



### THE CIVIC TRUST

<b>Section 1 – Overview of the Civic Trust</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Who we are</li><li>- What we do</li><li>- How you can help</li></ul>	
<b>Section 2 – Programmes</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>Section 3 – History and achievements of the Civic Trust</b>	<b>Page 13</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- History</li><li>- Chronology</li></ul>	

#### About The Civic Trust

The Civic Trust is the leading UK charity dedicated to bringing vitality, sustainability and high quality design to the built environment. An independent charity, founded in 1957, The Civic Trust works with people to promote thriving towns and villages with the aim of inspiring and promoting progressive improvements to the quality of life.

**Address:** 2nd Floor, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London. WC2R 3HU **Tel:** 020 7539 7900 **Fax:** 020 7539 7901 **Email:** [helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk) [www.civictrust.org.uk](http://www.civictrust.org.uk)



### SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

#### Who We Are

The Civic Trust is the independent nationwide charity dedicated to helping communities make better places in which to live, work and relax. Since 1957, we have campaigned for better places for people and we continue to be a powerful, definitive and distinctive voice, helping communities to imagine, shape and deliver inspiring places with an enduring future. The Civic Trust is managed by a number of volunteer trustees who give of their time freely. Griff Rhys Jones was appointed as our president in June 2008.

#### *Our mission*

The Civic Trust enhances the general well-being and quality of lives of people and communities by working with them to value, enjoy and provide aesthetic, prosperous and greener places for a sustainable Britain. We achieve this by

- Bringing together and promoting the views of a wide range of people to influence decision makers and shape our communities.
- Using professionally competent people to promote best practice.
- Recognising those people and places that reach the highest standards.

Uniquely, the Civic Trust is the umbrella organisation for a grassroots movement of over [700 Civic Societies](#) across the country, representing a quarter of a million people, who care passionately about their villages, towns and cities and take an active interest in shaping their environment. Through campaigning for high quality design and execution of new development and regeneration or restoration schemes, scrutiny of planning applications and other practical activities, these volunteer societies help to bring about real improvements in the public realm at local level while contributing to the debate on government policy. They encourage an awareness of the importance of both the built and natural environment in helping to raise the quality of people's lives and promote an interest in civic pride. The Civic Trust provides a range of membership services and support to Civic Societies and we are now looking to strengthen the support we provide.

#### How you can help

We are now seeking additional funding and sponsorship to enable us to develop our programmes further. In particular, we want to build the capacity of our civic society network through the provision of enhanced membership services and support, including training and networking events, and by employing dedicated campaign and policy staff to raise the profile of the civic society movement with the general public and also with key decision makers at national, regional and local level.

On the following pages, we set out background information about what we do and our achievements over the years. If you support our charitable purpose and want to help us influence policy makers, developers and planners in helping to raise the quality of the public realm, we would like to hear from you. You can play a part in helping us to become a nationally recognised lobbying organisation with strong grass roots support committed to making better places for people to live, work and relax. We have a range of donation, membership and sponsorship schemes that may be of interest and we would be happy to discuss these further with you.

#### What We Do

The Civic Trust runs a number of distinctive programmes to work with communities, local authorities and business people to raise the standard of our parks, towns and cities:

#### About The Civic Trust

The Civic Trust is the leading UK charity dedicated to bringing vitality, sustainability and high quality design to the built environment. An independent charity, founded in 1957, The Civic Trust works with people to promote thriving towns and villages with the aim of inspiring and promoting progressive improvements to the quality of life.

**Address:** 2nd Floor, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London. WC2R 3HU **Tel:** 020 7539 7900 **Fax:** 020 7539 7901 **Email:** [helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk) [www.civictrust.org.uk](http://www.civictrust.org.uk)



- The Civic Trust campaigns for better places in which people can live, work and relax.
- We believe that buildings must be designed and built to respond to the needs of the people who use them; parks and green spaces must be accessible to, and safe for, their communities. We believe in educating people about their heritage through preserving the best of the past, and designing for the future.
- Above all, we believe that people can, and must, play a part in shaping their own communities.
- We empower individuals and communities of all ages and backgrounds to improve the places they live.
- We raise awareness of the need to create environments which bring out the best in people, celebrate the best places, and expect the highest quality for all communities.
- We champion vibrant, inclusive towns and cities, and show how places can be better. We work in partnership with the public sector, private companies, voluntary organisations and communities to campaign and influence.

The [Civic Trust's Award](#) schemes reward the best in our environment, and develop and define best practice. Education, consultancy and coaching programmes help others to understand and achieve excellence in designing, creating and campaigning for better places.

Each year the Civic Trust organises [Heritage Open Days](#) during a long weekend in September. Buildings which are normally closed to the public, or which charge for entry, are open, free of charge to the public. From castles to factories, town halls to barns, parish churches to Buddhist temples, buildings of all sizes and functions are open for tours and events. And with over 35,000 volunteers sharing their memories and knowledge and up to 1 million visitors celebrating and exploring their cultural and architectural heritage, Heritage Open Days is England's largest voluntary cultural event.

