

Yorkshire & Humber Association of Civic Societies

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www.yhacs.org.uk

Voice of the Civic Society Movement in the Region

BULLETIN 2020-04 (October)

Planning for the Future

As I am sure you are aware, earlier this year, the government launched a major consultation exercise on its proposals to change the planning system. These proposals have generated much discussion across the civic society movement and beyond. You can view the proposals on line [here](#).

The deadline for submitting responses is 11.45pm on 29th October. Comments can be submitted via email, by post or by completing an on-line survey. Civic Voice will be submitting a formal response early next week to reflect the views of the movement and YHACS will also be sending in some comments. (Thank you to everyone who has copied me into their comments on this already.)

One of the features of the Civic Voice response is the ability to show the wide consultation that has been conducted across the movement. If you haven't already shared your views with Civic Voice, you can still do so but you must move quickly! The draft response being worked on by Civic Voice can be read [here](#) but it will be finalised at the beginning of next week so don't delay if you wish to comment – get your views over to Civic Voice by Tuesday, 27th October (and don't forget to copy me in please!).

One of the issues that the consultation has raised is the on-going debate about whether civic societies should become statutory consultees in the planning process. Many civic societies have asked for formal recognition in this way to strengthen our voices in the planning system – but what about the extra work that this will create for us? Could your society take this additional work in its stride? Or do worry that it will be too much? Are you content with the current arrangements for civic societies to feed into the planning process or do you want to see changes made?

Civic Voice would like to hear from you and there is a survey you can complete [here](#). (NB – deadline is 5pm on Monday, 26th October.)

YHACS Autumn Meeting

Around 50 members ‘tuned in’ for our September ‘Halifax Zoom meeting’ where our guest speaker was Ian Harvey, director of Civic Voice to discuss the planning white paper. Overall, the event was a great success (we’re getting better at this!) and the short films made by Halifax Civic Trust that we hosted on our Vimeo Showcase also proved informative and entertaining.

Vimeo produces stats on the number of times our films are watched. Since making the Halifax Showcase live, some 377 people have watched our film collection. Not surprisingly, given that our films are mainly protected by password for members only, 376 of these viewers were in the UK but intriguingly, one person was in Greece.....

The most viewed video, with 49 views (so far!) was the one made for us by Martin Hamilton on the planning white paper. In second place was the one by John Hargreaves welcoming people to the Halifax video collection. Least watched was my own welcome video which only garnered 35 views....

The minutes of the meeting are now available and being circulated. A recording of the meeting is also available on Vimeo and details of how to access the recording are provided with the minutes.

YHACS AGM

As previously advised, our YHACS AGM will be held on Saturday afternoon, 30th January 2021. Given the current state of things in the country with Covid-19, we will be holding the meeting via Zoom rather than in person. We will, of course, be asking for nominations to join the committee and urge members to think seriously about stepping up to work with us. It’s not difficult but can be very rewarding in the insights it will provide you with.

Annual YHACS/Peter Spawforth Awards

The YHACS committee has decided that there will be no competition this year. With many civic societies more or less confined to barracks and societies in different parts of the region being subject to varying degrees of lockdown, it was considered to be unfair and unrealistic to offer prizes for 2020. We will keep the matter under review and look forward to relaunching the prize when it is safe for societies to run their normal programme of activities once again.

Heritage Action Zones

As discussed at the September YHACS meeting, Historic England has announced a raft of funding for Heritage Action Zones across the region. I would be happy to convene a Zoom meeting of interested societies who are working on heritage action zones in their own areas if there is demand. Please get in touch if you would like to take up this offer.

Guest Speakers On-Line

With many civic societies arranging events on-line, it occurred to me that we might share details of guest speakers who are able to offer talks during this period that would be of wider interest to our members across the region. Of course, if you are taking bookings for your talks, then you might be able to accept bookings from people outside your membership or even outside your area.

If you are able to share your events or details of guest speakers who are able to offer lively and entertaining presentations on-line, please let me know and I'll pass these on to our members.

YHACS 2021

At this stage, none of us knows what will happen next year but here at YHACS we need to plan an annual programme that we can run either on-line or, if we're allowed out to play, at venues across the region in our usual way.

With this in mind, I'd like to ask if there are any civic societies out there who would like to work with us on next year's programme? If you can offer support, it will either mean creating video content that we can host on-line on Vimeo and then taking part in a Zoom meeting or hosting us at a venue in your area if restrictions on movement have been lifted and we agree that it is safe for people to circulate once more.

Do get in touch if you can help.

Kevin Trickett MBE,

Chair, YHACS

