

## **Socrates Café – Guidelines 2022**

The aim of Socrates Café is to create an environment for lively, open discussion of topics chosen by the participants by democratic vote. The atmosphere is tolerant, accepting of all opinions and non-judgmental. Each participant will be given the same opportunity to uninterrupted speech. To achieve this the following format is used:

1. A moderator is appointed to run the session(s).
2. Each participant anonymously submits a topic for discussion.
3. All topics are read out and listed by the moderator.
4. Participants are asked in turn to cast two votes which are recorded beside the topics.
5. The topic with the highest number of votes is the first to be discussed, if time, the second highest may be addressed.
6. The participant who suggested the topic speaks to it first.
7. IN TURN and WITHOUT INTERRUPTION each participant expresses his/her opinion.
8. A second, shorter round on the topic follows by raising your hand to be acknowledged by the moderator to speak.
9. The moderator summarizes the opinions expressed by the participants and may identify a consensus opinion if there is one.
10. A break of 10 minutes after a 55-minute session may be followed by a second discussion, if time permits.