

## PROMOTING HERITAGE AWARENESS WITH DECISION MAKERS

To: Bucks Historic Environment Forum

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Author: Report by the County Archaeologist

### A. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To identify possible mechanisms for raising awareness of heritage issues with policy and decision-makers.

### B. PROPOSED ACTION

#### 2 The Forum is invited to:

- a. **COMMENT** on suggested arrangements for a June event
- b. **NOTE and COMMENT** upon other opportunities

### C. BACKGROUND

- 3 At its last meeting the Forum considered how it could promote awareness amongst key decision-makers of heritage issues relating to both the historic environment and museums. An idea is for an event held at the county museum to coincide with the museum's 'Human' exhibition and timed for after the general election to showcase the public value of heritage, and debate future heritage policy. There would be several speakers with a regional or national profile. A budget of around £300 would be required for refreshments.

#### Suggested arrangements for June event

An invitation from Richard Pushman as Chairman of Buckinghamshire's Historic Environment Forum to attend presentations on the future of the heritage sector, a 'market place' on local provision and an opportunity to view the Human exhibition of half a million years of life in Bucks.

Date: mid June 2010 (i.e. during museum exhibition but after general election)

Time: mid-week

Duration: 11am –3pm

Venue: County Museum, Aylesbury

Invitees: elected members and senior officers of all six authorities, selected heritage professionals and voluntary sector. [Total no. councillors 306. Plan on 40 attending + 20 guests]

Lunch provided [cost est. £5 per head x 60 = £300]

Purposes:

1. To provide an update on key national initiatives and challenges.
2. To raise awareness amongst members of the diversity of local heritage, its public value and service provision.
3. To promote awareness of the county museum through an opportunity to view the Buckinghamshire Archaeology exhibition and talk to local experts.

**Programme**

Introduction and Welcome (Richard Pushman)

Talks (15-20 mins each):

1. Heritage: a view from Westminster (local MP or Culture Spokesman? )
2. Planning Policy and Heritage Protection (English Heritage, Regional Director?)
3. Museums: looking forward (Society of Museum Archaeologists, Philip Wise)

Possible extra speaker on role of NGOs? (someone from National Trust or Heritage Link or Steve Rodrick or James Moir?)

Market Place (display/stall): long-list of potential participants, mostly members of HEG – not a general invite to local societies-

1. County Museum (ERC?, FLO, something on future?)
2. County Archaeological Service (HER/Planning/GI)
3. Bucks Conservation Trust (Quarrendon Leas)
4. Bucks Historic Buildings Trust
5. Chiltern Conservation Board
6. Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society (Buildings Group , Book ...)
7. Bletchley Park Trust
8. National Trust
9. Milton Keynes Council
10. South Bucks DC
11. Wycombe DC
12. AVDC
13. Chiltern DC
14. Oxford Diocese

Discussion

Introduction to the exhibition and book (Sarah Gray)

Lunch

Gallery viewing with experts on hand

- 4 It would also be helpful if members could identify other opportunities for engaging with decision-makers. For example, the County Archaeology Service is to hold a training event for the Chiltern HLC Project with the Chiltern AONB and a series of promotional events for the Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Project are to be organised jointly with the District Councils. The provisional timetable for these events is:

30<sup>th</sup> April 2010: Chiltern Historic Landscape Characterisation

September 2010: South Bucks District Historic Towns

November 2010: Milton Keynes Historic Towns

December 2010: Wycombe District Historic Towns  
January 2011: Chiltern District Historic Towns  
February 2011: Aylesbury Vale District (North) Historic Towns  
March 2011: Aylesbury Vale District (South) Historic Towns

E. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Future Directions. Report to Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum,  
September 2009.

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