

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSOCIATION OF CIVIC SOCIETIES
MEETING HELD AT SHIBDEN PARK, MERESIDE CENTRE, HALIFAX
ON SATURDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2012

PRESENT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

See Appendix 1

WELCOME FROM HALIFAX CIVIC TRUST

David Hanson welcomed members to Halifax, offering apologies for their chairman, John Hargeaves.

MINUTES OF 7TH JULY MEETING

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held at Cleethorpes was proposed by Graeme Bassett, seconded by David Winpenny, and approved by the members. Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District CS were thanked by Kevin Trickett for their hospitality.

There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Kevin Trickett drew members' attention to recent proposals of the Government to relax planning rules further, which would allow large extensions to be built without the need for planning approval. Some Local Authorities are already objecting to this change, details of which are due to go out for consultation shortly. He urged Societies to study these proposals and make appropriate comments.

Kevin had attended a conference – BASE Cities, the low-carbon built environment and infrastructure event – held at Bradford University. More than 400 delegates were there and several simultaneous sessions meant that he had to choose sessions to attend.

His key messages taken from the event were that policy makers and developers continue to build from a short term viewpoint, for the world as it is today rather than how it will be in the future; that there is a need to consider the wider impact of major projects; and decisions should be more devolved to the city sub-regions, rather than having centralised dictats imposed.

For more information go to www.BASEcities.com/leeds

Kevin reported that a new website was being developed for Wakefield Civic Society, and that he was negotiating a deal for other societies that either wanted to set up a new website or revamp an existing one. He hoped that the cost of this, which he believed would be around the £250-£300 for setting up with an annual maintenance cost of less than £100, would be attractive to societies and he hoped to be able to share more details very soon. ***[NB: The cost has now been confirmed at £285 per society plus £85 annual support. Both prices subject to VAT].*** The Wakefield website is being redeveloped now and, once it is up and running, he will contact societies with more information. The YHACS committee had already agreed that the YHACS

website would be updated using this template. Kevin said he would issue a communication to member societies in due course inviting others to register their interest.

David Winpenny's brochure highlighting "*Buildings at Risk*" in the YHACS region is progressing but more contributions from Societies would be welcomed. Members were asked to send photo and brief description to David by end of October 2012.

Civic Voice's AGM is in Coventry on 19th and 20th October. Attendance at the AGM on Saturday 20th October is free. Griff Rhys Jones will be the guest speaker.

YHACS and Civic Voice are hoping to hold a joint event in the region at which Griff Rhys Jones will be a speaker. Tentative dates are 14th or 15th November. Details will be notified later.

The autumn edition of *Society Insight* had been published electronically. Hard copies will be posted out shortly to lead contacts for each society.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Richard Ward reported that funds totalled £3,116.11 with membership now at 43 societies. Kevin Trickett noted that we had now removed a few former member societies from the list for non-payment of their membership subscriptions for 2012 – loss of Sheffield Civic Trust was particularly sad given the help provided by YHACS to facilitate its formation.

The relatively low numbers of attendees at YHACS meetings was noted by Kevin. With over 7,000 individual members across the 43 member societies in YHACS, turnouts of 30-40 people – around 0.5% - were a concern.

Adrian Perry (Scarborough) wondered if the moving around of the venue was a cause of the low numbers? Would it be better to centralise meetings, say in York?

Others - Malcom Sharman, (Hull CS), Ruth Amos (Ossett CT) and Jim Wildash (Selby CS) – argued that moving the venue around was beneficial. It allowed members to meet local committees and view what their societies were doing as well as providing an opportunity to see the local towns' heritage buildings.

The YHACS committee will consider all these views when planning future meetings.

THE SYSTEM FOR LISTING BUILDINGS – IS IT WORKING? by YHACS PRESIDENT PETER COOPER

Peter presented his experience of using English Heritage's (EH) online application system in November 2010 to try to obtain listed status for the Scarborough *Spa Cliff Lift*. It was easy to use, but by May 2012 he had still not had a response. Chasing this he was advised that the application was sound, but as the *Spa Cliff Lift* was "not thought to be at risk" it had had low priority for consideration! Even now, four months on, no decision has been given.

