



The maintenance of Harrogate's famous Stray is currently the responsibility of Harrogate Borough Council, under the Stray Act 1985. The future governance of this and other services will be transferred to the Unitary Council when the Borough Council disappears in April 2023. Some functions might be devolved to a North Yorkshire area committee, a community body of some description or perhaps a Town Council..

The Future for Harrogate How is it Best Served?

With all Local Government functions moving up to the new Unitary Council - the largest council area in the country - how can the distinctive character and assets of Harrogate be best safeguarded in the future? And what part can the Civic Society play in shaping the future?

Roles, responsibilities, budgets, representation; nothing is clear at the moment - and we are only five months away from the new North Yorkshire Council taking over.

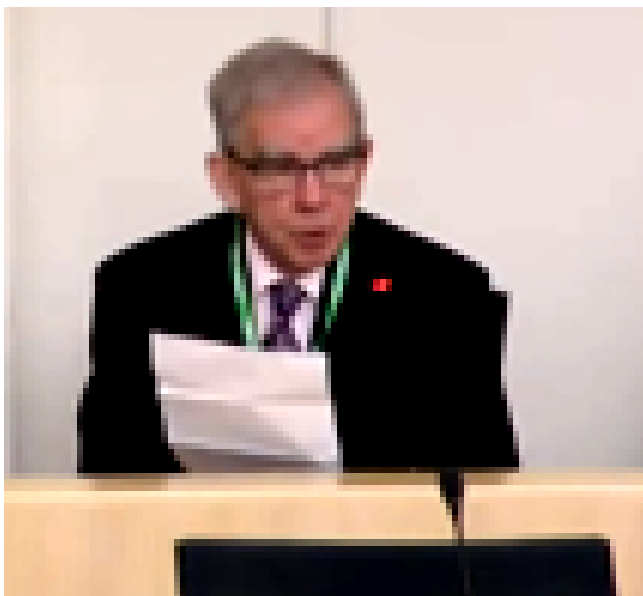
That is why the Civic Society has been engaging with the interim authority to ensure our voice is heard, and we encourage all our members to give their views. See pages 2, 3 and 4.

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Please note that whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy, no responsibility can be accepted should any losses be incurred. Opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily of the Harrogate Civic Society.
David Siddans, Editor

North Yorkshire County Council welcomes Statement from Harrogate Civic Society.



Stuart Holland reading out the Statement to the Area Committee (from the live recording)

An extract from our statement to the Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee on 12 October 2022

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.

We want 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.

Why did we present a Statement?

The Civic Society is able to achieve its aims and objectives best by establishing effective working relationships with the planning authority (currently Harrogate Borough Council) as well as a range of other organisations in Harrogate.

With the impending changes to Local Government including the abolition of Harrogate Borough Council in April next year, we took the opportunity to deliver a statement to the new North Yorkshire Area Committee dealing with Harrogate issues. By doing this we were able to raise the profile of the Society with the new body which next year takes over the role of planning authority amongst its other functions.



Above: North Yorkshire Area Committees are based on Parliamentary boundaries

And the response from County Councillor Simon Myers (Executive Member for Planning and Growth)

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.'

Our response to the Consultation on the Future Governance of Harrogate

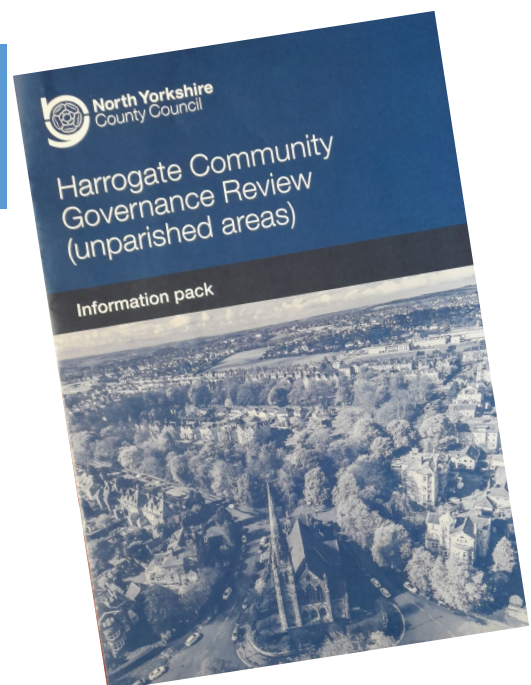
An extract from our Response to the questionnaire in the Review Document

As a non-political, voluntary organisation, our main question about the proposed 'double devolution' relates to the potential impact the alternative scenarios will have on the heritage and environment of the town. This includes ownership, operation and maintenance of historic buildings (such as the Turkish Baths, Royal Hall, Pump Room Museum, Mercer Gallery, etc) the maintenance and enhancement of the Valley Gardens, the provision of floral displays, and the maintenance and use of the Stray.

