

What Becoming a CIO Means for KHAS

We are proposing to convert our association into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This is a legal structure created specifically for charities by the Charity Commission. Below is a summary of what this means and why we're recommending it.

What is a CIO?

A CIO is a registered charity with its own legal identity. It combines the benefits of being a charity with those of being a company, but without the need to register with Companies House.

Key Benefits for Our Association

Legal Status

As a CIO, the organisation becomes a legal entity in its own right. This means it can enter into contracts in the name of the CIO rather than in the names of individual committee members. This will make it much easier to secure and maintain a revised licence from Warwick District Council for the use of the "Barn" for our museum. The charitable status may also open the door to funding opportunities and concessions on some services.

Limited Liability for Trustees

Currently, committee members can be personally liable if something goes wrong. In a CIO, liability is limited - trustees are protected as long as they act properly.

Modern and Recognised Structure

The CIO is recognised by funders, banks, and regulators as a trusted, regulated charity structure.

What Will Change?

- We will adopt a new constitution, based on the Charity Commission's model for CIOs.
- We will apply to the Charity Commission to register the CIO.
- Once approved, our activities, assets, and memberships will be transferred from the current association to the new CIO.
- The old association will be wound up once the transition is complete.

What Stays the Same?

- Our charitable aims and core activities will continue.
- We'll remain governed by a group of elected trustees (similar to our current committee).
- Members will still have a say in how the organisation is run.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us or speak to a committee member. We want to make this a smooth and transparent process for everyone involved.