YHACS
YORKSHIRE & HUMBER
Association of Civic Societies
Member of
CIVIC VOICE
talking civic sense

SOCIETY INSIGHT

Winter 2020/21
Volume 16, Issue 4

ADAPTING TO COVID

TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENTS IN YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER



Making sense of the many announcements on transport in the North of England is not straightforward and this was highlighted at a discussion at our executive committee back in August – prompted by Huddersfield Civic Society, who were concerned to understand potential impact of the trans-Pennine rail improvements *(Ref.1)*.

Indeed, what trans-Pennine actually means is itself subject to debate, as there are a variety of routes which need reinstatement or improvement. A common theme was lack of democratic engagement.

The National Infrastructure Commission's Strategy was announced in November. This is breathtakingly ambitious in scope concerned with economic growth, productivity, the environment in moving to net zero emissions, and covers everything from broadband (£5bn) and buses and cycling (£5bn), creating regional powerhouses and intra City improvements. It backs HS2 but favours phased improvements over the next two decades over the completion of the eastern leg to Leeds. One significant change is the so-called Treasury Green Book, where non monetised economic benefits will be given more weight, allowing arguably greater political direction, which should help the north.

For our area the Sheffield and Leeds City regions will benefit from intra-city transport settlements in 2022-3 onwards. Could we yet see the Leeds Supertram emerge at the third attempt? The West Yorkshire Combined Authority will get £319m including £30m for sustainable travel across Bradford, and Sheffield City

INSIDE PAGES.....

A view on Yorkshire Devolution……...3-4
View from the Chair.....5-6
Beverley's Lockdown Programme…….....7-9
Ripon's Lockdown Programme...…,10-11
Webinars from Historic England……...11
Wetherby's year…..12
Addingham clean up coffee pods.....,..13-14
Adapting to COVID in Dronfield……,...14-15
Heritage walks go online in Horbury….16
Dales development update……..16-17
Grimsby Maltings Report…….....18-20
Beavers to the rescue……...21-22
Ossett Civic Trust revamped……..23-24
Permitted Development Concerns ……..24
Selby book……..25
Remembrance Day tribute in Pontefract26
Pontefract Shop Window Competition ……...27
Next YHACS Meeting……..28
Future Events.....26

Region £171m for a new bus rapid transport link. Road schemes include the A1 from Doncaster to Darrington. The delayed Integrated Rail Plan is promised by the Government over the next few months together with an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy and a Transport Decarbonisation Plan.





Reaction has been on the basis that the strategy does not go far enough and disappointment that there is not a clear statement in favour of HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail – a series of schemes developed by Transport for the North to improve connectivity in the region. Yorkshire and Humber seems to be offered a choice, HS2 or connectivity within the region, at least in the early phases. It was hoped TfN would be an influential body, made up of Local Authority Leaders and Local Enterprise Partnership Chairman across the North of England and was put on a statutory footing a few years ago. The current Secretary of State Grant Shapps seems keener on a new body, the Northern Transport Acceleration Council, set up last summer at the same time the £589m trans-Pennine upgrade was announced (that's the Leeds - Huddersfield - Manchester one through Diggle). I have seen no evidence it has done anything, or even met as a body yet. TfN has just suffered a 40% cut to its core budget, which puts into doubt plans to roll out smart ticketing and contactless pay as you go travel across the region. This may be interpreted as a weakening of the commitment to the levelling up agenda or it may be an early sign of a new round of austerity.

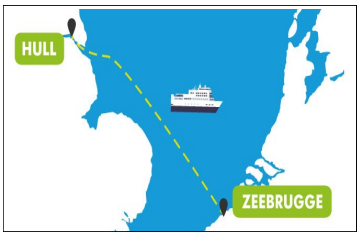
Yorkshire and Humber seems to be offered a choice; HS2 or connectivity within the region, at least in the early phases.

Business and Local Authority Leaders have put a lot of emphasis both on HS2 and the need for connectivity in the region. There is no doubt HS2 would be an economic driver for Sheffield and Leeds and places that could connect to it easily, potentially for example Bradford – that's where Northern Powerhouse Rail comes in. Places it misses out, or rather further afield in the region such as Grimsby, Hull and Scarborough might find the benefits more illusory. (And it only works with the predicted passenger numbers if Crossrail 2 is built, a further slug of investment in the south east).

It's not all about trains. Prior to the pandemic bus passenger journeys were falling about 1% a year after many years of growth but still 4.8 billion journeys a year. Rail was 3.2 billion, smaller but rising 2-3% a year. Those figures have plummeted over the last 12 months. What will be the new normal?

Most of the urban areas in the region are committed to reducing the need for travel and the number of private car journeys especially at peak times. This needs greater integration of land use and transport plans, and investment and encouragement of bus travel, train, light rail and the environmentally very sustainable modes of walking and cycling. The age of the car is not yet over, cars, vans and taxis account for 83% of the passenger kilometres travelled in Great Britain. The roll out of electric charging points and potential price reductions in mass produced electric vehicles will also need to be factored in. Yorkshire and the Humber was bottom of the UK league table for electric vehicle charging devices in the last published figures (2018).

These notes have conveniently ignored freight, air travel and shipping routes,



with at least one important route suspended (Hull-Zeebrugge).

We await the next round of Government announcements and look forward to schemes moving from aspiration and planning to being built on the ground, hopefully after proper debate and consultation. At YHACS we are committed to reviewing those issues that affect the region as a whole and would welcome the further thoughts of individual societies on the transport issues that are of strategic importance – please email me with your feedback at treasurer@yhacs.org.uk

Ref 1 - Article by Geoff Hughes, Huddersfield Civic Society - Insight, Vol 16, Issue 3, pages 8-9

Alan Goodrum

A View On Yorkshire Devolution

Editor's note
This article by Richard Taylor, Vice Chair of Ripon Civic Society, is a personal view of the Yorkshire Devolution issue, and was received in November

You may know that some of us are concerned with the devolution debate here in North Yorkshire.

This is becoming somewhat polarised as seems to be the norm these days - Brexit, US politics etc. Some of us favour the single North Yorkshire + York model whereas others go for an east-west split of the County *(left)*. I see Sheila Clark from Skipton CS in the autumn YHACS newsletter raises anxieties about the bigger model.



I'd like to put forward the opposite case and the letter below has gone to Luke Hall MP who is the government minister who has to make the unenviable decision next year. I should add that I have written this in a personal capacity as Ripon Civic Society is not taking a formal view, but my sense is that these thoughts are widely shared.

Dear Minister

I strongly support North Yorkshire County Council's position on this and hope that the Government is minded to opt for the County-plus-York model under a combined authority with an executive mayor. To me this is the only sensible option for a number of reasons which are well set out in the report to the NYCC Executive some while ago.

As a former local government officer working latterly for Leeds City Council I can well see the benefits of operating at a sufficient scale to deliver strategically and economically and with the resources to employ the best staff. We already have a well-performing County Council and it makes no sense to talk of splitting it in two nor of trying to persuade the existing unitary of York to join with others. In contrast the present districts are too small to function adequately and the 20% of local government which they provide would be much better done at county level. The metro mayor idea also makes sense as this is the level at which lobbying of central government looks from elsewhere to be most effective. Added to that, the refocusing of the LEP to cover York & North Yorkshire brings their work in alignment with the proposed combined authority.



