

# Wells Civic Society

Celebrating the past, living the present and creating a vision for the future of the city

## 20:20 Vision

... is a proposal for the next three years: - continuing current work and projects, developing more, and ensuring a sustainable future for the organisation.

- We believe the Society, founded in 1952, is a progressive organisation, supporting and promoting the city through its members and its projects and activities.
- The Constitution of the Wells Civic Society was written 65 years ago and is still relevant, and whilst we do not intend to re-write this, we (the Executive Committee) believe that to further our work in the 21st century we need to continually move forward.

### **The Civic Society** aims to:

- promote high standards of planning and architecture;
- provide information about a wide variety of issues and aspects of life in the City;
- secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest or architectural merit.

### **Its objectives** are to:

- promote civic pride;
- promote and contribute to others' research and its publication; and to undertake its own research and publication of reports and papers;
- cooperate with local authorities, planning committees and other statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, charities and persons with similar aims (to the Society;)
- survey and prepare maps and plans and collect information (in relation to its aims and objectives);
- hold meetings, visits, lectures and exhibitions to further all the above.

## Who?

- Our **personal members** – making the best of the skills, knowledge and expertise within the community;
- Our **corporate members** - engaging with those whose contribution to the City is so vital to its wellbeing and who have such an important role to play in its future;
- **In partnership** with other organisations and institutions in the City;

- Working with **national organisations** to learn and to share experiences and information; especially through Civic Voice, the Alliance of Historic Cathedral Cities and Towns (ACT) and the All Party Parliamentary Group for Civic Societies.

### **What?**

- A programme of regular talks is offered covering a range of subjects;
- Visits to places of interest for our members and hosting visits to Wells by others;
- Projects, which give us the opportunity to achieve our aims - adding permanent reminders of the work we do. For example:
  - plaques which recognise the contribution of a business, place or person/s in the City;
  - our annual contribution to Heritage Open Day and to Wells in Bloom;
  - partnerships with others eg: Visit by Coach and the Wells Tourism Forum;
  - Wells in Mosaic – an ambitious 6m diameter walkable map of the historic city;
  - Survey and mapping of the Waterways of Wells.

### **How?**

- To sustain these activities, we must ensure an active membership for the future;
- This can only be achieved by engaging in activities which both interest and inform people and organisations, and by being prepared to cooperate with others with similar aims;
- Our **Project Plan** will help to guide activities and manage resources for the next three years whilst allowing the flexibility to respond appropriately to local needs;
- We aim to have good communications with members and all forms of local media;
- Flexibility is key to responding on behalf of members to local issues;
- Secure funding underpins all that we do.

### **Budget 2018 - 2020:**

Currently income covers expenditure in terms of day-to-day activities; our reserves will be drawn on to fund worthwhile projects.

The level of membership fees will be set by consultation with the membership and reviewed regularly.

Fundraising for particular projects and joint funded projects will be considered when opportunities arise.

## Membership

Members are the backbone of the Civic Society and may contribute as much or as little as they wish to. We strive to ensure that the benefits are available to everyone and offer a range of opportunities to those who share our aims and objectives.

Members are consulted and valued and together form a voice within the city, which also contributes to national civic discussions.

**Personal members** are part of an organisation which engages in many aspects of life in Wells and which is a voice on planning and many other issues. They enjoy a social group with whom to share ideas, opinions and events and are encouraged to join the Committee and working groups in order to become involved in its projects and activities.

**Corporate members** demonstrate their commitment to the City and contribute to the expertise and skills that enable the society to carry out its activities and projects; they are invited to participate in these, to speak at events and to invite members to learn more about what they do in Wells; the Civic Society will acknowledge these contributions through its PR and profile raising, and a link from the Civic Society website to their own.

***With this strategy in place we will focus our efforts and resources in such a way that we will achieve the best value and deliver our aims and objectives – enhancing the city and supporting the civic movement.***

***We will leave a legacy of the work of the Civic Society for future generations in Wells.***



*Chris Winter, Chair*