

# news

**FREE**

## **hereford civic society**

the city's built environment forum

Winter 2012

### **Enterprise Zones – not the easy solution**

David Thame's incisive analysis

### **Mary Portas – yet another report?**

Nick Jones, our architectural pundit wonders

### **Planning Matters**

Campion's decision at last

### **Letters and emails**

We're the forum

### **Herefordshire Now**

Hereford Art College

### **future event**

29.2.12

Sir Ben Gill on

Herefordshire Tourism

A major event for tourist providers

*more details back page*

el Road

Images kindly supplied by Herefordshire Council

The Society usually meets on the last Wednesday of each month, the City's forum for discussion about the built environment. see back page for further details

[www.herefordcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.herefordcivicsociety.org.uk)



# Preface.....

**W**ell the new committee has met twice since the AGM in October and defined our targets for the coming year. See the back page for details. Essentially each member has a responsibility for a particular task; where they seek to stimulate debate and come up with better ideas for getting things done. For example, our treasurer, Peter Gwatkin is hoping to raise the profile of Heritage Open Day. If you have a particular interest, then do consider joining

one of the teams – you don't even have to be a member – we are an open forum for the built environment.

There has been criticism that our articles are, often, not attributed to the author; although we have clearly stated that views are not necessarily those of our members. That changes with this issue, and we would ask those who comment anonymously, or use bizarre

email addresses, to be upfront and contribute formally on our website, or with a letter or email.

This issue we are majoring on Enterprise Zones. Our own, Rotherwas history, the country's experience of EZs and, of course, various individuals' views. In our turn, we will be lobbying for an interpretive centre about the old munitions factories, and promoting the idea of a design code!  
John Bothamley  
Chair

## Rotherwas Enterprize Zone – not the Easy Solution

*Our main feature in this issue covers the new Rotherwas Enterprize Zone. Herefordshire Council set the scene. Then Julie Orton-Davies, long term HCS member and FE lecturer, describes the interesting history of the Rotherwas area, and how the present business park came to be established. David Thame, our regular property expert and journalist, examines whether the EZ will really bring about all that is being promised.*

### Historical Background – Julie Orton-Davis

**T**he Northern Magazine Section consisting of 50 acres is the designated site for part of the Rotherwas Enterprize Zone. Historical records can trace this area back to Anglo Saxon/Medieval times and was recorded in Domesday. The original estate consisted of 2,500 acres covering both sides of the straight mile, supporting a manor house, gatehouse, a deer park situated beneath Dinedor Hill, together with parkland and gardens leading to the River Wye, where a ferry transported people across to Hampton Dene.

Rotherwas was, for three centuries, the seat of the Bodenham family and in 1732 Charles Bodenham employed James Gibbs to build an 11 bay Palladian mansion, to replace the original timber and stone building. Unfortunately fire destroyed this magnificent house in 1907 and after the death of Count Louis Bodenham-Lubienski in 1912 the estate was broken up into 76 separate lots and sold.

In 1916 the area was acquired by the Ministry of Munitions as a site for a factory for filling shells, production starting in November 1916 following the appointment of Winston Churchill, as Minister of Munitions. During one week soon afterwards, the Northern Magazine Section filled a record of 50,892 6" calibre shells with lyddite. Following the end of the first world war most of the national munitions factories were abandoned but Rotherwas was retained as an army storage depot and later reactivated as a small scale supplementary filling station supporting Woolwich Arsenal. The site then consisted of 545 acres supporting two factories with the south amatol section being commissioned in 1925. In 1937 the vulnerability of Woolwich forced the transfer of all military explosive work to Rotherwas, and this function remained until 1945. The final closure of the Munitions Site was in 1967.

In 1926 the remains of the mansion house was demolished, leaving only the chapel and related buildings in situ. At auction prior to the second world war, Herefordshire County Council bought an area of 185 acres, overlooked by Dinedor Hill and bordered by the Wye Meadows, as part of a scheme to provide smallholdings, but the unsuitability of the land for agriculture resulted in a costly 'white elephant'.

It was in 1945 when parts of the site emerged as a business park. The business park covered an area south and north of the straight mile supporting many of the county's leading businesses. In 2008 the County Council decided to enlarge the existing business park by adding an area of 50 acres leading to the River Wye and built the new access road linking the park to the A49.

