

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Full Council 14/11/2024

West Berkshire Heritage Forum

Agenda item 24/094 5: To consider the information received and resolve a donation of £50 to the WBHF.

Background

An email has been received from the Chairman of West Berkshire Heritage Forum, as follows:

Dear Clerk,

Stratfield Mortimer PC, like all West Berkshire parish councils, and local history and heritage societies, is a member of the West Berkshire Heritage Forum, the umbrella body for voluntary heritage activities in the District. We were set up in 2010 to provide a forum for common services and information, and a structured link with the West Berkshire Council Heritage Service. I was re-elected Chairman of the Heritage Forum at our AGM in July.

The Heritage Forum was set up by the Council with formal Terms of Reference in 2010. Under these, no provision is made for a source of income. We therefore rely on voluntary contributions from our members which we request from time to time. This request occurs every 5 years or so, lately in 2013 and 2018, when our funds run low. This situation has now again arisen, so I am writing to ask if you could be so kind as to remit to us a small donation, say £50, which together should cover us for the next period.

The costs of the Heritage Forum are very modest, currently about £200 per year. This covers the necessary functions of public liability insurance (through the British Association of Local History) and hall hire for our AGM, although other costs may arise.

The Heritage Forum is run by an elected Committee of its members, plus members of the West Berks Council Heritage Service, who attend but do not vote. In addition to myself, the Forum's officers are Nathan Gregory (Vice Chairman), Sue Ellis (Secretary) and David Clow (Treasurer). Accounts are submitted for approval at each AGM. The activities of the Forum are summarised on its web site <https://www.westberkshireheritageforum.org.uk/>

In addition to providing services to its members, the Heritage Forum has four important collaborative functions with West Berkshire Council, which are described in the draft Local Plan Review <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/article/40124/The-Local-Plan-Review-LPR>, currently undergoing examination by an Inspector. These are:

- *Local listing of heritage assets. 47 listings have so far been approved.*
- *Historic Environment Action Plan. Currently under revision, which is almost complete.*
- *Advancement of Conservation Area Appraisals for the 53 Conservation Areas in the District. Training and guidance can be provided.*
- *Identification of heritage assets under threat or at risk. Discussed regularly with District Council representatives.*

We hope that you will be able to continue to support our work. Our bank details are: West Berkshire Heritage Forum, account no. 62263544, sort code 60 15 07. Please give your organisation's name as reference.

*I or [REDACTED] will be glad to answer any questions.
With thanks and best wishes,*

*[REDACTED]
Chairman*

*West Berkshire Heritage Forum
"A Partnership established to recognise, promote, and protect the heritage of West Berkshire."*

Cost

£50

Clerk 08/11/2024