

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSOCIATION OF CIVIC SOCIETIES

Minutes of the Meeting held via Zoom Video Conference on 17th July 2021.

1. Present

Over 45 members and guests were present, representing 23 YHACS member societies. A full list appears at Appendix 1.

1a. Apologies for Absence

See Appendix 1

1. Introduction - Kevin Trickett, YHACS Chair

Kevin welcomed members to the meeting and introduced Jane Taylor, Chair of Leeds Civic Trust.

2. Welcome from Jane Taylor of Leeds Civic Trust who hosted the meeting.

Jane welcomed members and hoped they would find the meeting interesting, informative and enjoyable. She looked forward to the time, before too long she hoped, when YHACS could have a 'normal' face-to-face meeting

3. Minutes of the YHACS meeting held on 26th September 2020

These were approved by the meeting.

4. Matters arising

None not on the agenda

5. Chairman's report

Kevin highlighted a number of changes, political and social, since we last met.

- There had been elections including that for the West Yorkshire Mayor. YHACS exec members were drafting an initial letter to Tracy Brabin, the new mayor.
- A watching brief is being kept on planning; the new planning bill expected shortly.
- Raising lockdown does not remove problems with venues, sanitizing, and people being cautious about face-to-face meetings.
- The focus on climate change continues, following on from the G7 summit earlier in the year. The continuing heatwave in NW US & Canada and the disastrous flooding in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands of the last few days serve only to remind people of the problems being cause by changes to the climate.
- The government's 'Levelling Up' agenda is difficult to follow and short on detail; no one seems entirely sure what the phrase actually means.
- Two new reports have been published recently which deserve consideration:
 - the latest Grimsey review 'Against all odds' on the impact of Covid on smaller, independent businesses, and
 - 'Build Back Better High Streets' from MHCLG.

(See below for links).

A reminder that societies need to register their events for HODS by 01.08.21. YHACS members are encouraged to sign up for Civic Voice Membership Mondays webinars – see the Civic Voice website for full information (the events are only open

to Civic Voice members and members of civic societies that are members of Civic Voice).

YHACS has 'opened its borders' and is contacting societies outside Yorkshire and the Humber that might wish to join. This is now an official policy in recognition of something that has been done unofficially for some time (with societies in Greater Manchester and Derbyshire already part of the membership). Kevin asked that the word be passed on and, if anyone knows of any civic society that might be interested in joining YHACS to put them in touch.

6. Treasurer's report.

The balances were reported as follows:

YHACS	£8804.35
MWCS	£ 435.40
Total	£9239.75

Some renewals remain outstanding and are being pursued.

7. Our Guest Speaker: Joe Barratt, High Street Task Force

Joe discussed the history of high street management and the initiatives taken over time to support the retail sector, starting with the review by Mary Portas. He encouraged civic societies to join the Institute of Place Management at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Joe had been involved with the Portas Review pilot in Stockport, which made use of the visual arts to revive the town centre through creative industries and reaching new businesses. They also appealed to younger people through the Teenage Market initiative. Similar initiatives have been used in other cities such as Leeds. In some towns 'placemaking' was not properly understood and efforts tended to lack vision and co-ordination, and didn't create effective partnerships and engagement. The Portas pilots were a catalyst for improvement and included a wide variety of places including Belper, Yarm, Crickhowell and Hitchin.

Joe emphasised the need for evidence-based decisions, the need to understand data, market segmentation – for example, holiday, speciality, multifunctional and comparison towns, with different factors influencing vitality and viability.

The High Street Task Force is supporting 150 local authorities until 2024 including 8 in Yorkshire (Barnsley, Wakefield, Bradford, Leeds, Calderdale, Sheffield, Rotherham and Hull)

Joe took questions about BIDs and highlighted the role of Community Improvement Districts, which can be very effective.

8 Martin Hamilton Leeds Civic Trust: What's happening in Leeds?

Despite pandemic restrictions Leeds has CT remained active with 40 on-line events in 2020-21, all available via YouTube

A joint event had been held with Wakefield CS and Bradford CS on Brutalism.

There had been work on increasing park benches under the 'Take a Seat' initiative, activity on sculpture and murals, a blue plaque for Dr Edith Pechey and an imaginative renovation of the early White Cloth Hall by Rushbond.

9. News from Civic Voice – Helen Kidman

Helen highlighted current activities.

CV was considering the Climate Change agenda and which elements of it, and how, the civic society movement can promote.

A small group of trustees was reviewing the Regional Forum function and membership.

Case studies of good civic society community engagement examples were sought.

The latest Civic Voice update had just been published and is available on the website. All Civic Voice members were most welcome to sign up for Membership Monday events. An interview with Clive Betts MP was being run as a webinar on 20th July – open to all (see below for link).

