

**Heritage Asset Review Working Group
Membership**
Report by Historic Environment Manager

Summary: This report seeks approval for the appointment of two members of the Planning Committee on to The Heritage Asset Review Group in the light of the departure of two members from the Authority.

Recommendation: That members are invited to appoint two new members on to the Working Group.

1 Introduction and background

- 1.1 One of the three main purposes of the Broads Authority is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Broads and particular reference is included within Chapter 2 of the current Broads Plan 2011. The Broads Authority Strategic Priorities have identified the need to identify buildings for inclusion on a local list and a continued review of Conservation Areas in line with national performance indicators as well as seeking the continuing protection and enhancement of the area's cultural landscape
- 1.2 In March 2010, The Planning Committee agreed to set up the Heritage Asset Review Member Working Group to provide officers with direction concerning the protection of Heritage Assets in particular the high number of Buildings at Risk identified by the survey. The Heritage Asset Review Group (HARG) had its first meeting on 26 March 2010 and in total has now had 15 meetings.
- 1.3 HARG provides a very useful mechanism by which Officers can provide updates to and seek guidance directly from Members on work in progress relating to all aspects of the Historic Environment in an informal and consensual way. Reporting back to the Planning Committee provides a formal and appropriate level of scrutiny for the work of the group.
- 1.4 The Group was reviewed in October 2013 and it was considered that the group provided a very helpful role in addressing specific and detailed issues relating to the cultural heritage of the Broads and that it should continue to do so reporting back to the Planning Committee as required.
- 1.5 HARG's Membership is made up of 5 Members of the Broads Authority Planning Committee and includes the Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning Committee, and three other Members. The Membership for the last year has been:

Murray Gray (Chair of Planning Committee) - Chair
Stephen Johnson - Vice Chair
Mike Barnard
Julie Brociek-Coulton
Colin Gould

- 1.6 HARG meets three times a year every four months following Planning Committee meetings and reports to the next scheduled Planning Committee meeting. The terms of reference of the Group are attached for Member's information at Appendix 1.
- 1.6 In light of Stephen Johnson's recent departure and with Julie Brociek-Coulton standing down from the Authority in May. Members are asked to appoint two members in their place.

2 Role of the Group

- 2.1 The need to determine what action needs to be taken in specific instances with regard to some Heritage issues - for example what particular action to take regarding a Building At Risk, how to prioritise action and develop a strategy for Buildings at Risk is a continuous process and the group has provided guidance on this very successfully.
- 2.2 The Group establishes what level of Enforcement action is appropriate in individual instances where unauthorised work has taken place.
- 2.3 The Group monitors the inclusion of buildings on a local list in order that consistency is assured and inclusion justified in case of challenge prior to adoption by Planning Committee is a continuing process.
- 2.4 The Group is particularly useful in providing guidance and on priorities for updating appraisals and management plans for existing and new conservation areas before they are taken to Planning Committee.
- 2.5 The Group also helps to further explore and advise on what might be appropriate in terms of partnership working and external funding opportunities in order to maximise positive impact on the Historic Environment.
- 2.6 The Group also provides guidance on establishing the best method of publishing advice and Guidance to owners in order to achieve the maximum impact and benefit to the Historic Environment.

3 Financial implications

- 3.1 There are potential financial implications from serving urgent works notices, repairs notices and building preservation notices and other mechanisms to secure the repair of historic assets. Similarly there are financial implications to taking enforcement action, preparing of a List of Locally important Heritage Assets and the preparation and publication of guidance for owners.

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 The HARG group has addressed specific and detailed issues relating to the Historic Environment in the Broads reporting back to Planning Committee as required. In order to continue to address these specific issues, and to further progress, both the input and approval of Members will continue to be required on particular courses of action that may be appropriate in individual circumstances.

Background papers: None

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Appendices: APPENDIX 1 – Role of the Working Group

Role of the Working Group

The role of the Working Group is to advise officers on these issues which could include Authorisation of the serving of Urgent works and Repairs notices, Building Preservation notices, Enforcement notices. In the case of designation of new Conservation Areas and adoption of re-appraisals and management plans for existing Conservation Areas, these will continue to be reported to the Planning Committee for decision.

These matters are delegated to Officers specifically in the case of urgency when they might be exercised after consultation with the Chair or Vice-Chair of Planning Committee. It is not proposed to alter this arrangement.

Working Group Terms of Reference

The group is asked to look at the issue of Cultural Heritage with a view to:

- Protecting heritage assets identified as being “at risk “and prioritising and taking appropriate action to achieve their protection. Developing and adopting a strategy for their long/medium/short term future. This includes heritage assets at risk from Climate Change and developing and approving the publication of advice to owners of heritage assets.
- Developing and adopting criteria for the preparation of a list of locally important heritage assets and developing and adopting a strategy for their long/medium/short term future – identifying where and what changes of use might be appropriate in order to secure the future of the asset.
- Considering where necessary, appropriate enforcement action against unauthorised works to protected structures.
- Considering appropriate methodology for the preservation and enhancement of designated conservation areas in the Broads Authority Executive Area. Considering re-appraisals and boundary changes to existing Conservation Areas and the designation of new Conservation Areas in the Broads Authority executive area, including Landscape character assessment work.
- Exploring opportunities for partnership working with other organisations and agencies (English Heritage other parks etc) involved in the Historic Environment and also opportunities for external funding.

Reporting Mechanism and meeting frequency.

The working group meets quarterly or three times a year as business requires and reports to the Broads Authority Planning Committee.