



CARDIFF UNIVERSITY'S CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY JOURNALISM (C4CJ)
AND ICNN: THE UK'S OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE BODY FOR THE
INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWS SECTOR.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

LATEST INFORMATION ON THE
WORK OF THE UK'S CENTRE OF
EXCELLENCE FOR THE
INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY
NEWS SECTOR



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY JOURNALISM EMMA MEESE

When I wrote this section of our report last year I would never have foreseen what lay ahead for us in 2020.

It's been challenging in more ways than we could have imagined. But the biggest surprise to many has been the grit and determination of the independent and hyperlocal community news sector to survive. It's an instinct that has seen our members weather the most difficult of storms.

I am thankful that during these difficult times we still have cause to celebrate.

We can celebrate that local journalism is now valued more than ever. We can celebrate the positive impact that local journalism has on communities and celebrate the role that journalism plays in a democratic society.

Whilst we are living through a global pandemic it's what's happening on our doorsteps that is of utmost importance - to keep ourselves, our families, neighbours and our communities safe.

Our members have celebrated record traffic to their websites, sometimes doubling or trebling their reach and readership. With a growing audience come growing costs. This has been the biggest problem for the entire independent community and hyperlocal news sector.

Local advertising dried up almost overnight, income streams disappeared whilst demand continued to grow. It was perceived that small titles would be the first to close their doors, yet the opposite has proven true. Independent publishers are more agile and have carried on reporting regardless of finance and circumstance.

Only one member of ICNN closed their doors and they are now preparing to open them again.

The impact of Covid 19 has been devastating but it's also shown why it's critical to build a strong and stable future for independent news.

Now is the time to lay those foundations to reap the rewards that come from having well informed communities and plurality of voice.



We have worked with many individuals and organisations to support our members, including PINF, Nesta, Google and Facebook and will continue to do so well into 2021 and beyond.

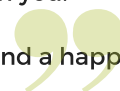
This year has been a hard slog for everyone, but the rewards have been as great as the struggle. I could not be any prouder of the work, commitment and positive impact every one of our members has had on the communities they serve. I can also not be any prouder of my colleagues here at Cardiff University, particularly deputy director of ICNN Matt Abbott, for adapting at lightning speed to a new way of working whilst maintaining our high levels of commitment and support.

I'm stepping into 2021 with hope and excitement. Our Google DNI funded Ping! platform, in collaboration with the University of Central Lancashire and OMNI Digital, is now in Beta phase and could well be a solution to many issues facing local journalism at present. Its core functionality is a hyper-local news agency, which allows our members across the UK to be financially rewarded for the hard work they do.

With harsh restrictions on travel and contact our members provide a ready-made network of patch reporters across the UK, and Ping! provides a platform that connects them to all other titles who are signed up to access and use their content.

If 2020 has taught us anything it's that kindness and collaboration can help us overcome the greatest of adversities. I will be taking this with me into 2021 and invite you to do the same. If you are keen to explore how you can work with us and the independent news sector we are keen to have those conversations with you.

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year





2020: THE HEADLINES

EXCLUSIVES:

Launched a brand new website offering readers a modern, sleek and dynamic user experience with an integrated forum to debate and discuss ideas, knowledge, and innovation.

The Independent Community News Network (ICNN) grew to over 127 members

Partnered with Newsawards to create the first ever awards category for independent news publishers. The first ICNN Independent Community News Website of the Year 2020 went to Birmingham Updates.

Successfully lobbied Welsh Government to provide emergency grant revenue funding to the independent news sector in Wales.

Created a guide to reporting Covid-19 and published a media law guide to covering Covid-19

Designed and issued over 100 membership cards to assist key worker status

Successfully lobbied Scottish Government to have independent news publishers in Scotland included in the public health campaign.

Ran a successful engagement campaign with Facebook after receiving \$10,000 worth of ad credits, increasing some members' engagement by 50 per cent.





THE STORY SO FAR...



The Centre for Community Journalism (C4CJ) is part of Cardiff University's School of Journalism, Media and Culture. It developed out of our long history high-quality professional training and research, our commitment to local journalism, and our wish to support it in all its forms as it goes through major changes.

