

## Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record Officer's Report

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Author: Historic Environment Record Officer

### A. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To advise the Forum of the work of the Buckinghamshire HER since the last BHEF meeting.

### B. PROPOSED ACTION

- 2 **The Forum is invited to NOTE the HER performance indicators**

### C. RESOURCES

- 3 At present the HER service comprises one core member of staff with occasional assistance provided by consultants, volunteers, students and business support staff.
- 4 As reported to previous meetings, financial constraints on the County Council continue to grow leading to pressure to increase income from fees and charges to recover a greater proportion of the costs of the historic environment record. A revised charging policy was approved by the Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

### D. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### 5 HER Performance Indicators

Service performance indicator statistics are collected for the County Council's performance management system.

<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2012</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2012</b>
Historic Environment Records data inputting backlog (targets: reports < 30 by March 2012)	Reports = 19 <u>Collect = 516</u> Total = 535	Reports = 17 <u>Collect = 516</u> Total = 533

<b>Volume measures</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2012</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2012</b>
Number of Higher Level Stewardship applications handled	3	6
Number of reports received by the	143	9

HER		
Number of Historic Environment Records enquiries handled:	20	16
commercial	14	12
non-commercial	6	4
UBP web-site users	-	-

Usage statistics for the UBP websites have not been available since the new version went live on the BCC web servers on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2010, due to technical restrictions required by BCC ITU. We are still attempting to resolve this to enable website user statistics to be collected but have not been successful to date.

Use of the HER for non-commercial purposes continues to remain comparatively low, probably as a result of people using the online versions of the database. The number of commercial enquiries remains low overall and this continues a trend which has been significant from the second half of 2010 onwards.

Members will remember that at the last meeting I reported on progress with enhancing the HER's recording of historic buildings by inputting local buildings of note. Unfortunately it has not been possible to complete South Bucks district due to other workload pressures but it is hoped to resume work on this shortly.

At the last committee meeting I reported on progress with a volunteer project to record war memorials in the HER. To date over 450 memorials have been recorded by the two volunteers and data entry is almost completed. The next stage is to visit the accessible memorials, photograph them and carry out a condition survey.

## E. BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Archaeological Reports submitted to the Bucks HER

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