

OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Historic England – Heritage Champion

Purpose:

A Heritage Champion's role can be very wide and varied but at its core is being a voice for heritage locally. The champion represents local views on heritage within the authority, can help influence planning decisions and support the local historic environment services (both archaeological and historic building conservation officers). Champions can make sure that local plans and strategies capture the contribution that the local historic environment can make to the success of an area. It is up to each Heritage Champion to interpret the role in a way that fits with the Champion's own interests and position, along with local conditions.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Peter Ruffles

Update:

The role I previously held (as Champion of the Historic Built Environment) has changed, or is about to change to add greater weight to the heritage protection of heritage at risk in rural locations. The risk to heritage in rural locations where development is proposed in consequence of national requirement for new housing in East Herts, is enhanced. It is the setting of heritage sites which I see as of great importance and where sometimes enhancement will be possible.

The role gives easy access to our Conservation team and puts me in touch officially with Historic England. Strengthening and informing the work of the role are my memberships of Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust; Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust for which I am a grants assessor; the National Railway Heritage

movement with its great social media posts; and talks, tours and slide shows which I give frequently in East Herts.

Update provided by: Cllr Peter Ruffles

Date: 14/02/2022