**CLEVELAND and TEESSIDE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**MEMBERSHIP FEES PROPOSAL**

**The Committee recommend to the Annual General Meeting a proposal to change membership categories and to implement an increase in fees with effect from 1 January 2022.**

**Background**

The Society Membership Fees have remained the same since 2012.

In recent years there have been some significant increases in the costs faced by the Society, in particular the costs of postage, which has increased by over 30% since fees were last amended.

The Society Officers have undertaken a review of income and expenditure and have implemented a number of changes to reduce costs - by finding new printers and changing the format of publications – and increase income – by inviting voluntary donations towards speaker costs – whilst maintaining the principle that access to talks will be free of charge.

However, the increased costs cannot be sustained and are having a detrimental impact on the Society finances.

It is therefore necessary to increase fees.

At the same time the Society Officers became aware that the present concessionary rates presented a problem.

At present there are concessionary rates for (a) a household, (b) ‘pensioners’, (c) ‘pensioner couples’, and ‘full time students / under 18s & unemployed people’. Some of these terms present definitional problems, and reflect outmoded links between the ages at which people may ‘retire’, receive ‘pensions’, and are discriminatory on the basis of age.

The law does not prescribe any age (old or young) at which concession rates apply - that decision rests with an organisation.

Having given the matter careful consideration, and taking account of best practice and legislative guidance, the Officers are of the view that concessionary rates be removed for all but ‘fulltime students/under18s/registered unemployed’.

**Recommendation**

To address the need to increase income in line with costs and to harmonise our membership categories, it is recommended that the membership categories and fee rates set out below be adopted from 1 January 2022.

However, recognising that those Members currently in receipt of concessionary rates would be subject to a disproportionate increase in fees if implemented in full immediately, the proposal makes provision for a phased implementation of the fee increase for those Members:

1. Offering all existing Pensioner Members who currently benefit from a concession a reduced rate in 2022 before being asked to pay the full rate in 2023
2. Offering all existing Pensioner Couples who currently benefit from a concession a reduced rate in 2022 before being asked to pay the full rate in 2023

Please note that Members are being requested to approve Fees for both the year commencing 1 January 2022 and the year commencing 1 January 2023.

**Proposed Fees and Membership Categories from 1 January 2022:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Membership Category** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** |
| Individual | 15 | 18 | 18 |
| Pre 2022 Pensioners | 12 | 16 | 18 |
| Household Membership | 16 | 19 | 19 |
| Pre 2022 Pensioner Couples | 13 | 17 | 19 |
| Schools/Colleges/Libraries etc | 18 | 21 | 21 |
| Fulltime students/under18s/registered unemployed | 8 | 10 | 10 |
| Overseas surcharge | 10 | 16 | 16 |