



Merton Priory Trust

www.mertonpriory.org

Date: Wednesday 15th June 2005
Site: Merton Priory Trust Steering Group Meeting
Location: Chapter House - Merton Abbey Mills

Present:		
Marcus Beale	Trustee: Merton Priory Trust	(MB)
Cllr Geraldine Stanford	Trustee: Merton Priory Trust	(GS)
Cllr Nick Draper	Ward Councillor - Colliers Wood Ward	(IM)
John Hawkes	Trustee: Merton Priory Trust	(JH)
Peter Hopkins	Merton Historical Society	(PH)
Dave Saxby	Trustee: Merton Priory Trust	(DS)
Lone Le Vay	London Borough of Merton	(LL)
Apologies Received		
Cllr Su Assinen	Trustee: Merton Priory Trust	(SA)
Cllr Ian Munn	Trustee: Merton Priory Trust	(IM)
John Schofield	Museum of London	
Sarah Gould	London Borough of Merton	(SG)
Vicky Carroll	RENUE	(VC)
Michael Harrison	Trustee: Merton Priory Trust	(MH)
Dennis Turner	Trustee: Merton Priory Trust	(DT)
Distribution:		
All present, Cllr Ian Munn, Cllr Su Assinen, John Schofield (Museum of London), Diane Walls (English Heritage), Ellen Eames, Mark Chatham (Countryside Properties), John Rowbotham (Countryside Properties), Dave Edser (TfL), Stephen Llewellyn, Steven Brindle (English Heritage), Stephen Smith (LBM Education), Sarah Gould (LBM Heritage), Steve Clarke and Ged Lawrenson.		

Meeting Notes		
Item	Discussion	Action By
1.	Apologies	
1.1	Apologies had been received as detailed above.	
2.	Notes of Meeting of 25th May 2004	
2.1	Notes of the meeting of 20th April 2005 were agreed.	

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Meeting Notes		
Item	Discussion	Action By
3.	Actions from Last Meeting	
3.1	<p>Negotiations with Sainsbury's, progress (Item 3.1, Meeting of 20th April 2005):</p> <p>No progress to report. LL reported that an application had been received for re-modelling of the Savacentre entrance and alterations to the car park. DS reported that excavations by Lindsey Archaeological Services had now commenced.</p> <p>Action agreed: Negotiations be progressed as soon as we have notice that Sainsbury's Board have approved a scheme.</p>	MB
3.2	<p>Monitoring of car park drainage and inspection of man holes (Item 3.3, Meeting of 20th April 2005): Manholes had been lifted and shallow drainage noted.</p> <p>Action agreed: Photographs to be taken and details of manhole configurations and depth of inverts to be recorded.</p>	JH JH/DS
3.3	<p>Details of non-cash contribution and volunteer work for HLF Bid (Item 3.5, meeting of 14/12/2004):</p> <p>Details received from Marcus Beale and Peter Hopkins</p> <p>Action agreed: Agreed to defer this until application to HLF is progressed.</p>	All
3.4	<p>Chairman's Report for inclusion with Annual Accounts (Item 5.1, meeting of 20/04/2005): Report had been prepared, circulated and agreed.</p>	
3.5	<p>E-mail to Cllr David Chung regarding Merton Council support and contribution to the educational aspects of the project (Item 8.2, meeting of 20/04/2005): An e-mail has been sent.</p> <p>Action Agreed: Response to be reported to next meeting.</p>	
3.6	<p>Further action from last meeting not identified in the Agenda is Invitation to the Wimbledon Society to nominate a Member of the Society to join the board of Trustees (Item 2.2, Meeting of 20th April 2005): Agreed to pursue.</p> <p>Action agreed: Letter to be sent to Wimbledon Society.</p>	MB
4.	Feedback from meeting on museums in Merton and actions arising.	
4.1	<p>Michael Harrison and Marcus Beale attended the meeting on 20th May 2005 representing Merton Priory Trust. Meeting had been positive and had also been attended by representatives of SEA/RENUE, Wandle Industrial Museum, the National Trust and Groundwork Merton (John Merivale and Steve Griffin).</p>	

