



# Board of Trustees

**Board Meeting  
CPRE Offices  
21<sup>st</sup> June 2012**

## **Main Points and Actions**

### **Trustees:**

Paula Ridley (Chair)  
Paul Clarke  
Freddie Gick (Deputy Chair)  
Helen Marcus  
Martin Meredith  
Neil Sinden  
David Tittle  
John Walker

### **Officers:**

Steve Graham (Director)  
Ian Harvey (Co-ordinator)

### **Apologies:**

David Lovie  
Neil Sindon

### **1. Welcome**

Welcome by the Chair

### **2. Minutes of meeting of 26 April 2012**

The April minutes were signed and there were no matters arising.

### **3. Chair update**

Paula Ridley welcomed Steve Graham into post. All Trustees joined Paula in welcoming Steve.



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Steve introduced himself and gave a brief introduction on his hopes for Civic Voice.

The Board wished to place on record their congratulations to ex-Director Tony Burton who has recently been awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for Services to Planning and Communities.

## 4. Board only discussion

The Board held a short private session. Steve G and Ian H were not present

## 5. Update

- Ian H gave an update on events that have taken place since May.

Highlights include:-

- 📌 Membership now stands at 210 groups and we have had 12 new members.
- 📌 The AGM is confirmed for Coventry at the Herbert Gallery for 19/20 October.
- 📌 Civic Day continues to go forward with close to 300 events across the month of June
- 📌 Griff Rhys Jones has had a busy period appearing on both BBC Politics and Question Time
- 📌 All present discussed the next steps of the All Party Parliamentary Group and the way forward. It was agreed that Steve G would lead with support from Paula R
- 📌 The board expressed an interest in seeing progression on the history of the movement project

The board emphasised that we should be pushing the benefit of National Trust and English Heritage one-day passes to individual members of civic societies. **(Action Ian H)**

The board discussed the different civic groups that have been in touch about closing. It was agreed that Ian H should meet with the different groups and then consult with Steve, Freddie and David about the level of intensive support we should offer

### Actions:

**Paula R/Steve G** to meet with Laura Sandys in July



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**Freddy G/Ian H** to look into progression of the history of the movement project and report back to board

**Ian H/Steve G** to scope out ways to encourage greater take-up of free Nat. Trust and Eng. Heritage day passes

**Ian H** to scope out reasons for groups closing and consult with Freddy G/David T/Steve G on what support Civic Voice could offer

## 5. Strategy

Ian H introduced a paper looking at the future direction and purpose of Civic Voice and the civic society movement. The board were interested to see that since 1977 over 700 civic societies have folded. This led the board to discuss the reasons behind this and what could be done to ensure the civic society movement has a long-term future. The board were all committed to ensuring the Civic Voice continues to support the network of groups

Steve G made a suggestion of an "Away-Day" facilitated workshop to bottom out the strategy and provide a framework for development of the strategy led by Steve G. This needs to be organised for July/beginning of August if possible. Potential free venues are London (through Helen M) and Coventry (through David T). After discussion it was agreed that participants would be drawn from membership and Trustees who will also be able to attend the event.

### Actions:

**Ian H** to draw up a list of members (max 30) for consultation with board members  
**Steve G/Ian H** to subsequently identify date, agree venue and issue invites

**Steve G** to identify a suitable facilitator and liaise with Paula R

## 6. Fundraising

Steve G gave a short update on the fundraising group that had met earlier in the day. The group have agreed for a smaller group led by Steve G and including Freddy G and John Walker go forward with next steps.

### Action:

**Steve G** to lead on strategy development and draw together sub group



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## 7. Budget update

The Treasurer had prepared the accounts in light of the appointment of a new Director. The board agreed that fundraising during this financial year will be crucial. Membership renewals were holding up well, but the board supported the call to communicate with groups again.

**Action:**

**Martin M/Ian H** to continue leading on contacting groups and managing renewals

## 8 Protect our Place – oral report

Paul Clarke left the room prior to a discussion on Protect our Place.

We have received over 120 expressions of interest for the Protect our Place project. We have offered English Heritage the chance to be on the interview panel.

**Actions:**

**John W/Steve G/ Ian H** will select shortlist and conduct interview panel supported by Jane H

**Ian H** to communicate decision to English Heritage

**Steve G** to give verbal update to English Heritage when meeting with them in summer

## 9. Civic Day

An oral update was provided to the board on Civic Day. Over 250 events will be taking place across the country. The board recognised that with the Jubilee celebrations that achieving national publicity would be more difficult for this year, nonetheless, they were pleased to see so many different groups utilising the various media templates we had provided and were gaining local coverage. The board were pleased to hear that the Civic Day Awards will continue.

The board see Civic Day as a key item of Civic Voice's strategy going forward and believe it presents unique opportunities in regard to sponsorship

A short update was provided on Heritage Open Days. The HODs futures group is due to meet in July.



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## 10. Marsh Awards

The board discussed the forthcoming Marsh Awards and agreed to take a slightly different approach to it this year. We will make a call for entries from groups who have demonstrated a specific contribution to a “specific” area of need within the movement i.e. innovative membership recruitment or fundraising. It was felt this may help highlight positive ways to bring new members into the movement.

The Board acknowledge that although we will encourage the above, we will still welcome all applications from individuals and groups.

### Actions:

**Paula R/Steve G** to meet with Marsh Christian Trust in July

## 11. AOB

- Paula R updated the board on the fact that she has been invited to a talk by Aung Sang Suu Kyi in her role as Civic Voice Chair
- Steve G requested board members to identify suitable regional events/meetings for him to attend. Freddy G and Paul C already offered opportunities
- The Board thanked Neil Sinden and CPRE for the use of the meeting space.

## 12. Next meeting

The next meeting will be in London on September 5<sup>th</sup>.