

HMS Ganges Mast

NEWSLETTER #2

Babergh's commitment

Babergh District Council recognises that as a listed building, the Mast and its condition – whilst predominantly the responsibility of the landowner – is a matter in which Babergh has an interest and a role.

The Council is very aware of the depth of feeling associated with the HMS Ganges Mast. Therefore, this regular series of newsletters aims to keep all of the key stakeholders up-to-date as to both procedures and progress regarding the repair and refurbishment of the Mast and the timescales involved.

What are Babergh's objectives regarding the HMS Ganges Mast?

Fundamentally, as with all of the 3,800 listed buildings in the District, Babergh wants to see the HMS Ganges Mast maintained in as good a state of repair as possible because of its value as an historic feature of regional interest.

In this particular case, Babergh is keen the landowner, Galliard, fulfills the obligations imposed by listed building legislation and takes steps to maintain the mast in an appropriate condition.

What has Babergh's approach been in working with Galliard?

Since late 2007, Babergh has raised concerns about the mast and has urged that it be repaired. Babergh stepped up its pressure on the owners late in 2008. The company has consistently advised the mast will be repaired but the Council had not been supplied with a timescale for completing the work.

What has been happening recently?

Babergh's Strategy Committee met on September 17 and considered a report outlining the options open to the council regarding the situation with the Mast.

The report asked Strategy Members to agree it supported the swift resolution of the situation in cooperation with the landowner and that, if necessary, Babergh's Head of Natural and Built Environment was authorised to commission a condition survey of the Mast.

Babergh's Strategy Committee agreed to these recommendations.

In the meantime, Babergh has received a proposal from Galliard regarding the mast's repair and details are currently under consideration.

Babergh is sure this indicates a firm commitment from them to restoration of the mast and it is now necessary to ensure the proposals represent the best method and practice to secure the future of this important landmark.



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The proposal, which is currently being considered in detail by Babergh's Historic Buildings Officer, gives indications of intent to renovate the mast to a high level and an estimation of costs - which are in the region of £150k.

It also says the developer has now appointed an architect to help them through this process.

Because Babergh is committed to ensuring the mast is repaired as quickly as possible it will now be continuing with discussions with the developer - and has set up a meeting with the developer's surveyor to move this situation forward as quickly as possible.

The further discussions will ensure the proposals are acceptable and to mutually agree, with the developer, a timetable within which the work should be carried out.

These will be pre-discussions to iron out the finer details before an actual Listed Building Consent application is submitted, which will then be examined and discussed in detail by Babergh Members when it appears before the relevant committee.

Paul Simon
Communications & PR Manager
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(01473) 826634

