

## **Key findings from the Listed Places of Worship Scheme (LPOWS) Research**

Repairs and maintenance are a major concern for listed places of worship (PoW).

LPOWS is a major factor in ensuring that listed PoW undertake timely repair and maintenance, which in many instances will minimise the likelihood of more significant issues in the future. For 1 in 5 respondents, the repair and maintenance work simply would not have gone ahead without LPOWS.

The LPOWS also broadens access and increases visitors, helping PoW to achieve a firmer financial base in the future and possibly lessens reliance on grants.

The majority of LPOWS work is carried out by local businesses and a removal of LPOWS would have a significant impact on this group.

Receiving LPOWS and carrying out the resulting repair and maintenance, encourages PoW to plan more effectively for future repair and maintenance, therefore perhaps lowering the likelihood of major repairs in the future.

### **Summary of findings**

#### **Repair and maintenance is a major concern for listed places of worship**

- 63% state that repair and maintenance for their place of worship is a constant major concern. Less than 1% state that repair and maintenance is of no concern.

#### **Raising finance for repairs and maintenance is difficult, with many also finding it difficult to find out about grants**

- 74% find it very or fairly difficult to raise funds for repair and maintenance, and 41% find it very or fairly difficult to find out about the grants on offer for repair and maintenance.

#### **However once places of worship (PoW) apply for LPOWS they find the process easy**

- 39% find applying for LPOW very easy and a further 45% fairly easy. This compares very favourably with other grant schemes.

#### **A principal role of LPOWS is to speed up the process of repairs and maintenance, which in turn is likely to decrease the cost of repairs in the future and minimise the likelihood of major repair and maintenance issues**

- 40% of responses agreed that without the LPOWS it would have taken longer to undertake their repair and maintenance work.

#### **However for a significant proportion of PoW, they would not have been able to undertake this work at all without LPOWS or would have to change the scope. This is particularly true for PoW which had received a Repair Grant for Places of Worship (RGPoW)**

- 20% of respondents would not have been able to complete the repair and maintenance work at all without the LPOWS and 18% would only have been

able to complete some of the work. For PoW which received RGPoW these figures rise to 54% and 21% respectively.

### **The LPOWS enables buildings to open on more occasions and more widely**

- Without the LPOWS 36% agree that these would have had to limit the use of part of their building, 8% would have to close their building on more occasions and 9% close their building at all times.

### **The repair and maintenance supported by LPOWS improves the quality of the visit, increases access and the number of visitors**

- 58% agree that the repair and maintenance has improved the quality of experience for regular attendees (rising to 72% for major LPOWS projects) and 54% the experience for visitors (rising to 70% for major LPOWS projects). Just under a third (27%) agree that there has been a probable increase in the number of regular attendees and visitors.
- Just under half (48%) agree that the repair and maintenance has broadened the types of people from the local community that use the place of worship, 28% agree that they have been able to extend the hours that the place of worship is open to the public and 78% that it has enabled them to use the building more effectively. The proportion agreeing with this statement from Non Church of England PoW is significantly higher than those from Church of England churches.

### **The repair and maintenance work supported by LPOWS improves the fabric of the building and encourages PoW to better plan for the future, lowering the likelihood of major works in the future**

- 59% strongly agree that the repair and maintenance supported by LPOWS encourages them to better plan for repair and maintenance in the future, 86% strongly agree that it has halted the decline of the building fabric and 76% that it has prevented irreversible damage to the building.

### **Recipients of LPOWS use local businesses**

- 60% of PoW exclusively used businesses within 15 miles of their building, with a further 30% using businesses within 50 miles radius.

### **Methodology**

Interviews with listed places of worship were carried out by BDRC Continental between the 25 April and 10 May 2010. All places of worship had received their LPOW grant after 2005. In total 300 interviews were carried out with the responses weighted to be representative of total grants paid out under the LPOW scheme.

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