
LOCATION OF HMS BEAGLE ANCHOR AT PAGLESHAM

1.1 Pursuant to Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15(C) (1), the Chairman of the Review Committee has requested that the decision made by the Portfolio Holder for IT, Tourism, Housing and Parking on 20 April 2022 be called in for scrutiny:-

Location of HMS Beagle Anchor at Paglesham

1.2 To agree that the unspent reserve of up to £13,755.18 set aside for the Beagle Event be made available to fund activities associated with the re-location, conservation and promotion of the HMS Beagle anchor working with Paglesham Parish Council to create a permanent monument in the village.

1.3 The Chairman of the Review Committee has, in particular, highlighted the following areas of focus:-

- The original Beagle project funding was for events across the district and so why is all of money going to a single parish?
- Why aren't alternatives to funding being considered, e.g. grants?

1.4 To assist Members a copy of the original Portfolio Holder decision notice is appended. The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Health and the Strategic Director will be in attendance at the meeting to assist the Committee with its enquiries.



Angela Law

Assistant Director, Legal & Democratic

Background Papers:-

None.

For further information please contact Sonia Worthington (Principal Democratic & Corporate Services Officer) on:-

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If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.

**EXECUTIVE DECISION BY PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR IT, TOURISM,
HOUSING AND PARKING**

SUBJECT: LOCATION OF HMS BEAGLE ANCHOR AT PAGLESHAM

1 DECISION MADE

1.5 To agree that the unspent reserve of up to £13,755.18 set aside for the Beagle Event be made available to fund activities associated with the re-location, conservation and promotion of the HMS Beagle anchor working with Paglesham Parish Council to create a permanent monument in the village.

2 NAME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER

2.2 Cllr Daniel Efde.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.2 None.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options considered are as set out in the Lead Officer's report (see below). The decision does not depart from Council policy and appropriate consideration has been given to any budgetary and legal implications.

Portfolio Holder Signature: _____



Date of Decision: 20/04/2022

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**EXECUTIVE DECISION BY PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR IT, TOURISM,
HOUSING & PARKING**

REPORT FROM STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: LOCATION OF HMS BEAGLE ANCHOR AT PAGLESHAM

1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED

1.1 To agree that the unspent reserve of up to £13,755.18 set aside for the Beagle Event be made available to fund activities associated with the re-location, conservation and promotion of the HMS Beagle anchor working with Paglesham Parish Council to create a permanent monument in the village.

2 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.2 As the effects of the pandemic rendered delivery of the Council's planned Beagle Event in 2020 impossible, a revised version was intended for 2022. However, due to the continued uncertainty of COVID-19 and statutory restrictions in place for events, no firm plans could be made.
- 2.3 Separately, Paglesham Parish Council has been undertaking a project (the "Anchor Project") to relocate a nineteenth century British anchor, associated with the former HMS Beagle, from a residential garden in the village to a new permanent display location on the Frances Field in Paglesham Eastend.
- 2.4 It is proposed that as an alternative to creating its own event, the Council utilises the unexpended portion of the budget allocated for the Beagle Event to assist Paglesham Parish Council to complete the Anchor Project. This investment will link community heritage with the wider social and economic impacts of the district's tourism offer.

