamshire Archaeological Officer's Report**

A member requested information on progress made to date in submitting the Lottery Fund bid which would include conservation and interpretation of the Archaeological monuments on Whiteleaf Hill, Princes Risborough.

In response it was noted that progress had been made towards the bid with a view to its submission in the autumn.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE IN MILTON KEYNES**

The Committee received a report from the Archaeological Officer, Design and Conservation for Milton Keynes which informed members of current archaeological matters in Milton Keynes. Brian Giggins introduced the report and stated that progress had been made in terms of the sites and monuments records database combined with the mapping programme. It was noted that Milton Keynes Council had obtained the first tranche of aerial photographs for the Milton Keynes District from CR World and that, because of poor quality, an alternative company was being investigated to obtain further photographs. Members further noted that the Local Plan was now out for consultation.

The Committee discussed the report and offered their support to the service particularly in terms of the progress made with English Partnerships. Members agreed that the Committee should submit a letter under the delegated authority of the Chairman offering support for the service. A member requested that future reports should contain a format fieldwork report for Milton Keynes as had been submitted in the past.

### **4 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Committee received and noted a report from the Senior Archaeological Officer, which advised members of events occurring since the last meeting of the Committee. Members discussed the Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan and the proposed alignment

of the western link road. It was noted that the roadline had been shifted away from the monument and the buried archaeological remains on its western side; however it still did not avoid all impact. The inquiry was continuing and discussions were being held by the Aylesbury Land Use and Transportation Strategy Panel. Members discussed future management of the scheduled monument and also the future of the roadline. Concern was expressed over the possibility of a more highly engineered route which would include lighting, roundabouts etc and also the possibility of dualling and future road widening. In terms of the Sites and Monuments Records, it was noted that SMR's computerised data was being transferred to a new purposebuilt system and that a further report would be submitted to the Committee at the next meeting when an audit would have been completed which would include comments from English Heritage.

The Committee went on to discuss the completion of the fieldwork at the Eton Rowing Lake and noted that the programme for publication was on track with the intention to run a joint series of monographs which would include the Maidenhead and Windsor Flood Alleviation Scheme. Publicity and involvement with local people was highlighted by the Chairman and it was noted that an education pack was about to be issued and a series of open days would be held.

## **RESOLVED**

### **That:**

- 1 the Service Outputs and Performance Indicators and the satisfactory performance in relation to the latter be noted**
- 2 the progress of negotiations relating to the Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan be noted.**
- 3 the proposals for conserving and interpreting the archaeological sites proposed in the MDA Green Spaces Strategy be supported.**
- 4 the commencement of the WhittleWood Medieval Settlement Research Project be welcomed.**
- 5 the County Archaeological Services contribution to revising the Historic Environment Chapter of the emerging revised Chilterns AONB Management Plan be noted.**
- 6 the progress made with the sites and monuments record audit and the transfer of data to the new "EXEGESIS" database be noted.**
- 7 the recent development-related archaeological fieldwork in the County be noted.**

## **5 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Committee received and noted a report from the Senior Archaeological Officer

which outlined the outcome of the consultation exercise on the draft Buckinghamshire Archaeological Management Plan and sought support from members for its amendment in accordance with the principles agreed at the last meeting of the Committee and the subsequent adoption by the County Council.

The Committee noted that 27 replies had been received from representatives of 20 organisations. It was reported that there was support for the holistic approach adopted and that no objections had been received. Concern however had been raised over the finance and resources for the plan, the sites and monuments records and also the public side of the service. The post of Portable Antiquity Officer was discussed and it was noted that at present the programme planned for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes was for appointments to be made in the third phase of the implementation of the scheme which would not be until September 2001. The Committee welcomed the appointment and offered commitment to the appointment being made at an earlier stage as the infrastructure and framework were already in place. The promotion of a policy for metal detecting was raised and the Committee was informed that a policy had been put in place in Milton Keynes by which a Licence was issued to metal detectors.

A member requested that the use of acronyms be avoided in the final document and/or a separate summary be given listing the acronyms used to allow greater accessibility.

The replacement of the County Archaeological Advisory Committee by a new group with an extended membership and remit was suggested. The membership could include representatives from the National Trust, the Countryside Strategy Initiatives Team, the Chilterns AONB Office and a number of others. It was proposed that a report on the future of the committee should be considered at the next meeting in the light of the outcome of local government modernisation.

## **RESOLVED**

### **That:**

- 1 the outcome of the consultation exercise be noted.**
- 2 the redrafting of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Management Plan in accordance with the principles agreed at the meeting be approved.**
- 3 the proposed adoption of the amended Plan by the Environmental Services Committee of Buckinghamshire County Council be supported.**

## **6 EMERGENCY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING FUND**

The Committee received a report from the Senior Archaeological Officer on the progress made in setting up the Emergency Recording Fund. Members noted two recent unexpected discoveries in the County. Firstly, in June, a late Bronze Age sword was found at Ivinghoe Beacon. In this case no call on the Emergency Archaeological

Recording Fund had been required. The second case in August, led to the discovery of a Roman lead lamp associated with an early Roman cremation urn and other pottery vessels and was detected near Wendover. It was anticipated that there would be a need for further expenditure to cover analysis and reporting, the costs could be in excess of £2,000. Members discussed the level and the mechanism for contributions to the Fund noting that South Bucks District Council had requested that the Committee consider weighting future contributions to reflect variations in the sizes of the Local Authorities.

Following discussion and in view of the timescale for budget setting, members agreed that £300, as previously agreed for the current year, be requested from each District Council for 2001/2002 but that this would be reviewed for the following year.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That a contribution of £300 be requested from each authority for 2001/02 with the amount and mechanism for determining the amount, being reviewed for subsequent years.**

#### **7 GOVERNMENT'S REVIEW OF POLICIES RELATING TO THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

The Committee received and noted a report from the Senior Archaeological Officer which advised members of the Government's comprehensive review of policies relating to the historic environment and the County Council's response. The Committee noted that because of the time-scale it had not been possible to consult with members of the Committee.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the County Council's response to English Heritage's consultation in relation to the Government's review of policies related to the Historic Environment be supported.**

#### **8 ENGLISH HERITAGE CONSULTATION: RECONSTRUCTION ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES**

The Committee received a report from the Senior Archaeological Officer which advised members of a consultation from English Heritage on policy regarding reconstruction on archaeological sites.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the response by the County Archaeological Service to English Heritage be approved.**

**9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A member requested that if possible Agendas for future meetings be sent out two weeks prior to the meeting

**10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was agreed to be held on 21 March at 2.30 pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

**CONTACT OFFICER : HELEN WAYLAND (01296) 382015**