### Membership

The Civic Trust provides membership opportunities under the following categories:

- a) Civic Societies
- b) Local Authorities
- c) Town and Parish Councils
- d) Corporate
- e) Individual

#### About The Civic Trust

The Civic Trust is the leading UK charity dedicated to bringing vitality, sustainability and high quality design to the built environment. An independent charity, founded in 1957, The Civic Trust works with people to promote thriving towns and villages with the aim of inspiring and promoting progressive improvements to the quality of life.

**Address:** 2nd Floor, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London. WC2R 3HU **Tel:** 020 7539 7900 **Fax:** 020 7539 7901 **Email:** [helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk) [www.civictrust.org.uk](http://www.civictrust.org.uk)



### SECTION 2: OUR PROGRAMMES

#### 1. *Civic Societies*

The Civic Trust is the umbrella organisation for over 700 Civic Societies. Civic Societies represent us all. They are groups of local people, who, like the Civic Trust are passionate about the places in which we all live, work and relax.

Civic Society members work to improve their environment, through campaigning, education, fund raising and direct action. They undertake a wide range of activities, from renovating buildings, working with planning departments and proposing local improvements.

Over 700 Civic Societies are members of the Civic Trust, and their commitment and practical support for our programmes is vital. Civic Societies are involved across the range of Civic Trust activities, from opening buildings for Heritage Open Days, to acting as local assessors for the Civic Trust Awards.

The voice of the Civic Society movement is strong, and informs the policies and activities of the Civic Trust. In turn, we represent the views of our members in our campaigning work with Government and policy making organisations.

The Civic Trust provides a central helpdesk for Civic Societies. We support nine Regional Associations who in turn offer practical support to local Civic Societies, for example, through organising networking events and annual conferences.

The Civic Trust represents the views and concerns of its local civic society members at a national level – to Government and other policy making organisations

The Civic Trust has recently launched a new website ([www.civicsocieties.org.uk](http://www.civicsocieties.org.uk)), allowing potential members to find their local civic society, and to air their views on an online discussion forum.

#### 2. *Civic Champions*

Civic Champions are extraordinary people doing extraordinary things in their neighbourhoods

##### **What is a civic champion?**

“Just an ordinary person” is the answer you’ll get if you ask one, but civic champions are in fact extraordinary people doing extraordinary things on a voluntary basis in their community.

##### **What is the Civic Champions programme?**

Civic Champions is a unique skills and business development programme, run by the Civic Trust in East Anglia, for residents and volunteers who are passionate about the wellbeing of their community. Champions are running new buildings, have set up social enterprises, won funding, created jobs and are delivering services that their communities need.

The Civic Trust has run the Champions programme over the last five years, initially as a national programme working with volunteers from across England. Over the last two years we have run the programme at a countywide level. So alongside Champions developing their own personal and business skills they have created strong local networks, offering support, knowledge and information; Champions link into other existing networks so providing a huge resource that helps get things done!

##### **About The Civic Trust**

The Civic Trust is the leading UK charity dedicated to bringing vitality, sustainability and high quality design to the built environment. An independent charity, founded in 1957, The Civic Trust works with people to promote thriving towns and villages with the aim of inspiring and promoting progressive improvements to the quality of life.

**Address:** 2nd Floor, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London. WC2R 3HU **Tel:** 020 7539 7900 **Fax:** 020 7539 7901 **Email:** [helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk) [www.civictrust.org.uk](http://www.civictrust.org.uk)



### The Civic Champions programme

The Champions we wish to work with are either:

- a person volunteering for a community or voluntary group or social enterprise
- an individual with a project idea and some local support
- an employee of a voluntary organisation or social enterprise that employs less than three people.

In 2004 and 2005 the Civic Champions programme ran in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex. We worked in partnership with Business Link for Norfolk, Business Link Suffolk, Business Link Essex and The Guild, a Norwich based Social Enterprise Development agency.

We are now developing a graduate programme for those existing champions who wish to focus their passion and skills on facilitation and “championing” champions - to help members of their communities to help themselves and by that create further employment opportunities and new enterprises to provide products and services their communities want. Details will be posted as soon as they are available.

Civic Champions are passionate and entrepreneurial people who want to create and sustain wealth in the communities where they live. By working in partnership with Business Links and other business support agencies we provide a programme that enables entrepreneurs to do what they are good at: create wealth and jobs, create and sustain new networks and share learning and practise so making real economic changes in the communities they live in.

### 3. *Every Action Counts*

Every Action Counts is a three year initiative to engage and enable communities across England to take simple everyday actions on the environment to help deliver ‘one planet living’ and working towards a sustainable future.

Funded by DEFRA, the Civic Trust is part of the ‘Every Action Counts’ consortium of 29 voluntary sector organisations including Groundwork UK and BTCV, supporting local groups and community organisations, through a dedicated programme of regional events, training and online resources, to play an active role in the delivery of local sustainable development.

#### About The Civic Trust

The Civic Trust is the leading UK charity dedicated to bringing vitality, sustainability and high quality design to the built environment. An independent charity, founded in 1957, The Civic Trust works with people to promote thriving towns and villages with the aim of inspiring and promoting progressive improvements to the quality of life.

**Address:** 2nd Floor, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London. WC2R 3HU **Tel:** 020 7539 7900 **Fax:** 020 7539 7901 **Email:** [helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk) [www.civictrust.org.uk](http://www.civictrust.org.uk)



#### 4. Heritage Open Days

The Civic Trust co-ordinates Heritage Open Days in partnership with English Heritage.

