

Constitution of Notts for Europe

Who We Are

Notts For Europe is the local branch of the European Movement UK, and we support its mission:

- to fight for our close relationship with Europe, building back what we have lost brick by brick;
- to hold the UK government to account for its Brexit deal, which is bad for Britain;
- to ensure that European values, standards, and rights are upheld in the UK;
- to safeguard the peace and friendship we have been fighting for over the past 70 years.

The European Movement UK is part of the European Movement International network, and we work closely with members of the European Parliament who wish to improve cooperation with the UK.

We are independent of any political party and encourage politicians to speak the truth on the benefits that UK membership of the EU had delivered, and that might be restored, in part at least for now, through closer collaboration that sets aside nationalistic prejudice.

What We Do

Notts For Europe organise local meetings, debates and social events. We offer a special welcome to those affected by the loss of freedom of movement. We support the European Movement UK's efforts to document and communicate the facts about impacts of Brexit on the organisations and people of our county and county town. We work with other non-political bodies with common interests, such as Grassroots for Europe.

Why We Do It

We want to preserve and respect as much as possible of what has been put at risk by our separation from our neighbours. At the root of that European vision, we share:

- A common history, marred by the extremism, tyranny and bloody conflict which European institutions have set out to bring to an end forever. We seek to preserve:
 - Peace;
 - respect and tolerance of individual difference, protecting individual rights and equality;
 - celebration of cultural diversity;
 - democracy at all levels of government, underpinned by principles of truth, openness and justice.
- A common region. We seek to restore the freedom of movement that enabled:
 - businesses to thrive through the easy exchange of goods and services with our nearest neighbours;
 - study and cultural exchange to benefit our youth, sporting, artistic and scientific organisations;
 - workers' rights and safety standards, supported by full pooling and exchange of information;
 - citizens of the UK and the EU to travel, work, and maintain ties of family and friendship across Europe.
- A common environment. Pollution and natural resources do not respect national boundaries and only by working together can we hope to:
 - ensure that our natural world is conserved and protected both for its intrinsic value and for its value to our own health and wellbeing;
 - limit the growth and impact of climate change.
- A common ethical viewpoint. In an increasingly dangerous and unstable world, only politically and morally aligned blocs with the scale and collective economic power of the EU can have real leverage, for example in the use of sanctions that fall short of war.

Membership of the Branch:

Membership shall be open to any adult who supports the objectives of the EM on payment of an annual fee of £1. This annual fee is waived in the case of members of the European Movement UK.

Committee

The Branch shall be managed by a Committee of Officers who are responsible for proactively carrying forward the campaigns of Notts For Europe. The Committee may have up to ten Officers:

- Chair: chair meetings, represents the branch regionally and nationally, seeks and promotes the involvement of members in the activity of the branch;
- Secretary: organise and minute Committee Meetings, oversee elections and preparations, attend to any legal or regulatory activities (e.g., GDPR compliance) that are not being carried out by other officers;
- Treasurer: responsible for finances and annual accounts.
- Membership Officer: maintains a database of members in compliance with GDPR;
- Communications Officer: maintains the website and social media for Notts for Europe;
- Information Officer: collects and archives information about the impact of Brexit;
- Events officers (up to four): organise events and support events arranged by Members.

Appointment of Officers

Officers are appointed either through:

- Election at AGM: nominations for the Officers' posts and Committee membership for the following year shall be requested at least 14 days before the AGM; the Secretary shall contact all Members by e-mail to their registered e-mail address. Appointments will be by election;
- Co-option: The Committee may co-opt other Members between AGMs to bring the Committee up to strength until the next AGM.

All Officers, whether elected or co-opted shall stand for re-election every year at the AGM.

Committee Meetings

The Committee of Officers shall carry out Branch business between AGMs. The quorum for the Committee shall be 4, including at least 2 elected Officers; if required the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.

Funds and Duty of Care:

The Branch's funds shall be managed by the Treasurer in accordance with standard ~~current~~ financial practice for UK membership organisations.

Annual General Meeting

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held every year at a time to be decided by the Committee of Officers.

- All current Members of the Branch shall be notified by e-mail of the arrangements for an AGM at least 14 days in advance;
- All current Members who attend the AGM shall be entitled to vote;
- The quorum for voting at all General Meetings shall be 6 members, including at least 2 of the Officers;
- If necessary, the Chair shall have a casting vote;
- The agenda for the AGM will include:
 1. a report from the Chair
 2. audited annual statement of Accounts
 3. election of all Officers for the coming year
 4. conduct Any Other Business notified at least 7 days in advance

Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be held by decision of the Committee, or at the written request of at least 10 paid-up Branch members. Members shall have at least 14 days' notice of an EGM.

Branch Dissolution

If the Branch's activities cease, any remaining funds shall be disposed of by a decision of a final AGM or EGM. If such a meeting cannot be held or is not quorate, funds shall be transferred to EM. If EM's activities cease, the Branch may transfer its funds to any charity with similar objectives.