Some naysayers warn of a "mega" authority out of touch with the remoter parts of a large area. This has traction with some and can be expected to feature in the decisions of some voters further down the line. It needs exposing as a fallacy because a relatively large geographical area or one with a large population does not inevitably mean more remote local government nor does a smaller one mean that all residents feel listened to. Part of this is about getting the "feel' right in any reorganisation and the key is to think about identity. As a resident of Ripon I identify with that city as my home town. If asked by someone from outside the area where is Ripon I would then say that it's in North Yorkshire, again an area with which I can identify. What I don't say is that I am from the "Harrogate District" - an entirely meaningless concept dreamt up in 1974. The same lack of identity would apply if the County were split into two. I cannot imagine saying that I live in North Yorkshire West or whatever awkward name might be proposed.

To reinforce the case for the single-county option I welcome the inclusion in North Yorkshire's proposals for greater partnership working with the lowest level of local government, the parishes, and in particular with the larger ones - the town councils or in the case here in Ripon, a city council. I would like to see this aspect given even more prominence so as to bring home the benefits of what well-run local councils can and should deliver. It is notable in this area that Harrogate (the town) is not parished and that much of what its councillors and residents seem to value, chiefly its parks and open spaces, could just as well be managed by a town council raising the appropriate precept. They could even call it the Borough of Harrogate if that makes them happier and then they would be getting back something of the feel of the pre-1974 autonomy which some remember with affection. I have suggested to NYCC that it would be good to spell out a little more how the active town councils would be supported and how the area committees would relate to them. More explicit Government backing for the role of active parishes would be helpful too. Devolution, especially the double devolution advocated by North Yorkshire, is in my view essential if we are to see success here.

…..It is vital that North Yorkshire County Council is not broken up and its expertise and energy dissipated.

There is a useful report by the York and North Yorkshire LEP on 21st Century Towns: https://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/YNYER-Future-Towns-Report-Final-December-2019.pdf This provides much practical advice on what North Yorkshire's smaller towns might achieve. Ripon unfortunately comes bottom of the class and the report has proven a wake-up call for all to start delivering here. I am delighted to see the County's support for this approach through its market towns fund. Moneys being made available from this combined with match funding from the LEP and a smaller contribution from Harrogate BC is now allowing for the Ripon Renewal Project to be launched in the New Year.

If North Yorkshire is allowed to remain as a single entity and strengthened with the full range of local government responsibilities we can expect more such initiatives in the County. It is vital that North Yorkshire County Council is not broken up and its expertise and energy dissipated. I commend their proposals to you.

Richard Taylor

View From The Chair



Fears for Tiers

Let me begin by wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

As I write this, the Covid vaccines are being rolled out and, although the number of new cases continues to rise, there is room for some optimism: 2021 should be the year when we see things finally start to return to something like how they used to be, even if things are never quite the same as they were before.

Right now, though, we find ourselves back in national lockdown – lockdown mark 3 – with no clear idea of when the restrictions on movement will be eased, nor what will replace them. Will there be a complete end to lockdown, or will we see a gradual easing of the bonds as we work our way down through the tiers on a region by region, town by town basis? Time will tell.

What is clear is that we are not yet in a position to resume face-to-face meetings. This means that the YHACS Annual General Meeting on 30th January will be held on-line via Zoom and we are working on the basis that our Spring meeting, scheduled for 24th April and being hosted in partnership with Beverley Civic Society, will also be a Zoom affair. We've still to find a co-host for the Summer meeting but I'd be prepared to put money on that one also being on-line.

I think it's fair to say that the civic society movement has come a long way in the last 12 months. After the initial shock of the first lockdown had subsided, many civic societies realised that they would have to move on-line if they were to continue any sort of operational business and it was good to see more and more societies taking the plunge as the year went on. My own society at Wakefield were early movers – we held our first committee meeting on-line at the end of March 2020 and our first members' event in mid-April with our AGM. We've not looked back since and we are currently running our autumn/ winter talks programme exclusively on-line via Zoom and Vimeo.

And we are not alone!

As some of the articles in this edition of the newsletter attest, other civic societies followed in our footsteps and, in so doing, have, like us, learned new skills and techniques. Far from being a washout, going on-line has turned 2020 into quite a busy and productive year for many of our societies and, while it might not have been 'business as usual', much business has, nonetheless been done.

As you know, YHACS has also made good use of Zoom, both for committee meetings and for our quarterly events, and the success of our on-line experience raises interesting questions about how much of our activity will continue to be on-line going forward, even when the virus epidemic has been contained. Certainly, our committee meetings have been transformed – and holding them on-line makes them so much more cost-effective in terms of both time and money.



A new committee for the new year

The Annual General Meeting is the point on the calendar when we elect (or re-elect) our committee members. As usual, I put out the call for people to contact me if they were at all interested in joining the committee. Often, that call goes unanswered but this year, with only a hint of arm-twisting, I'm delighted to say that three new people have come forward to join the committee! I'll say more about who they are at the AGM when I formally propose them for election, but I think the fact that we have found new volunteers is another reason for us to be optimistic about the future.

Finding new committee members for voluntary organisations is a perpetual challenge and one I am sure with which many of you can identify. In recent years, YHACS has stepped in twice to prevent member societies from closing down because they hadn't been able to find suitable candidates to serve on their committees and we have also given advice and support to other societies that were struggling. But that does not mean we have all the answers – we are not even immune ourselves from the problems of finding new people to fill posts.

On a personal note, the coming AGM will see me complete 10 years as chair of YHACS (doesn't time fly?), but I will also complete my first three-year term as chair of the association since we changed the constitution in 2017. Under those changes, while other committee members and officers continue to be elected for one-year term and are eligible to be re-elected each year with no limits on how long they serve in total, the constitution now sets a *maximum* period of two consecutive three-year terms for anyone acting in the role of chair.

Unfortunately (for me!), no one has yet come forward to take over as chair (although there's still time if you're interested!) so it does look as if I shall be serving a further, but final, three-year term. The changes we made to the constitution were intended to force regime change and to prevent one person 'being it' for ever. So, if I am re-elected as chair on 30th January, it will be for the last time and this presents YHACS with a challenge of finding a successor who will be ready and willing to step up when I step down three years from now.

Yes, we have a maximum of three years to find that successor – or less, of course, if I were to step down mid-term. But this shouldn't be seen as a problem to be addressed *just* by members of the YHACS committee; succession planning is something that should occupy the thoughts of *all* our members.

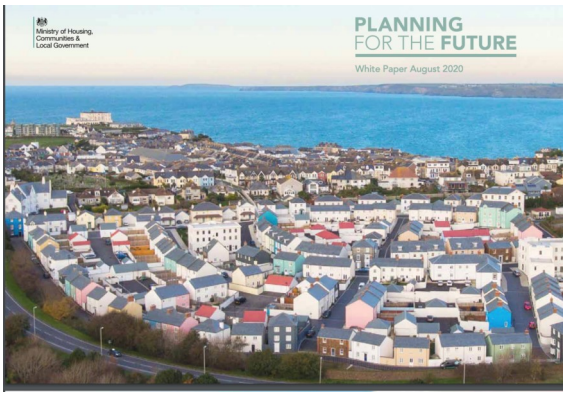
If you value what YHACS does and want to see it continue to succeed in the long term, it is essential that you help us to find someone new to take over when I finally lay down my gavel and I call on you now to join in that search.

Kevin Trickett MBE
Chair

BEVERLEY CIVIC SOCIETY IN LOCKDOWN

'Lockdown' started in March 2020, although the Prime Minster and the Health Secretary disagree about the exact date, which will exercise future historians.

