

Agenda Item No: 5

Report To: Selection & Constitutional Review Committee



Date: 10th October 2013

Report Title: Representatives on Outside Bodies/Organisations

Report Author: Senior Member Services & Scrutiny Support Officer

Summary:	To advise the Committee of the need to make a nomination to the Parochial Church of St Mary's the Virgin Ashford Arts & Arts Development Sub-Committee and to nominate a Member Champion for Heritage.
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Key Decision: NO

Affected Wards: N/A

Recommendations: The Committee is asked to:-

- (a) make a nomination for the appointment of a Member representative to sit on the Parochial Church of St Mary's the Virgin Ashford Arts & Arts Development Sub-Committee.
- (b) make a nomination for the role of Member Champion for Heritage.

Policy Overview: The appointment of Members to outside bodies/organisations assists Councillors in their community engagement role.

Financial Implications: None

Risk Assessment N/A

Other Material Implications: N/A

Exemption Clauses: None

Background Papers: None

Contacts: danny.sheppard@ashford.gov.uk – Tel: (01233) 330349

Representatives on Outside Bodies/Organisations

Purpose of the Report

1. To advise the Committee of the need to make a nomination to the Parochial Church of St Mary's the Virgin Ashford Arts & Arts Development Sub-Committee and to nominate a Member Champion for Heritage.

Issue to be Decided

2. The Council's current appointed representative, Councillor Claughton, has indicated his wish to step down from the Parochial Church of St Mary's the Virgin Ashford Arts & Arts Development Sub-Committee, therefore the Committee is asked to consider nominating a replacement. The St Mary's Committee was as part of the re-ordering of the Church and is responsible for supporting and directing the management of the St Mary's Arts facility and overseeing the arts programme. The Committee has strategic support from Ashford Borough Council.
3. The Council has also received a communication from English Heritage encouraging Local Authorities to consider appointing an Elected Member Heritage Champion. English Heritage consider Heritage Champions can provide a powerful voice for heritage issues within their Authority areas and play an essential role in unlocking the potential of the historic environment in many local communities across the country. This is especially important in the context of the national priority for promoting growth, and the importance of engaging local people in managing their own local places. The Council did have a Member Champion for Heritage until 2012, Cllr Peter Goddard, but the role was not immediately filled when he sadly passed away. However, the circular from English Heritage has prompted the Council to consider naming a replacement and the Leader has expressed his wish that the Council make such an appointment and that the Member should be Councillor Jessamy Blanford (Cabinet Member for Culture & Environment).
4. Any nomination from the Council would receive a package of support from English Heritage, including a welcome pack and case studies. English Heritage also runs periodic training and briefing events in the South East.

Conclusion

5. **The Committee is asked to:-**
 - (a) **make a nomination for the appointment of a Member representative to sit on the Parochial Church of St Mary's the Virgin Ashford Arts & Arts Development Sub-Committee.**
 - (b) **make a nomination for the role of Member Champion for Heritage.**

Contact: Danny Sheppard

Email: danny.sheppard@ashford.gov.uk