Cardiff University's Centre for Community Journalism (C4CJ) researches into this area of journalism and offers networking, information and training for hyperlocal and community journalists building on expertise developed at the leading School of Journalism, Media and Culture.

Independent community and hyperlocal news outlets are fulfilling the traditional role of the fourth estate in local civic society, complimenting the diverse range of news provision available. The growth of these new outlets represents a shift in attitudes towards news consumption. Audiences want local knowledge, intimacy, trust, connections; they want to know who their local journalist is; they want to be involved.

Independent community news outlets play a huge role in local democracy. In many areas they are the only journalists attending local council meetings, local planning meetings, schools, elections, magistrates' courts hearings, and holding those in power to account; helping foster shared identity and social cohesion.

The challenge is that the business model that sustained news production in the 20th century no longer exists. Advertising revenues have dwindled making it a very unpredictable source of income. They don't have the infrastructure or state support (VAT exemption, access to statutory public notices) that helps to sustain larger organisations.

And so, because many of these titles are run by individuals with full-time jobs and family commitments there is a very real risk of burn-out and/or collapse.

However, and perhaps because of these issues, the sector has shown itself to be tenacious and innovative, constantly looking for way to modernise practices and streamline operations.

The Centre for Community Journalism (C4CJ) exists to support this diverse sector and to promote quality journalism, help address the democratic deficit in news poor communities and help create more jobs at the local level.

The Independent Community News Network (ICNN) was set up in January 2018 at Cardiff University's Building the Future of Community Journalism conference. ICNN was set up in response to the collective issues faced by the community news sector in the UK and the lack of a unified voice to speak on its behalf.

Since its inception, ICNN has grown to represent over 127 individual titles, both online and in print, and reaching as far north as the Shetland Islands, and as far south as Cornwall.

From six-months to 20 years old, our members come in all shapes and sizes, but all are committed to upholding high professional standards of accuracy, transparency, integrity, accountability and fairness.

We offer free media law guidance to all publishers; membership credentials to help verify journalists' roles to police, councils and other organisations; lobbying services; representation; a forum space; membership of the Society of Editors at a reduced rate; awards, access to practical, technical and business expertise.



ICNN MEMBERS

- West Leeds Dispatch
- Richmondshire Today
- Hambleton Today
- Nailed
- South Leeds Life
- Llanelli Online
- West Bridgford Wire
- Inside Croydon
- Uckfield News
- Hackney Citizen
- Lochgelly
- Eastleigh News
- Broughton Spurtle
- Lochside Press
- The Lincilnite
- Wrexham.com
- My Welshpool
- My Newtown
- Deeside.com
- Your Thurrock
- Your Harlow
- The Ambler
- Wokingham Paper
- London Se1
- Star and Crescent
- Cwmbran Life
- Brixton Blog
- Local Voice Network
- Cornish Stuff
- The Ferret
- Bude and Beyond
- Wythenshawe Reporter
- My Turriff
- Derby news
- Charlton Champion
- A Little Bit of Stone
- Hu12 Online
- Gedling Eye
- My Cardiff North
- Tongwynlais.com
- Isle of Thanet News
- Cornwall Reports
- Bitterne Park.info
- Portswood.info
- Gosport Globe
- South Molton news
- Waltham Forest Echo
- Guildford Dragon
- Pevensey Bay Life
- Rochdale Online
- Langtoon Times
- Salford Star
- Down News
- East End Enquirer
- View Digital
- The Bristol Cable
- Caerphilly Observer
- The Meteor
- Shetland News
- Newry.ie
- The Scarborough Review
- Peckham Peculiar
- Dulwich Diverter
- Lewisham Ledger
- Nantwich News
- Lyme Online
- Bradley Stoke Journal
- Cranfield and Marston Vale Chronicle
- Flitwick Chronicle
- Hastings Independent press
- Your Local Voice
- Tottenham Community Press
- Inksplott
- Brighton and Hove News
- Eastbourne Voice
- Brentford TW8
- 853 London
- Wotton Times
- Charlton Champion
- Midlothian View
- Thorne Times
- Canterbury Journal
- Edinburgh Reporter
- Enfield Dispatch
- York Mix
- Birmingham Updates
- Island Echo
- Senedd Home
- Oggy Bloggy Ogwr
- Fitzrovia News
- North Edinburgh Community News
- Altrincham Today
- News journal
- Melksham News
- Frome Times
- White Horse News
- North.Wales
- Saddleworth Independent
- Ec1 Echo
- Ealing Today
- Wiltshire 999s
- The Week In
- East Devon News
- Lichfield Live
- The Ems
- Hold the Front Page
- Telford Live
- Bedford Independent



