

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 13 SEPTEMBER 2007

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND DESIGN CHAMPION

Report by: Paula Freeland, Head of Environmental Design

Summary:

In April 2007 it was resolved by Planning Development Control Committee to recommend to the Authority the appointment of an Historic Environment and Design Champion. Expressions of interest from Members of the Committee were invited. One expression of interest has been received from Peter Frost. This report now seeks, in accordance with other appointments of this nature, his appointment as Historic Environment and Design Champion by the Authority.

Recommendation:

That the Authority appoint Peter Frost as Historic Environment and Design Champion.

Resources:

None

Other Major Considerations:

None

Paper:

NFNPA 198/07: Cover Paper

NFNPA 198/07: Annex 1 (NFNPA-PDCC 19/07) Report to the Planning Development Control Committee meeting on 17 April 2007 on the appointment of an historic environment and design champion.

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1 Background

1.1 All local authorities are encouraged to appoint both a design champion and a champion for the historic environment at member level. In April 2007 a report was considered by Planning Development Control Committee which set out the role of such a champion, the sort of events which take place, the support available for champions and where more information about the role could be found. The report is attached as **Annex 1**.

1.2 It was resolved that it be recommended to the Authority that an Historic Environment and Design Champion be appointed. Members of Planning Development Control Committee were asked if they would like to express an interest in the role.

2 Appointment

2.1 One expression of interest has been received from Peter Frost.

Recommendation

That the Authority appoints Peter Frost as Historic Environment and Design Champion.

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**PLANNING DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE MEETING
17 APRIL 2007**

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND DESIGN CHAMPION

Report by: Paula Freeland, Head of Environmental Design

Summary: All local authorities are encouraged to appoint both a design champion and a champion for the historic environment at member level. This report sets out the role of such a champion, the sort of events which take place and support available for champions and where more information about the role can be found.

Recommendation:

That members appoint an Historic Environment and Design Champion.

Resources: Not significant

Other major considerations: None

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

**PLANNING DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE MEETING
17 APRIL 2007**

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND DESIGN CHAMPION

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 All local authorities are encouraged to appoint both a champion for the historic environment and a design champion at member level. The former is promoted by English Heritage, the latter the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment.
- 1.2 The primary role of a design champion is to ensure that the authority has a vision for improvement of the quality of the built environment and that design issues are taken into account at each stage of the decision making process.
- 1.3 The key objective of a champion for the historic environment is to ensure that the historic environment plays a central role in the development of the authority's policies, plans, targets and strategies.
- 1.4 There is a clear relationship between the role of the design champion and the champion for the historic environment. As a result many local authorities have decided that the two roles should be combined. Consequently combined events and training are often provided.

2. The role of the Historic Environment and Design Champion

- 2.1 Attached at **Annex 1** are copies of two documents: Local Authority Design Champions, published by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment and Why your Authority Should Appoint an Historic Environment Champion published by English Heritage. Both provide useful background to the roles.
- 2.2 In summary the role of the joint champion is to:
 - generate enthusiasm for design and for the importance of the historic environment in the Authority.

- promote opportunities for good design and for attention to the historic environment across the whole Authority.
- endeavour to ensure that commitment to high quality design and the proper care of the historic environment is embedded in all activities over which the Authority has an influence.
- act as a point of contact for support and information on these issues for the local community and others from outside the Authority.

3. Events and support for Historic Environment and Design Champions

- 3.1 English Heritage works with both Government and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment to support champions in their role. There have previously been local, regional and national events and seminars, to enable champions to keep up to date, develop skills, share ideas and build partnerships.
- 3.2 Historic Environment Local Management (HELM) is a programme developed by English Heritage to provide accessible information, training and guidance to decision-makers in local authorities, whose actions affect the historic environment. Champions receive a number of HELM publications and an induction pack of leaflets. These are also available on the HELM website (www.helm.or.uk) through the [HELM guidance library](#). Champions will automatically receive the quarterly HELM newsletter and information on relevant HELM training events.
- 3.3 The first national conference for Historic Environment Champions, organised by English Heritage, took place in July 2006. The [Ministers speeches and papers](#) are available on the HELM website.
- 3.4 English Heritage is currently working on the 2007/08 programme of events for champions, which should be finalised in March/April. It is likely to include a conference covering the southern part of England later this year, further training and regional networking events. They are also looking to set up a mentoring programme.
- 3.5 The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment held a national conference for design champions at the end of 2006.
- 3.6 There is a South East Design and Historic Environment Champions Club, which was launched in 2003. It comprises champions from each local authority. The club is a learning and promotional network for the region. Approximately 75% of the regions local authorities have champions in the club.
- 3.7 The club was formed in response to a call by the Government through the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment to appoint a

Design Champion in all Local Authorities and Regional Development Agencies throughout the country. The club works closely with the Commission and English Heritage.

- 3.8 Since the club's conception, a succession of workshops have been organised to look at relevant themes that affect design champions such as master planning, heritage, healthy communities, etc. A series of study tours have also been undertaken with design champions visiting Oxford, Brighton and Hove, Tonbridge and Malling, Essex, as well as an international tour of Lille.

4 More information

- 4.1 More information about the role of the Historic Environment Champion can be found on the English Heritage Historic Environment Local Management website www.helm.org.uk.
- 4.2 More information about the role of the Design Champion can be found on the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment website www.cabe.org.uk.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 It is best practice and considered desirable that the Authority should appoint a member champion to promote design and the historic environment.

6. Recommendation

That members appoint an Historic Environment / Design Champion.