

Is There a Lack of Civic Realm and Civic Space in City of Birmingham?

Thursday 12th February 2026 starting at 4pm

 Arup Office, Public Space One Centenary Way, Birmingham B3 3AY

The concern of the **Birmingham Civic Society** is the new developments, both recently completed and in progress, do not provide adequate open spaces and compounded by the lack of schools, medical centres and community amenities.

WE ARE SEEKING TO CHAMPION A PHILOSOPHY FOR FORMING A BETTER CITY LIFE AND THROUGH IMPROVED CIVIC REALM.

Birmingham is not just for professionals or an entertainment area. Our city should have space and facilities for families which will attract not only visitors, but also encourage young people to start a family, stay in the city and change the demographic. Currently, families need to move to the suburbs to enjoy such amenities.

Other European Cities such as Lisbon, Krakow and Naples have boulevards and attractive squares where extended families meet up, spend time and money in shops and eateries. Apart from St Phillips Square there are no other examples and no new civic realm built recently.

This debate is to explore the ambition of city stakeholders in providing civic realm and is it holding back the attractiveness of Birmingham city?

HEADLINE PANEL

Event Chair: Richard Sapcote BCS Planning Chair | BSN Group Construction Director

Adam McPartland | Managing Director Glancy Nicholls Architects

Eva O'Connor | Associate Director Arup Birmingham

Ralph Minott | Masterplanning and Development Director Calthorpe Estates

Following a short presentation from our panel, with their vision and interaction with the audience, we aim to provide a guidance document for Birmingham CC Planners and Developers on how Civic Space is important for a vibrant and welcoming city.

We wish to thank Arup Birmingham for their support kindly allowing the use of their community space.