2020 IN NUMBERS

OVER **50** APPLICATIONS
TO JOIN ICNN

REGISTERED **20**
NEW TITLES

ICNN IS NOW **127**
MEMBERS STRONG

ONLINE REACH OF
OVER **5M**

COLLECTIVE CIRCULATION
OVER **150K**

£8.5K
EMERGENCY REVENUE FUNDING
FROM WELSH GOVERNMENT

£35M
UK GOVERNMENT SUPPORT
FOR THE NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY
DURING LOCKDOWN

95
PER CENT OF INDIE PUBLICATIONS
THAT DIDN'T BENEFIT FROM
ANY GOVERNMENT SUPPORT



RESPONSE TO COVID-19



2020 brought about arguably the biggest challenge the journalism industry has faced since the arrival of the Internet.

Never before in a generation had it been so critical that essential, verified and useful information reach communities across the UK to inform and advise about public health.

As an organisation dedicated to supporting and representing independent community news, we were extremely concerned that the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and the national lockdown would force many of them to close.

Many of our members are the only news publishers in their areas, some covering entire counties and cities. If these publishers were forced to close, the UK would be left with many more news black holes which we would struggle to fill again.

● We immediately set about calling on the Governments of the UK to provide urgent financial assistance.

● In partnership with the Public Interest News Foundation, we launched the Save Independent News campaign to generate support for the sector. The campaign received considerable cross-party support.

Orkney and Shetland MP, Alistair Carmichael said the local press was “vital to our efforts to respond and recover from the Coronavirus and yet they are facing significant financial difficulties.

“This is about getting a fair share of government advertising spend for local and independent press, to reflect both their importance in our communities and their financial needs.”

Many other MPs stood up in the House of Commons to echo these calls.

● In Wales, ICNN successfully lobbied the Welsh Government to release the remaining funds left in the Independent Community Journalism Fund (of which only £100K of £200K was allocated). Independent community news outlets in Wales were awarded emergency grant revenue funding of £8,500 each in a bid to help sustain them over the coming months.

Editor of My Town Media, Graham Breeze said: I don't know how to thank [ICNN] enough over the letter just received from Ken Skates MS saying we can claim a grant of up to £8,500 during the Covid-19 crisis. This is a reflection of the work and dedication [ICNN] has shown over a long period to gain recognition for the hyperlocal sector.

● ICNN surveyed its membership to assess the reach and scale of the independent news sector. Results from this survey were used to lobby the Government and assess the impact of the Government's COVID-19 response measures.

We also supported a wider survey into independent news publishers and the potential sector-wide impact of COVID-19, alongside the Bureau Local, Impress, and the Public Interest News Foundation (PINF).



COVID-19 CONT...

● The decline in local advertising was immensely damaging to many news organisations. Smaller organisations rely more heavily on local businesses advertising with them. When these were forced to shut down during the first wave, advertising revenue dried up over night.

ICNN received funding from Facebook to promote our members' pages via an engagement campaign. Editor of Midlothian View, Phil Bowen said: "The campaign has increased the number of people who have liked Midlothian View by 50%. We have now moved from 10,000 page views per month to closer to 20,000 page views. Many thanks for your continued work. It is very much appreciated."

● We issued membership cards to all members that requested one to ensure our members could continue providing their valuable service, and they wouldn't be stopped from doing their job during the lockdown.

● We published a printable guide to reporting COVID-19 that included basic health and safety measures alongside some helpful technical hacks to avoid getting too close to people.

We also published a guide to media law in the COVID-19 pandemic that included how to report on death and how to speak to bereaved families; as well as privacy, dealing with cases involving children and fake news.