From the information provided it is not possible to form an opinion as to whether it would be beneficial to have a town council. It is possible that in the absence of a town council, the new Area Committee may provide a similar service to that currently provided by HBC but their remit has yet to be confirmed or publicised.

As a result of this uncertainty, before we can usefully comment on the advantages or otherwise of a town council, we need to have answers to the following questions:

1. What will be the remit and resources of the Area Committee?
2. What powers or functions do you envisage a town council might have and who would determine these?
3. Who would be responsible for setting the budget and the level of precept?



... and the response on behalf of North Yorkshire County Council

[in answer to the questions posed]

1. The remit and the resources of the Area Committee are still being considered by the Council and will likely not be fully approved until February 2023 when the constitution for the new Council is due to be approved.
2. The powers and functions of any future town council if approved will ultimately be a matter for any future town council. The information provided with the consultation provides examples of some of the services and facilities a town council might wish to provide. Should a town council wish to deliver services currently delivered by HBC or NYCC they would need to put together a business case to demonstrate that they can successfully deliver such services.
3. If a town/parish council is established, the budget will be a matter for the town councillors to determine. A parish/town council must provide a costed budget to the principal council, who will then use the council tax base figure to calculate the level of precept.

Apologies that [we] cannot give clearer answers at this stage as the issues that you raise are either still to be determined, or would be a matter for a town council to determine, should a town council be created.

Civic Society meets the County Council

On Wednesday 9 November, a meeting took place between a panel of North Yorkshire County Council representatives (*pictured right*) and a number of Civic Society members. This was arranged as a briefing session on the impending local government reorganisation (LGR) and an opportunity for the Civic Society to seek some clarity about the future working relationships.



Left to right: Assistant Director, Neil Irving, County Council leader Carl Les and Executive member Cllr Michael Harrison.

Vesting day, when the seven district councils and the county council are replaced by a single unitary council, will be on 1 April 2023.

While many of the arrangements are still to be worked out, the panel insisted that the transition would not be abrupt and most residents would not notice many changes. Offices and depots, such as those in Harrogate, would continue to be used and waste collections and other services would continue much as before.

Harrogate and Scarborough are the only two areas of North Yorkshire which are currently 'unparished' and there was a lively discussion on the merits of creating a town council for Harrogate - how this would be done and what functions it would be expected to do.

As a society, we will continue to discuss the issues which arise from LGR, including whether to support the idea of a town council or not. More on this in the next newsletter.

How to have your say in the future for Harrogate and North Yorkshire

1. Write to us at info@harrogatecivicsociety.org so that we can represent as many of our members' views and concerns as possible.
2. Engage with the North Yorkshire conversation exercise called Let's Talk. This can be found on <https://letstalkny.commonplace.is/>

Right: a County Council stall at a recent Valley Gardens event



Visit to Allerton Castle

The Society's visit to Allerton Castle fell on a perfect early autumn day. Seemingly set in a grand park of rolling Yorkshire pasture the house owns just 43 hectares of the adjoining land, the surrounding estate having been sold off in the 1980s.

Now owned by the Ralph Foundation, the house has undergone an extensive restoration with the aim to return it, as much as possible, to its 1870s condition. It has had a varied life, including occupation by the Canadian air force in WWII, leased to a Catholic religious order in the 1960s and finally, after falling into disrepair, was purchased by the American Dr Rolph.

After tea and cake (of course) members were guided through the magnificent public rooms, now often used for weddings, and shown the painstaking restoration work that has taken place. The initial restoration had to be re-done after an extensive fire in 2005.



Some of the group pictured in the imposing 'porte cochère'

Celebrating a Fashion Pioneer

On Wednesday 28 September, the Mayor, Cllr Victoria Oldham, unveiled the town's 92nd brown plaque commemorating Louis Copé on the centenary of the opening of his high fashion shop at 52 - 59 Parliament Street.

