

Civic Voice - the umbrella organisation championing all Civic Societies - has been through a period of radical restructuring recently. The new organisation is eager to see that all who are interested in communities, the built environment and all issues related to planning have an awareness of what the organisation does and perhaps even become involved themselves. Their aim being that by increasing awareness and involvement they will also increase their impact. Wimborne Civic Society fully supports their aims, to this end here is their latest newsletter (below).

Subject: CIVIC VOICE NEWS August 2026 - LGR, Housing Good Practice, Civic Day, Help Wanted
Date: Fri, 7 Aug 2026 02:55:32 -0700
From: Civic Voice <info@civicvoice.org.uk>
To: [REDACTED]

Dear John

Championing Great Places. Empowering Communities.

Thank you for being part of the Civic Voice network. This month marks an important milestone in our journey as our volunteer-led organisation adopts a renewed mission and invites members to get involved in helping to rebuild Civic Voice.

Please share this newsletter with your committee and ALL your members and anyone who cares about creating better places.

Membership Renewals

Our income currently comes only from subscriptions and we are grateful to those Societies who have paid promptly for this year. As stated at our meetings and in previous mailings, we are committed to reviewing the charging structure and will circulate proposals for a new system before the AGM. For 2026-27 we have retained the previous system for one final year.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Government has announced the next stage of Local Government Reorganisation, bringing significant changes to councils across England. These reforms will influence planning, heritage, local democracy and community engagement for many years to come.

Civic Voice believes local communities must continue to have a strong voice in shaping their places throughout these changes. We have published a statement outlining our response and priorities on the [website here](#)

A NEW CHAPTER FOR CIVIC VOICE

Thank you to everyone who attended our Extraordinary General Meeting. Members overwhelmingly approved new charitable objects together with a new mission and values that provide a clearer purpose for Civic Voice as the national organisation representing civic societies. For a summary of the EGM [click here](#)

Our new mission is simple:

Championing great places where communities are empowered to shape, protect and improve where they live.

These changes provide a strong foundation for rebuilding Civic Voice and growing our influence nationally.

EXAMPLES OF GOOD DESIGN & GOOD PRACTICE IN HOUSING - can you help?

The Expert Panel of Civic Voice is working on a report that examines the process of housing development from the viewpoint of civic societies indicating how they might best contribute to local strategies. In doing this, we hope to provide advice and guidance on how to deal with the housing issues that arise in Local Plans and in other, related planning policy frameworks. To facilitate the preparation of this report, we need the help of local societies in providing examples of:

1. recently completed housing schemes of five or more units (not single dwellings) that could be commended as either good design or as a representation of a desirable policy initiative.
2. recently completed or ongoing collaborative planning exercises where the Civic Society has worked with others to help plan for housing through any combination of new build, conversion or improvement of empty and underused buildings or the management of spaces associated with new housing.

[READ MORE HERE](#) including where to send any examples.

CIVIC DAY IN ACTION



HALIFAX



BLANDFORD



LEEDS

Earlier in the year, Civic Voice invited its members to “fix one thing” for Civic Day. Was there a community bench in need of some TLC, an overgrown public garden in need of weeding or person in need of more recognition? The answer to this question was a very strong yes!

There are some examples of work undertaken to celebrate Civic Day and to “fix one thing” on our [website here](#)

VOLUNTEER WITH CIVIC VOICE

Civic Voice is a volunteer-led organisation. That means our future depends on people across our movement bringing their skills, ideas and enthusiasm to help us work and grow. Whether you can spare two hours each week or a little more, we'd love to hear from you.

Roles we need to fill are:

1. Communications Officer
2. Administrator
3. Website Officer
4. Events Team members

Please share these opportunities with your members, family, friends and colleagues. The [link here](#) takes you to more information on each role. If you want to discuss what's involved then email

chair@civicvoice.org.uk

JOIN A SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

We're looking to launch new Special Interest Groups where members can share expertise and good practice, influence policy and seek help and learn from one another.

Initial ideas for groups include:

- Transport & Highways
- Public Realm
- Heritage & Conservation
- Campaigns & Engagement

If you'd like to help establish one of these groups or simply join the discussion, we'd love to hear from you. Email us at info@civicvoice.org.uk with your interest, ideas/suggestions and how you would like to contribute.

AROUND THE CIVIC MOVEMENT

[Cheltenham Civic Society](#) has condemned ugly new build homes on a sensitive conservation area site.

[Knaresborough Civic Society](#) says it has significant concerns over the proposal to build three riverside homes in Knaresborough.

[The Regency Society](#), Brighton and Hove's oldest amenity and conservation society, has joined a chorus of protests about the council's controversial plans for redeveloping the King Alfred Leisure Centre.

[Stourport Civic Society](#) is promoting a traditional canal warehouse-inspired design for the Bridge Street redevelopment after an independent public survey demonstrated overwhelming public support.

Many civic and amenity societies are doing excellent work but relatively little of it reaches mainstream local news outlets. Most of the best stories are appearing on societies' own websites and Facebook pages rather than in local newspapers. Is this a gap? How are you getting your message to people beyond your own members? Share news from your society! We'd love to feature it in the next edition.

SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER

The stronger our network becomes, the stronger our voice.

Please forward this newsletter to your committee, trustees, volunteers and members.

Together we can build a stronger Civic Voice.

Follow Civic Voice on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and X.

Together we're championing great places shaped by strong community voices.

Civic Voice

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