

Churches Together in Croxley Green - How the CIO fits.

When forming a new charity, the Charity Commission provide a model constitution and model 'descriptions of purpose'. It is strongly recommended that new CIO's use these wordings with as little alteration as possible. This has been followed and hopefully ensures approval and legality of the charity. Our proposed constitution of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation can be found on the [Love Croxley website here](#). It is also attached to the covering email so that churches can print off hard-copies for those without internet access.

In it the details of how the CIO will relate to the existing council are laid out, but to summarise, the main points are;

- The CIO will be called 'Churches in Croxley Green CIO' to distinguish it from 'Churches Together in Croxley Green' (CTiCG).
- The CIO will be a new legal identity alongside the existing organisation of Churches Together in Croxley. It will take legal responsibility (i.e. public liability insurance etc) for some of the activities that fall within its charitable objectives instead of those activities having to be adopted by one of the churches, which is how we do things at present.
- The CIO will have up to 12 trustees (initially 3, the minimum), who will always be either clergy from the churches comprising CTiCG, or lay-members of the churches nominated by those clergy.
- It is anticipated that usually one of the trustees of the CIO will be either the current Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer of Churches Together Council, in order to facilitate good communication between these two independent bodies.
- The CIO's constitution states that its object is;

The advancement of the Christian religion mainly, but not exclusively, by means of broadcasting Christian messages of an evangelistic and teaching nature.

The relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage in Croxley Green, Hertfordshire. In furtherance of this object, but not further or otherwise, the trustees shall have the following powers:

- *to raise money through grants and donations; and*
- *to employ a Parish Nurse*
- It can be seen that these objectives closely align with those of CTiCG council as stated in the existing Constitution for CTiCG. It is worth noting that this existing constitution is in no way superseded by the constitution of the CIO, as the CIO is a separate legal entity.
- With regard to the Parish Nurse, the CIO will have sole responsibility for employment and supervision, without reference to Churches Together Council, as required by charity legislation.
- The two groups will operate in parallel with a close relationship ensured through shared personnel, but for legal purposes the CIO must be an independent body and those involved with it must act accordingly.
- The CIO will not be responsible for planning existing or new Churches Together projects (walk or witness, light party etc), although it will be able to provide legal cover and insurance for these activities where they are within the CIO's charitable objectives.

The attached PowerPoint PDF aims to illustrate this graphically for the benefit of visual learners.