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# A GUIDE TO THE ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON LISTED PROPERTIES

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As owners of listed buildings we have all suffered some dreadful blows over the past few years, and at The Listed Property Owners' Club we hear daily of how these have affected us. Due to this we wanted to create a voice in Parliament to represent owners and to fight our corner.

At the end of 2016 we celebrated a major milestone when the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) the Club has worked so hard to establish was officially recognised. The APPG on Listed Properties is led by South Thanet MP Craig Mackinlay and supported by MPs from all parties.

We have created this booklet to explain a little more about the APPG, the work it will be doing, how it can help you as an owner and how you can support it. If you would like to know more please feel free to call the Club on 01795 844939.

#### WHY HAVE AN APPG?

Through LPOC's Campaign for Owners we have been pressing the case for tax and planning reform to help the many thousands of owners protecting a major part of the nation's heritage.

Our campaigning was widely recognised but we realised that without a strong voice in Parliament to work with us and put our arguments before Ministers, achieving any reform would be difficult.

After talks with a range of senior parliamentarians we agreed to support an All-Party Parliamentary Group on Listed Properties and ensure listed property owners have a direct route for raising issues and explaining the challenges they face to MPs.

#### WHAT IS AN APPG?

All-Party Parliamentary Groups are established and run by Members of Parliament from different political parties. The MPs share an interest in particular subjects and often want to campaign for change or reform.

APPGs are an effective way of bringing parliamentarians and campaign groups together to examine issues and influence the Government to change or introduce policy and legislation.

As well the annual general meeting at which the chair and officers are elected, APPGs hold meetings and invite campaign groups such as LPOC, charities, and other non-governmental organisations supporting an issue to discuss challenges and their solutions and make proposals to the Government.

APPGs have officers drawn from the major political parties and strive to avoid favouring one political party or another. In the UK APPGs must be registered every parliamentary year and must hold an annual general meeting where the Chair and Officers are elected.



THE ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

## on Listed Properties



I am delighted that the All-Party Parliamentary Group is working with LPOC in campaigning for vital reforms that will help listed property owners. The APPG on Listed Properties has already won strong support from across all parties and it will provide a powerful voice in Parliament, raising the challenges listed property owners face and pressing for necessary reforms.

CRAIG MACKINLAY

#### WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE APPG ON LISTED PROPERTIES AND HOW CAN IT SUPPORT YOU AS AN OWNER?

LPOC has worked with interested MPs to establish the APPG on Listed Properties.

The Group has agreed a mission to speak up for listed properties in the UK and raise awareness in Parliament of the role played by their owners in protecting the nation's heritage. Its members have pledged to advocate policies that support owners in preserving their listed properties, including:

- A reduction in VAT to 5% on approved listed building alterations, repairs and maintenance.
- Simplification of planning procedures.
- Ensuring greater consistency in planning decisions across the country.

#### WHO IS THE CHAIR OF THE APPG ON LISTED PROPERTIES?



Craig Mackinlay, the MP for South Thanet, agreed to chair the Group because he has a passion for the nation's heritage and understands the challenges faced by owners of listed properties. His own constituency is a listed property hot spot with 1500 individual properties. It includes the town of Sandwich which has more listed buildings per head of population than any other town in the UK. He is a powerful advocate for reform.

#### WHAT PLANS DOES THE APPG ON LISTED PROPERTIES HAVE?

More than 47 MPs have already joined the APPG and many of them came to a LPOC campaign event to demonstrate their support.

The Group wrote to the Chancellor ahead of the 2017 Budget requesting a reduction in VAT for listed building alterations, repairs and maintenance, and is looking at ways to identify and publicise the planning challenges faced by owners.

## HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE APPG ON LISTED PROPERTIES?

The APPG is giving listed property owners like you a voice in Westminster. Here are the ways you can support the Group and drive the cause forward:

- **Write to your MP:** We have created a template letter which can be found on our website ([www.lpoc.co.uk](http://www.lpoc.co.uk)). Please write to your MP highlighting the difficulties you face as a listed property owner and details of the campaign.
- **Encourage your MP to join the APPG:** Find out how many listed properties there are in your constituency using our published list on our website. Using this you can highlight the importance of the APPG for your local area to your MP.
- **Funding:** All campaigns require funding but we're not asking for money - instead, thanks to our insurance providers, you can help by simply switching your home insurance over

to them. For every new policy created they pass back a fee to us which we then use to support our campaign.

Understanding the insurance issues that owners like us face means we have worked closely with our providers to ensure the policies they offer are an exceptional combination of reasonable cost and comprehensive cover, and are designed to protect you from the very specific issues arising from owning a listed property; something which is not always offered by "standard" insurers. We trust you will be in good hands, with over 90% of clients renewing each year – so hopefully this will create a benefit for you and in turn a benefit for the Parliamentary Campaign for Owners.

If you wish to speak to an insurance specialist to gain a quote, call the Club on 01795 844939 and we will pass you on to the insurance team.

## DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE THAT COULD HELP SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN?

If you have experienced difficulties with Listed Building Consent, been affected by the removal of the VAT concession or have experienced difficulties surrounding owning a listed property, we would love to hear from you. We are looking for owners who are happy to share their stories to highlight the difficulties owners face. Please contact us on 01795 844939.

## ABOUT THE LISTED PROPERTY OWNERS' CLUB

The Listed Property Owners' Club is Britain's only advice service dedicated to helping members get the most from their homes by providing detailed advice, information and support for just about every conceivable issue associated with ownership.

Our members benefit from a bi-monthly magazine, a dedicated telephone helpline where they can speak to experts on conservation, VAT,

law, planning, and insurance, plus access to our Suppliers Directory of specialist suppliers, builders and architects from across the country.

Membership starts from as little as £4 a month. For more information and to join please call us on 01795 844939, email [membership@lpoc.co.uk](mailto:membership@lpoc.co.uk) or visit [www.lpoc.co.uk](http://www.lpoc.co.uk)

To keep up to date on news regarding the success and general updates of the campaign visit [www.lpoc.co.uk/news](http://www.lpoc.co.uk/news)

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