It was during the access road construction that a Neolithic/early bronze age roundhouse (the earliest in the county) and the unique long serpent-like pathway formed of burnt stone were discovered. So far 60 metres of the "serpent" feature have been unearthed and covered again beneath the roadway, happily not being destroyed but protected. This unique European find, dating back 4000 years, has been identified as the Rotherwas Ribbon

Dinedor and Rotherwas have always played an important role within this area, probably more prominent than the city itself, which only established itself officially around the 7th century. Since this time, the Rotherwas area has been an integral part of the city with the ferry and later various bridges spanning the river (railway line and pedestrian highway to the munitions factory during the first world war) providing easy access to the Hampton Dene area. This accessibility has again been recognized within the Connect 2 Highway, running alongside the south side of the remaining Empty Shell Shed of the Northern Magazine Section. This accessibility is further enhanced by the possibility of the East Spur, with another river crossing, which would be introduced to ease the traffic congestion to and from the Enterprise Zone and from the city. JOD

### The message from Herefordshire Council

**O**n 17th August 2011 the Prime Minister announced that Hereford had been awarded Enterprise Zone status at the Rotherwas Estate. The site was nominated by the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership, which includes Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Herefordshire, and the bid was developed by the Herefordshire Business Board.

The 61.5 ha site, which includes three distinct but linked development areas at the South Magazine, North Magazine and Chapel Road, already benefits from the new Rotherwas Access road, completed in June 2008, giving the estate quick and easy access to the A49, M50 and the rest of the motorway network. New internal access roads to the North and South Magazines have recently been completed and site clearance is ongoing in preparation for future development to begin as early as mid 2012. The new Enterprise Zone is also strategically placed within an hour and half drive of the international airports at Birmingham, Bristol and Cardiff.

An Enterprise Zone Board has already been created and is chaired by Ray Stone, former Managing Director of Wiggins Special Metals who is also vice-chair of the Herefordshire Business Board. The Board is tasked over the next few months with developing governance procedures and the production of a masterplan. There is an aspiration to develop part of the site into a centre of excellence for defence and security sector with additional employment hubs focused on advanced technologies, environmental technologies and food and drink technologies.

Enterprise Zone status offers a range of benefits to businesses located on the site, including relief on business rates up to a maximum of £275,000 over a five year period, relaxation and fast tracking of the planning process and provision of improved infrastructure such as superfast broadband. It is predicted that the scheme will become a catalyst for enhanced economic growth throughout the Marches through the creation of highly skilled jobs and encouragement of overseas investment into the area.

**Committed to achieving a sustainable Herefordshire through designing high quality buildings**

# ARCHITYPE

working collaboratively, to design beautiful buildings, that significantly cut carbon footprint, and dramatically reduce running costs

**RIBA**

**Please contact: Jonathan Hines, Archetype, Upper Twyford, Hereford HR2 8AD.  
t: 01981 542111 e: jonathan.hines@archetype.co.uk**

*RIBA Sustainability Award, Sustainable Architect of the Year, Hereford and Worcester Chamber of Commerce Green Business of the Year, Sustainable School of the Year, Civic Trust Award*

## Will it work? – David Thame

Rotherwas business park contains Herefordshire's greatest concentration of commercial and industrial activity. Firms such as Opella, Rexam Plastics and a host of other businesses are based at Rotherwas and if you, or your business, want new or nearly new modern premises, you will be based there, too.

In August last year the government announced that the 148 acre site would become one of a score of "enterprise zones" around England. The tax breaks on offer would save companies on the site around £4m in business rates in the next four years. The press release trumpeted that this, along with simplified planning rules, would help create up to 1,800 jobs by attracting up to £90m in new private investment. All by 2015.

How these figures were arrived at would make an interesting essay on its own - suffice it to say, you shouldn't rely on the numbers in government press releases unless they come from the independent Office for National Statistics, and these certainly didn't. But surely an "enterprise zone" is a good thing, even if we might quibble over the numbers?