● And we partnered with the Scottish Government so that our members in Scotland could carry public health advertising and benefit from the revenue this provided. Editor of the Edinburgh Reporter, Phyllis Stephen said: "This Scottish Government support is absolutely crucial to us as an independent news publisher. We have watched the 'big boys' getting support in the form of advertising all across the UK, and thought all was lost until ICNN stepped in to lobby on our behalf."

However, despite our best efforts, the UK Government's measures to protect and support the 'newspaper industry' during this time have made little impact on the independent sector.

The £35m advertising campaign saw only one member of ICNN as a partner. A staggering 95 per cent of independent publishers said they had not benefitted from a single government measure.

Despite the setbacks, our members continue to go above and beyond their roles as journalists to cover the COVID-19 crisis. They are putting their lives at risk daily to deliver essential and up-to-date information to their communities.

● With barely a shred of government support, independent news sites have produced tens of thousands of articles on the Coronavirus, held power to account, collaborated on national investigations, celebrated excellence in their communities, and mourned with those who've lost friends and family.

Editor of Shetland News, Hans Marter said: "Traffic to our website more than doubled from February to March 2020, demonstrating once again the importance of reliable local news."

This is not a unique occurrence. We have received many reports from members saying they have logged record levels of traffic to their websites during the pandemic, proving once again that audiences are flocking to their local papers in search of up-to-date, locally relevant information..

Journalism Matters week - a campaign supported by her Majesty the Queen highlighted the excellent work being done by the independent sector. Many independent editors and journalists were nominated for the Public Interest News List.

● The sector can no longer be viewed as peripheral; it is now an essential part of the news ecosystem. The combined reach of the independent news sector in the UK has been discussed here before but it is worth repeating.

Simply, it is vast with several hundred professional publications reaching more than 15m people online every month; and with a collective print run of half a million.



A CUTTING-EDGE WEBSITE FOR A FAST-CHANGING SECTOR

2020 saw the launch of our revamped website.

The Centre for Community Journalism website underwent a radical redesign to reflect its commitment to represent the independent community news sector.

The new look offers readers a modern, sleek and dynamic user experience with an integrated forum to debate and discuss ideas, knowledge, and innovation.

It includes a dedicated space for information about ICNN: what it does, who its members are and how to join.

And showcases the fantastic work being done by independent community news outlets through its weekly blog posts.

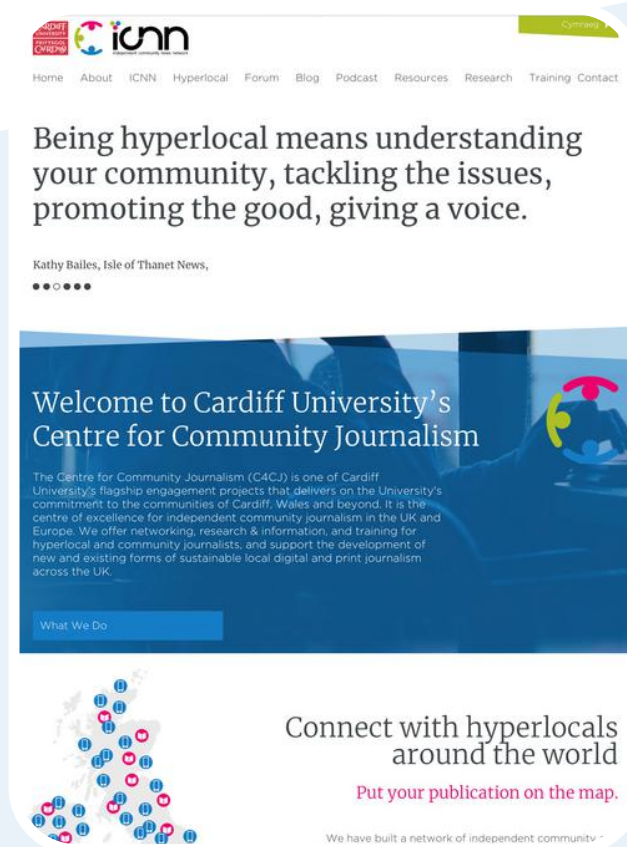
The new website also features the most up-to-date information on how many 'hyperlocals' there are across the UK.

Using the combined data from the now-defunct Local Web List, and C4CJ, the hyperlocal map displays 262 individual titles, both online and in print.

ICNN currently counts 125 independent titles as members and these are listed on a unique membership map.

