

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSOCIATION OF CIVIC SOCIETIES

CIVIC SOCIETY NORTHERN NETWORK AND YHACS SPRING 2014 MEETING HELD AT THE ORANGERY, WAKEFIELD ON SATURDAY 5th APRIL 2014

DELEGATES PRESENT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

See Appendix 1

THE LOCALISM ALLIANCE – WHAT WE VALUE – ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

WELCOME FROM WAKEFIELD CIVIC SOCIETY

Kevin Trickett, Chairman of YHACS and President of Wakefield Civic Society, welcomed delegates to the meeting.

KEYNOTE SPEECH BY CONCILLOR PETER BOX, LEADER OF WAKEFIELD COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Peter told members how Government cuts to central funding of Local Authorities (LAs) had impacted negatively on provision of some Local Government services, how this had forced a re-think in how remaining services were being provided, and how some public services were increasingly being provided by the transfer of assets to “volunteers”. Library services were one example where local groups had been able to take over. LAs would increasingly be forced to look for opportunities to engage with the local voluntary sector.

Peter then questions from delegates.

ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE (ACV) – DR FREDDIE GICK, CHAIR OF CIVIC VOICE

Freddie explained how the 2011 Localism Act had introduced new rights for communities to take over public services and to bid to own community assets. The Localism Alliance included bodies such as *Civic Voice*, *CAMRA*, *Supporters Direct*, *The Theatres Trust* and the *National Association of Local Councils*, representing some 200,000 members nationally.

He outlined the process typically to be followed in order to register an Asset of Community Value with a Local Authority.

A short Q & A session followed.

LOCAL HERITAGE LISTING – A SUCCESS STORY BY MARPLE CIVIC SOCIETY – GILLIAN POSTILL

Marple, a town in Stockport Borough Council's area, has around 157 listed buildings plus many other unlisted buildings of heritage importance. Gillian explained how Marple Civic Society had worked with the community and their local Conservation Officer to create a list of locally important buildings which, it was hoped, would help to safeguard the future character of the town.

DEMONSTRATING WHAT WE LIKE - THE CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE HOLYWELL INN – JOHN WALSH AND MARK STEAD

John and Mark explained how this 200-year old Halifax public house, which was threatened with closure and development, was saved by a local group. Now listed as a ACV, the group are progressing a scheme to retain the village pub and, additionally, to expand its role as a local community amenity.

THE THEATRES TRUST – MHORA SAMUEL, DIRECTOR

Mhora spoke about the work of the "National Advisory Trust for Theatres" and their work to protect theatre buildings. She urged Societies with theatres in their towns to get them designated as ACVs. She also notified delegates that there is to be a conference in Leeds on 28th April on "*Theatres at Risk*".

WAKEFIELD CIVIC SOCIETY AND ITS 50TH YEAR – KEVIN TRICKETT, PRESIDENT OF WAKEFIELD CIVIC SOCIETY

Kevin reported on the wide range of activities, key projects and publications of the Society and how its profile and membership were being increased by the use of social media.

Kevin also announced that Wakefield Civic Society would be seeking to have the Theatre Royal Wakefield, which many of the audience had visited in the morning, and Unity House just across from the theatre, listed as assets of community value.

YHACS BUSINESS MEETING

MINUTES OF FOUNTAINS ABBEY MEETING ON 12TH OCTOBER 2013

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held at Fountains Abbey was proposed by Margaret Clarke, seconded by Malcolm Sharman, and approved by the members. There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Kevin Trickett reported that the YHACS Committee were considering how best to develop objectives for YHACS that would serve both the YHACS membership and complement and support the work of Civic Voice.

To this end, portfolio responsibilities for members of the YHACS committee had been recently updated. Details of these are reported in the latest edition (Spring 2014) of YHACS "*Society Insight*".

Kevin urged Civic Societies in our region to take up membership of both Civic Voice, **and** YHACS. The two organisations worked together closely and were developing a range of benefits for member societies that were complementary rather than duplicative. Civic Voice would concentrate on developing a national profile for the movement, campaigning and meeting with ministers and government departments. YHACS on the other hand would focus on providing advice and support to members in the region and organising networking meetings with informative speakers for member societies to attend.

Societies would only get the full range of benefits by being members of both organisations. However, each organisation needed to attract members and the income that membership subscriptions provided. Kevin pointed out that if a society was a member of only one organisation, they were effectively benefiting from services that other societies had paid for and he urged them to find a way of supporting both Civic Voice and YHACS.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Richard Ward reported that funds totalled in excess of £4600. Membership now stands at 37 paid-up societies. 6 societies were being contacted about their outstanding membership subscriptions.

There were no questions of the Treasurer.