"Enterprise zone". The name inspires confidence. "Enterprise" conjours up a cloud of associations, all of them go-ahead, dynamic, and driven. The word "zone" suggests something with laser-like focus. The whole ensemble has a very desirable sharp-suited edge. The new EZ promises an end to planning red tape making development easier, tax breaks for occupiers, and new super fast broadband. So what's not to like?

Sadly, as is often the case with government regeneration initiatives, more thought has gone into the name than into the policy, perhaps as much as has gone into Herefordshire's economic strategy. So what are the snags?

### Do the incentives work?

The incentives aren't really very appealing, as the leaders of the other two West Midlands enterprise zones - in the Black Country and in Birmingham - have publicly recognised. The chairman of the Black County Local Enterprise Partnership, Stuart Towe, said in Midlands Business Insider that the real benefit of the zone was "fairly minimal" adding "it is more of a sweetener than a game changer." Birmingham's regeneration chief, Mark Barrow, agrees, saying in the same magazine that businesses "won't move across the country - or even Birmingham - for a £55,000 inducement that'll last five years."

The difficulty for the government is that if they make EZ incentives too good, they fall into the different, older problem of displacement that plagued, and eventually killed off, enterprise zones when they were last tried in the 1980s.

### Displacement

Peter Chapman, head of rating and compensation at surveyors Cluttons, explains: "Although we welcome the creation of enterprise zones across the UK, our overarching concern is that the new zones are more likely to attract workers from outside the zones as opposed to creating new jobs. It's those businesses just on the wrong side of the fence that may suffer. There must be safeguards put into place, together with financial assistance for ratepayers, outside of these Zones to prevent the law of unintended consequences making things worse for struggling businesses."

Needless to say, no such safeguards against displacement exist and some observers expect displacement to be a real problem. Chris Green and Christine Doel, analysts at specialist firm SQW, published a study of enterprise zones last summer. Their research showed that only a quarter of the new enterprise zones expected no displacement effect at all. In the careful language of professionals they commented "we suspect the displacement assumptions may require further verification."

### Cost of jobs created

Yet the biggest problem with enterprise zones is that they rely on the idea - surely exploded by the recent boom-and-bust - that building things somehow provokes jobs into existence. The Centre for Cities, a respected non-partisan think tank, made the point last year as the government launched the new EZ policy. The think tank reminded us that if you calculate the costs per job - rather than the costs per sq ft of new floor space - EZ's were fantastically expensive. The cost per additional job created in the zones of the 1980s was £17,000 over a 10-year period, equivalent to about £26,000 today.

They suggested local growth zones, focused on skills and supporting business would work better - a point made by the official spending watchdog, the National Audit Office.

Another respected observer, The Work Foundation, put the cost at £23,000 and £50,000 respectively, but otherwise agreed, pointing out that most of the areas to have enterprise zones in the 1980s were still struggling. They concluded: "The key issue is that Enterprise Zones don't tackle the real problems that local areas face. Providing artificial incentives to businesses in the short term will have little lasting effect without action to tackle the underlying drivers of competitiveness."

### Red Tape and Planning

EZs fail in other ways, too. Not least among them is the basic (flawed) assumption that the building of new offices and factories has been held back by planning "red tape". It seems odd to assume that if you make it marginally easier to get planning permission for a building in an enterprise zone - say, down from ten weeks to four weeks - this will inspire developers to build.

Worse, a quick look at the facts (see box) provides no evidence that the planning rules are holding anything back. On the contrary, UK planners deliver quick responses, and almost always say yes. Herefordshire planners are no different.

In fact the new enterprise zone actually introduces to this area a new piece of planning

red tape - called a "local development order" (LDO). Anyone wanting to build in the zone must first understand this new, extra document before they can go ahead - and face trouble if they don't. Getting an LDO agreed takes about a year and there is plenty of scope for getting it wrong - so don't expect anything to happen soon at Rotherwas.

### Do we need an EZ?

Finally, does Herefordshire need the "benefits" of the Rotherwas EZ anyway? The most recent report on employment land use prepared for the council by Drivers Jonas Deloitte showed that about 15 per cent of the Hereford's 5m sq ft of industrial and warehousing floor space was empty - which is fairly high. Overall of the 16m sq ft of commercial floor space in Herefordshire, 10 per cent is vacant.