The event was the culmination of research by Alex Goldstein, his great grandson, and attended by the Civic Society, family members and former employees of the business.



An extract from the address by Alex Goldstein

Louis moved to Harrogate from London in 1914 to help improve his asthma. In the same year, he set up as an art jeweller at 56 Parliament Street. However by 1922 the business had evolved and occupied 52 through to 58 Parliament Street selling high fashion to the ladies of the day and indeed royalty.

By the mid-1920s, Louis had received a request to dress Queen Mary, whose daughter Princess Mary, was Countess of Harewood (as featured in Downton Abbey).

Such was Louis' popularity back in the day, that it is rumoured that babies who were named Louis, were done so in his honour. In fact, Louis also has a dedicated window in the Harrogate synagogue on St Mary's Walk to acknowledge his charitable work too.

Around the same time business was booming for Louis, Ellis & Goldstein was also a renowned fashion house in London, where Sam Goldstein mass-produced fashion for the high street. Ellis & Goldstein became one of the leading suppliers of womenswear in London's East End and the first to make ready-made dresses for the average height lady which at the time was 5ft 2in.

Above: the unveiling of the plaque. By Cllr Victoria Oldham and Alex Goldstein

Right: Louis Copé (photo courtesy Alex Goldstein)



Both fashion powerhouses were then joined through marriage where Louis' daughter Freda (my grandma), was introduced to Sam Goldstein's son (William). The rest they say is history.

More on our Website

Dr Paul Jennings has written a fascinating piece on Louis Copé which appears on the history section of the website as part of the series on Harrogate people.

You can access this and other articles [here](https://www.harrogatecivicsociety.org/history-articles) or by using the link:

<https://www.harrogatecivicsociety.org/history-articles>

Membership Fees: Important Changes Ahead

Membership fees have remained unchanged for over ten years and the Society has come to the unavoidable conclusion that fees need to be reviewed.

The matter was discussed at the Annual General Meeting held in March this year.

More information will be given to members in the

New Year. It is envisaged that the new arrangements will come into effect from May next year, following the AGM in March 2003.

Over recent years, we have made many positive changes to the way the Society is run and to the benefits enjoyed by members and we are greatly encouraged by the recent growth in membership.

Schooldays in Edwardian Harrogate



Above: On Tuesday 25 October, over 60 members attended a talk by Dr Paul Jennings on the education system in Harrogate in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Schooling in the Edwardian period was almost completely segregated by social class: state schools for working-class and some lower middle-class children, and private schools for the middle and upper classes,

State schooling was run by School Boards and from 1904 by Harrogate Borough Council, like Grove Road or Western schools. Alongside these were the private schools, for which Harrogate was a major centre due principally to its reputation as a health resort.

In these years there were over thirty private schools with nearly seven hundred boarders, together with day pupils. These ranged from large schools like Ashville or Harrogate Ladies College to much smaller establishments like Bilton Grange for boys or Dunorlan for girls.

The talk covered, among other things, what the children were taught, how discipline was enforced and how their attendance was affected. Finally, Paul revealed what happened to some of these children beyond school.

*Below left: New Park School 1904
right: Harrogate Ladies College 1907*



The Civic Society Christmas Social

Once again we will be holding our popular Christmas Social in the splendid setting of St Wilfrid's parish hall, Duchy Road.

If the lure of tea, coffee, wine and mince pies is not enough we are also offering the opportunity to do some Christmas shopping!

There will be a sale of books of local interest, and, around 3.30 pm, Dr Paul Jennings will present a very short talk entitled 'Old Harrogate Pubs'.

It will be very helpful if members can confirm their attendance via the usual email address:

events@harrogatecivicsociety.org

And we very much look forward to meeting you all.

**Sunday
11 December
from 2.30 pm
to 4.30 pm**



Harrogate Convention Centre at the Crossroads

The next speaker in our events programme will be Paula Lorimer, the Director of the Convention Centre, who will brief us on her plans to secure and redevelop this vital economic asset in the centre of Harrogate.