Publications who are interested in joining ICNN now have the ability to fill in a simple form on the new website. The application will then be assessed by an admissions committee.

The new custom-built forum space is fully integrated and secure. Members of ICNN will also have access to a private space called Off the Record where they can discuss confidential matters with other members.



The forum also hosts monthly coffee mornings where publishers and reporters can get together to network, develop collaborations and discuss current topics relating to the sector.

The new site was designed and built by Dan Davies and Matt Rees of Gecko Brand and Digital Media.



RECOGNITION AND ACCREDITATION



Part of the work of ICNN this year has been to build collaboration through partnerships with organisations that are equally passionate about independent community journalism.

This year we have worked with Nesta, The Welsh Government, the Public Interest News Foundation, Hacked Off, Impress, Facebook, Google and the European Journalism Centre to help bridge the funding gap and generate support for the sector.

One partnership we are most proud of is that with the Society of Editors. The SoE has been incredibly supportive of ICNN's campaigning work in 2020, republishing many of our articles about the impact of the pandemic, and helping to spread the word about the Save Independent News campaign.

This support was solidified in December when ICNN titles were invited to join the Society of Editors as full members at a reduced rate.

CEO of the Society of Editors, Ian Murray said: "Independent news providers have been playing an ever-increasing role in the make-up of the UK's news industry over the last few years and ICNN has provided a body that ensures recognition of the high standards many aim for and achieve.

"It was, for this reason, the Society decided to reach out to ICNN and its members in the hope many would see the benefits to the industry and indeed the communities they serve in joining with us.

"Only by working together can the news industry ensure that we remain able to provide balanced and accurate and well-edited news and information that can not only hold power to account but serve local communities right down to the grassroots level.

"I'm delighted that so many of ICNN's members have decided to join with the Society. Their support and enthusiasm will help the SoE to continue its vital work in campaigning for a free press, freedom of expression and the public's right to know."

ICNN was proud to give its name to the first-ever community news website of the year awards at this year's newsawards.

Birmingham Updates was announced as the winner of the awards that carried the ICNN name at this year's newsawards 2020.

The site was applauded for having a 'very fresh clean design with no adverts but clearly labelled sponsored content. Short, snappy stories and smart revenue generation'.

This year's news awards were cancelled due to ongoing uncertainty caused by COVID-19.

Birmingham Updates' editor Oli Hills said: "It's a huge honour to win the very first ICNN independent community news website of the year award. To get recognition for all of the team's hard work is fantastic.

"It's even more meaningful as the ICNN are a major voice for local community platforms and represent fantastic websites from all over the UK."



Director of ICNN Emma Meese said: "Birmingham Updates is a terrific example of an innovative and forward-thinking independent community news website and they are fully deserving of this win."

The Island Echo was highly commended for being a 'very successful site with great ambition and growth plans. Investment in innovation is clearly paying off.'

And commendation also went to LymeOnline for being a great example of home-grown journalism; Brighton and Hove News for 'a well-rounded content strategy'; Dorset Biz News for having 'an interesting model that has gained traction very quickly. A success'; and the Lincolnite for its impressive social media strategy and great growth story.





FUNDING

WELSH GOVERNMENT, GOOGLE, FACEBOOK, PINF, NESTA

The Coronavirus pandemic threatened to shut down the entire news industry in 2020. Without urgent and direct support, many publications would have shut down completely with job losses in the tens of thousands.

Funding was crucial if we didn't want to end the year with a skeleton news ecosystem.

Thankfully, a number of organisations stepped up to provide this assistance, and ICNN played a key role in many of the funding opportunities on offer.

Director of Community Journalism Emma Meese began the year as an advisor to the Future News Pilot Fund, which saw two members of ICNN receive a combined £66,000.

The fund, which was recommended by the Cairncross Review, set out to support ideas that either reimagine engagement with audiences or develop new ways to financially sustain news production.

In Wales, we continued our work with the Welsh Government to help deliver the £200,000 Independent Community Journalism Fund (ICJF) to Welsh hyperlocals. Membership of ICNN was the main criterion for access to the fund. The team at ICNN were expert advisors to the fund, organising networking events to connect applicants with Business Wales, and helping publishers with their applications.