Their conclusion is that the county isn't badly supplied, and given that they provide no evidence that existing occupiers feel trapped in unsuitable buildings, or are bursting at the seams, they don't recommend massive new development. These documents are normally tub-thumping manifestos for more building, yet this one is remarkably restrained.

In one area, however, they are not restrained, and that is on what needs to happen at Rotherwas. They say: "critical to fully unlocking this opportunity is the need to deliver key infrastructure and to overcome physical constraints, notably flood risk, which currently affects the availability of certain vacant development land at the estate."

Notice that there is no mention of tax incentives, no mention of broadband, no mention of planning 'red tape'. The new Rotherwas EZ may, or may not, be a useful thing to have. But when it comes to making a big difference, forget it.

DT





## Providing Legal Solutions

Gordon Lutton Solicitors offer a complete range of services for both commercial and private clients.

Committed to meeting all our client's needs we can give you professional advice and peace of mind when it comes to all your legal matters.

To discuss your requirements call  
**01432 355 345**  
www.gordonlutton.co.uk  
mail@gordonlutton.co.uk

Wyevale Business Park, Hereford HR4 7BS

**Business Services**  
Litigation  
Family Law  
Wills and Probate  
Personal Injury  
Agricultural  
Inheritance Tax



## Invest Herefordshire

### EZ broadband

A new super fast broadband connection is promised at Rotherwas - one of the few concrete benefits of EZ status. The plan envisages 20MB wireless line speeds extending to a potential 100mb service by 2013.

The broadband idea pre-dates the revival of enterprise zones by nearly a year, yet so far progress is hard to spot. Freedom of Information requests by the Countryside Alliance revealed that although the council had spent £50,000 on organising tenders, nothing has yet happened on the ground. No contract will be awarded until spring 2012, the council said.

In the meantime that 2013 deadline looks very uncertain.

## Great wines from multi-award winning Tanners

Visit Tanners in Hereford for a huge range of beautifully displayed wines at genuine prices and friendly advice. Tanners is family-owned and independent.



**Wine List of the Year  
International Wine Challenge**

  
**TANNERS**  
 WINE MERCHANTS  
 ESTABLISHED 1842

4 St Peter's Square, Hereford HR1 2PG  
01432 272044 www.tanners-wines.co.uk

*Shippers of domaine wines direct  
from the vineyards*

## What could it do for Hereford?

The site with all its phases, particularly during the last century, is now planned to once more rise into prominence to serve Herefordshire and its population in providing much needed employment and opportunities for the future. It is projected that the Enterprise Zone will establish 1,500 jobs within the site by 2015. However, this promise of government intervention should be viewed with some degree of caution, as it is proposed that new companies will be encouraged from within the high tech and military sector with its considerable skills requirements,

To explain this problem the introduction of the Local Strategic Plan 2010, introduces a county where one fifth of the employers report a skills gap in the current workforce and further exposes the staggering statistic that 20 percent of working age residents are without qualifications. This dilemma is further exacerbated and explained by the following findings outlining deficiencies in all sectors: 27 percent skills gap within the skilled trade sector, a 26 percent gap within the managerial sector and a 19 percent skills gap within administration and clerical.

These statistics are devastating and require an immediate county response to answer why and how our education and training systems have failed to answer our local needs. While this is a problem to be solved in the future, the short term perspective of such findings is that new companies requiring highly skilled employees will need to recruit at all levels from outside the county. Sadly the result of such action will be a rise in house prices and a negative effect on local employment.

However, even within this realistic analysis Herefordshire is still being presented with an opportunity which could provide a turning point for its economy. Companies finding the concessions attractive should, as a condition, be required to give assurances and safeguards within their recruitment campaigns to encourage our local workforce. For example, ensuring that there are the necessary training programmes in place for youngsters leaving school, together with NVQ and apprenticeship schemes available at the appropriate levels and with training programmes for junior managers guaranteed. The LSP report states that the lack of free and affordable training, particularly at managerial level has resulted in the deficiencies in our skill bank.