Beverley Civic Society moved to electronic communication with meetings on Zoom from May 4th for the committees, the public meetings, planning officers and architects, while all newsletters went on line, a steep learning curve for most of us. We tried to keep in touch with our members, and although we had to cancel some events, such as the summer excursion to Shibden Hall, we seem to have succeeded, as we received compliments for our efforts, and gained new members.



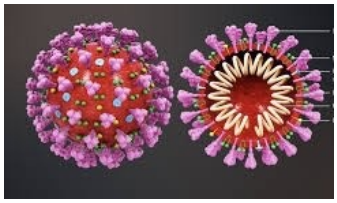
We also benefitted from the webinars offered by YHACS and Civic Voice, particularly on the Planning White Paper and on social media possibilities, and these learning sessions were actually easier for us to access without long journeys.

We increased our number of newsletters, usually quarterly, by adding nine Specials. These took the form of illustrated quizzes, many with local links. The later Specials included local walks not needing transport to the starts, illustrated by maps, pictures of interesting details en route, and 'fly throughs' from Google Earth, so that the routes could be traced as if the viewer was a bird. In a summer when more people than ever walked around our commons and our footpaths, some members who could no longer walk far said they were delighted to take these virtual walks. For the last Special before Christmas, we concentrated on two Percy castles close to Beverley, Leconfield and Wressle. If you would like to see these newsletters go to our website www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk scroll down the first page to 'Newsletters' superimposed on a picture of Beverley Beck, and choose a Special – nos. 7 and 8 for walks, no. 9 for the Castle Christmas *(see note on right)*.



Wressle Castle, opening page of our Christmas newsletter.
Photo courtesy of Kloskk Tyrer

In the summer, you may remember, the plague waned temporarily and by September there were so few cases here that we ran a tailored version of Heritage Open Days. Fortunately the theme chosen by London was 'Hidden Nature' so we had already planned to open a large number of gardens in



Special Newsletters on website

No.7 is 16th Nov 2020
No.8 is 24th Nov 2020
No.9 is 17th Dec 2020

addition to our two great churches, guildhall, friary, and a friendly inn. As it turned out we had 21 events.





Heritage Open days 2020

Photos courtesy of Barbara English

We opened with a socially distanced talk in St Mary's church on 'Lost Gardens of Beverley' for 60, the maximum number allowed, greatly over-subscribed. HOD took extra work this year and some sleepless nights to ensure social distancing, hand washing and careful recording of visitors. The sun shone, and people were so delighted to be outside in lovely places, that we got a record number of visits, over 8000 in two days. London HODs HQ is always helpful, providing insurance, great advice and material: they appreciated our efforts and Beverley became a promoted case study, now online on the national website.



St Mary's Beverley, HODs 2020, the Vicar (L) & City of Culture volunteers.

Photo courtesy of Roland Deller



The second wave returned, and as Christmas approached, we decided to produce a calendar entitled 'Deserted Beverley', showing our streets without cars and pedestrians in early summer. It was the first time that we had produced a calendar and thought we might sell 100 copies. In fact we sold 680 copies and raised funds for the Society and also £1,600 for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance charity. We received a lot of local publicity and calendars have been sent as far afield as Panama, USA & Canada, and New Zealand & Australia. The venture was such a success that we are considering doing a 2022 calendar but hopefully with a more uplifting theme.

The calendar cover picture is below:





We were also offered the windows and door of an empty shop *(above)* for a six month display of the work of the Society in its 60th year.

We will refresh the contents of the windows each month as we have a big story to tell about the Society's past successes and future plans. The current displays show the History Boards which we continued to design and put up around town in lockdown, the calendar 'Deserted Beverley' and guides to our Elwell Trail, with six new pictures added this year. The display brought us a new member on day one and many positive comments from the townsfolk.

What will happen in 2021?



Très riches heures du duc de Berri (January)

Wiki Commons

When eventually we can go back to live events instead of virtual we believe there will be a great increase in involvement for societies such as ours, as we all need to enjoy each other's company and interests – for real. We are looking forward to welcoming YHACS to Beverley in April for the regional meeting expecting this to be a virtual rather than physical event.

Meanwhile, here is a famous picture of a Twelfth Night feast, shown in our Special December Newsletter to illustrate our East Yorkshire castles' Twelfth Nights, to wish our fellow YHACS members -

A Happy New Year



Chris Burrows

What We Did In 2020 …..And Look Likely To Be Doing For A While longer



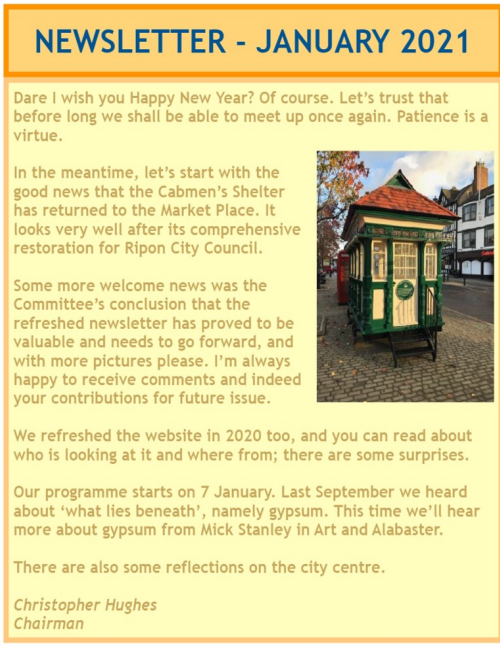
From the start of Lockdown 1 to the end of April, we pondered.

Enough of this we thought and worked out how to get our Committee together again, or rather staring at each other across a Teams screen. After commiserating about the cancellations of talks and visits it dawned on us that if we could be online, how do we use this for our members?

In three ways…..

A new member of the Committee (and his wife with great IT skills) totally revamped our website paying due attention, of course, to Wakefield's. Do have a look at www.riponcivicsociety.org.uk

A newsletter? There had been one but it had lapsed a couple of years ago. So we started again and have found the momentum to produce a bi-monthly edition. We've just published the fifth. It goes to all members online or by post. It's on our website too.



NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2021

Dare I wish you Happy New Year? Of course. Let's trust that before long we shall be able to meet up once again. Patience is a virtue.

In the meantime, let's start with the good news that the Cabmen's Shelter has returned to the Market Place. It looks very well after its comprehensive restoration for Ripon City Council.

Some more welcome news was the Committee's conclusion that the refreshed newsletter has proved to be valuable and needs to go forward, and with more pictures please. I'm always happy to receive comments and indeed your contributions for future issue.

We refreshed the website in 2020 too, and you can read about who is looking at it and where from; there are some surprises.

Our programme starts on 7 January. Last September we heard about 'what lies beneath', namely gypsum. This time we'll hear more about gypsum from Mick Stanley in Art and Alabaster.

There are also some reflections on the city centre.

Christopher Hughes
Chairman

Then, how do we hold meetings for our members? Our September event was to be with the British Geological Survey on what lies beneath Ripon - gypsum. All you'll ever need to know about sinkholes, and more. They were happy to present to us online; so we had to work out how to do that with Zoom. They also suggested having the event recorded; so we had to work out how to do this too. Editing skills, Vimeo subscriptions and uploading presented themselves. We got better with our second recording. All credit to Kevin Trickett for guiding us along the way.

What have we learned?

Grey hair should be no obstruction to gaining new skills. More important is that

we've lost contact with some members by being online. How do we keep in effective contact with those members that, for whatever reason, are not and are unlikely ever to be online? The world kept going on. Over 2020 we've been involved (online of course) with Homes England and their proposal for redeveloping Ripon Barracks for 1300 homes (and some other facilities). As some of our members wrote much of the Ripon Neighbourhood Plan we have an obligation to make the most of this. Our neighbourhood plan promoted a new village, will we just get another blob of suburbia?

