

Hythe Civic Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

Item: 5.3 - 2025-2026 Forward Plan

This report summarises the key action points for the society over the coming year.

Part One: Our CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS

1. Champion High Standards in Planning

- Scrutinise key planning applications, focusing on heritage and major developments.
- Input to consultations of heritage and conservation topics.
- Engage members for input where practical.

2. Educate & Engage on Hythe's Heritage

- Host monthly talks (Sept–June) with strong subject interest and attendance.
- Hold our annual exhibition (this year **'Through YOUR Lens' – Hythe My Hometown**) and drive strong support for the extensive 80th Anniversary events.
- Maintain strong publicity for and aim to achieve good attendance for the guided summer 'Town Walks' roughly consistent with the 2024 level .
- Publish an updated Society leaflet, and a new publication.
- Review and continue to promote the HCS/Hythe Town Council countryside walking routes, gathering user feedback.

3. Protect & Enhance Historic Hythe

- Work with FHDC & HTC to shape and implement FHDC's Heritage Strategy.
- Continue our lobbying for a Hythe Conservation Area Management Plan.
- Support FHDC in developing a Local List of Heritage Assets for planning guidance.

4. Foster Civic Pride

- Support 'Hythe in Bloom' and the 'Tuesday Volunteer Gardeners' in maintaining the attractiveness and appeal of the town and its open spaces.
- Aim to clean/refurbish the two Red Lion Square bus shelters, some of the town's information boards and street furniture.
- Partner with local groups, and support work at Eaton Lands.

Part Two: OUR INTERNAL OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

1. Communications & Engagement

- Produce interesting quarterly newsletter covering planning, history, events & news.
- Increase the use of our Facebook Group.
- Conduct & analyse membership feedback, sharing outcomes.

2. Promotion & Membership Growth

- Promote the Society with an updated leaflet.
- Use press, website & social media to publicise HCS work.

3. Financial Stability

- Maintain a balanced budget and healthy reserves, and monitor monthly.
- Annual fundraising event (Boot Fair in August).

4. Governance & Policies

- Complete the governance policy review, including a Safeguarding Policy, and hold trustee training where needed.
- Document key functions & roles for trustees.

5. Trustee Development

- Share relevant Charity Commission updates with trustees.
- Create a Trustee Joining Pack.
- Seek to fill vacancies for key committee/trustee roles.
- Hold a Trustee training/update meeting.