This is a shameful lack of concern on behalf of governments who have been aware of the steady rise in youth unemployment over the last decade, their only solution being to encourage vast numbers of school leavers to enter university education in a cynical attempt to keep the unemployment figures manageable. Until the credit crunch and the present recession this policy answered their needs and the problem was concealed. However, the chickens have now come home to roost and the country has to reconcile such actions against a national crisis where 1.3 million 16 to 24-year-olds are unemployed within a vacuum of training relevant to the needs required with the uncertainty of the present precarious European economy.

Let us not forget our future depends upon the aspirations of our younger generation.

JOD

### A design code?

Design codes offer a way for local authorities to ensure consistent design standards across developments. With the planning rules relaxed in an Enterprise Zone, there is the worry we'll get yet another boring industrial estate. But it needn't be like that. If we are majoring on high tech, shouldn't it be more like a university campus?

These are extracts from the design guide for the University of Pennsylvania.

"While the physical character and quality of a campus is defined by both its buildings and its open space, it is the open space which has the greatest potential for unifying and equalizing the shared space of the campus. It can promote the sense of community derived from actively shared space, and provide for the enriching experiences of both planned and chance encounter. Comprised of streets, walkways, greens, courtyards, plazas, gardens and playfields, open space has the potential to knit together the diverse elements of the campus in a coherent way."

The masterplan is in preparation. Will it be thinking like this?

The actual building designs are important too, but the design code needn't be too prescriptive. Perhaps a restriction on building heights, on colour and the size of corporate logos, would be helpful; together, of course, with green infrastructure. (I've been reading the article from the Council p.6).

If we create a pleasing environment companies will flock here. The Hereford Civic Society is hoping, indeed expecting, a DESIGN CODE for ROTHERWAS EZ. JB

## OPINION

It's all about marketing. What a shame that real values and truth seem to have vanished, and all we are concerned about is image; often based on spin, we latch onto ideas with little foundation. Let's get real, councils don't create jobs, anymore than the LEP. Company directors drive around at weekends, and make the decisions as to where to site their new factory. That is why Herefordshire has such a huge advantage over the rest of the country, in spite of the current cul de sac link road. Wouldn't you rather live here than in Thurrock? The Thames Gateway developments are failing because it's such a depressing area. We've got it made here – but lets design it properly. Lets have an inspiring masterplan. JB

### Links

The Drivers Jonas Land Study:  
[www.herefordshire.gov.uk/docs/herefordshire\\_employment\\_land\\_study\\_update\\_28\\_september\\_201029.pdf](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/docs/herefordshire_employment_land_study_update_28_september_201029.pdf)

Errors to avoid in writing Local Development Orders:  
[www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pagelid=314339](http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pagelid=314339)

Centre for Cities Report:  
[www.centreforcities.org/enterprisezones.html](http://www.centreforcities.org/enterprisezones.html)

Work Foundation Report:  
[www.theworkfoundation.com/assets/docs/publications/283\\_Enterprise20Zones\\_24\\_20Feb\\_FINAL.PDF](http://www.theworkfoundation.com/assets/docs/publications/283_Enterprise20Zones_24_20Feb_FINAL.PDF)

National Audit Office report on regeneration:  
[www.nao.org.uk/publications/0910/regional\\_regeneration.aspx](http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0910/regional_regeneration.aspx)



### Red tape

The planning system is "broken" and a "nightmare" for developers.

A quick look at the evidence suggests these expressions, worn smooth by overuse, amount to absolute nonsense. If by "broken" we mean (for the sake of argument) not delivering plenty of approvals, and doing it slowly, then the answer is definitely not.

Latest government figures show for the first three months of 2011 around 96,800 planning applications were decided, up 1 per cent on the same time last year, and that 78,500 were approved, up 2 per cent. That means that 81 per cent were approved first time round, without any appeals. If you add success at appeal, the figure is closer to 90 per cent. That seems to me like a fairly high rate of delivery. Housebuilders, who tend to complain most, come out fairly well. Around 80 per cent of their applications are granted, and about two-thirds granted within just 13 weeks (the statutory rule-of-thumb).