3 SALIENT INFORMATION

- 3.2 The Beagle is most famous for its second survey voyage (1831-1836) in which the young naturalist Charles Darwin travelled and researched geology, natural history and ethnology onshore. Darwin gained fame by publishing his diary journal, best known as The Voyage of the Beagle (1839), and his research played a pivotal role in the formation of his scientific theories on evolution and natural selection. Darwin said that the voyage was "the most important event in my life."
- 3.3 Following the three voyages of scientific discovery, the Beagle was re-fitted and spent its final 25 years as a Coastguard Watch Vessel permanently moored in the River Roach (designated as Coastguard W.V. No 7), and later in a purpose built mud dock, at Paglesham Eastend, Rochford, Essex, adjacent to the seawall. This mud dock was designated as a scheduled monument in November 2019.
- 3.4 The Beagle was broken up in the mud dock in 1870 and between 2002 and 2004 the late Dr Robert Prescott, University of Andrews, researched the final location of the Beagle in Rochford and discovered the anchor lying in the Paglesham Marshes at Potton Island.
- 3.5 In November 2014, the BBC reported on the recovery of the iron anchor from Potton Island, River Roach, which now rests in a private garden in the village. [BBC - Essex - History - Hunt for the Beagle](#). The anchor comprises an Admiralty Patent Stream (Kedge) Anchor dated to 1842 that was found between 2002 and 2004 in the Paglesham Marshes, adjacent to the River Roach, with just one fluke showing. Its location marked the position of the previously moored Beagle at the junction of Paglesham Reach and Potton Creek. Weighing half a ton, the anchor is of a type introduced in 1841 by Admiral Sir William Parker and the Beagle is known to have had four of these anchors on board to be used in calm weather - making them ideal for use in

the Roach. The only naval vessel known to have been permanently moored in the River Roach is the Beagle; it is highly unlikely that another naval vessel would have had reason to have been in the Roach.

- 3.6 The Anchor Project will enable visitors to the village to physically connect to the Beagle and its last berth. It will be representative of the voyages of discovery and will encourage individuals to plan their own journeys of discovery. In addition, the location of the anchor in a rural area will encourage physical pedestrian activity linking the district's heritage to community wellbeing in terms of social relationships, a sense of belonging, pride of place, ownership and collective empowerment.
- 3.7 The Anchor Project is intended to be completed before the autumn and will culminate in an unveiling ceremony planned for 10 September 2022. The works planned to be undertaken include, but are not limited to:
- Creation and commissioning of an interpretations board at the site of the anchor;
 - Decorative steel edging at the site of the anchor;
 - Electrical works to support lighting and security of the anchor;
 - Finger post signage within the village;
 - Beagle "pop up" exhibition and talks/presentations to be held in the village; and
 - Possible additional signage and interpretation at the site of the mud dock – although the deliverability and cost of this requires further scope to determine whether this can be achieved within the requisite time and budget.
- 3.8 The scope of works and the costs will be agreed by the Strategic Director in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for IT, Tourism, Housing & Parking.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.2 A budget of £15,000 was originally allocated to the Beagle Event. A total of £1,244.82 has been spent on irrecoverable costs, primarily relating to costs of design and printing promotional material, which is no longer required and cannot be reused, along with prizes issued to the class of children who won the poster competition. A commissioned performance of a Darwin related play is intended to be re-used at the unveiling event.
- 4.3 This leaves a balance of £13,775.18 which can be used to support the Anchor Project. If there are any unspent funds after the Anchor Project is completed, they will be returned to general reserves.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.2 To give effect to the proposals in this report, the Council will enter into a simple grant agreement with Paglesham Parish Council. The scope of works, cost and conclusion of the Grant Agreement will be undertaken by the Strategic Director in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for IT, Tourism, Housing & Parking.
- 5.3 Any commissioning activity will require the Council to comply with its procurement regulations.
- 5.4 Any works which require planning permission or other consents will need to follow the requisite statutory processes.

6 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.2 It remains an option for the Executive to simply return the unspent budget to general reserves but the risk of doing so is that the opportunities for promotion of the Beagle legacy and the heritage and tourism benefits are lost.

7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.2 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need:
- To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
 - To advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - To foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 7.3 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnerships, pregnancy/maternity.
- 7.4 The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) indicates that the proposals in this report will not have a disproportionate adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.

I confirm that the above recommendation does not depart from Council policy and that appropriate consideration has been given to any budgetary and legal implications.

LT Lead Officer Signature: _____



Date: 13/04/2022

Background Papers:

None.

For further information please contact Angela Hutchings, Strategic Director on:-

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