10. Just a Minute – a round-up of news and views from local societies (where each society present gets to speak for just one minute!)

Ossett CS is regrouping following changes in committee membership and is trying hard to catch up with IT but they are still operating.

Wakefield CS webinar event on Back-to-back housing in Harehills Leeds on Thursday 22nd July. Open to all via Eventbrite (see below for link).

Grimsby and Cleethorpes – Alan Nicolson reported difficulties over the Grimsby Minster Square Art works which had received criticism from some CS committee members contrary to the Society's official position which had been to offer support.

Ilkley David Blackburn advised the West Yorkshire Local Authorities project on key unlisted buildings is moving forward. It was also reported that South Yorkshire also got funding and is appointing staff. Their review will look at key unlisted buildings *outside* conservation areas.

Chris Burrows of Beverley CS highlighted the publication of 'Food feasts and Festivals' available via their website.

Peter Coote from Doncaster CT asked if the membership Monday events had been recorded and, if so, could they be made available?

(Kevin Trickett reported that he thought they were being recorded – certainly, the first one at which he had spoken had been and a link circulate to Civic Voice members).

Helen Kidman will check on this

11 AOB

There was none.

11. Close

The next meeting will be hosted by Grimsby and Cleethorpes and will be held on Zoom in late October/early November

Links referred to above:

To download the Bill Grimsey review 'Against all Odds', go to <http://www.vanishinghighstreet.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/AgainstAllOdds-REVIEW-16th-July-download.pdf>

To download the MHCLG paper 'Build Back Better High Streets' go to https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1003426/Build_Back_Better_High_Streets.pdf

To book tickets for the Civic Voice webinar on the future of the planning system with Clive Betts MP on Tuesday, 20th July at 11.00am, go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hclg-select-committee-future-of-the-planning-system-tickets-161507899475>

To book tickets for the Wakefield Civic Society webinar 'Back-to-Back to the Future?' on Thursday, 22nd July at 7.30pm, go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/back-to-back-to-the-future-tickets-162342870897?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Appendix 1

	Society/Organisation	Surname	First Name
1	Aireborough Civic Society	Woods	Clive
2	Beverley Civic Society/York Civic Trust	Burrows	Chris
3	Beverley Civic Society/York Civic Trust	Young	Sarah
4	Beverley Civic Society	Payne	Jane
5	Doncaster Civic Trust	Coote	Peter
6	Doncaster Civic Trust	Mellows	Rowena
7	Goole Civic Society	Clarke	John
8	Goole Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Hicks-Clarke	Margaret
9	Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust	Bassett	Graeme
10	Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust	Bassett	Teresa
11	Grimsby & Cleethorpes Civic Society	Nicholson	Alan
12	Halifax Civic Trust//Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Goodrum	Alan
13	Halifax Civic Trust	Paxton-White	June
14	Halifax Civic Trust	Hanson	David
15	Horbury Civic Society	Roberts	Graham
16	Howden Civic Society	Mepham	Philip
17	Huddersfield Civic Society	Hughes	Geoff
18	Hull Civic Society	Blackstock	Hilary
19	Hull Civic Society	Fowler	Cynthia
20	Hull Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Sharman	Malcolm
21	Ilkley Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Kidman	Helen
22	Leeds Civic Trust/YHACS Committee	Hamilton	Martin
23	Leeds Civic Trust	Taylor	Jane
24	Market Weighton Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Leonard	Tony
25	Ossett Civic Society	Long	Russell
26	Pontefract Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Cartwright	Paul
27	Pontefract Civic Society	Turner	John
28	Ripon Civic Society	Hughes	Christopher
29	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Glen
30	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Pete
31	Scarborough Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Cooper	Peter
32	Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Adrian
33	Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Chris
34	Selby Civic Society	Clegg	Marie

35	Selby Civic Society/Market Weighton Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Moss	David
36	Skipton in Craven Civic Society	Clark	Sheila
37	Wakefield Civic Society	Flintoff	Vicky
38	Wakefield Civic Society	O'Donnell	Mike
39	Wakefield Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS committee	Trickett	Kevin
40	Wakefield Civic Society	Ward	Brian
41	Whitby Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Curr	Carolyn
42	Whitby Civic Society	Stangoe	Joyce
43	Independent/YHACS Committee	Blackburn	Judith
44	Guest Speaker	Barratt	Joe
	Apologies		
1	Addingham Civic Society	Battarbee	Gill
2	Leeds Civic Trust	Kitching	Lynda
3	Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Christine
4	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Pat
5	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Peter
6	Wakefield Civic Society	Swift	Kevin