Second, is the planning system a "nightmare" for developers? If the government's figures are right then most of the time the answer is resoundingly no. But maybe sometimes it is - just like sometimes the courts are a "nightmare" for criminals and that health and safety law is a "nightmare" for employers who want to send children up chimneys. There is a fancy Greek word for question-begging rhetorical manoeuvres like this but I think a bit of health demotic English does the job just as well. It's a bonkers argument. DT



TEL 01432 261211

climbonbikes@aol.com

www.climbonbikes.co.uk

24-25 Coningsby Street, Hereford, HR1 2DY

# Planning Matters.....

Here we list recent planning applications and any action that our executive committee has taken. Our Society is concerned about the built environment and we peruse all new applications and assess against a schedule of criteria. When we feel applications justify a comment we submit a letter to the Planning Department. These letters are shown on our web site and are the opinions of the committee at the time of the letter.

<p><b>To view plans on the web go to <a href="http://www.ukplanning.com">www.ukplanning.com</a></b></p> <p>Click on 'select another council' (highlighted in blue)</p> <p>Click on Herefordshire Council</p> <p>Click on 'Search applications' (on the left hand side)</p> <p>Scroll down to 'Application Number' and enter the relevant six figures</p> <p><b>Criteria used when considering new planning applications</b></p> <p>Architectural / design merit</p> <p>Suitability of the scheme / design in relation to its context or surroundings</p>	<p>Layout of interior spaces and suitability of circulation routes</p> <p>Design relating to use and functionality</p> <p>How the character and structure of the scheme relate or convey its intended use</p> <p>Sustainability credentials (materials sourcing, water use, energy consumption, waste minimisation)</p> <p>Construction and detailing</p> <p>Civic contribution – social, cultural, environmental or economic benefit to the local community</p>
--	--

With many small applications, here is a listing of those of possible interest.

The Society is pleased to see much improved plans for 87 Whitecross Road; the result of our input? Also, we are concerned to see an application for a very small house, just 65 sq.m., at 10 Windsor St. This falls below the average space recommended by CABE (73 m2)

- 112616** 44 Tower Road. B.Shaw. Demolition of garage and bungalow. Erection of 4 flats with access and car parking. An improvement on previous plans.
- 112642** The Old Market Inn. Stanhope Plc. Change of use from drinking establishment and restaurant to offices for a period of 3 years, then return to previous use.
- 112660** County Hospital. J.Ball,agent. Erection of 2 single storey extension off Cantilupe ward
- 112656(L)** 1 High Town. S.Boler.agent. Replace fascia sign.
- 112748** 60 Aylestone Hill. Mr Worthing, illuminated sign on 2m poles for dental surgery.
- 111560** Drybridge allotments S.Kerry. Enlargement of allotments on land transferred by Herefordshire Council to the City Council.
- 112768** Freedom Centre, Coningsby St., C.Cooke Retention of existing use(place of worship) on permanent basis. Creation of 5 windows to East elevation. Advised to consider noise mitigation measures.
- 112893(L)** Booth Hall, East St. P. Mallone. Removal of circular staircase; repairs to balustrade.
- 112896** 18 Eign Gate. D.Dalrymple. Change of use of ground and first floor from retail to restaurant.
- 112904** 76 Old School Lane, J.Byard,agent. 2 bay extension to provide up to date vehicle repair workshop.
- 112879** 304 Kings Acre Rd. Mr&Mrs B.Lane New dwelling
- 112924** County Hosp. C.Homersley. Extension to accommodate treatment suite.
- 113163** Westcliffe House, Plough Lane. R.Field. Change of use from residential to facility for residential training courses.
- 113168** Former Hunderton Infants School. Herefordshire Council. Outline for residential development with mixed housing, garages, access roads, pavement and cycle track. 0.72 hectares 19 x 3 bed; 7 x 2 bed. 1 hybrid black poplar, with some decay, to be removed.
- 113198** Centre for Independent Living, Rockfield Road. F.Ritchie. Change of use from offices to textile resource centre to provide training.
- 113221** Tesco. Holme Lacy Road. N.Ashenden agent. Request to install ATM unit. Previously refused.
- 112506** 87 Whitecross Road. Amended plans were presented and passed. Instead of a 3 storey block with 12 x 1 bed flats and car parking using all the land, there will now be a 2 storey block of 6 x 1bed flats with landscape and car park. The building will be to the same building line as its neighbours.

