

WOMEN'S SECTION 'SMALL BRANCH INITIATIVE'

In order to disseminate more widely the essence of the Women's Section Small Branch Initiative, this note is designed to capture the spirit and purpose of what has been proposed. Its purpose is to encourage small branches to review it as an option, if there are problems in retaining viable membership and/or enlisting volunteers for officer appointments. It is emphasised that **this is not a directive**, but simply one option for fostering continuation.

- **AIM: To help smaller Branches to continue in existence.**

- **Why?**
 - An aging membership.
 - Lack of volunteers to take office.
 - Problems with recruitment and retention.
 - Too much bureaucratic administration.

- **What?**
 - **For Branches with a membership of less than 20.**

 - Branches run as Groups to be run with Officers and meetings.
 - Reporting chain to remain extant, but a County Committee member to be responsible for each small Branch, not an officer.
 - Reduce administration:
 - Minimum of 2 office bearers: Chairman and Honorary Secretary/Treasurer
 - Four meetings and AGM. Meetings may be social/official.
 - No minutes, simply a record of date and number attending, funds raised and how.
 - Bank account with 2 signatories to be held in the Branch name.
 - Simplified balance sheet showing asset, audited by County Treasurer and copied to Head Office.
 - Yellow Form (attached) with simplified information instead of Green.
 - Simplified mailing procedures.

 - Branch Standard, if wished, held under normal regulations.
 - May have delegate at Conference.
 - May vote and nominate.
 - May enter Cup Competitions.