



# Buckinghamshire County Council

## Minutes

### *Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum*

AGENDA ITEM: 4

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 30 MARCH 2005 IN THE IRELAND ROOM, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 2.34PM AND CONCLUDING AT 4.06PM.**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

##### **Members**

Mrs C M Aston (Chairman)  
Mr R Evans  
Mr M Farley  
Cllr Sir John Horsbrugh-Porter

##### **Organisation**

Buckinghamshire County Council  
The Diocese of Oxford  
Bucks Archaeological Society  
Chiltern District Council

##### **Officers**

Mr M Andrew  
Ms A Davies  
Mr B Giggins  
Mr S Kidd  
Mr G Marshall  
Mrs M Keyworth  
Mr B Thorn  
Ms J Wise  
Mrs C Murray

##### **Organisation**

Wycombe District Council  
Aylesbury Vale District Council  
Milton Keynes Council  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
National Trust  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
Buckinghamshire County Museum  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
Chiltern District Council

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP**

Apologies were received from Mr C Welch (English Heritage), Mr H McCarthy, Wycombe District Council, Mr C Cashman, Aylesbury Vale District Council

The Chairman reminded members that this would be her last meeting and a new Chairman would need to be elected at the meeting in September.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr M Farley declared a personal interest as a Consultant Archaeologist.

#### **3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment held on 22 September 2004, copies of which had been circulated previously, were agreed subject to the following amendment.

Under "Members Present", it was noted that Mr Evans represents the Diocese of Oxford, not Oxfordshire

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

##### **Item 5 – Matters Arising**

Members noted that a response had not been received from the Bucks Garden Trust inviting them to nominate a member to the Forum. Sarah Rutherford would be the next point of contact.

Further discussions on AVDC member training event would take place after the Elections on 5 May 2005.

##### **Item 6 Review of Heritage Protection**

The Chairman had not been able to attend the meeting on Historic Environment Champions. It was understood that Mr Richard Pushman had been appointed for Wycombe District Council and Mr Euan Henderson for Milton Keynes Council.

##### **Item 7 – Milton Keynes and South Midlands Strategy**

Members were informed that English Partners had let a contract to planning consultants to prepare a 30 year plan for the development of Milton Keynes. There did not appear to have been any involvement by Historic Environment or Nature Conservation. It was agreed that the Forum should send a letter to English Partners concerning who was consulted on the contract. English Heritage could have made an important input regarding characterisation of urban areas.

##### **Item 11 – Milton Keynes Archaeological Officer's Report**

With regard to the suggestion of a letter to Milton Keynes Council supporting the increase in staff in Historic Environment areas, members were informed that the Council had made an application to English Heritage for grant towards an additional member of staff.

#### **5. FUTURE OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM**

Members received the Report on the meeting of the Bucks HEF Working Party on 8 February 2005.

The main point of the discussion was whether the Buckinghamshire Historic Buildings Trust could be linked with this Forum. It was noted that the Head of Legal & Democratic Services needed to be consulted on whether this amalgamation was possible, particularly in view of the fact that the Historic Buildings Trust is a registered charity and also a limited company.

Members expressed the following views.

- The BHEF dealt with every kind of historic environment issue and a merger might restrict the work of the Forum.
- HBT had a small budget which went towards specific buildings to fund a revolving fund from which the Trust could buy, sell or repair buildings in order to recover funds. There was a danger that the budget might be used for other things.
- Discussion on the merger arose partly because of the use of officer time at each

meeting. If these were combined it may be easier to have more officer attendance. Fewer members were also attending.

It was suggested that both meetings could be held on the same day so that joint items could be dealt with at an interim meeting. The Senior Archaeological Officer was asked to investigate this further.

Members were asked for further suggestions to the list of recommendations for priorities in the Report to be sent to the Senior Archaeological Officer. Suggestions at the meeting were as follows:

Paul Staper, New Designations procedures

David Baker, former County Archaeological Officer from Bedfordshire on Historic Environment Records

Roger Thomas, English Heritage Urban Characterisation, lead officer looking at built form and how urban conservation is used in other parts of the country.

