

Woodcraft Folk annual gathering 2026

13th-14th June

Biblins campsite, Wye Valley

Woodcraft is a membership organisation and it works best when we all get involved.

Hackney District, and each group within the District, can vote at the AGM.

The District also has a vote (so we have 8 votes across the district).

Some members of HWF will be attending, so groups can give their vote to them by proxy. Alternatively you can choose to give your vote to the chair of General Council.

THE **REGISTERED GROUP CONTACT** NEEDS TO DO THIS BEFORE WEDNESDAY 10th. You should have received an email with info on how to do this. (See [ACTIONS FOR GROUP CONTACT](#) below)

The [agenda is here](#)

There are a lot of Motions to read about and consider, but here are some of the ones you may be interested in:

- **Motion 1: Updating General Council terms**

- [Amendment: introducing quotas for non-cis-male appointees](#)

This is quite a dry, procedural Motion about the way General Council (the body which oversees Woodcraft) is elected, lengths of tenure etc. *However* there is an amendment to it which includes a clause stipulating that *no more than 50% of General Council representatives be cis male*. General Council are recommending that this amendment is not passed as they fear it will lead to “legal issues”. We have asked for more info about this and will update when able.

[See below for an update in this.](#)

- [Motion 4: Regional Funds](#)

This Motion seeks to introduce a level of funding for Regions (eg Scotland, Eastern Region, London Region) to use autonomously, to assist new groups starting up, for region-wide training etc.

Again - GC are recommending voting against this.

- [Motion 6: Trans Rights and Volunteer Conduct](#)

Essentially a formal expression of solidarity with Trans people and a commitment to continue to promote Trans inclusion and to develop guidance for volunteers to ensure best practice across the organisation.

- [Motion 7: Supporting Action against the Far Right](#)

This Motion notes Woodcraft’s long history of political activism and the threat posed by the rise of the Far Right today, resolving to “make a continuous and active effort to seek

out and collaborate with movements dedicated to opposing the far right” and to “take adequate steps to enable groups and young people to be involved with these movements”.

- **Motion 9: Strengthening links with the Trade Union movement**

Calls for Woodcraft “to reaffirm our relationship with and our place within the Trade Union Movement” and to encourage members to join a Trade Union.

- **Motion 10: Young people, mobile phones, social media and digital wellbeing**

Highlights the role of tech companies and regulators in promoting online safety rather than pushing responsibility onto users. Proposes that Woodcraft call for “the voices of young people to be centred in discussions on digital wellbeing” and that we actively listen to the viewpoints of our young members on this topic and promote these views as an organisation.

Appendix

Motion 1 and Amendment

Alice and Tom spent time looking at this and then contacted General Council for some clarity. Both Lloyd and the Standing Orders committee responded.

Motion 1 is an update to the GC Rules and is not controversial. It was actually passed at last year's AG - but they got the wording wrong so are having to bring it back again. GC would like us to pass this unamended.

The **Amendment to Motion 1** has two parts, - though there is no option to vote separately on them.

The **first part** proposes to introduce a clause which would mean that:

no more than 50% of GC places can be filled by cis men. If not enough non-cis men are available the seats should be left vacant.

GC are opposed to this for two reasons:

The existing Standing Orders allow for an amount for non-cis male places (though due to the structure of the council only imposes a 2:5 ration (1:1 for 16-25yr olds).

Because they have a concern about the legality of the clause. (I have asked for clarity if this is regarding a gender split, or the non-cis terminology).

Lloyd said:

We also sought advice on the wording relating to non cis gender places and were advised that the proposed absolute gender quota may not be legally robust. There is a possibility that similar concerns could also apply to aspects of our current rules, although they are drafted more carefully. Council felt that attempting to amend those provisions at this stage could create

unnecessary legal uncertainty. A wider and more considered discussion at a later date would be a better approach if changes are required.

Part 2 proposes to raise the GC term from two years to three years.(Except for DFs which would remain at 2 years)

They are opposed to this as their current issue is around retention for the two-year term, and that it will put off young people from standing.

Lloyd again:

General Council has considered the proposal for 3 year terms and concluded that it would not be advantageous. Our main issue is not that terms are too short, but that around 1/3 of members resign within their 1st year. Extending terms would not address that problem. Council also felt that 3 year terms are too long, particularly for younger members whose circumstances can change significantly over that period. In recent years we have not had difficulties filling positions through elections. Some younger members indicated that 3 year terms would make them less likely to stand.

Actions for Group Contacts

Woodcraft Folk's Annual General Meeting is happening in a couple of weeks as part of our Annual Gathering. As a group or district contact you need to tell us how you would like to use your vote.

The deadline to do this is 12 noon on Wednesday 10th June

1) Delegate Registration

Please fill in the following form to tell us how you want to use your vote:

There are 3 options here:

- 1) You are coming to AG and will use your vote in person.
- 2) You wish to nominate someone else who is coming to AG as your proxy.
- 3) You want the Chair of General Council to be your proxy to vote on your behalf.

[Delegate Registration Form](#)

In the second case you need to fill in this form so we know your nominated proxy has permission to use your vote, we can't give it to them just because they are at Annual Gathering and say so.

2) Election Ballot Form

You can either fill in this form to cast your ballot now, or if you have chosen #1 or #2 above you/your nominated proxy can vote in person at the AGM

[Election Ballot Form](#)

Useful Links:

[Covering Letter](#)

[Final Agenda](#)

[Candidate Information](#)

[Annual Report and Accounts](#)