Then Ripon Cathedral's Chapter published proposals for a substantial extension to accommodate all the clutter and activities that get in the way of appreciating this wonderful building. We've yet to arrive at a view but with the Cathedral's Fabric Commission for England, and Historic England high up in the pecking order we've a bit of time before we make what will be one of our more important responses.

And then there's local government re-organisation for North Yorkshire. What's the best unitary arrangement for Ripon? What do other civic societies in the county think for their towns? Anyway, a busy year in Ripon, if unexpected.

Christopher Hughes
Chair, Ripon Civic Society

HISTORIC ENGLAND WEBINARS

ILKLEY CIVIC SOCIETY

'Historic England have produced a whole range of webinars over the summer, all of which are recorded and can be viewed at any time by anyone. Google 'Historic England webinars' takes you to the right bit of the HE website and lists of the webinars appear under three subheadings:

- **Technical Tuesdays**
- **Climate Fridays**
- **Older webinars**

Subjects are wide ranging and mostly are of subjects very relevant to the work of Civic Societies - just occasionally they can be a bit technical but that's the nature of some subjects.

I have viewed two under the topic '*Climate change adaption*' the first being on '*Low carbon heat sources*' and second on '*Windows & energy efficiency*' and one on '*Flooding*'.

Now that winter is approaching and it's less attractive to get outside, well worth finding a subject that interests you and have a try.'

https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/training-skills/online-training/webinars/

David Blackburn,
Ilkley Civic Society

Wetherby Civic Society's Year

Despite the lockdowns and being in Tiers 2 and 3, Wetherby Civic Society has continued many of our activities in 2020 to maintain our lovely market town for future generations.



Prime amongst these was in fighting Taylor Wimpey who plan to build 800 houses on the other side of the A1 motorway and sell these as being in Wetherby. Unfortunately this site is part of a 1,100 house allocation in Leeds local plan, which with other developments will result in Wetherby growing by 30%. The Leeds Planning Committee also thought this was a poor location, and delayed approval by 15 months. Unfortunately, the Lockdown resulted in Leeds Committee meetings being held via ZOOM and thus the power of excited protestors swaying the Committee was eliminated. This, plus the threat of appealing for non determination, allowed the developer and Leeds planners to obtain outline approval in July. We are now involved in being consulted on the style and composition of the estate.

As ever we have tried to maintain parts of the town, arranging to have a leaning tree pulled upright, cutting back ivy overwhelming a bridge across the defunct railway (see picture above of Chairman Roger Taylor in action) and repainting a rusty sign. Members are researching the old yards of Wetherby and the history of working men's clubs in Wetherby . Our monthly slot on local radio (Tempo FM) was mainly maintained but often by telephone into the studio. Our website continues to be updated and is frequently visited

Committee meetings have continued, albeit using ZOOM, which is just not the same. We cancelled all meetings, visits and our tours of Wetherby, but are now in the process of arranging the events for 2021, hoping that we can start again in May.

Peter Catton
Vice Chairman

FANCY A COFFEE!

We are all very familiar with the many and varied available recycling initiatives and if you are like me I'm sure you will try your very best to comply!

Well, there is perhaps a lesser known problem associated with the amount of coffee we all drink and it concerns those pesky used coffee pods….. So, as you would expect being very, very environmentally friendly here in Addingham, we've been doing our bit!

The piece below was written for our last Monthly Newsletter and more or less says it all:

Exciting developments on the coffee pod recycling front. As previously reported, concern has been growing about the damaging environmental impact of single-use coffee pods, many of which end up in landfill. In the UK we drink 95 million cups of coffee daily and use over 300 million coffee pods every year. Pods can take up to 500 years to break down in landfill.

Recycling schemes do exist, but don't cover all brands and require delivery to various locations such as some supermarkets. To encourage recycling in the village, the Society runs a local collection scheme for Tassimo and L'Or pods under an initiative run by recycling organisation Terracycle. - a Society member acting as a drop-off point for used pods, then taking them to a Terracycle collection point in Pudsey near Leeds for onward recycling.

The recently opened ***Pura eco shop*** *in the village also acts as a drop-off point, and the school has been saving up their own used pods as well. Whilst the local scheme has been successful (10 bin bags full have just been delivered to Terracycle), a greater impact could be made with simpler arrangements covering more brands.*



So, a proposed new national recycling scheme by the manufacturers of the UK's three biggest coffee pod brands, announced recently, is great news. Nestlé, the owner of ***Nespresso*** *and* ***Nescafé Dolce Gusto****, and* ***Jacobs Douwe Egberts*** *which makes* ***Tassimo****, are next year launching the first national system to make it easier and more convenient for consumers to recycle pods.*

The new scheme – called ***Podback*** *- aims to involve local Councils collecting pods along with other household recycling, as well as a network of drop-off points (6,500 nationally) operated by delivery company Yodel.*

Just click on this link for further details.
Nestlé joins others to set up first UK-wide coffee pod recycling scheme | Nestlé | The Guardian

The new national scheme will make current schemes run by Terracycle/Tassimo and others redundant - but that's good! It should really encourage increased levels of coffee pod recycling in the village and nation-wide.

I have already written to Bradford Council welcoming the announcement and hoping that they will be an early adopter of the new scheme. Hopefully, the scheme will start locally as early as possible in 2021 and help the village and the Society to drive forward the growing focus on recycling and sustainability.



In the meantime, the Society's scheme will continue (Tassimo/L'Or pods only), but if possible, residents could collect and store their own pods ready for the new scheme to start – fingers crossed!

The accompanying photograph shows the pile of bin liners before being delivered to Terracycle. These pods were collected over a 12-month period, yep that's all! Seems an awful lot for a village with a tad under 4000 residents does it not!

Jim Robinson

2020 - A Year Like No Other

The year began so well!

On January 11th 2020, with colleagues from the Don Catchment Rivers Trust, Dronfield Civic Society organised what turned out to be one of the biggest events in the history of the organisation.



More than fifty volunteers including young children with their parents, students, Councillors and residents tackled the clean-up of a section of our local river – the Drone. From car tyres to wet wipes, pieces of metal to piles of plastic, the rubbish pile grew ever higher and the river looked so much better afterwards.

In February we held a very successful Speaker Meeting on the subject of Modern Grouse Moor Management. The presentation, given by four gamekeepers, all wearing tweeds was informative and interesting.

Then everything stopped!

For our Society lockdown meant no Committee meetings, no Speaker meetings, no practical work and a feeling that we'd lost our visibility in the town. We realised that this could go on for quite some time, so we began to read about what YHACS and other Civic Societies were doing to keep things going.

Grappling with technology like Zoom, we began to use it quite successfully for Management Committee meetings with the added benefit that our somewhat lengthy face-to-face meetings were now much shorter and recording the meetings made minute taking a whole lot easier. One drawback however was that Zoom tended to exclude those with hearing difficulties which made it impossible for one member to take part.

By the time it got to October we felt confident enough to hold our Annual General Meeting via Zoom as well as a trial Speaker Meeting for members. Attendance via Zoom was somewhat disappointing, with our largest audience being just fifteen.

Because we felt that the visibility of the Society had worsened through the year, keeping in touch with members using email and postal updates as well as making sure the Society newsletter *(right)* presented as much information as possible became important for our survival.