Heritage Open Days celebrate England's architecture, history and culture during a long weekend in September. Buildings which are normally closed to the public, or which charge for entry, are open, free of charge to the public. From castles to factories, town halls to barns, parish churches to Buddhist temples, buildings of all sizes and functions are open for tours and events.

With over 35,000 volunteers who share their memories and knowledge with up to 1 million visitors, Heritage Open Days is England's largest voluntary cultural event.

Heritage Open Days was established in 1994 as England's contribution to European Heritage Days, taking place across 48 countries.

#### 5. *Heritage Open Days Classroom*

The Civic Trust's educational vision is to enable future generations of citizens to make informed decisions about and bring positive change to their neighbourhoods. Exploring the multiple relationships between people and places, this innovative online Teachers' Resource conveys a concept of community awareness and active citizenship that is based on an understanding and knowledge about where and how we live and how we interact with our environment. In doing so, we hope to promote a sense of belonging and help create social cohesion in our communities.

Expanding upon each pupil's/student's personal experience, the modules we have created and will create in the future uses their local knowledge, starting with the most familiar and recognisable local buildings (i.e. their homes or Living Spaces, and Places of Faith) as the core, and then moving outwards into the places and spaces that form their community.

The resource seeks to develop knowledge, understanding and skills rather than fulfilling formal National Curriculum modules – for example, the activities created for Places of Faith could be used at any Key Stage by any teacher to devise work appropriate for their particular pupils/students. It has been designed for teachers to use with the variety of technologies now available in the classroom such as White Boards. The possibilities of using the downloadable materials – videos, images, activity sheets, transcripts – are endless. Equally, it is possible to mix and match activities from the different units.

#### 6. *Made in Britain*

Made in Britain celebrates British manufacturing locations, skills and craftsmanship as an important part of this country's cultural heritage. Launched in 2007 as "Made in England", the campaign will continue to grow, showcasing companies across Great Britain.

For many years, manufacturers have enriched the annual Heritage Open Days programme with tours around their premises and skills demonstrations. Through Made in Britain, the Civic Trust pays tribute to the contribution that these companies make and have made to the wealth and the identity of local communities as well as entire regions.

We will be working with a diverse range of British companies, which all stand for excellence in quality and design and continue to keep alive a long manufacturing tradition in their respective field. Starting with the five companies who took part in 2007, the campaign will invite manufacturers of goods, foods and beverages whose main production base is located in Britain to participate.

#### About The Civic Trust

The Civic Trust is the leading UK charity dedicated to bringing vitality, sustainability and high quality design to the built environment. An independent charity, founded in 1957, The Civic Trust works with people to promote thriving towns and villages with the aim of inspiring and promoting progressive improvements to the quality of life.

**Address:** 2nd Floor, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London. WC2R 3HU **Tel:** 020 7539 7900 **Fax:** 020 7539 7901 **Email:** [helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk) [www.civictrust.org.uk](http://www.civictrust.org.uk)



### 7. BizFizz

BizFizz was launched in 2001 and is an innovative national programme for entrepreneurs. It was jointly developed by nef (the new economics foundation) and the Civic Trust.

BizFizz supports start ups, micro and small enterprises in areas experiencing economic disadvantage. It turns the passion and enthusiasm of individuals into a driving force for economic renewal by mobilising the skills and resources within communities.

BizFizz is now active in 21 locations across England and Scotland where BizFizz coaches help entrepreneurs to develop their businesses in their own communities. Each community has a local panel of experienced people who offer their skills and advice to the new businesses.

### 8. NightVision

Following three years of research (supported by central Government, business and industry), the Civic Trust has developed the NightVision programme. The research showed that many more people would use town centres at night if they were safer, more accessible and offered more choice (read the [NightVision Report](#) and the [Summary of NightVision](#)).

The aim of NightVision is to increase the quality and broaden the appeal of town centres at night.

NightVision will do this through:

- Research and innovation
- Pilot projects, in partnership with local authorities, town centre management partnerships, investors and communities
- Developing and highlighting good practice, drawing on excellent and innovative work around the country and abroad
- Driving up standards and acknowledging success with the Civic Trust's Purple Flag Accreditation Scheme
- Providing training for policy makers and practitioners
- Sponsoring an annual NightVision Award in the [Civic Trust Awards](#)

The Civic Trust has a range of specialist skills to work with local authorities, partnerships and communities to:

- Assess the performance of town and city centres at night, using the NightVision checklist
- Appraise policy approaches, using the NightVision Proofing Model
- Identify commercial and economic potential for greater quality and diversity
- Set objectives for the future, using the [Purple Flag](#) Accreditation standards and good practice
- Develop a consensus for action amongst stakeholders, capitalising on the Civic Trust's "honest broker" role

The Civic Trust is undertaking a series of pilot schemes around the country, from Preston to Bexley.

### 9. High Street UK

Based on the success and experience gained from our regeneration programmes, the Civic Trust is piloting an innovative project. High Street harnesses the energies of local people to improve their town centres.