Recently, Paula secured agreement to take the first stage of redevelopment to what is known as RIBA stage 4 (technical design). Against a background where the new unitary authority, North Yorkshire Council, has imposed a moratorium on most district authority capital schemes pending transfer of powers next year, this is a significant statement of support. Nevertheless, much remains to be



Paula Lorimer



achieved. The £46m redevelopment proposal awaits the outcome of a £20m bid to central government under the “levelling up” scheme and then there are concerns that Leeds City Council may be contemplating its own conference and exhibition venue

Paula will be talking about this and more at a briefing she is kindly hosting for us at the **King's Suite** in the **Convention Centre** (access through **Entrance 3** on **Kings Road** opposite **Cold Bath Brewing Co.**) on **Tuesday, 29th November** at **7:30pm**.

If you have not already reserved, please book as soon as possible preferably by email to events@harrogatecivicsociety.org to be sure of securing a place.

This is an event not to be missed!

Reflections on 'Harrogate on Film'

*We are grateful to **Paula Stott** of the Harrogate Film Society for supplying this article.*

An exploratory meeting late last year between Harrogate Civic Society and Harrogate Film Society quickly identified common bonds and resulted in an idea - an approach to Yorkshire Film Archive to curate and screen a special programme of films from their extensive archives, focussing on Harrogate and Knaresborough. The Odeon were also keen to be involved.

Given this was a “first” for all, much time and effort went into planning the event. Particular attention was paid to how the Odeon would cope with serving 250 teas, coffees and biscuits in 20 minutes!

Hopes were high when tickets went on sale but reality far exceeded expectations, with two sell out screenings. Two more will follow next year (see below).

Reaction has been overwhelmingly positive - 79% giving the experience a 5 star rating; 21% giving it 4

stars. The films evoked many memories, viewers seeing themselves or others they knew. Someone even spotted his Grandpa as an extra in the film “Agatha”!

The response can be summed up by an audience member who wrote: *“Fantastic archive. Fantastic music. Great content and compering. Wonderful collaboration across societies”*

Many asked when and what will be the next thing we do together? Don't worry it is already being discussed!

If you missed out (or simply wish to see it again) two further screenings of “Harrogate on Film” will take place on Monday, 27th March, 2023. Already selling fast, tickets may be booked through the Film Society website, accessible [here](#).

Forthcoming Events in 2022 - 23

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| Tuesday 29 November 7.30 pm | The Harrogate Convention Centre: its purpose and future A talk by the Centre Director, Paula Lorimer. See page 7 for details |
| Sat and Sun 3 - 4 December 10 am - 3 pm | Welcome to Harrogate Railways - a 160th Anniversary Exhibition Last chance to see this exhibition, first opened in July. Enter via the main concourse. |
| Sunday 11 December 2.30 pm | Christmas Social At St Wilfrid's Parish Hall. See page 6 for details |

2023

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|---|---|
| Tuesday 17 January 7.30 pm | A zero carbon future-what does it mean for you? Jemima Parker, Chair of the local charity Zero Carbon Harrogate will set out the challenges and some solutions to what may lie ahead. |
| Tuesday 21 February 7.30 pm | John Metcalf- Blind Jack of Knaresborough-A Man of Vision a talk by Bernard Higgins on the pioneering eighteenth century road builder |
| Monday 13 March 7.30 pm | Annual General Meeting To be held at Harrogate Theatre. Details to follow in January |
| Monday 27 March 2.30 and 7.30 pm | Harrogate on Film At the Odeon cinema. Book through the Harrogate Film Society website. |
| | We are also planning for monthly events for the remainder of the year, including a guided walk around Grove Road cemetery, talks on both historical and contemporary themes, and a late summer guided tour of the newly restored Plumpton Rocks. All details to follow in our January Newsletter. |

Paying for

events - (Where applicable)

By bank transfer: Name: Harrogate Civic Society. Sort Code: 05-04-54. Account: 167 465 95

By cheque: post to Mr C R Dicken, HCS Treasurer, 74 Otley Road, Harrogate, HG2 0DP

Reference: please use your name, followed by the date DDMM (day/month) of the event.

All details are on our website and are continuously updated. Full information and reminders will be issued via the newsletter, by email and via facebook.

Occasionally, talks will be advertised to our link groups and the general public. **Events are free for members** unless otherwise stated. There will be a £5.00 head charge for non-members. Early booking is recommended.

Unless otherwise stated, please book by email to events@harrogatecivicsociety.org

Contact us:

| | | |
|--------------------------|----|--|
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Published by Harrogate Civic Society

Website: www.harrogatecivicsociety.org

Registered Charity no. 501055

Plaques website: www.harrogateplaques.org