Dronfield Civic Society
Caring for our local environment since 1989
Welcome to the December newsletter
Planning for the Future Whilst Remembering the Past

Some practical work was able to continue such as the refurbishment of a K6 telephone kiosk for conversion to a Book Exchange *(right)*. Sadly, some of our work this year has been associated with rectifying acts of vandalism in the town. Our next project will be the renovation of a Ruston & Hornsby petrol pump that was once part of the local street scene adjacent to one of the oldest Inns in the town.



Whilst we have been less visible in the town, work to monitor planning applications has continued. Recently we had a case where a building with local heritage interest, 'slipped through the net'. It seems neighbour notices were not displayed and the application was missed from the usual planning lists provided by the local authority. Unfortunately, the plans to redevelop this particular building, which was listed in our adopted Neighbourhood Plan as a character building and structure, were approved before we were aware of them. Whilst issues around Covid were possible reasons for these errors, it caused us to consider whether Civic Societies should be statutory consultees in the planning process and maybe there would have been a different outcome in this case if we had been.



The North East Derbyshire Local Plan is at Main Modification stage in the Examination process. This has resulted in a significant amount of involvement by the Civic Society both at the Hearings in October 2018 and also in what will be the last public consultation. The work is seen as very important as we seek to protect the Green Belt which surrounds the town from housing development.

So as we approach 2021, with vaccines becoming available, can we expect a return to normal for Dronfield Civic Society? We hope so as we plan to hold a "proper" Annual General Meeting and Evening of Celebration, to recognise those individuals and groups who have contributed to making Dronfield a better place in which to live in spite of the difficulties in 2020. If we had a New Year Resolution, it would be to be visible again!

John Hinchcliffe



Horbury Civic Society Beat The Odds To Deliver Heritage Walks

In August we thought it would be possible, but in early September we knew it wasn't, and so we cancelled our Heritage Weekend. But we thought outside the box and delivered our centrepiece Heritage Walks in a new way.

Helen Bickerdike is a Society member who runs the Horbury and Sitlington History group and she is a mine of information on our heritage buildings and other heritage assets. In normal years Helen would lead three or four walks during heritage weekend and reveal the stories behind the building facades.

But this time, due to lockdown restrictions, she couldn't do that and so she has made a video of the walks and the talks. This focusses on our sixteen QR code blue plaques, and if you didn't know, a QR code links to a website wherein a wealth of information becomes available. They are far cheaper and much more informative that traditional blue plaques which can provide a few dozen words at best.



Helen's great work is here. https://horburycivicsociety.org.uk/qr-code-trail-virtual-tour/

Please visit and enjoy and get in touch if you would like more information on our QR code blue plaque project.

Graham Roberts

Horbury Civic Society

01924 374293

info@horburycivicsociety.org.uk

Linton School Camp Site Development ….An Update

Going into a New Year, all kinds of hopes for the future are anticipated. As a half pint-full person, even I have to admit to being somewhat troubled this year. Not just because of the continuing challenges caused by the ongoing and far-reaching COVID-19 situation, but because of the mysteries of the decisions made by the planning officers and committees. In both of these situations, patience is required. Not one of my enduring qualities.

For the first, I have developed new routines encompassing exercise to help body and mind, cooking to develop gastronomy expertise and trying for the last time, to learn how to draw (then paint) which for me is a mental stimulation and a lesson in the patience department! It also keeps me occupied and quiet for about three hours ……

For the second, despair. I have wondered if it's because we are in the National Park that seemingly logical and viable requests are turned down and yet those which appear monstrous and completely out of kilter and keeping are allowed? There must be some reason(s) to explain the inexplicable?

A year ago, I wrote a piece on this Planning Proposal.

Former Linton School Camp Site, Linton



Application number: C/50/46L
Proposal: Full planning permission for demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of the site for tourist accommodation
Date Received: 26/11/2018
Consultation End: 07/02/2019
Decision: Not yet decided

It has dragged on and on, with much opposition. At various stages I have written to the planners asking why there has been no decision. The standard response is that they are awaiting amendments to the proposal.

Finally, on 25th September 2020, nearly two years after the date the proposal was received, those who had sent in objections received an email. The Planning Committee was to consider it at a meeting held by video conference on Tuesday 6th October. A report from the Planning Officer was attached. It included a recommendation, but the actual decision will be made by Members of the Authority.

Amongst the objections, came a comprehensive 20-page Objection from Linton Parish Council citing that the scale of the development (almost 7000 m2 of floorspace) was wholly excessive and inappropriate for this rural location within the Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNP). Government planning policy advises that such major development should be refused in National Parks unless there are exceptional circumstances. No such circumstances exist. Planning legislation defines major developments as providing more than 1000 m2.

I will keep this short. Application was approved at planning committee and the local press reported it had gone through that same week. In actual fact, the YDNP website still held the decision as Not Yet Decided. I enquired as to why this was. The response was that there were still quite a few things to resolve before the decision could be issued.

Despite my request for more information on 3rd December, none has been received. Trying to see if the website could give me an updated report today, I find nothing there under C/50/46L It would appear as if the Linton Hotel Spa will be built.

Judith Blackburn



GRIMSBY'S WEST HAVEN MALTINGS AND GARTH BUILDINGS

The derelict state of Grimsby's West Haven Maltings and Garth Buildings (Grade II Listed buildings 1379841, since 1875) fronting the River Freshney in the town centre, have been the subject of much discussion for many, many years. West Haven was Grimsby's early port, before the dock extensions to the north were created from 1800 onwards – so these building predate the current docks on the Humber. The buildings and the land around it were part of ABP land and only recently have been made available for redevelopment into a much needed showcase' centre.



The map shows the area circled on one side of the River Freshney, the other bank being a main road through town and Freshney Place shopping centre. The current docks are much further north.

Executive Committee members were pleased to accept an invitation to make a site visit to the West Haven Maltings on a bright morning in September. West Haven Maltings and Garth Buildings (with Haven Mill) are what remains of Grimsby's earliest dock. Derelict and much-commented on for many, many years, the area is now subject to much needed development as part of Grimsby's Government funded New Deal. The whole project is being managed by ENGIE on behalf of North East Lincolnshire Council with Topcon contracted for the initial stage of 'repair and make safe' the fire-damaged, derelict buildings which front the River Freshney and back onto Garth Lane. GCdCSs Committee members were given a tour of the site by Project Leader Stephanie Ledgerwood and Topcon's site Manager. It came as no surprise to learn that this first stage was taking much longer than initially contracted for – given the technical complications found along the way (not least by Grade 2 Listing) as well as restrictions imposed by Covic-19!

During our visit, it was clear that much more remedial work has yet to be carried out before either building is near completion. We thanked our guides for the opportunity to see what was happening – and the opportunity to see parts of Grimsby from a height not normally accessible!

• Contractors Topcon Construction have the task of carrying out the safe Guarding and repairs on the site, prior to being occupied by OnSide Youth Zone and university campus as part of Grimsby's £88m Town Deal

• 'Safeguarding' involved the removal of tons of bird debris at the very start!

