

Agenda Item: 9

Report to: Museums Committee

Date: 9th June 2008

Report from: Museum Curator

Title of report: **COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES**

Purpose of report: To update members on the mounting of commemorative plaques and to consider alterations to the selection criteria

Recommendations: **The report is for noting**

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The last meeting of the selection panel to discuss candidates for plaques was held in 2004. There are two names outstanding from the 2004 list which have been delayed due to negotiations with owners of the properties.
- 1.2 We have recently heard that the owners of the Ore Place site, the development company River Oaks Ltd, have agreed to the mounting of a plaque to Pierre Teilhard de Chardin subject to the approval of the major shareholder. This will be discussed in a meeting to be held in the week commencing 26 May. Teilhard de Chardin studied at Ore Place when it was a Jesuit seminary.
- 1.3 The British Teilhard Association are interested in attending the unveiling of the plaque, which will take place towards the end of June, when permission has been confirmed.
- 1.4 The plaque to Don Cockell, heavyweight-boxing champion of the 1950s, will be mounted on the Jenny Lind public house in High Street, where he was landlord in the 1950s. Research is still being carried out to establish the exact dates of Don Cockell's tenancy of the pub, but it is intended that this plaque could be mounted to coincide with Old Town Week in August 2008.
- 1.5 Since 2005, a number of nominations for plaque candidates have continued to be sent in from members of the public. Some of the names now being suggested do not fulfil the criteria adopted by the Museum Committee in June 2002 because the subjects are not of sufficient eminence or their connection with Hastings is limited.
- 1.6 Proposals have also been received for buildings of special historic interest and it is suggested that the criteria be revisited to include such sites. It is not always possible to get permission to place a plaque on listed buildings or in conservation areas.
- 1.7 There is no longer a budget for plaques and these will have to be funded from the Museum's publicity budget. As the cost of commissioning and mounting a plaque with associated hospitality is in the region of £250 -£300 it is suggested that the number is limited to two per year.
- 1.8 As in the original criteria, the Council asks proposers of plaques to note that more suggestions are received than can be approved within the resources available, and that the Council reserves the right to determine priorities.
- 1.9 It is suggested that a meeting of the selection panel should take place in July 2008 to confirm subjects for plaques in the financial year 2009 – 2010.
- 1.10 The 2002 guidelines are attached

2.0 Policy Implications

Equalities & Community Cohesiveness	X
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	
Risk Management	
Environmental issues	
Economic / Financial implications	X
Human Rights Act	
Organisational Consequences	

Report written by:

Catherine Walling
01424 451151
cwalling@hastings.gov.uk