

THE CEREMONIAL MAST, HMS GANGES, SHOTLEY

Members will recall that they received a report on this matter at their meeting on 17 September 2009. At that meeting consideration was given to the options available under the provisions of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, to secure the restoration of the mast and the potential implications arising from the pursuit of formal enforcement action, and supported the resolution of the matter in co-operation with the landowner.

Officers had requested from the landowner precise details of the extent of works required to the mast and the method in which the works were proposed to be undertaken by the landowner. This information was duly received and examined thoroughly by officers. It appears to remain the case that decay is confined primarily to late twentieth century sections and not to the principal historic components of the mast. Consequently the removal of the whole structure from the site appears undesirable and unnecessary.

Officers have subsequently met with the landowner to advise them on an acceptable scheme of repair to the mast. This would involve the retention of the lower section of the mast in situ, with the middle section of the mast being lowered but not removed from the site. The previously renewed yardarms, gaff, platform and top-gallant would be replaced in an identical manner.

The advice has been well-received by the landowner who has since confirmed that an application for listed building consent to undertake the works will be submitted for consideration in early November. Officers will then assess the application to establish whether the proposed scheme accords with the preferred option for repair.

23 October 2009