• The already-derelict Maltings were further damaged by arson attacks in 2003, 2005 and 2009

• The Maltings have no footings and will have to be partially removed before under-pinning and rebuilding 'as is'

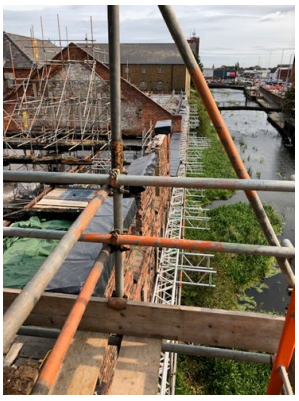
• Builders have the specialist task of laying bricks without plumb lines and right angles in order to produce a safe building which was not originally built 'on the true'

• Although the buildings will be developed for 21st century use, they will have parts exposed and saved artifacts incorprated into designs to portray the buildings' 'story'

• The town centre part of the River Freshney will have in total, 5 bridges over it: New Cartergate footbridge (as at present), Alexandra Road (as at present), Haven Mill footbridge (as at present), OnSide Youth Zone footbridge (new/refurbished), new 5-metre wide footbridge centrepiece into Garth Lane and Fisherman's Wharf area



1



2

Fig 1 - Committee members on their socially distanced tour next to the R. Fishney. Seen here inside Garth Buildings, a kitchen and bathroom centre until its closure in the 1980s.

Fig 2 - the wall in danger of collapse seen inside the maltings building



3



4

Fig 3 - Evidence of the ferocious fire from over 10 years ago which brought about the building's rapid decline

Fig 4 - Another view of the charred beams from inside the maltings - this time looking towards Fishing Heritage centre



5



6

Fig 5 - Internal scaffolding used to try to prevent the wall's collapse.

Fig 6 - Socially distanced discussions.



7



8

Fig 7 - View towards Grimsby Minster from inside the Maltings….

Fig 8 - ...and looking the other way towards Riverhead and showing footbridge which, after refurbishment will become a new entrance to the Youth Zone and the (now demolished) footbridge towards Fishing Heritage Centre which is to be replaced with a much wider bridge for better access.



9

Fig 9 - Viewfrom the very top of the Maltings towards the Fishing Heritage Centre, showing the area of developmental land between Garth Lane and the area occupied by amongst others the Fishing Heritage Centre and Sainsbury's Supermarket.
(Note the imposing building centre-back - Victoria Mill - another of Grimsby's listed buildings.)

Current update







Further info:

- https://www.onsideyouthzones.org/the-youth-zone-model/our-youth-zones/

- https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1379841

Alan Nicholson and Sue Milsom

BEAVERS BOOST PICKERING'S 'SLOWING THE FLOW' SCHEME

As a continuation of the successful Slowing the Flow scheme in Pickering, Forestry England released two beavers in a secure enclosure in April 2019 in Cropton Forest.

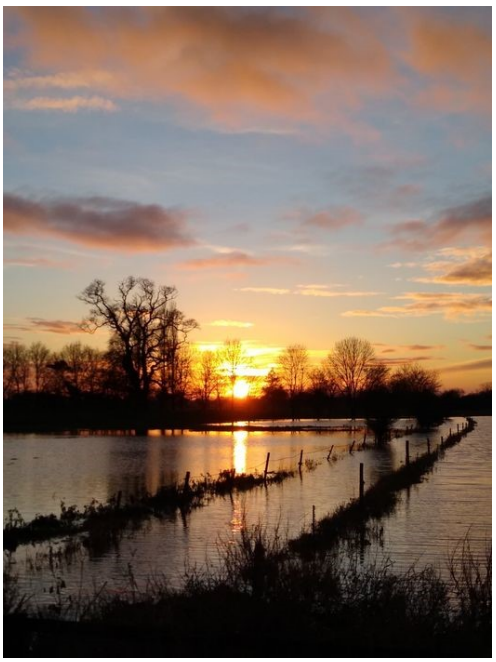


Photo source:

Slowing the Flow Pickering Facebook page: *https://www.facebook.com/groups/532265950888122*

And now in November 2020, they are six. These extraordinary hydraulic engineers have already created their ideal aquatic environment, which fortunately mirrors pretty much the perfect Natural Flood Management (NFM). But won't beavers eat all the fish? No - they're herbivores that are partial to a bit of inner tree bark and aquatic vegetation, but no fish whatsoever. Won't they be yet another Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)? Well hardly, as they were native to, and common in the UK until hunted to extinction in the 16th century by that most ruthless and efficient predator – us humans – mainly for their fur, meat and scent glands.

It's become apparent in recent decades that the way we've been managing land and watercourses for at least the last century has had quite dramatic negative effects in terms of soil fertility, flood risk, diffuse pollution, biodiversity and climate change generally. However, beavers appear to manage their environment in an ideal way to provide significant benefits in all these aspects, without being on the payroll. Their impact on even relatively small areas is quite astounding and quite rapid. It has been clearly observed that within a few years, beavers can turn a simple watercourse into a complex network of braided streams and dams, which provide temporary floodwater storage, attenuate and delay flood peaks and reduce sedimentation – all key elements of Flood Risk Management (FRM), while also removing diffuse pollution. They have even been seen to develop green oases in desert areas and create effective wildfire breaks and refuges for other animals. Win, win, win, although the latter are perhaps of less importance in the current North Yorkshire climate.



Beaver with kit
Photo courtesy of
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tayside_Beaver_mother_and_kit_June_5,_2010_Ray_Scott.jpg

Beavers are mainly nocturnal members of the rodent family, who engineer wonderful semi-aquatic habitats in well-wooded riparian (riverside) corridors. They construct lodges to live in, protected by dams with very strong walls built from interwoven timber, stones and mud. They fell trees for this purpose by using their incredibly powerful jaws and front teeth to gnaw away the wood and will even excavate canals to transport heavier timbers. Their lodges are also built from interwoven branches, with underwater entrances, keeping them safe from predators. They store caches of food for the winter months, utilising the smaller tree branches and gnawing down (pollarding) smaller saplings. Consequently, they are regarded as a 'keystone' species due to creating this

wetland ecosystem and opening up the tree canopy, which is also perfect for a whole range of other species and biodiversity generally. Yet another win.

Due to the huge amount of work creating their habitat, they are understandably territorial, marking out their territory with 'uniquely scented' mounds of mud and stones. They live in family groups of male, female, kits (babies) and younger offspring. If or when the family group gets too big for their territory to sustain, the offspring will head off along the riparian corridor to find a new territory. Therein lies a problem, in that in common with many people, they don't follow orders, or even sensible instructions, particularly with regard to staying put in what 'we' regard as the right place. This is where beavers may have an unwanted impact on land management - a conflict of interest with farmers and landowners who neither want nor need an aquatic environment. In fact, probably just the opposite – farmers invariably want effective land drainage for food production. With apologies for the mixed metaphor, it's horses for courses. Hence beavers tend to be ideal in the more 'wilderness' upper catchment areas, but unwelcome in intensively farmed or managed areas. Having said that, beavers predominantly manage the riparian corridor only within 10m of the watercourse, although the wider impact clearly depends on topography. Compensating farmers for this limited loss could result in fabulously effective and well managed buffer strips that could attenuate surface flows and significantly reduce nutrient runoff and sediment supply (soil erosion). That land will probably be marginal in productive terms anyway.

If the beavers move to an area where their ecosystem services are unwanted and distinctly counterproductive, they are not only remarkably quick and efficient at building dams and flooding land, but also at rebuilding demolished dams and plugging leaks, hence quickly reflooding the land. The only sure way of stopping this conflict, other than extermination, is to remove the cause i.e. trap and relocate the whole beaver family. Not easy with a group of nocturnal animals, with an extremely good sense of smell and hearing and a very powerful bite.

Fencing them in is effective, but very expensive, with gnaw-proof measures needed to both stop them burrowing under the fence or swimming down or upstream. They're also smart enough to drop a tree on the fence and escape Colditz style.

In summary, beavers are a fabulously cheap and efficient source of creating and maintaining NFM measures, Slowing the Flow and ecosystem improvements – doing the right things in the right places - but they must be effectively managed to avoid doing the wrong things in the wrong places. I can't help but suspect that the human management element will prove to be the weakest link.

