



Trustee application

Skills, experience and supporting statements

Applications in alphabetical order (by surname)

1. PAUL BEDWELL, SHEFFIELD, YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER

NOMINATING SOCIETY: Sheffield Civic Trust

RELEVANT SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

Paul is a member of Sheffield Civic Trust, which received the Marsh Award for Civic Societies at the Civic Voice Annual Convention in Chester for making an outstanding contribution to the civic movement. Paul has represented Sheffield Civic Trust at all Civic Voice Conventions since Peterborough in 2010.

Paul is in full time employment as a Chartered Town Planner and has 30 years' experience in the public and private sectors. He is a Director at Spawforth's, the largest independent planning practice in the North of England

Paul has been a Civic Voice trustee since 2014 and is the Civic Voice lead for the Civic Voice Design Awards. He chaired the first ever Design Awards masterclass earlier this year at the Cheese Grater and will be leading a session at the 2017 Civic Voice Annual Convention in Wakefield on how civic societies can establish local design award.

Paul is a representative on the Civic Voice Fundraising Committee with a specific focus on corporate support and is also Chair of the staffing committee.

Paul has given lectures on Civic Voice to showcase what the civic movement is doing to different groups including, amongst other, YHACS as well as societies at Ealing, Dronfield and Halifax.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Paul believes that Civic Voice's support for the 50th anniversary of conservation areas provides a unique opportunity for the civic movement to celebrate the best of the past whilst looking to the future. In this context, he would be pleased to continue to support the work of civic societies across England.

Paul believes that raising the profile of the movement and growing our membership will be a priority focus for the next three years.

He has previously hosted events in Sheffield for Civic Voice, including a meeting with Clive Betts MP (chair of the CLG select Committee) to discuss changes to the NPPF and wants Civic voice to strengthen even more the APPG for Civic Societies. Paul is currently working with the team on study visit to Design Award winners, Sunbridge Wells, Bradford and to a visit to see Grey to Green, Sheffield.

Paul also wants to continue to support the team on writing a new training programme to help raise the standard of training for community groups with a specific focus on the planning system.

Paul seeks re-election as a trustee at Civic Voice so he can continue to support the role of our members.

2. JOAN HUMBLE, BLACKPOOL, NORTH WEST

NOMINATING SOCIETY: BLACKPOOL CIVIC TRUST

RELEVANT SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

Joan Humble is the current Chair of Civic Voice (appointed October 2016) and Chair of Blackpool Civic Trust.

Joan is a former Member of Parliament after representing Blackpool North and Fleetwood from 1997 to 2010. Although selected as the Labour Party candidate to contest the new constituency of Blackpool North and Cleveleys at the 2010 general election, Joan announced on 27 February 2010 that she would stand down at the election. That hasn't slowed her down with her being active in local voluntary groups; Chair of FC Rangers Junior Football Club, member of the Board of Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde Volunteer Centre and the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army's Bridge Project. she is a former Civil Servant and a Lancashire County Councillor (1985-97).

Joan speaks on behalf of Civic Voice in Parliament and regularly speaks at APPG for Civic Society meetings. Joan was the lead trustee on the implementation of the Civic Voice manifesto and has attended meetings with Minister, Shadow Minister and MPs from all sides of the political persuasion.

Locally, Joan has had several buildings successfully approved as Assets of Community Value, and supported Blackpool's campaign in recording all locally known war memorials.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Since becoming a trustee, I have spoken to individual civic societies and regional meetings all over the country and in September I will be speaking to the Sid Vale Association (the oldest civic society) and at the national event to celebrate Stamford being the first ever conservation area. I believe that the need for an active civic movement is as important today as when the Sid Vale Association launched and when the Civic Amenities Act came into power in 1967.

Having been an MP, I know what MPs want. The more groups we can engage in our campaigns to make the case for localism and the importance of the built and historic environment helps the movement become more influential. Going forward, I want Civic Voice to issue more statements, respond to more consultations and have an even greater voice in Parliament. We can only do that by making Civic Voice sustainable so will be working hard at how we make membership essential.

Since becoming Chair, I have put in place an ambitious strategy and created committees to ensure all trustees have a role. I hope I am given the opportunity to work with fellow trustees and staff to implement it.

3. GAVIN ORTON, BIRMINGHAM, WEST MIDLANDS

NOMINATING SOCIETY: BIRMINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY

RELEVANT SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

Gavin is 36 and the Chair of Birmingham Civic Society (2015-present) and the Chair of its Planning Committee (2013-present). He is a full-time associate architect for BPN Architects. Gavin also sits on the Royal Institute of British Architects West Midlands Regional Council and was formerly Regional Chair (2012-2015). Whilst in office he coordinated the RIBA Local Members Forum in Birmingham, which was the first time it was held outside of London.

Birmingham Civic Society has over 90 corporate members and works with secondary school children across Birmingham each year through the Next Generation Awards - a highly successful Citizenship programme that has been run by the Birmingham Civic Society for the past twelve years. In total 26,500 pupils have participated since the programme began.

Gavin led a modernisation programme and implemented a new five year strategy which focuses on giving the Society a clearer identity, greater influence and to become more resilient and stronger. Based on the success of this work Gavin and Birmingham Civic Society were the first civic society in the country to be invited to a national Civic Voice board meeting to present on the work they had done to modernise the society. This work has been featured several times in civic update and Gavin has communicated with other societies to share lessons.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

It would be an honour to be elected to the Civic Voice board and contribute to making the civic movement a stronger voice for the next 3 years.

I feel if we are to have a national influence, we need to work together as a movement. It was important as Chair of Birmingham Civic Society that we joined Civic Voice. We were delighted when Civic Voice made the move from Liverpool to Birmingham and in the past six months have been strengthening the links, starting with promoting the war memorial programme.

We helped launch National Civic Day 2017 in June 2017 by launching a new ale called "Civic Pride". We are contributing to the Big Conservation Conversation by organising a bus tour of Birmingham's conservation areas as part of Birmingham Heritage Week. I will also be attending the Wakefield AGM and Convention and helping to talk about how we are engaging with Birmingham school children through the Next Generation Awards.

We have offered to host the Civic Voice annual convention in 2018 to link in with the Society's 100th anniversary and feel as though this would be a fitting contribution to help grow the national movement. I hope I am elected to the board.

4. ROGER SUTTON, MALVERN, WEST MIDLANDS

NOMINATING SOCIETY: MALVERN CIVIC SOCIETY

RELEVANT SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

Having being trained as a lawyer at Birmingham University, I spent most of my career working in the IT Department at British Airways being involved in the transition from large mainframes to PC based systems.

I was a member of the Windsor and Eton Society for thirty five years and an active member of their Planning Sub Committee.

Retirement saw the family move to Malvern where we joined the Malvern Society and I became Chairman of Planning, Chairman of the Society for five years and am now an active Vice President. I have been the Treasurer of WMASA, the West Midlands Region, for twelve years. I was elected to the Board of Civic Voice in 2014 and hope to be re-elected for my second three year term.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Civic Voice, under the leadership of Freddie Gick and now Joan Humble and supported by Director Ian Harvey and staff, has made great strides from being a new movement in 2011 to now being recognised on the political stage.

The future lies in consolidating a large membership base and using the media to becoming a household name in the challenge to protect our urban environment.

With the successful Design Awards being supported by big names in the architectural profession, much work needs to be done to solicit the local authority community – for example, our campaign to highlight Conservation Areas needs their support.