Peter thinks this is because English Heritage is very much under pressure – through both financial constraints and staff turnover. He intends to raise this issue at a *Historic Environment*

Forum's "Heritage at Risk" meeting on 7th November. He noted also Google CS informative article in *Society Insight on "Local Listing"*. He asked what other members' recent experiences of seeking listings had been.

Peter Hacker (Harrogate CS) reported a reasonable success in his dealings with EH regarding some municipal buildings, and would email Peter with more information about this.

In reply to a question posed by David Hanson (Halifax CT) about local listing, Richard Flowitt (Scarborough CS) pointed out that an application to have the Futurist Theatre locally listed was turned down by the Local Authority. LA support was needed for any local listing to succeed.

Graeme Bassett (Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District CS) commented that protection afforded under a local listing was inferior to a national listing.

Kevin Grady (Leeds CT) noted that an application to list Tetley's brewery building had been rejected because it was not considered nationally important. He further commented that LAs were under a lot of pressure and Leeds CT is assisting the LA in assessments. Under the terms of the NPPF LAs have a duty to produce local lists.

Chris Marsden (Huddersfield CS) had sent Peter a note of his thoughts and details of his many experiences of the present system.

Members with any further experiences were asked to email information to Peter Cooper (peter.cooper@btinternet.com).

REPORT FROM HALIFAX CIVIC TRUST by DAVID HANSON

David's informative illustrated talk showed details of many of the key heritage buildings of Halifax (Piece Hall, Minster, Town Hall, Halifax Building Society, Borough Market, Woolshops, Northgate House, Princess Buildings, Library) and he drew attention to their historical significance.

A QUESTION OF IDENTITY – ORIGINALITY OR PASTICHE? by KEVIN TRICKETT

What gives us our identity? What gives a building its identity? Two questions posed by Kevin as he discussed the merits or otherwise of "Façadism" – the practice of keeping the frontages of buildings while behind the facade is something completely new that may have no real historic or heritage connection to it. He asked members to consider what it was they would be arguing for if trying to preserve just the façade of a building: was it just an impression of what had been, the "look" of the streetscape, or perhaps the character of a place, and was this more important than preserving the building in its entirety? He illustrated his presentation with local and worldwide examples of buildings that had been transformed in this way, some more successfully than others, and asked for members to email any regional examples to him.

CIVIC DAY 2012 AWARDS

Ten societies had submitted evidence to the YHACS judges. These had been evaluated against the following criteria:

- Innovation

- Popularity
- Impact
- Public Image
- Long-term benefit
- Funds raised

As in previous years, judges could not vote when their own Society was being assessed.

After a resumé of each entry's project was presented to the meeting, the results were declared and presentations made by President Peter Cooper.

Beverley, Brighouse, Harrogate, Huddersfield, Ilkley, Skipton and Wakefield societies received framed commendation certificates for their efforts.

Halifax CT (Young Speakers' Evening) and **Ripon CS** (Market Stall coincident with the Olympic Torch event, and heritage walks) received framed certificates for their respective 3rd and 2nd places.

The 2012 winner, for its innovative "Paint the Town" artwork trail, was **Scarborough CS**, which received a cheque for £250 and the "Peter Spawforth" trophy.

Peter Cooper thanked Kevin Trickett for his work in assembling the evidence and organising the judging of the awards.

REPORTS FROM SOCIETIES

Alan Hall (Bradford CS) reported that, with lobbying from the society over the proposed demolition of the Odeon Cinema building, this threat had been withdrawn. He was cautiously optimistic that a use for the building would now be found.

Sheila Clark (SkiptonCS) reported that the meadow for which the society had long fought had now been designated as a protected "Queen's Field".

Graeme Bassett (Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District CS) advised that a DVD film showing the workings of the now defunct ice-factory had been made – copies available at £10. A copy was presented to David Winpenny for his support for the protection of the ice-factory building.