Mike Potter

Further information

Beavers

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beaver

https://theconversation.com/beavers-are-set-to-recolonise-the-uk-heres-how-people-and-the-environment-could-benefit-132116

Slowing the Flow Pickering

https://www.facebook.com/groups/532265950888122

Exciting Times at Ossett

Last February, Ossett Civic Trust voted in a new chairman, Chalky Whyte and a new Secretary - me, Phil Waud.

We had both been going to the monthly meetings and wanted to do more but were getting frustrated by slow progress and seemingly discussing the same topics without a conclusion every month. We had some ideas about what we wanted to do to change this, but then two things happened that really put a spanner in the works. The first was of course the global pandemic which immediately stopped the planned activities through the Summer period.

The second was a complaint, or rather two complaints. We were told that the Trust had not had to deal with these before, so we emailed a few other Civic Societies and took advice. We introduced a complaint procedure and then once it was in place, we investigated the two complaints. The amount of time this took was frankly ridiculous and we did not enjoy devoting so much time in such a negative way.

We are closely linked with a local historical Facebook group (many of the Ossett Through The Ages admin team are also members of Ossett Civic Trust), and when someone pointed out that the single surviving phone box in Ossett was a Grade 2 listed building we looked into the idea of adopting it as a showcase (quite literally) for our society. Unfortunately, we couldn't do this as we were not a registered charity. At about this time, Chalky had to hand in his notice as chair because the Covid situation meant he had to change jobs and would no longer be living locally.

Luckily, we found and elected a new chair, Simon Rogers. We also started along the route to becoming a charity by adapting one of the Charity Commission's template constitutions and going through the consultation process necessary to adopt it. We also decided to change our name back to Ossett Civic Society, which is what we were called a couple of decades ago. We now have this new name, a new constitution, quite a few new members and a brand -new website **https://www.ossettcivicsociety.org/**



Through the Summer, our small team has been able to carry out a few small activities such as a litter pick in Ossett (the Council street cleaning team were suspended due to the pandemic), and again prior to the Remembrance Day ceremony. We also worked with members of our community to put up bunting to mark both VE day and VJ day. One of our members, Steve Wilson, has created an Ossett Heritage trail booklet which has had a successful first edition launch. He is now working on a much larger version which we will promote.

We really are eager to get our teeth into bigger projects. The phone box will hopefully be one of them and we are looking at getting local schools to help with next year's Remembrance Day decorations. We also have several blue plaques in the pipeline with two ready to go.

Exciting times ahead at Ossett Civic Society!

Concern over permitted development Proposals

Civic Voice has submitted a consultation response urging the Government to think harder about the plans it has to allow developers to change buildings on our high streets without requiring full planning permission.

The proposals, introduced in the consultation ***'Planning Reform – Supporting housing delivery and public services infrastructure'*** which would enable the change of use of a much wider range of uses commonly found on the high street, to residential use with the need for a full planning application.

The consultation runs until 28 January 2021. View the consultation here: **https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/supporting-housing-delivery-and-public-service-infrastructure/supporting-housing-delivery-and-public-service-infrastructure**

Table 1: Typical high street uses and potential changes to permitted development rights*

*Please note that this is a complex area of changing legislation. This table has been produced in the spirit of helpfulness and does not constitute professional planning or legal advice. Sources consulted include: https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200130/common_projects/9/change_of_use/2 and https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200130/common_projects/9/change_of_use (accessed 14/1/21)

Type of use	*Can it change to housing under PD now?*	*Will it be able to change to housing under proposed new PD rights?*
Shop	Yes (up to 150 sq.m) (until 31 July 2021?)	Yes
Bank	Yes (up to 150 sq.m) (until 31 July 2021?)	Yes
Estate agency	Yes (up to 150 sq.m)	Yes
Offices	Yes (until 31 July 2021?)	Yes
Restaurant	No	Yes
Café	No	Yes
Gym	No	Yes
Crechelday nursery	No	Yes
Day centre	No	Yes
Community centre/hall	No	No
Doctor's surgery/health centre	No	Yes
Dentist	No	Yes
Hairdresser's	Yes (up to 150 sq.m)	Yes
Pub	No	No
Hot food takeaway	No	No
Library	No	No
Post office	Yes (up to 150 sq.m)	Yes
Bookmaker's	Yes (up to 150 sq.m)	Not clear
Charity shop	Yes (up to 150 sq.m)	Yes
Beauty salon	No	No
Travel agent	Yes (up to 150 sq.m)	Yes
Solicitor's	Yes (up to 150 sq.m)	Yes
Hotel	No	No
Pharmacy	Yes, if primarily a shop e.g. Boots (up to 150 sq.m)	Yes
Launderette	Yes?	Not clear
Takeaway food (cold)	Yes (up to 150 sq.m)	Yes
Funeral director's	Yes (up to 150 sq.m	Yes
Optician's	Yes, if primarily a shop? (up to 150 sq.m)	Yes
Florist	Yes (up to 150 sq.m)	Yes
Coffee shop	No	Yes
Off licence	Yes (up to 150 sq.m)	Yes
Cinema	Yes (up to 150 sq.m)	No

4

Civic Voice is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England number 7120540 | Charity registration number 1136679

Civic Voice, The Coffin Works, 13-15 Fleet Street, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham, B3 1JP | www.civicvoice.org.uk | Twitter: @civic_voice

Ian Harvey, Executive Director of Civic Voice, said: *"Civic Voice knows as much as anyone about the challenges facing the high street, but we question claims that these proposals will breathe new life into our high streets and town/city centres. It may instead, simply enable change of use to more profitable uses, often residential, rather than enabling a greater range of uses to diversify and support our high streets and centres. The danger with deregulation is that it can often lead to unscrupulous landowners and developers exploiting loopholes, as we have seen with previous widening of permitted development rights, which the Government's own commissioned report concluded that permitted development rights create 'worse quality residential environments'.*

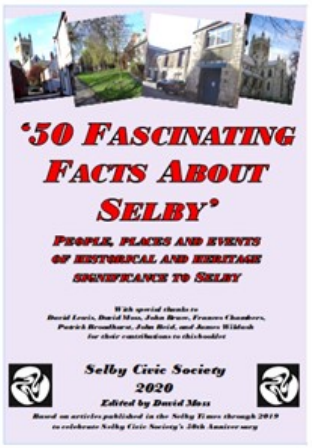
A limited list of prior approval matters may not necessarily secure a high quality residential environment or vibrant, diverse, and planned centres. We are also extremely concerned that unlike some of the recent changes to permitted development rights, this consultation proposes that the new right would apply in conservation areas. We cannot support this policy and will be coordinating a response for all Civic Societies to respond to this consultation."

Editor adapted this article from Civic Voice's Press Release (15 Jan 2021) and related briefing document
http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/news/civic-movement-speaks-out-to-stop-inappropriate-changes-to-high-street-without-planning-permission/

New Selby Book Proves A Winner!

In the Autumn 2020 copy of Insight, I mentioned that Selby Civic Society's new book was about to go on public sale.

I'm pleased to report that, despite COVID Lockdowns 2 and 3, sales have gone well and we've sold 80% of the 200 copies **and** also given each of our member households a free copy - a part compensation for their disrupted 2020 membership.



It's an eclectic miscellany of fifty articles with topics spanning 1000 years of Selby's history and heritage - a few of which are reproduced here.