#### About The Civic Trust

The Civic Trust is the leading UK charity dedicated to bringing vitality, sustainability and high quality design to the built environment. An independent charity, founded in 1957, The Civic Trust works with people to promote thriving towns and villages with the aim of inspiring and promoting progressive improvements to the quality of life.

**Address:** 2nd Floor, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London. WC2R 3HU **Tel:** 020 7539 7900 **Fax:** 020 7539 7901 **Email:** [helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk) [www.civictrust.org.uk](http://www.civictrust.org.uk)



High St. UK is a new national town centre programme aimed at creating a momentum of activity at high street level. The programme focuses on town and city centres, the people that run them, the businesses that operate there, residents and consumers, the people that look to them to provide central services and the local economic systems they fit within. It is a collaborative venture between The Civic Trust and the New Economics Foundation.

Town centre management has increasingly focused on the perceptions of the national multiples. Smaller independent shops are closing at the rate of 2,000 a year, but a successful town centre relies on a blend of well known fascias and local independents. A strong local independent sector means that more money is retained within the local economy to support local growth in jobs and other opportunities. The power of major food stores to dominate a local centre is well known, but the techniques for developing and supporting the full complementary range of other facilities is less understood and rarely applied.

Great Malvern is the first town in the UK to take part in the project, with residents, traders, councillors and local civic society working together to deliver the four themes of the programme. Local co-ordination, good design, promotion of the town and economic development are brought together to improve the town for all.

### **10. My Card**

My Card promotes independent businesses within a local area, working with the consumer to focus on their own town or city. The card delivers discounts to the cardholder and makes a charitable donation to a charity of the cardholder's choice automatically by swiping the card in the businesses' normal swipe facility. This innovative and ethical concept will deliver real and proven results to the cardholder, local business, local charities and to the wider community.

#### **About The Civic Trust**

The Civic Trust is the leading UK charity dedicated to bringing vitality, sustainability and high quality design to the built environment. An independent charity, founded in 1957, The Civic Trust works with people to promote thriving towns and villages with the aim of inspiring and promoting progressive improvements to the quality of life.

**Address:** 2nd Floor, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London. WC2R 3HU **Tel:** 020 7539 7900 **Fax:** 020 7539 7901 **Email:** [helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk) [www.civictrust.org.uk](http://www.civictrust.org.uk)



### 11. Regeneration

The Civic Trust has almost 50 years of experience in providing practical plans for the revitalisation of villages, towns and cities. These plans are carefully developed to make sure that they meet the needs of stakeholders from local authorities to local residents.

From early street improvement schemes in the 1960s to recent NightVision projects in Swindon and Castle Morpeth, the Civic Trust has made a difference to towns and cities around the country.

#### Some projects:

##### Urban Design and Development Studies

- Wallingford Town Centre – preparing a vision for the development of the town centre
- St Neots Town Centre - preparing a vision for the development of the town centre
- Daventry Town Centre - preparing a vision for the development of the town centre
- Shirebrook Town centre – managing the redevelopment of a defunct colliery
- Oakham – developing plans to create an arts and heritage destination
- Huntingdon – developing a spatial strategy for the town centre
- Crayford – preparing a development proposal to breathe life into the high street

##### Neighbourhood Renewal

- New Addington, Croydon – developing a community led action plan.
- Convoys Wharf, Deptford – undertaken local consultation on this development

##### Community Planning and Engagement

- Oxmoor, Huntingdonshire – engaging residents to develop a local action plan
- RAF Hendon – advising on public consultation about the development of the brownfield site.
- Thamesgate, Thurrock – designing and delivering a community engagement strategy.

The Civic Trust's Regeneration team has expertise in town planning, urban and landscape design, community engagement, capacity building/training and social enterprise. We assemble bespoke teams for projects comprising core staff and a regular circle of associates and sub-consultants. We also join other teams and consortium bids.

As a non-profit distributing organisation rooted in the third sector, we have an independent view, and act as 'honest broker' to build consensus between the public, private and community/voluntary sector.

#### About The Civic Trust

The Civic Trust is the leading UK charity dedicated to bringing vitality, sustainability and high quality design to the built environment. An independent charity, founded in 1957, The Civic Trust works with people to promote thriving towns and villages with the aim of inspiring and promoting progressive improvements to the quality of life.

**Address:** 2nd Floor, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London. WC2R 3HU **Tel:** 020 7539 7900 **Fax:** 020 7539 7901 **Email:** [helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk) [www.civictrust.org.uk](http://www.civictrust.org.uk)



### 12. Purple Flag Award

Following the [NightVision](#) research, the Civic Trust has developed a new international standard for the way town and city centres are managed at night called Purple Flag Accreditation.

The aims of the Purple Flag Accreditation are to focus national attention on the rich potential of town centres in the evening and at night, to drive up standards overall and to replace current negative perceptions with a positive vision which aims to be the antidote to years of negative publicity.

The new Purple Flag Accreditation will be conferred on those centres that meet [defined standards](#), under four broad headings.

Town centres should be:

- 1. Well regulated and hospitable
- 2. Accessible and attractive

And they should offer:

- 3. A good balance of mixed uses
- 4. A vibrant choice of entertainment

The Purple Flag standard will set the benchmark (see the [Purple Flag Appraisal](#)) for the performance of centres. It will demonstrate to residents, shoppers, tourists and visitors that accredited centres are clean and safe, enjoyable and accessible. It will give councils and partnerships a valuable tool in promoting a positive image. It will lead to a better balance of activities and entertainment and will generate economic success. It will provide [a vision for success](#).

