



CCCBR Annual Council Meeting 2026

Summary for Guild Members

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) held its Annual Council Meeting in Rugby on 5 September 2026. The meeting covered progress with **Ringling 2030**, the forthcoming Ringing Census, finances, safeguarding and other issues affecting ringing nationally.

Ringling 2030

CCCBR reported that good progress is being made with the Ringling 2030 programme, with 11 projects completed and 18 on target. However, the Council acknowledged that it currently lacks reliable information about the **actual number of active ringers** and does not yet have a satisfactory way of measuring retention.

Membership returns from affiliated societies are not considered sufficient because not all active ringers belong to a society, while some belong to more than one.

Ringling Census – November 2026

A major development will be the **Ringling Census**, which will take place during **Census Week, 16–22 November 2026**.

The Census is intended to give CCCBR a much clearer picture of ringing across the country, including the number of people actively ringing and the characteristics of the ringing community. It will provide the baseline against which the **Ringling 2030 target of 10,000 additional ringers** will be measured.

A further Census is planned for 2031 to help assess progress.

Everyone who rings is encouraged to take part and to support their tower in providing the information required. The more complete the Census, the more useful the resulting picture of ringing will be.

Supporting recruitment and young ringers

The **Young Ringers Hub** has now been formally launched, bringing together resources for young ringers and ringing organisations. Work is also continuing on resources to support schools and recruitment.

CCCBR is looking at how members of affiliated societies can contribute to national projects and is considering providing clearer descriptions of volunteer roles.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding continues to be an important area of work. CCCBR has raised concerns about differences in safeguarding arrangements between dioceses and the difficulties created by the fact that ringers regularly visit and ring at different churches.

CCCBR is working with the Church of England's National Safeguarding Team to seek greater consistency and clearer arrangements for bellringers.

CCCBR finances and governance

The 2025 CCCBR accounts were not formally adopted because an anomaly was identified. A further Council meeting will be held by Zoom on **31 October 2026** to consider the accounts.

Council also approved changes to its rules concerning affiliation fees and agreed that its mileage allowance will be 55p per mile.

What does this mean for Devon ringers?

The most important immediate issue is the **Ringling Census in November**. It should provide a much better understanding of how many people are actually involved in ringing than membership figures alone.

The Census will also provide an important starting point for measuring whether the ambitions of Ringing 2030 are being achieved. For that reason, **support from towers and individual ringers will be very important.**

The Guild will continue to keep members informed about the Census and other developments arising from the CCCBR's work.