To obtain a copy while stocks remain email selbycivicsociety@yahoo.co.uk

Copies are £5.00 plus p&p

David Moss

PONTEFRACT CIVIC SOCIETY

WATERFALL OF 1500 POPPIES AND SCHOOLS' DISPLAY OF 200 MORE!

Pontefract Civic Society is proud to say that the poppy display is up on Pontefract Town Hall.



This has been brought together by Pontefract Decoration Squad which operates under the civic society, with contributions from various individuals and community groups including The Barracks Community Association, Friends of Friarwood Valley Gardens, Families and Babies (FAB), Pontefract Heritage Group, Thornycroft, pupils from St Giles C of E Academy, The Princes Trust (Pontefract), Pontefract Lioness Club, Featherstone Brownies & Guides, and civic society members.

Phil Cook, civic society Vice Chair who coordinated the project said, *"This was one of my proudest moments following an overwhelming level of community support. We were also supported by local businesses Tracked Spider Solutions, Crown estate agents, Michelle's Flowers, Pontefract Library, and Wakefield Council. It was humbling to see, and the poppies at the bottom have the names of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for us".*

A second display of a further 200 poppies has been assembled by pupils from Pontefract Academies Trust schools, which has been installed on Valley Road. The idea behind this was to help all the children to learn the meaning behind Remembrance Sunday, Armistice Day, and the significance of the ceremonies and the poppy symbol in a creative and thought provoking way. Pontefract Academies Trust worked in partnership with Pontefract Civic Society and further joint work on other projects will follow. The schools that took part are Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery School; Orchard Head Junior, Infant and Nursery School; De Lacy Primary School; Carleton Park Junior and Infant School; Larks Hill Junior and Infant School; The Rookeries Junior, Infant and Nursery School, who are all part of Pontefract Academies Trust.

Chief Executive Officer of Pontefract Academies Trust, Julian Appleyard OBE said, *"We're incredibly proud to be involved in this tribute to all the fallen soldiers since World War 1 which was 102 years ago. It really has and continues to be a memorable project for all the children, staff, parents and even grandparents to be involved in and has certainly sparked great discussions in all our classrooms and at home too which is so pleasing to hear."*

Phil Cook went onto say, *"Collaborating with young children is a great way to demonstrate the importance of this day. We're very grateful to the children and staff at Pontefract Academies Trust for their contribution to our poppy display. This display compliments the other display on the town hall and truly shows our communities gratitude to our services."*

Other activities will see the civic society Facebook page virtual event on 8th November, there's been a £150 donation to the local RBL branch from ale sales via Amanda Johnson and Dave Dobson at The Old Grocers, and civic society chair, Paul Cartwright has registered for the Royal British Legion's 10K Tommy run (a national campaign), where he's run 40K over 4 weeks raising £375 so far, donations are still welcome.

Paul Cartwright

A Jolly Christmas Gets Pupils Vote In Civic Society Competition

Pontefract Civic Society is proud to announce that Jolly's Café on Ropergate unanimously scoped 1st place in this year's Christmas shop windows competition judged by eight pupils from six schools.

Paul Cartwright, civic society Chair said *"Scoring was very tight at the top, from the decorations presented by 25 businesses which had been selected by us for the pupils judge, the top 10 had additional scrutiny, and the top three were selected who each got a framed certificates".*



Darren Cox and Alison Frankland co-owners of Jolly's of Pontefract are photographed receiving the winner's certificate. Darren said, *"Winning was a lovely surprise as we did the window display to advertise we were open for takeaways, and to make customers aware I'd been busy in lockdown baking Christmas cakes and boozy mince pies.* Alison went on to say, *"Our Christmas cakes are still available, mince pies and homemade cakes are baked daily, and we are hoping to be opening the cafe fully on 19th December until Christmas Eve. After which, we will carry on in the New Year keeping Pontefract well-fed with homemade goodies and a warm friendly welcome".*

Hark Interiors on Ropergate was a very worthy runner up, with Jackie's Florist on Gillygate coming in third place. Others which sparkled included Hollywood Nails, The Hair Lounge, Peter Jones, Maison de Beauté, The Shoe Room, Ego Hairstyling, and Flowerworks.

Paul Cartwright, civic society Chair who coordinated the competition said, *"We all know this has been a very tough year for local businesses, and though some display may have suffered, we were very happy to see around 40 businesses decorated to various degrees, which enabled pupils from St. Giles CofE Academy, and five schools within Pontefract Academies Trust to assess a significant number of Christmas themed displays".*



Richard Grace, St. Giles CofE Head said, *"For Head Boy, Stefan, and Head Girl, Peyton, this was their first role, and they had a fantastic morning, alongside the children from Pontefract Academies Trust".*

Pontefract Academies Trust pupils were recruited through Abi Leung, marketing manager, who said, *"What an exciting morning some of our children had! Thank you to Pontefract Civic Society for the opportunity"*, our representatives came from De Lacy School, Halfpenny Lane School, Orchard Head School, Carleton Park School, and Larks Hill School.

Phil Cook, civic society vice chair made the presentations and is responsible for presentation photography.

Paul Cartwright

YORKSHIRE & HUMBER
Association of Civic Societies

Reg. Charity No. 1112290

www.yhacs.org.uk

Please send any articles, comments, letters or questions to the editor:

David Moss

Tel: 01757 268 418

Email: damoss43@yahoo.co.uk

The Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies (YHACS) is the distinct voice of the civic society movement in the Yorkshire and Humber region, and our vision is to enhance the quality of life for all citizens in the region by engaging citizens not only in the protection of local heritage but also in the promotion of sustainable economic development and urban renaissance.

Future Events/Dates In 2021

Thurs 28th January	**Civic Voice Yorkshire & North East Members' Meeting on (by Zoom) – link here**
Sat 24th April.	**YHACS Spring event in association with Beverley Civic Society (also by Zoom, details later)**

NEXT YHACS MEETING

SATURDAY 30TH JANUARY 2021 2.30- 4:00 PM

AGM & MEMBERS' MEETING
BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

CONTACT: KEVIN TRICKETT ON 01924 361180 OR INFO@YHACS.ORG.UK

Executive Officers, Committee Members and *Portfolios*

- **Chairman,** Kevin Trickett *(Priorities for Growth)*
  kevintrickett@msn.com 01924 361180
- **Vice Chairman,** David Moss *(Newsletter and Communications)*
  damoss43@yahoo.co.uk 01757 268418
- **Secretary,** Helen Kidman *(Planning)*
  helen.kidman3@tbtinternet.com 01943 609154
- **Treasurer,** Alan Goodrum
  alangoodrum@btinternet.com
- **Exec Committee Member,** Malcolm Sharman *(Heritage & Culture)*
  malcsharman@hotmail.com
- **Exec Committee Member,** Tony Leonard
  ad.leonard@btinternet.com 01430 872871
- **Exec Committee Member,** Margaret Hicks-Clarke *(Civic Pride & Engagement)*
  margarethicksclarke@gmail.com 07841802030
- **Exec Committee Member,** Jim Robinson *(Infrastructure)*
  chairman@addinghamcivicsociety.co.uk 01943 831476
- **Exec Committee Member,** Paul Cartwright
  chairman@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk 01977 708658
- **Exec Committee Member,** Martin Hamilton (Housing)
  Martin.Hamilton@leedscivictrust.org.uk
- **Exec Committee Member,** Phyllis Barnes
  phyllisgeoffb@blueyonder.co.uk
- **President,** Peter Cooper *(Website; Towns, Cities & Public Realm)*
  cooperpeter@pobroadband.co.uk 01723 513754