Purple Flag Accreditation was launched to a Parliamentary audience on 1st July 2008. A number of local authorities have already signed up to become Purple Flag Pathfinders and Champions, including Westminster City Council and Bath and North East Somerset Council (see details of other [Purple Flag Pathfinders and Champions](#)).

### 13. Civic Trust Awards

The Civic Trust Awards were established in 1959 and are one of the oldest built environment award schemes in Europe. They are given to outstanding projects in architecture, planning, environmental design, landscape, public art and urban design.

From cafes and churches to housing and hospitals, the Civic Trust has rewarded over 5,500 buildings which have provided the design and facilities to make better places for people.

The Civic Trust Awards are unique. They recognise the best in the built environment – but they also recognise that excellent buildings must have a positive impact on their communities.

The Civic Trust Awards are awarded annually. Levels of Award include Special Award, Award, Commendation and Mention. The Special Awards highlight excellence in a particular area (e.g. sustainability) and are sponsored by organisations including [English Partnerships](#), [Aggregate Industries](#) and [CABE](#).

All winners are announced at a national ceremony in March. Award winners receive plaques to display on the winning building.

#### About The Civic Trust

The Civic Trust is the leading UK charity dedicated to bringing vitality, sustainability and high quality design to the built environment. An independent charity, founded in 1957, The Civic Trust works with people to promote thriving towns and villages with the aim of inspiring and promoting progressive improvements to the quality of life.

**Address:** 2nd Floor, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London. WC2R 3HU **Tel:** 020 7539 7900 **Fax:** 020 7539 7901 **Email:** [helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk) [www.civictrust.org.uk](http://www.civictrust.org.uk)



Entries are judged by a local team, including a senior architect, inclusive design advisor, a planning representative and, uniquely, a member of the local community. The team reports its findings to a national panel (a representative group of experts) who make the final decision.

### 14. Built Environment Network (BE-Net)

The BE-Net (Built Environment Network) is a unique online interactive archive featuring the last five decades of the Civic Trust Awards. It encourages people to visit previous Award winning schemes and reassess them to evaluate whether they remain deserving of the Award.

This ongoing feedback from the people who use the buildings reflects the importance that the Civic Trust Awards place on the ability of Award winning schemes to be of benefit to their local community.

Already well known as a national campaigning organisation, the Civic Trust is using the feedback from the BE-Net project to identify, highlight and promote the issues around creating successful, popular, accessible and well used public spaces and buildings.

### 15. Green Environment

Our green environment provides us with spaces in which to work, relax, socialise and play. From country parks to cemeteries, and water gardens to nature reserves, quality green spaces make a difference to the lives of our communities.

The Civic Trust - Activities and Programmes in the Green Environment

1. [Green Flag Award Scheme](#)
2. [Green Pennant Award](#)
3. [Green Heritage Site](#)
4. [Community Spaces](#)

#### Green Flag Award Scheme

The Civic Trust manages the Green Flag Award Scheme on behalf of Communities and Local Government. The Scheme is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, and has been piloted in Ireland and Wales.

Winning sites include cemeteries, country parks, nature reserves and water gardens. Sites must be freely accessible to the public, and provide a welcoming and well managed space for their local community.

Sites are judged each year by a network of over 600 green space professionals; each winning site is entitled to fly the Green Flag to highlight their status.

There are currently 554 Green Flag Award winning sites in England, Scotland and Wales.

#### Green Pennant Award

Part of the Green Flag Award Scheme, the Green Pennant Award is given to community and voluntary groups who successfully manage their own green spaces in England and Wales. Winning sites include allotments, urban farms, churchyards and village greens – all of which provide green places in the heart of their communities.

#### About The Civic Trust

The Civic Trust is the leading UK charity dedicated to bringing vitality, sustainability and high quality design to the built environment. An independent charity, founded in 1957, The Civic Trust works with people to promote thriving towns and villages with the aim of inspiring and promoting progressive improvements to the quality of life.

**Address:** 2nd Floor, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London. WC2R 3HU **Tel:** 020 7539 7900 **Fax:** 020 7539 7901 **Email:** [helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk) [www.civictrust.org.uk](http://www.civictrust.org.uk)



There are currently 77 Green Pennant Award winning sites in England and Wales.

### Community Spaces

Launched in 2008, the £50m Community Spaces programme provides grants to allow groups to create or regenerate local spaces to improve the quality of life in their neighbourhood.

The programme is managed by Groundwork UK on behalf of a consortium of environmental organisations, including the Civic Trust, who are recruiting and training facilitators to support local groups with their projects.

Project targets include play areas, community gardens, parks, ponds and village greens.

### 16. Policy and Campaigns

We influence the thinking and actions of people who shape and manage the built environment in a variety of ways. In addition to the practical projects we carry out, we also:

- respond to consultation papers issued by central Government and its agencies.
- issue position statements that capture our views on individual topics.
- take part in focused campaigns, harnessing the lobbying power of our Civic Society membership to change policies and attitudes.