By March 2020, all eligible publishers had received funding for projects including training, website redesign, staffing costs, launches, business directories and more.

ICNN also successfully lobbied the Welsh government to release the remaining funds as emergency revenue grants during the first national lockdown.

In April 2020 ICNN liaised with Google to ensure their Journalism Emergency Relief Fund was as accessible as it possibly could be for independent community news publications in the UK.

As a result, 29 members of ICNN received funding to help them weather the impact of the pandemic.

In June 2020, we advised on the design and delivery of the Public Interest News Foundation's (PINF) Covid-19 Emergency Fund, which provided twenty grants of £3,000 to independent publishers.

Over half of the successful grantees were members of ICNN including the Star and Crescent, The Ferret, Shetland News and Llanelli Online.



In July 2020 we launched an engagements campaign across the membership, funded by Facebook which saw \$10,000 invested in advertising for independent community news publication's Facebook pages.

The scheme, which is ongoing, has helped members drive their social media engagement and reach bigger audiences. Some members have reported an uptake of 50 per cent in pages likes, further helping drive traffic to their websites and generating much-needed revenue at this time.

ICNN successfully ensured that Scottish publications were able to partner with the Scottish Government's public health advertising campaign, which generated essential revenue through two campaigns run across online and print publications.

The campaigns gave audiences that otherwise wouldn't have been reached, access to essential, verified and official information about the Scottish Government's lockdown measures.

VALUE MY NEWS

In partnership with the University of Central Lancashire, Cardiff University and Omni Digital we have developed an exciting and innovative new platform that connects regional and national media outlets with content produced by independent community news outlets across the country.

Ping! provides publications with immediate access to high-quality local stories from across the UK that would otherwise go unreported.

Crucially, It helps independent content creators earn more money from their content; increase opportunities for commissions and reach a wider audience

Ping! helps publishers enrich their content and increase their reach by providing well-rounded news stories on important issues relevant to readers; helps publishers identify trends in stories emerging from communities; and search for regional content or case studies to support existing stories.

We have recently completed a successful alpha that includes hyperlocal titles around the country. It has been really interesting to see the diversity of stories being uploaded to the platform.

In early 2021 we are going to engage regional publishers with the platform to help inform the next phase.

Together, the project aims to stimulate innovation in the supply chain of news. We want news media across the UK to have access to better more diverse stories as we know this is a challenge in shrinking regional and national newsrooms.

BRITISH JOURNALISM REVIEW

This year we were proud to write an article for the British Journalism Review about the growth of the independent community news sector. Below is the intro.

At a meeting with a local news editor in London a couple of years ago, the discussion focused on the holy grail of journalism: what is news?

"News is what's relevant," said the editor. "If someone was murdered a few streets away we wouldn't report it because it's just not relevant for our audience."

But surely a murder is a murder, right? Of course, where it happens is relevant, but that's not the only factor. It is not just where the act is committed, but the nature of it; the gruesomeness, the morbidity - how scandalous or tragic it is that determines its newsworthiness.

Few would disagree. But the news editor in question runs what some refer to as a hyperlocal. A site that focuses on a specific geographic area. In this particular case a single postcode. And relevance plays a big part in its coverage.

Unlike a traditional local paper that focuses on a town or city or even region, hyperlocals typically cover more specific geographic areas such as neighbourhoods, villages and, as in the case above, postcodes; ultra-concentrated communities that want information about things that directly affect them.

To read the full article, visit the British Journalism Review website: https://www.bjr.org.uk/current-edition+Latest_news_from_next_door



OUR CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP

We define a community and hyperlocal news publication as a news service that typically pertains to a specific geographic area such as a town, neighbourhood, village, county or even postcode. They can also be aimed at online communities of interest.

There are multiple ways to define this sector, and publications use many different terms to describe themselves. The defining characteristic for us is that a publication is independent of political, commercial, and religious interests, is community-focused, and producing contemporaneous news content.

We have a relatively broad definition of news that includes breaking news, arts & culture, sports, news features, cultural and community entertainment events, campaigns, weather, transport, crime, local history, local business, and schools.

Publications must uphold high professional standards, including accuracy, transparency, integrity, accountability and fairness.

