



# WHY JOIN THE CIVIC TRUST?

Civic Trust offers a unique and comprehensive membership package for Civic Societies and organisations working within the built, historic and natural environment. Some of the benefits include a cheaper insurance scheme, advice on incorporation, national representation on policy issues, a dedicated membership helpdesk, and an interactive membership intranet. However, it's the sum total of our membership offering that makes us unique to our members. These have been listed in six key point below.

## 1. **There is strength in numbers and value in being part of a reputable brand**

The Civic Trust has a 50 years track record in promoting high standards in planning, architecture, conservation and regeneration. As the national representative for over 750 Civic Societies, culminating in over 20,000 individuals, Civic Trust members enjoy the benefit of being part of a reputable national brand that is recognised as an influential voice on built environment policies at central government level.

## 2. **Our work is essentially about people and places**

Since its inception in 1959, under the auspices of the then Secretary of State, Sir Duncan Sandys, the Trust has continually evolved to ensure a close resemblance between its aims and that of its members. A survey held in 2006 amongst 25% of our membership showed that our memberships activities fits in neatly with our strategic and programme priorities which spans across three key themes: people, communities and places; better places in the built environment; and better places in the green environment.

## 3. **We listen and give our members opportunities to influence our national agenda**

We give our members the opportunity to directly influence the governance and future development of the Trust through the advisory capacity of the National Committee for Civic Societies, a subcommittee of our board of Trustees. The National Committee is made up of two of our Trustees who are also Civic Society members and the nine the chairs of Regional Associations of Civic Society representing each of the English regions.

In September 2006, we introduced an exclusive interactive intranet site for our members, called the Civic Societies Network (CSN). The CSN offers individual members the unique opportunity to directly influence the Civic Trust's national policy and campaigns, through live discussion boards, surveys and other interactive features. To see a sample page from the web portal, please [click here](#). To find out more information, please [click here](#).

## 4. **We take our member's work seriously and constantly evolve to meet their needs**

To demonstrate our commitment to Civic Societies, the Trust recently assigned two dedicated full time members of staff to dealing with Civic Societies activities; Civic Societies Programme Leader and Membership Helpdesk Manager. The Programme Leader has the overall responsibility for overseeing the range of services offered to Civic Societies. Whilst, the Membership Helpdesk Manager is responsible for dealing with immediate queries from Civic Societies, registering and supporting new civic societies and moderating our membership Network.

## 5. **We help convert our members' aspirations into reality: our membership package**

Using the findings from our 'Paving the Way' membership survey conducted in spring 2006, the Civic Trust embarked on a modernisation programme to improve and expand the range of its membership services.

As a result, registered Civic Societies now have access to over **12** different services in addition to existing opportunities to engage in Trust wide programmes, like Heritage Open Days and Civic Trust Awards. In 2007, we have held 11 FREE regional events for our members on built and national environment issues as part of our Every Action Counts and Paving the Way seminar series.

We offer guidance and support on incorporation and other governance matters to new and existing members. Not forgetting, of course, our unique and popular insurance package tailored specifically for Civic Trust members and offered by the Norwich Union and Stuart Alexander.



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**6. We provide endless opportunities through programmes for our members to improve, protect and enjoy their local environment**

We create opportunities for members to engage in the delivery of our programmes like Heritage Open Days, Civic Trust Awards, Every Action Counts, Green Flag Awards, NightVision and Community Champions. Last year over 106 Civic Societies participated in HODS and over 65 Civic Societies conducted their own local design awards. Why not join them?!

Overview of CT's Services to Civic Societies



See the diagram below for an overview of our services and benefits:

**Who can be a member?**

The Civic Trust Membership is open to any community-based organisation that is run by active citizens, with a shared sense of civic pride who carry out activities and campaigns to improve or protect their local environment and its historic character.

**Does this definition describe your group?**

If so, contact us now to find out more about becoming a Civic Trust member and any of services. Please contact our helpdesk manager on **020 7539 7904** or email us at [helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@civictrust.org.uk)