Over the last 11 years, the Civic Trust has made 143 policy statements which represented (and continue to represent) the views of our members. This works out at about one a month. The Trust regularly has over 100 civic societies working on our Government Consultation network.

#### About The Civic Trust

The Civic Trust is the leading UK charity dedicated to bringing vitality, sustainability and high quality design to the built environment. An independent charity, founded in 1957, The Civic Trust works with people to promote thriving towns and villages with the aim of inspiring and promoting progressive improvements to the quality of life.

**Address:** 2nd Floor, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London. WC2R 3HU **Tel:** 020 7539 7900 **Fax:** 020 7539 7901 **Email:** [helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk) [www.civictrust.org.uk](http://www.civictrust.org.uk)



### SECTION 3: HISTORY and ACHIEVEMENTS

#### *History of The Civic Trust*

The Civic Trust was founded in 1957 by Duncan Sandys, as a new champion for the built environment and especially for Britain's rich heritage of historic buildings and places.

From the outset, the Trust focused not only on conservation, but also on bringing about change, improvement and higher standards. We've been championing causes to improve quality of life in the built environment ever since, sometimes in a favourable public and political context, but not always. Our work has included pioneering work on town centre improvements, urban regeneration, the reuse of derelict and vacant land and the protection and enhancement of our built heritage, and the renowned Civic Trust Awards.

Britain would look very different today, without the work of the Civic Trust. In London, Covent Garden would have a six-lane highway ploughing through it; Piccadilly Circus would have been redeveloped with overbearing 1960's glass and steel buildings, wider roads, and pedestrians exiled to high-level walkways; Whitehall between Parliament Street and the Embankment would have been flattened for redevelopment, and that romantic riverside monument, Norman Shaw's New Scotland Yard, vanished forever.

Historic towns like York, Bath, Berwick-on-Tweed and Chester would have been damaged beyond recognition; roads and streets in would be lined with advertising hoardings; demolition of historic buildings would have been uncontrolled; conservation areas would not exist (the Trust was instrumental in bringing about the Civic Amenities Act, which established conservation areas).

Much has changed since the Civic Trust was established. We have worked in many fields to improve Britain's built environment. We've carried out practical projects; demonstrated how to make better places; run various programmes and influenced the government's campaign for urban renaissance and sustainable communities.

Four strands of Trust activity run through our history: campaigning to change policy and attitudes, raising standards and rewarding the best through the Civic Trust Awards, the Civic Society movement and working to engage and empower communities to demand more from their towns and cities.

#### About The Civic Trust

The Civic Trust is the leading UK charity dedicated to bringing vitality, sustainability and high quality design to the built environment. An independent charity, founded in 1957, The Civic Trust works with people to promote thriving towns and villages with the aim of inspiring and promoting progressive improvements to the quality of life.

**Address:** 2nd Floor, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London. WC2R 3HU **Tel:** 020 7539 7900 **Fax:** 020 7539 7901 **Email:** [helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk) [www.civictrust.org.uk](http://www.civictrust.org.uk)



### ***Outline Chronology of The Civic Trust***

#### **1957**

- The Civic Trust is launched at Lambeth Palace by Lord Duncan Sandys
- Organised largest international exhibition of landscape architecture plus free service to anyone wanting to start new local society

#### **1958**

- Annual Civic Trust Awards Scheme launched
- Volunteer work camps started to clear National Park eyesores

#### **1959**

- Successfully opposed plans for meretricious redevelopment of Piccadilly Circus.
- The Civic Trust undertook the first 'street improvement scheme' in Norwich.
- First National Conference for local civic and amenity societies took place.

#### **1960**

- Second street improvement scheme took place in Burslem
- Organised conference on Rebuilding City Centres.
- Membership grew to 300 local civic and amenity societies.

#### **1961**

- Her Majesty The Queen opens third street improvement scheme.
- Campaign launched for 'instant' landscaping for bleak urban areas using semi-mature trees.
- Launch of North West Civic Trust (regional association).

#### **1962**

- "New Face for Britain" a film about street improvement goes on general release
- Organised Conference in Salisbury on historic towns.

#### **1963**

- Organised conference on industrialised (system) building. Pilot programme on instant landscaping.
- The Civic Trust is a founding member of Europa Nostra (European federation of non-statutory conservation organisations).

#### **1964**

- Formulates plans for UK's first regional park in Lea Valley, North East London.
- The Civic Trust's Report 'Derelict Land' prompts Government to take remedial action.
- Civic Trust for Wales launched and 500 amenity and civic societies now registered as members of the Civic Trust.

#### **1965**

- The Civic Trust's campaigning defeats damaging and grandiose Government plans for redevelopment of Whitehall/Westminster area.
- North East Civic Trust launched and "The Challenge of Leisure" published, which highlights need for increased leisure facilities.

#### **1966**

- Organised national conference titled 'Trees in Towns'

#### **1967**

- Prime Minister Harold Wilson speaks at the Civic Trust's 10th Anniversary dinner

#### **About The Civic Trust**

The Civic Trust is the leading UK charity dedicated to bringing vitality, sustainability and high quality design to the built environment. An independent charity, founded in 1957, The Civic Trust works with people to promote thriving towns and villages with the aim of inspiring and promoting progressive improvements to the quality of life.