AOB

Kevin Trickett drew members' attention to the book "*Triumph of the City*" by Edward Glaeser to which he had referred in his recent article in *Society Insight*.

Date of Next Meetings

- 14th/15th November – possible special meeting with Civic Voice and Griff Rhys Jones
- 26th January 2013 – main members meeting and AGM - details to follow.
- 20th April 2013 – main members meeting - details to follow.

David Moss, September 2012

Appendix 1 - Attendees

	Society/Organisation	Surname	First Name
1	Bradford Civic Society	Hall	Alan
2	Bradford Civic Society	Oates	Mandy
3	Brighouse Civic Trust	Culpan	John
4	Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society	Bassett	Teresa
5	Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society	Bassett	Graeme
6	Halifax Civic Society	Paxton-White	June
7	Halifax Civic Trust	Glover	David
8	Halifax Civic Trust	Hanson	David
9	Halifax Civic Trust	Northcott	Ken
10	Halifax Civic Trust	Northcott	Pam
11	Halifax Civic Trust	Weaver	Dee
12	Halifax Civic Trust	Wood	Edward
13	Halifax Civic Trust	Wood	Mrs E
14	Harrogate Civic Society	Hacker	Peter
15	Harrogate Civic Society	Siddans	David
16	Horbury Civic Society	Fawcett	Joan
17	Horbury Civic Society	Fawcett	Ted
18	Huddersfield Civic Society/YHACS committee	Ward	Richard
19	Hull Civic Society	Fowler	Cynthia
20	Hull Civic Society/YHACS committee	Sharman	Malcolm
21	Leeds Civic Trust	Grady	Kevin
22	Market Weighton Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Leonard	Tony
23	Ossett Civic Trust	Amos	Ruth
24	Ossett Civic Trust	Mitchell	David
25	Ripon Civic Society	Winpenny	Sheila
26	Ripon Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Winpenny	David
27	Scarborough Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Cooper	Peter
28	Scarborough Civic Society	Flowitt	Richard
29	Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Adrian
30	Selby Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Moss	David
31	Selby Civic Society	Wildash	James
32	Skipton in Craven Civic Society	Clark	Sheila
33	Skipton in Craven Civic Society	Wood	Anne
34	Wakefield Civic Society	Broadbent	Jean
35	Wakefield Civic Society	O'Donnell	Mike
36	Wakefield Civic Society/YHACS committee	Trickett	Kevin
37	Wakefield Civic Society	Ward	Brian

	Apologies		
1	Allertonshire Civic Society	Edwards	John
2	Allertonshire Civic Society	Edwards	Mary
3	Allertonshire Civic Society	Welburn	Dorothy
4	Beverley Civic Society	Ryan	Sandra
5	Bridlington Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Oliver	Cyril
6	Castleford District Civic Trust	Wright	Sandra
7	Doncaster Civic Trust	Sinclair	Archie
8	Forest of Galtres	Kirk	Helen
9	Goole Civic Society	Walker	Rachel
10	Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society	Lee	Pauline
11	Halifax Civic Society	Hargreaves	John
12	Honley Civic Society	Hill	Colin
13	Hornsea Civic Society	Miller	John
14	Howden Civic Society	Chapman	Susan
15	Ilkley Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Kidman	Helen
16	Leeds Civic Trust	Kitching	Lynda
17	Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Christine
18	Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Paul
19	Pontefract Civic Society	Cookson	Peter
20	Pickering Civic Society	Dixon	Judy
21	Pudsey Civic Society	Depelle	Jackie
21	Pudsey Civic Society	Richards	Dave
22	Richmond Civic Society	Hillyard	Carol
23	Saddleworth Civic Society	Gartside	Lorna
24	Scalby Village Trust	Newton	Kaet
25	Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Chris
26	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Peter
27	Wetherby Civic Society	Chapman	Jean
28	Whitby Civic Society	Harty	Nicholas
29	Whitby Civic Society	Harty	Susan
30	York Civic Trust	Brown	Peter