

Yorkshire & Humber Association of Civic Societies

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www.yhacs.org.uk

Voice of the Civic Society Movement in the Region

BULLETIN 2020-05 (November)

Planning for the Future

The pending deadline to submit comments in response to the Government's White Paper: Planning for the Future consultation caused some long days and late nights but I'm pleased to report that YHACS submitted a return before the deadline expired on 29th October. We must now hope that the Government will take heed of the many comments they will have received, and not just those from the civic movement. If you haven't seen the YHACS response, you can find a copy here: <https://yhacs.org.uk/yhacs-responds-to-planning-for-the-future-white-paper/>

Local Heritage Listing

The Government recently announced funding for local authorities to develop their local lists of heritage assets. The idea is that local authorities would apply for funding and then work with community groups (such as, of course, civic societies) on reviewing and updating existing lists or creating new lists where none already exists. You can find out more about the funding offer [here](#). As you will see, the intention was that funding would be made available at county level although projects covering other areas would be considered.

The deadline for expressions of interest has now passed – but did your local authority apply? We know that Conservation Officers in West Yorkshire have come together to create a West Yorkshire Conservation Officer Consortium to submit an expression of interest. If successful, the Consortium will work across West Yorkshire but will be looking to civic societies and others for support. We would be interested to learn what is happening elsewhere in the region.

Historic England Consultations

Meanwhile, Historic England have two consultations under way – one of these is on local heritage listing and has a deadline for comments of 18th December. The second consultation is on listed building consent advice and has a deadline of 21st December for comments.

Details of both consultations can be found [here](#).

Civic Voice Webinars

Civic Voice continues to offer a lively programme of webinars – and you don't need to be a member of Civic Voice to take part. You can find the full list of planned events [here](#). Some of these are 'helpful hints' webinars to show you how to do things, including one on Friday, 20th November at 13.45 on how to make the most of Instagram. Among those speaking will be Carolyn Curr from Whitby Civic Society.

Some of the webinars have been recorded and available to view now. You can watch previous webinars on the Civic Voice Vimeo account [here](#).

Events of Wider Interest

Just a reminder that if you have an on-line event coming up that might be of wider interest or have recorded events that people from other societies can watch, please let me know. I will circulate details to our members – but please give me sufficient notice – at least a week and preferably more!

To start the ball rolling, if you haven't already seen it, Wakefield Civic Society has an on-line Vimeo account that is filling up with interesting stuff. You can access it [here](#).

YHACS 2021

As previously notified, we are currently working on the assumption that our quarterly meetings will continue to be run via video conferencing for the foreseeable future. Of course, the encouraging news about a covid vaccine does mean that we may be able to revert to face-to-face events at some point during 2021.

We would like to hear from any society willing to work with us on co-hosting our programme next year. We will work on the basis that events will go ahead via Zoom but if we can revert to 'proper' meetings, we will discuss this with the host society at the time.

Please do get in touch if you are able to help.

YHACS Annual General Meeting

Our next event will be our Annual General Meeting, to be held in the afternoon of Saturday, 30th January 2021. As previously advised, the meeting will be held via Zoom video conferencing. Papers for the meeting will be issued later.

Election to the Committee

Ahead of the AGM, we will be inviting nominations from you for the YHACS committee. Under the YHACS constitution, all members of the YHACS committee apart from the Chair have to stand down each year, but they are allowed to stand for re-election. The President also stands down each year but can seek re-election.

The Chair is now elected for a three-year term and can be elected for one further three-year term after that. This means that anyone elected to the position of Chair under the constitution as drafted can serve for a *maximum* of six years in that post (although they can stand for election to the committee at the end of the six years and any another role should they wish). We changed the constitution both to ensure that no one person found themselves stuck in the leadership role and to ring the changes – because a change is as good as a rest.....

At the AGM, I will have completed 10 years as YHACS Chair and my first three-year term of office (since we changed the constitution) comes to an end. While I have made it clear to the committee that I am willing to stand again, there is now an opportunity for someone else to take over from me.

If you are interested in standing for election to the role of Chair at the AGM, please let me know and we can have a chat about what the role requires – although anyone taking over from me will be free to do things differently; you would not have to do things the way I have done!

Should no one come forward on this occasion and I am elected for another three-year term, YHACS (and by that, I mean not just the committee but *all* our members) will need to think seriously about succession planning: to ensure our continued success, it is vital that we continue to find new people willing to serve on the committee including someone willing to take over the helm.

Being on the YHACS committee is not an onerous responsibility and does not require a huge amount of work but it is very rewarding and will provide you with fresh insights into the issues facing the movement.

YHACS subscriptions for 2021

The YHACS committee met recently and decided to maintain the level of subscription at the current rate - £50 per society and £10 for an individual with the option to make a donation on top if you feel able.

For a society, this represents great value – less than £1 per week for ongoing support and a programme of events.

Our Treasurer, Alan Goodrum, will be making contact with the nominated representative for each society in due course and we hope that you will continue to support us. YHACS is nothing without an active and supportive membership.

Kevin Trickett MBE,

Chair, YHACS