**Address:** 2nd Floor, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London. WC2R 3HU **Tel:** 020 7539 7900 **Fax:** 020 7539 7901 **Email:** [helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk) [www.civictrust.org.uk](http://www.civictrust.org.uk)



- The Civic Trust's drafted Civic Amenities Act, which becomes law. This enables local authorities to designate conservation areas for protection, of which there were 6,000 in 1989 in the UK, and Government grants are now available to assist with restoration and enhancement.
- The Civic Trust publishes 'Conservation Areas'
- Scottish Civic Trust launched. Local civic and amenity society membership now 600.

### 1968

- National Conference of amenity societies held in York
- 'Mark 2' of street improvement scheme in Hemel Hempstead

### 1969

- Anglo-American conference on public participation.
- Exhibition of local amenity and civic societies' work at Harrods.

### 1970

- National conference on derelict land, and first ever study of damage done by heavy lorries published which prompts calls for reform, and subsequent Government action

### 1971

- "National Conference on Conservation", a film is released on urban conservation, also a report is published requesting the setting up of the Architectural Heritage Fund.
- Civic Trust campaigning helps to defeat un-idiomatic and damaging plans for redevelopment of Covent Gardens.

### 1972

- Asked by Government to run the UK contribution to European Architectural Heritage Year. Other countries entries, bar Switzerland, were organised by their respective Governments.
- "Pride of Place" is published, manual on townscape care, later translated into Japanese and other languages

### 1973

- As proposed by the Civic Trust, the Government introduces Conservation Grants.

### 1974

- Civic Trust drafts Town and Counties Amenities Act which is passed as law.
- The Civic Trust is a founding member of European Environmental Bureau.

### 1975

- Civic Trust manages European Architectural Heritage Year. The main objectives are to promote education in schools and develop Heritage Centres – two of which opened in York and Chester.

### 1976

- Architectural Heritage Fund formed, and has been a constant success.
- "The Local Amenity Movement" – study of local societies is published

### 1977

- Scandal of urban wasteland highlighted in a Civic Trust report and the Government is promoted to start a register of such land.
- Education group launches Wide Awake Trail for the young.

### 1978

- First Urban Regeneration scheme undertaken in Wirksworth
- Civic Trust launches Heritage Interpretation Programme for societies

#### About The Civic Trust

The Civic Trust is the leading UK charity dedicated to bringing vitality, sustainability and high quality design to the built environment. An independent charity, founded in 1957, The Civic Trust works with people to promote thriving towns and villages with the aim of inspiring and promoting progressive improvements to the quality of life.

**Address:** 2nd Floor, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London. WC2R 3HU **Tel:** 020 7539 7900 **Fax:** 020 7539 7901 **Email:** [helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk) [www.civictrust.org.uk](http://www.civictrust.org.uk)



### 1979

- "Understanding Our Surroundings" is published
- Civic Trust advises government on environmental impact of heavy lorries
- Organised National Conference for members of conservation advisory committee

### 1980

- The Civic Trust launches "Pride of Place" – a competition on improvement schemes for local societies

### 1982

- The Civic Trust organises the national civic society conference in York

### 1983

- "Bypasses and Juggernauts" is published, highlighting the need to remove heavy lorry traffic from town and city centres
- Civic Trust receives Europa Nostra Award for regeneration work in Wirksworth

### 1984

- Regeneration scheme started in Calderdale, (including Halifax)
- Organised first national conference on Heritage Centres

### 1985

- The Civic Trust organises the first national environment week

### 1986

- Advises Isle of Man government on Tynwald meeting place. (oldest surviving legislature in the world)

### 1987

- The Civic Trust's Regeneration unit is formed. First "Building a Better Britain" exhibition is launched in London.

### 1988

- Education unit launches "Shaping Place"
- New report on 'Urban Wasteland' and launch of UK 2000 – a Partnership of 6 voluntary groups.

### 1989

- Approx 1,000 local societies registered with Trust. National congress in Oxford, and second 'Building a Better Britain' exhibition
- New scheme launched for personal membership, HRH Prince of Wales becomes first member and Patron of the Civic Trust.
- Organised Conference on 'Creating the Living Town Centre'
- Civic Trust launches Northern office in Liverpool.

### 1990

- Undertook UK Audit Review of the Environment with local societies
- BT sponsored Community Pride awards launched by the Civic Trust, and Regeneration campaign set up with target of 100 projects throughout the country.
- Development trusts now have their own association.
- "Lorries in the Community" published
- "About the Urban Environment" published for GCSE students
- UK Audit of the Environment published – highlighting the need for safety in town centres
- Publication of new forms of community partnerships
- The Civic Trust is awarded a contract to manage DEFRA's Environmental Action Fund, which helps voluntary and community groups to run sustainable projects.

#### About The Civic Trust

The Civic Trust is the leading UK charity dedicated to bringing vitality, sustainability and high quality design to the built environment. An independent charity, founded in 1957, The Civic Trust works with people to promote thriving towns and villages with the aim of inspiring and promoting progressive improvements to the quality of life.

