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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 (LPOC) 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 is 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 our Political 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.



Kirstie Oakes of LPOC, Craig Mackinlay MP Chair of the APPG and Martin Anslow of LPOC

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

The Club 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.

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

More than 52 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.

#### WHAT THE LISTED PROPERTY OWNERS' CLUB IS DOING FOR YOU

- Providing a voice for listed property owners and calling for action on tax and planning reform for owners to voice their concerns directly to MPs and Ministers
- Leading a national petition advocating a 5% VAT rate for repairs and approved alterations to listed buildings.
- Meeting key MPs and Ministers to represent the interests of listed property owners
- Acting as the Secretariat to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Listed Properties, arranging evidence sessions and opportunities
- Providing expert advice on the impact of tax changes on listed property owners to an influential advisory body
- Providing support to you so that you can lobby your local MP to support the campaign for change

Visit: [www.lpoc.co.uk/campaign-for-owners](http://www.lpoc.co.uk/campaign-for-owners)

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

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 Political 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.



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

## 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

Established in 1993, The Listed Property Owners' Club is the authoritative source of information and advice on the maintenance, responsibilities and obligations of ownership of Britain's protected buildings. Additionally it provides a voice in Parliament to represent the views of its members. Members benefit from a bi-monthly magazine, a dedicated telephone helpline where you can speak to experts on conservation, VAT, law, planning, and insurance,

plus the Suppliers Directory of professionals, builders and tradesmen, which is the first port of call for many listed building owners across the country.

Membership starts from as little as £5 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/campaign-for-owners](http://www.lpoc.co.uk/campaign-for-owners)