With regard to having presentations at the Forum, concern was expressed that if there were too many, the Forum would lose its lobby role and have different character. However, it was hoped that topical subjects would attract more members.

**RESOLVED:**

**The Committee CONSIDERED and recommendations of the working party and AGREED that in future information reports would be tabled for questions not formally presented.**

**6. GUIDANCE ON MODERN CIVIC, INDUSTRIAL AND MILITARY COMPLEXES**

Members received the Report by the Senior Archaeological Officer, the purpose of which was to recommend actions to improve awareness of the heritage interest of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century civic, industrial and military complexes and management of change affecting them.

At the last meeting members discussed the challenges to maintain the agenda in this area. Cases have continued to cause interest since then. It was suggested that the document which had already been circulated to the Forum, be circulated to planning authorities to show these issues need to be considered. Those with an historic interest were not always consulted until too late. This was one of the key issues in terms of pressures within the community.

Tracey Coleman in Northamptonshire had commented how valuable this had been to their work. Buckinghamshire could begin by agreeing a list of interesting sites. A survey of Wycombe Chair Industry had already taken place and this could be the first step. Wycombe has also agreed to having an industrial heritage conservation area. Some authorities have lists of local buildings. Had Buckinghamshire had a list of local buildings of interest, the Nestle Building might have been saved. It could be an opportunity to look at other industries that characterised Buckinghamshire.

Members agreed that was an extremely welcome document and deserved wider publicity. It was a means of raising local awareness. Politicians do respond to what local people say and this could be a case that seminars might help this. There could be a link between the local list and the Monuments Record. Presentations could be held with a mix of local speakers.

Members agreed on the need to liaise with officers about what might be achieved in the first stage as well as where funding might be obtained, i.e. Emergency Recording Fund. A decision also needed to be made on whether it should be considered at strategic level.

**RESOLVED:**

**The Committee:**

- a) **ADOPTED the attached draft guidance note as a report to member organisations**
- b) **CONSIDERED what further action may be appropriate to improve the information resource and decision-making framework and,**
- c) **AGREED to consider a costed project design for “stage 1 industrial heritage resource assessment” at the September meeting.**

**7. SOUTH EAST PLAN**

Members received the Report of the Senior Archaeological Officer, which reported on the historic environment issues raised by the consultation draft of the South East Plan and recommended a response by the Forum.

The plan included a section on the historic environment, which was circulated to members, and which was put together by English Heritage in association with ALGAO, based on a model in the East of England Plan. The key points were useful and most had a Bucks resonance, as noted in the Report. Current information on condition was limited to grade one and two listed buildings. It was difficult to make a comment on sustainability, which cannot be resolved in the context of this Plan. However, it was suggested a letter be sent to SEERA raising the issues on behalf of the Forum. One of the key issues was to link the policies. For instance the Policy on villages does not mention their historical aspect.

**RESOLVED:**

**The Forum AUTHORISED the Chairman to send comments on the South East Plan on behalf of the Forum taking due account of the matters raised in this paper and n discussion.**

**8. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2005-7**

Members received the Report by the Senior Archaeological Officer which reported on progress with updating the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Management Plan to cover the period 2005-07.

This is an internal process relating to the future direction of the Archaeological Service. This paper is looking at the medium term plan within the Council. Members were asked to comment the thrust of the direction the Service should go. Guidance was needed in terms of priorities on discretionary areas.

Members were asked to respond to the draft consultation which would also be circulated to County Councillors and others involved in looking at priorities for the Service. A formal consultation process would be set up with the aim for decisions to go

to Planning PAG in June. The consultation will be sent out towards the end of April. Therefore, any comments on the draft were needed within the next few weeks.

**The Forum CONSIDERED the format and general approach of the draft plan and proposals for consultation.**

## **9. EMERGENCY RECORDING FUND**

Members received the report on the Senior Archaeological Officer/Treasurer, the purpose of which was to review the operation of the Emergency Recording Fund.