- 112616** 44 Tower Road. The previous plan of 2 blocks of flats were refused in June. The new plans for 4 dwellings were refused by the planning committee, although the planning officer had recommended approved.
- 110919** Campion, Greyfriars Avenue. Amended plans were presented at the end of October 2011. The building height has been reduced by 2 floors. It provides 14 flats; 1 x 1 bed; 12 x 2 beds; 1 x 3 beds. This is 30 units per hectare.
- 113179** Land adj. to 53 Barrs Court Rd. J.Phillips agent 4 houses new houses.
- 113187** land to rear of 42 Grandstand Rd. G.Spratling 1 new dwelling with garage.
- 113220** land adj. to 72 Bulmers Ave. Hereford Co operative Housing Ltd. Residential development 2 x 2 bed flats for rent.
- 113336** 12 Quay St. Mrs E. Hughes. Extensive extension to bungalow.
- 113131** Victoria Hse. McCarthy and Stone. L.Mathewson 3 storey retirement housing replacing Arts and Crafts house of some merit. HCS has been requested to lobby for retention of the existing house. However, we are not convinced that is practical and the planning proposal has some merit; although it would be beneficial if additional works to the immediate public realm could be incorporated via 106 contributions.
- 113395(O)** land to rear of 83 Widemarsh St. (72 m2) J.Phipps. 5 dwellings. (Previously had outline planning for a development of 17 flats and up to 4 commercial units. 2004/2345/O.)

## Planning policy and green infrastructure: - Jane Wormald.

Jane is a forward planning officer at Herefordshire Council. She has an environmental degree and a Masters in Town and Country Planning.

This article follows on from 'More Trees for Hereford' by Mike Townsend OBE which appeared in the autumn edition. It summarises the planning policy framework in which Green Infrastructure (GI) is intended to be positively integrated into Hereford city and across the county.

GI is a network of multifunctional high quality green spaces, which are capable of delivering ecological and quality of life benefits, underpinning sustainability and connecting urban landscapes with rural hinterlands.

GI is the solution to many issues within our urban landscapes. It can improve sustainable transport routes; reduce air pollution from vehicle emissions; assist in managing flooding; improve the health and well-being of communities; encourage innovative development, inspire local people; and assist in climate change adaptation.

### Planning policy

It is intended to develop GI policy at the county and local levels guided by evidence provided in the GI Strategy for Herefordshire, available at [http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/docs/Herefordshire\\_Green\\_Infrastructure\\_Strategy\\_w\(2\).pdf](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/docs/Herefordshire_Green_Infrastructure_Strategy_w(2).pdf). Planning policy will seek to establish principles and policies that secure protection and promote enhancement of existing GI and identify opportunities and means of creating new, high quality GI.

### Core Strategy

It is expected that the Core Strategy, the local plan for the county, will guide development up until 2031 and have a strategic overarching GI policy. It is likely to seek from developments the protection of identified GI corridors and linkages, including landscapes, trees, woodlands, watercourses and adjoining flood plain; provide on-site GI, such as soft landscaping; and provide new GI that integrates with existing strategic networks of GI corridors.

### Other development plans and Neighbourhood Planning

The Government is encouraging town and parish councils to get involved in developing Neighbourhood Plans for their area, to enable local people to plan for the place that they inhabit. Initial indications suggest a considerable interest in Neighbourhood Planning across Herefordshire and their preparation may reduce the need for Herefordshire Council to produce more detailed development plans in parts of the county.

Herefordshire Council still anticipate the need to produce a Hereford Area Plan to provide the detailed planning policy to guide the development and proposed growth of the city. This plan will seek to enable conservation led regeneration, based on a character area approach, utilising evidence from the Hereford Rapid Townscape Assessment, March 2010. Hereford has developed in such a way to create many locally distinctive characteristics, which could inform a character area approach to policy in the city. In other words, policies would be tailored to the character, needs and aspirations of the local community within each identified area. This could include detailed policies dealing with local issues in specific areas of the city, including for example GI policies.

Local GI planning policy is vital for well designed and integrated sustainable developments, whether implemented through a neighbourhood plan or a local authority area plan.