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4.2	It was agreed at the meeting that all the groups would co-ordinate and co-operate on their respective bids. A Wandle link had been identified and agreed that a starting point should be the preparation of a map showing ownership of land along the Wandle to inform a joined up approach with an urban design focus. Groundwork Merton would be willing to undertake the co-ordinating work and LBM are exploring source of funding for this work.	
4.3	Possible link with South London Partnership also identified, generally it had been agreed that co-ordinating bids would improve chances of success. It had been agreed that the approach be linked into Merton's LDF with forward planners taking a lead role. Way forward could be an umbrella bid, based on a 25 year programme for the Wandle embracing a number of smaller bids.	
4.4	Some concern at implications for the Merton Priory Trust bid particularly given time frame set out in the S.106 Agreement.	
4.5	<p>Prompted by the interest generated in the Chapter House at the recent Wandle Valley Festival, particularly with schools requesting repeat visits a discussion took place on possible works that could be implemented in the shorter term to make the Chapter House more accessible, easier to manage and better present the archaeology and artefacts within the Chapter House enclosure. Main suggestions discussed: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Installation of an accessible unisex WC. □ Provision of formalised storage, possibly along the west wall □ Removal of sand and provision of a more manageable floor surface (easier to keep clean) in conjunction with lowering the floor level to expose more of the archaeology and give more of a three-dimensional presentation of the Chapter House. □ Possible creation of an enclosure within the enclosure whilst maintaining access to road soffit above. Some discussion about use of an inflatable structure, could be an opportunity to create a unique experience. This would be an alternative to sealing the existing enclosure and using dehumidification, which the meeting considered to unsustainable. □ Arranging the various archaeological artefacts in a simple way, possibly around the perimeter against a black background to enable a clearer understanding of their significance. Use of environmentally controlled display cases to be explored, could inquire if the 	

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	<p>Museum of London have any surplus cases as a result of changing displays, upgrading equipment etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Community garden area outside the Chapter House to improve setting. □ Works to walls, to open up views into Chapter House □ Formalise services. <p>Some funding was identified including HERS Funding from London Borough of Merton and English Heritage which could fund some small scale improvements.</p>	
4.6	<p>The following actions were agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conservation Plan to be commissioned as a priority as this would inform what could be done. The brief had previously been approved by the Trust and agreed that tenders should be sought with a view to bids being submitted in time for consideration by the Trust at the next meeting. 2. A schedule of works and an indication of potential costs to be prepared for discussion at the next meeting. 3. MB agreed to approach a QS and Structural Engineer for some pro bono advice on costings and also blue-skies thinking on tackling the possibility of an enclosure within an enclosure. 4. Steven Brindle, Scheduled Monuments Inspector at English Heritage, and also a representative of TfL, to be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss the options. 	<p>MB/LL</p> <p>MB</p> <p>MB</p> <p>LL</p>
4.6	<p>Further discussion on possible partnership arrangements and the possibility of inviting the National Trust to become a partner of the Trust. Meeting generally favoured developing a relationship with English Heritage and the Museum of London in the first instance.</p>	
5.	Conservation Plan:	
5.1	Action agreed under Item 4.6, Action 1 above.	
6.	Progress Against Programme	
6.1	The programme to be held in abeyance awaiting progress on agreed co-ordination of the Wandle Valley bids.	
7.	Any Other Business	
7.1	Relocation of coffin from Additional quotations for relocating the coffin had been obtained and lowest was £450. Agreed to progress, subject to Church obtaining a faculty, work to be funded by the Trust as agreed at the last meeting (20th April	

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	2005)	
7.2	Need to consider Public Liability Insurance.	
7.3	Sainsbury's had sponsored information boards at Merton Abbey Mills, should build on this relationship could explore archaeological installations within the remodelled Savacentre entrance foyer, similar to installations at London Bridge and Canon Street Stations and City offices.	
7.4	This year's Abbeyfest would not include any drama within the chapter house due to reduced sponsorship.	DS
7.5	JH advised that the Merton Abbey Mills entertainment/liquor licence was being renewed in November and would be changed to an annual licence covering the Colour House, Wheelhouse, Chapter House and band stand.	
7.6	JH confirmed that he had been contacted by London Open House and that Merton Abbey Mills and the Chapter House would be included in the September 2005 event. Opportunity to recreate displays in Chapter House effectively a 2nd Wandle Valley Festival.	
7.7	Agreed to discuss a new newsletter at the next meeting	
8	Date of Next Meeting	
8.1	Date of the next meeting agreed for Wednesday 3rd August 2005 at 5 pm in Merton Priory Chapter House [TBC].	All

Lone Le Vay

23rd June 2005