

**Statement from Harrogate Civic Society to the Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee, Wednesday 12 October 2022**

Members:

We are grateful for the opportunity to bring the work of the Harrogate Civic Society to your attention. Most of you will be aware of the Society, but with the advent of the unitary council and potential devolution, this seems a good opportunity to set out our stall afresh.

Harrogate Civic Society is a charity, now in its 51<sup>st</sup> year, and our constitution sets out our objectives which are to protect, preserve and enhance the character and amenities of Harrogate. We do this through lectures and various events, including the commissioning of brown plaques of which there are 92, and by submitting comments on planning applications and proposals which impact the town and in particular its conservation area.

We are a growing society with currently 320 members and the day-to-day running is carried out by a committee of which I am chairman. We are active on social media, maintain a website and issue regular newsletters to our members and to yourselves this morning.

We have established close co-operative relationships with a variety of other organisations such as Harrogate BID, Harrogate Theatres, Yorkshire Agricultural Society, Friends of Valley Gardens and many others, in order to further the aims and objectives of our society.

We wish to maintain and strengthen the engagement we have with the local authority both informally and more formally through the consultation process, not just on specific applications and projects, but also on the Local Plan process which is bound to evolve through reviews and as a result of changing policies.

We are keen to play an active and constructive role with the new North Yorkshire Council, helping where we can to enable the council achieve outcomes which – as our strapline goes – celebrates our past, enhances our present and shapes our future.

Stuart Holland  
Chair  
Harrogate Civic Society

**Response to the statement from Harrogate Civic Society from County Councillor Simon Myers (Executive Member for Planning and Growth) read out in his absence at the meeting by Ruth Gladstone (Principal Democratic Services Officer)**

‘I am delighted to read the positive statement from Harrogate Civic Society. Their desire to strengthen their engagement with the new Council is exactly what we wish to encourage in all our community and organisational partners. I welcome their commitment to constructive engagement with North Yorkshire and I look forward to working with them in the future.’