



March 2023

Urgent Appeal to Members and Supporters

The Society is in real peril and needs your help if it is not to close. In our recent New Year Newsletter we issued a “call to arms” and warned that the Society can only continue to flourish and remain viable if it has an active Committee.

With several of the current officers leaving the Committee at this year’s AGM and the Chairman now also wishing to stand down from his current role, we urgently repeat our appeal for new members of the Committee to come forward.

If new Committee members and officers do not come forward the Society may very well have to trigger the winding up provisions of its constitution, close and transfer its funds to one or more local charities who share our aims and objectives.

This would be a tragedy, especially after celebrating our 50th Anniversary last year, but we could follow in the footsteps of other well established Civic Societies who have had to take this route when faced with too few prepared to take an active part in their running.

Currently the Committee meets once a month, other than August and December, on the fourth Monday at 1pm in Westbourne. To attract new Committee members we will review and change this date and time if necessary so that it is more convenient to those who might otherwise be put off coming forward.

We are also considering holding the meetings at the Bournemouth Central Library in The Triangle, which might prove more accessible.

At the two Committee meetings held since the “call to arms” the following points have been noted/discussed:

- No nominations or suggestions had been received for new committee members following the call to arms in the recent Newsletter.

- The suggested new committee members who had been mooted at the last meeting had been contacted but did not appear keen or able to join.
- The current Vice-Chair did not wish to take on the Chairman's role in a pro-tem arrangement when he stood down.
- A Chairman's Tasks were agreed as: Chairing meetings, arranging monthly meeting agendas, responding to general enquiries received by telephone, email and through the website, attending meetings of the committee and with councillors, developers, community groups and residents.
- Tasks also undertaken by the current Chairman and needing new Committee members to deliver them were: arranging monthly meeting agendas, reviewing the monthly planning application digest then editing them after each committee meeting before forwarding to BCP Planning, keeping the website up to date, keeping the Excel membership list up to date, writing monthly meeting minutes and writing the Newsletter
- The roles for these tasks were Secretary, Minutes Secretary and Newsletter Editor.
- It was agreed most preferable that any new committee members and officers (especially Chairman) needed to attend a number of meetings to familiarise themselves with roles and responsibilities and then be nominated by the existing committee at the AGM rather than join and take on roles without any induction.

As you will now appreciate the future of the Society is even more directly in the hands of you its members so we appeal for you to consider coming forward.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss what is involved further please contact the Chairman or any of the Committee who will be pleased to hear from you.

The Annual General Meeting will take place in Summer and its calling papers and agenda which will be sent out in due course will be driven by the outcome of this most serious call for help. Please get in touch by 23rd April so we can prepare for this.

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