

GCdCS CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020-21

This has been a difficult year for organisations such as ours. We had to reorganise ourselves to manage the Society through all the lockdowns and restrictions initially by subscribing to an online facility, Zoom, so that we could hold our Management Committee meetings. Unfortunately, we didn't manage to facilitate any online public meetings as we had intended. Nevertheless, we made a lot of progress in increasing our influence in North East Lincolnshire in other ways. This, despite our small group of Executive Members! Only two members of our planning group continued to attend planning meetings online, to make comment where necessary on relevant Planning Applications.

Our Joint venture with Engie in creating the Town Trails was put on hold, though our attendance at online meetings with Engie, N E Lincs Council, and other interested parties, discussing the Minster Square Project maintained our link.

Members of the Executive made supervised, socially distanced, site visits to Minster Square and The West Haven Project. We did manage a weeding and litter pick event alongside The Haven, between lockdowns, and we've had representatives at community litter picks in the East Marsh area.

The Executive members also ploughed through a number of Government Consultations in regard to planning legislation and related topics, and sent our response to the Ministry of Communities, Housing & Local Government. We all learnt a lot by doing that!

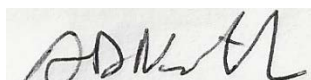
We attended a Local Authority Consultation at Grimsby Town Hall to look at proposals for the Riverhead, where we were approached with a suggestion that we could be invited to be involved in future proposals, resulting in being included in a Special Interest Group Meeting discussing schemes for the restoration of the Corporation Road Bridge.

Other schemes that we have considered include tree planting to help reduce flooding in in various parts.

As you are aware, because we were not able to host public talks in the Grimsby Town Hall throughout the year, we took the decision to suspend members' fees, even though we still have annual running costs to pay for. Judicious financial forethought has enabled this without the Society being in a too precarious position – but funds do have to be maintained somehow hence our recent involvement with Winsby Community Lottery due for first draw on Saturday May 8th.

Your Chair continued to attend YHACS meetings throughout the year, albeit since the YHACS AGM of 2020, via Zoom. Advice was sought through YHACS, and specifically from Pontefract CS, on how to improve as a society. It goes without saying that to prosper and move forward, our membership of the Society and the Executive, needs to increase. Towards the aim of raising our profile and to give us more of a voice at regional level, your Chair was elected on to the YHACS Committee at the 2021 YHACS AGM in January.

Your Executive Committee and I look forward to the coming year with positivity.



Alan Nicholson,
Chair, Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society