AOB

- William Kirby (Huddersfield Civic Society) reported on their "Annual Design Awards" for 2013.
- Eric Rowley (Spenn Valley Civic Society) spoke about the Society's ideas on good town-centre housing.
- David Moss (Selby Civic Society) reported that his Society had secured a £7000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop a booklet of town heritage trails that will also include background information held on a new website and accessed through QR-links.
- David Blackburn (Ilkley Civic Society) said that the Ilkley Civic Society Design and Conservation Awards recently made awards to 10 projects out of almost 30 entries. The 4 Awards and 6 Commendations received a good half page report in the local paper.
- David also said that Bradford Council Local Plan consultation has recently closed but it includes reduced housing targets for Ilkley due to European legislation that protects birds and natural areas known as SPA's (Special

Protection Areas) and SAC's (Special Areas of Conservation). It has reduced the targets from 1600 to 800 houses but still insufficient room for 800 in a tight valley situation with Green Belt at each end.

The meeting was closed at 15.55.

Dates of Next Meetings

26th July in the Hull History Centre, Hull – YHACS Summer 2014 meeting.

27th September in Richmond – YHACS Autumn 2014 meeting.

David Moss

12th April 2014

Appendix 1 - Attendees & Apologies

	Society/Organisation	Surname	First Name
1	Addingham Civic Society	Robinson	Jim
2	Addingham Civic Society	Wilkinson	Peter
3	Aireborough Civic Society	Woods	Clive
4	Barnsley Civic Trust	Barnes	Geoff
5	Barnsley Civic Trust	Barnes	Phyllis
6	Brighouse Civic Trust	Culpan	John
7	CAMRA	Goodair	Mark
8	CAMRA	Bradbury	Albert
9	CAMRA	Robertshaw	Nigel
10	Castleford Civic Trust	Wallis	Tony
11	Castleford Civic Trust	Wright	Sandra
12	Civic Voice	Harvey	Ian
13	Civic Voice	Gick	Freddie
14	Civic Voice	Meredith	Martin
15	Doncaster Civic Trust	Coote	Peter
16	English Heritage	Deborah	Wall
17	Goole Civic Society	Clarke	John
18	Goole Civic Society	Clarke	Margaret
19	Goole Civic Society	Walker	Stephen
20	Hale Civic Society	Laver	Denise
21	Hale Civic Society	Laver	Denise
22	Halifax Civic Trust	Witcher	Anna
23	Halifax Civic Trust	Witcher	David
24	Horbury Civic Society	Fawcett	Joan
25	Horbury Civic Society	Fawcett	Ted
26	Huddersfield, Scarborough & Scalby Civic Societies/YHACS Committee	Ward	Richard
27	Huddersfield Civic Society	Kirby	William
28	Hull Civic Society	Sharman	Dot
29	Hull Civic Society	Sharman	Malcolm
30	Ilkely Civic Society	Blackburn	David
31	Leeds Civic Trust	Kitching	Lynda
32	Marple Civic Society	Postill	Alan
33	Marple Civic Society	Postill	Gillian
34	Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Christine

35	Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Paul
36	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Peter
37	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Glen
38	Scarborough Civic Society/YHACS President	Cooper	Peter
39	Selby Civic Society	Moss	David
40	Selby Civic Society	Wildash	Jim
41	Skipton Civic Society	Clarke	Sheila
42	Skipton Civic Society	Wood	Anne
43	Spen Valley Civic Society	Rowley	Eric
44	Spen Valley Civic Society	Rowley	Lesley
45	The Theatres Trust	Samuel	Mhora
46	Wakefield Civic Society	Bickerdike	John
47	Wakefield Civic Society	Broadbent	Jean
48	Wakefield Civic Society	Holwell	Margaret
49	Wakefield Civic Society	Jones	Carole
50	Wakefield Civic Society	Morgan	Margaret
51	Wakefield Civic Society	O'Donnell	Mike
52	Wakefield Civic Society	Ramsden	John
53	Wakefield Civic Society	Ramsden	Ros
54	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Peter
55	Wakefield Civic Society	Swift	Kevin
56	Wakefield Civic Society	Sykes	Gill
57	Wakefield Civic Society	Sykes	Terry
58	Wakefield Civic Society/YHACS committee	Trickett	Kevin
59	Wakefield Civic Society	Ward	Brian
60	Wakefield Civic Society	Wood	Geoff
61	Honeywell Inn	Wallis	John
62	Honeywell Inn	Stead	Mark
	Apologies Received		
1	Allertonshire Civic Society	Edwards	John
2	Allertonshire Civic Society	Edwards	Mary
3	Beverley Civic Society	English	Barbara
4	Bradford Civic Society	Hall	Alan
5	Bradford Civic Society	Oates	Amanda
6	Bridlington Civic Society	Oliver	Cyril
7	Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society	Bassett	Teresa
8	Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society	Bassett	Graeme

9	Halifax Civic Trust	Paxtow-White	June
10	Hull Civic Society	Fowler	Cynthia
11	Ilkely Civic Society	Kidman	Helen
12	Leeds Civic Trust	Grady	Kevin
13	Market Weighton	Leonard	Tony
14	Ossett Civic Trust	Amos	Ruth
15	Ossett Civic Trust	Mitchell	David
16	Pontefract Civic Society	Blaza	Allan
17	Richmond Civic Society	Hillyard	Carol
33	Ripon Civic Society	Winpenny	David
18	Scalby Village Trust	Dixey	Hazel
19	Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Adrian
20	Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Chris
21	Spenn Valley Civic Society	Amende	Erica