

West Berkshire Heritage Forum
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To: Thatcham Town Council

18th October 2018

Dear Member of the West Berkshire Heritage Forum,

The role of the West Berkshire Heritage Forum is to co-ordinate heritage policy and practice across West Berkshire, both within the voluntary heritage community and with the District Council. We have the full support of West Berkshire Council. The 63 Parish and Town Councils and 34 bona fide heritage societies in West Berkshire are defined as members of the Forum under our Terms of Reference.

The Forum has established local listing of heritage assets in West Berkshire, and so far 24 heritage assets have been local listed with the approval of the District Council (see <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=39243>) Our web site (above) provides a common platform for the activities of our members. We hold at least one public-facing heritage event each year. At our AGM in April 2018, six heritage societies described their activities, and many of you have attended one or more of these events. Currently the Forum is working on a refresh of West Berkshire's Historic Environment Action Plan. A proposed Blue Plaque Scheme for Parish and Town Councils has also been developed.

Under the Terms of Reference, agreed in 2010, "Membership of the Heritage Forum is free". We are therefore dependent on periodically requesting a voluntary contribution from our members. The last such request was made in 2013, and the sums raised then and since has been sufficient to see us through to this year. Our current balance is £346, and we therefore need to request a further small donation from each member organisation. A figure of £50 per member is suggested.

The costs of the Forum are very low, and have averaged £220 per year over recent years. They comprise the cost of our web site, public liability insurance, hall hire, and other incidental costs. All those involved in our activities work voluntarily and do not charge expenses, and ordinary meeting rooms are made available by the District Council free of charge. Communications are electronic.

If you are agreeable to this, please could you send a cheque made payable to *West Berkshire Heritage Forum* to our Secretary Sue Ellis at the above address in the course of the next few weeks. All sums received will be acknowledged. The names of those subscribing will not be published.

The accounts of the Heritage Forum are presented by our Treasurer and approved at our Annual General Meeting, when a report on the activities of the Forum is given and the Committee is elected.

I shall be happy to answer any questions.

Thank you.

Cllr Anthony Pick
Chairman