**Address:** 2nd Floor, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London. WC2R 3HU **Tel:** 020 7539 7900 **Fax:** 020 7539 7901 **Email:** [helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk) [www.civictrust.org.uk](http://www.civictrust.org.uk)



### 1991

- Produced video of Regeneration: featuring the Civic Trust's regeneration work.
- Organised "Bridging the Regeneration Gap" conference

### 1992

- "Inner City Regeneration" is launched, a practical advice resource for local groups to regenerate economic activity
- Regeneration Unit joins forces with URBED & Comedia to launch the Heart of Urban Initiative at the third Building a Better Britain conference, which focused mainly on the plight of town centres
- HRH Prince of Wales launches the Seaside Regeneration Campaign highlighting the Civic Trust's work in Ilfracombe and pleading for similar towns which manage to slip through the funding net
- Grand Met Inner City Action Scheme is launched by the Civic Trust to aid local groups. Funding from the DOE enable the Civic Trust to give free consultancy advice to needy groups

### 1993

- Friends of The Civic Trust scheme launched, and also the Campaign for Liveable Places which is sponsored by Grand Met
- "Winning Partnerships", a new training course for urban regeneration is launched by Secretary of State, Michael Howard. The course is designed to fill an important gap in training needs of the regeneration field
- CentreVision, a programme for town centres launched by the Civic Trust and sponsored by Boots the Chemist.
- "Turning The Tide" is published, detailing regeneration of seaside town
- The Civic Trust launches Heritage Open Days in England, which celebrates local heritage by opening buildings to the public during a weekend.

### 1994

- Heritage Open Days is launched as England's contribution to European Heritage. The programme is co-ordinated by the Civic Trust, and supported by English Heritage.

### 1997

- The Civic Trust publishes "Pride of Place" – a manifesto to celebrate 40 years of achievements, and to call for a national commitment to British urban renaissance.

### 1998

- The Civic Trust launches Civic Champions – a programme to provide training and support for community activists to help them lead their communities in making local improvements.

### 1999

- The Civic Trust starts to manage the Green Flag Award Scheme on behalf of CABE Space.

### 2001

- The Civic Trust launches BizFizz in partnership with nef (the new economics foundation). This is an innovative national programme for entrepreneurs where a local panel and coaches offer their expertise to start ups and small enterprises.

### 2003

The Civic Trust is awarded a three year funding grant from the (then) Department for Communities and Local Government, to investigate good practice in managing and developing the evening and night time economy.

### 2005

- The Civic Trust wins the contract to deliver the Green Flag Award Scheme on behalf of Communities and

#### About The Civic Trust

The Civic Trust is the leading UK charity dedicated to bringing vitality, sustainability and high quality design to the built environment. An independent charity, founded in 1957, The Civic Trust works with people to promote thriving towns and villages with the aim of inspiring and promoting progressive improvements to the quality of life.

**Address:** 2nd Floor, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London. WC2R 3HU **Tel:** 020 7539 7900 **Fax:** 020 7539 7901 **Email:** [helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk) [www.civictrust.org.uk](http://www.civictrust.org.uk)



### Local Government.

- The Civic Trust launches a new Education Programme as part of Heritage Open Days, aimed at encouraging school children to explore and enjoy their heritage.
- The Civic Trust holds a national conference – “Town Centres for All” – creating a healthy variety of evening and night time activities.

### 2006

- The Civic Trust joins other heritage organisations, including the National Trust to launch “History Matters” – a campaign to encourage people to understand and explore their heritage.
- The Civic Trust launches the “NightVision” report, which, following three years of research, makes proposals for the management of town and city centres to make them attractive and inclusive to all at night. Eight pilot projects are launched across the country.
- The Civic Trust launches “GrassRoots” - a membership magazine.
- The Civic Trust launches a pilot “High Street” programme in Great Malvern. Local people, councillors, traders and the local civic society work together to improve the town’s economy.

### 2007

- Heritage Open Days involves 35,000 volunteers and attracts 1 million visitors over a long weekend in September, making it England’s largest voluntary cultural event.
- Under the management of the Civic Trust, the Green Flag Award Scheme has grown considerably, with over 500 parks and green spaces now flying the prestigious flag.
- BizFizz now helping entrepreneurs in 21 locations across England and Scotland.
- The Civic Trust joins other environmental organisations to campaign for changes to the proposed Planning Bill.
- The Civic Trust launched the first national exhibition featuring Civic Trust Award winning buildings and projects.

### 2008

- The 49th year of the Civic Trust Awards sees a record 103 winners. The Awards attract sponsors including CABA and ICI Paints.
- Well known actor, writer and comedian Griff Rhys Jones joins the Civic Trust as national President.
- The Civic Trust holds a Parliamentary launch of the Purple Flag Awards (1st July) which will recognise those town and city centres which have developed well managed and inclusive evening economies.
- Griff Rhys Jones appointed as President.

We continue to work to with our members and partners, across our programmes and campaigns, to create better places in which people can live and work.

#### About The Civic Trust

The Civic Trust is the leading UK charity dedicated to bringing vitality, sustainability and high quality design to the built environment. An independent charity, founded in 1957, The Civic Trust works with people to promote thriving towns and villages with the aim of inspiring and promoting progressive improvements to the quality of life.

**Address:** 2nd Floor, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London. WC2R 3HU **Tel:** 020 7539 7900 **Fax:** 020 7539 7901 **Email:** [helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk) [www.civictrust.org.uk](http://www.civictrust.org.uk)