Publications must demonstrate this by having at least six months of active coverage.

Publications which sit on the fringes of this criteria will have their application referred to ICNN's Professional Standards & Admissions Committee.

Applications from publications representing communities of interest will also be referred to ICNN's Professional Standards & Admissions Committee.

ICNN reserves the right to refuse and/or revoke membership from any publication that does not meet or ceases to meet the criteria outlined above.

Membership criteria

Membership cannot be granted to publications which are single-issue, or relating to a single topic. This includes, but is not limited to:

- an ongoing political campaign
- a specific political party
- a specific local issue or campaign
- an individual sport or team.

Publications must have a robust and prominently displayed complaints procedure.

Publications must adhere to either Ipso's Editor's Code of Practice or the Impress Standards Code and the National Union of Journalists' Code of Conduct.

Demonstrate a clear and transparent management/ownership structure.

Demonstrate a commitment to producing journalism to high standards – no aggregation sites or 'churnalism' setups which cut and paste all content from press releases.

Demonstrate a competent use of grammar and sentence construction.

Publications must be fully inclusive of all ethnicities and backgrounds and be non-discriminatory.

Special thanks to John Baron (West Leeds Dispatch), Fiona Davidson (the ferret), Keith Magnum (Hackney Citizen), Darryl Chamberlain (853London) and Richard Coulter (Local Voice Network) for helping develop this.



THE ICNN CHARTER



ICNN promotes and protects the shared interests of the community news sector in the UK by:

- acting on behalf of community and hyperlocal news publications, from start-ups to established businesses; for profits and nonprofits; committed volunteers to entrepreneurs;
- to attain recognition and accreditation for the valuable contribution they provide to their respective communities and to the democratic process, and to advance the case for strong community journalism;
- by seeking to enhance and foster a dynamic and sustainable community and hyperlocal news sector through lobbying, advocacy, training, networking, research and monitoring;
- to ensure the success of our members' organisations through leveraging economic opportunities;
- to lead innovation and collaboration that serves and protects the aims and ambitions of the sector;
- to promote and help maintain the highest possible standards of journalism;
- to seize opportunities to strengthen job growth in the sector by researching and investing in models of good and effective practice and in technology-based solutions.

Members of ICNN submit to the following:

- Member publications are independent of political, commercial, and religious interests;
- Are community-focussed and work to represent the views of their community;
- Are producing contemporaneous news or news-related content (that includes, but is not limited to breaking news, arts & culture, sports, news features, cultural and community entertainment events, campaigns, weather, transport, crime, local history and local business, and schools)
- Uphold high professional standards including accuracy, transparency, integrity, accountability and fairness.
- Without exception, all members of ICNN are committed to working within and adhering strictly to the guidelines of the Editors' Code of Practice and/or the Impress Standards Code.

ICNN is run by members, for members, and is free at the point of entry.



MEET THE TEAM



L-R

Matt Abbott Deputy Director of ICNN

Emma Meese Director of Community Journalism

Cheryl Crook Project Administrator



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

FIND YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS PROVIDER

Discover what's going on in your area by locating your community news service using our map, or register your own site.

Visit: www.communityjournalism.co.uk/find-a-hyperlocal

Email: Abbottm2@cardiff.ac.uk

SHARE YOUR STORY

If you have advice or a community journalism success story to share, make your voice heard by writing a guest blog post.

Email: Abbottm2@cardiff.ac.uk

Visit: communityjournalism.co.uk/blog

GET TRAINED BY US

Find out more about our free training for community journalists and our bespoke commercial training for organisations and institutions.

Email: meesee@cardiff.ac.uk

Visit: communityjournalism.co.uk/training

PARTNER WITH US

Have a partnership or collaboration opportunity you think we should know about? Get in touch.

Email: meesee@cardiff.ac.uk

RESEARCH THIS GROWING SECTOR

We work with some of the leading UK researchers in this sector, as well as generating our own rich data and insights. Find out more.

Visit: communityjournalism.co.uk/research

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Visit: communityjournalism.co.uk/icnn/interactive-map-of-icnn-member-publications

BECOME A MEMBER OF ICNN

Visit: communityjournalism.co.uk/icnn/membership-criteria

Email: Abbottm2@cardiff.ac.uk