Members discussed whether further contributions were needed for 2005/06. Resources would need to be built up if the Building Study was to go forward. A request was being made for £2,000, the same amount as last year. Discussion took place about where resources could come from as Chiltern District have yet to contribute. And it was suggested that the planning delivery grant could be used on the basis of management of the industrial heritage.

During the discussion, the Forum was informed that a medieval terrace strip had been unearthed during the work on Chesham Hospital.

**The Committee NOTED the current status of the fund and AGREED a request for contributions in 2005/06**

## **10. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE IN MILTON KEYNES**

Members received the report of the Archaeological Officer, Design and Conservation, Milton Keynes Council, the purpose of which was to inform the Forum of current archaeological matters in Milton Keynes.

Members were informed that the Milton Keynes Heritage Association had formed a committee solely related to archaeology, to which local metal detectorist groups were invited. It was hoped a group could be started in conjunction with metal detectorists.

Research carried out on the walled garden at Tyringham has led to the belief that the work was by Repton. The Service wanted English Heritage to recognise this and have it listed in its own right.

**Canal at Wolverton.** ODPM funding was being used to enhance the canalside area, particularly the areas where the original locks were put in prior to the viaduct being built between Wolverton and Cosgrove. Leaflets would be produced for a walk, noting the locks. A landscape survey was being carried out as well as evaluation works showing that the locks were brick built. The earthworks on the Northamptonshire side were in better condition and it was hoped Northamptonshire could extend the survey across the county boundary.

**Gordons Lodge, Hanslope.** Time Team were producing a report.

Earlier problems with Time Team reports seem to have been resolved for recent series. The Senior Archaeologist noted that the draft report had been received from Time Team regarding Chenies (Chiltern District) and they were currently producing a summary which would be published.

**The Committee NOTED the Report.**

## **11. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER'S REPORT**

Members received the report of the Senior Archaeological Officer, the purpose of which was to advise the Forum of the work of the County Archaeological Service since the last BHEF meeting.

The Forum was informed of the complications regarding the contractor at the Stoke Hammond and Linslade Bypass. Negotiations between the County Council and MacAlpine were at a delicate stage.

The draft report on Sainsburys at Chesham has been supplied but the final report was still awaited.

Redevelopment of the National Society for Epilepsy at Chalfont St Peter was going towards public Inquiry. The main grounds for refusal was that building should not be permitted in greenbelt but there was concern that the applicant had not paid sufficient attention to heritage concerns. Further discussion was taking place.

## **12. COUNTY MUSEUM REPORT**

Nothing has been received regarding the proposals for the Heritage Centre at Dorney Rowing Lake. Proposals were being considered for re-building the Bronze Age bridge at Eton Rowing Lake, as well as two walks, historical and archaeological, around the site.

The Department of Culture, Media and Sport has announced that funding has been secured for the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

## **13. NATIONAL TRUST REPORT**

Acquisition of New Inn Farm has been completed. The Vendor has been given a six week period to clear out the interior of the farm, once the National Trust has looked at the items. A security fence will be erected prior to restoration taking place. The ground plans and plans and elevations were awaited. The Archaeological Report was expected during October this year. Clare Pudney from Aylesbury Vale, and the National Trust were congratulated on their work on this item.

With regard to Ashridge there had been problems with the contractor. Work was now nine months overdue. Reports were promised by the beginning of April. This would form part of the National Trust and County SMRs.

Timber piling has been found on the site of the Roman road at West Stratford. A piece has been sent to the dendrochronologist.

## **14. CONSERVATION OFFICERS' REPORTS**

The Forum noted the Officers had nothing further to add.

## **15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Forum gave a vote of thanks to Mrs Cherry Aston, who had been Chairman for the last six years. Members were grateful for her interest in the work of the BHEF.

**16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the BHEF will be held on 21 September 2005 at 2.30pm in Mezzanine Room 1.

**CHAIRMAN**