### Campions Decision

After several applications by different architects, at last there is a positive decision for this long derelict site. There has been much opposition over the years. The Environment Agency appear not to have been helpful in trying to find an acceptable solution to this riverside site. Jamieson's original plan has been cut back by planners from 21 to 14 flats; apparently to maintain the view of St. Nicolas church. That might make it unviable in these precarious times. So don't hold your breath, the ruinous Campions might still be a feature of Hereford for many more years.

**Simmonds.Mills**  
ARCHITECTS  
www.simmondsmills.com

ECOLOGICAL DESIGN  
SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

- Over 25 years experience of sustainable building
- Practical & inspirational low energy buildings
- New-build & Refurbishment
- Passivhaus & EnerPHit specialist designers
- We work nationally and locally
- Excellent track record of satisfied clients
- Members of AECB & Passivhaus Trust

Shropshire: 01952 433 252  
Herefordshire: 01432 353 443

# News & Views.....

## The Portas portmanteau: Nick Jones. *Hereford based architectural pundit*

With her *Vanity Fair* lifestyle and profile, it was probably inevitable that the author, rather than the contents, of the David Cameron commissioned high street study came under the media spotlight in December. Top Shop's creator, Mary Portas, seems undeterred that nearly a dozen similar retailing studies have already been and gone, now gathering dust in the bottom drawer of some Whitehall mandarin's desk. Indeed one national newspaper - which had obviously dug them all out and cross-checked them against high street improvements - claimed that not a single proposal from the 11 defunct documents was ever implemented.

Key recommendations in the wide-ranging Portas report include: an amendment to the new national planning policy framework, to include a 'presumption in favour' condition for all town and city centre redevelopments; specific authorisation (by the Secretary of State) to be necessary for future out of town developments; all new town

centre schemes to include a quota of 'affordable shops'; removal of the restrictive aspects of the 'use class' system; to encourage town centre shopping, councils should operate more free controlled parking schemes; greater encouragement should be given for the setting up of new local businesses through rates concessions; support for imaginative uses in town centres of empty properties, through new Community Right to Buy legislation, with pilot projects to test the concept; a relaxation of the regulations governing market trading and the establishment of a National Market Day.

Perhaps with her eye to becoming Britain's first Shopping Tzarina, Ms Portas also calls for the creation of a national Town Team (presumably advising Eric Pickles), comprising a 'visionary strategic operational management team'. Mary Portas is a dynamic go-getter, so expect her to be knocking on No 10's front door if nothing happens. NJ

## Letters & E-mails

The Society is pleased to have received a number of letters and emails about articles in our Autumn 2011 edition. In particular, there is concern that we do not always disclose the author of published articles. In future, all major contributors will be named, although the disclaimer, on the back page, remains.

Space constraints means only part of some letters can be included, for which we apologize.

*"I was dismayed to see the Society publish an article which is not only anonymous but which gives the impression, with its repeated use of the word "we", that this is the official view of the Hereford Civic Society. When you, as Chairman, express what you now admit in your email was "Very much a personal view", I think it all the more important that you should have attached your name to it and I hope you will do so in the next edition"* Henry Connor

\*\*\*\*\*

*"Perhaps you are unaware that the initial inspiration for the Close railings came from St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham, a fairly local example of good practice? The railings demarcate a sacred space (as the very word Close implies), while the*

*absence of gates symbolises the openness of the space to all"* Joy Roderick

\*\*\*\*\*

*"Not every-one is going to be satisfied with the outcome of a large project such as {Cathedral Close} but the completed refurbishments, in my opinion, to be appreciated and admired. Every aspect seems to have been taken into account, with adjusted pathways, the timeline carved in the Kerbing, the roundels depicting features of the City, and the lighting, creating a Close that we should all be proud of. Added to that we have the charming Lady Arbour garden and the apple tree mosaic in front of the West Door. Well made, robust seats are sited where the passer-by can rest and enjoy the atmosphere. Admirable use of the lottery and other monies that made it all possible."* Myrtle Middleton

\*\*\*\*\*

*"I am urged to state that as a livestock farmer I find the New Livestock Centre as almost perfect.*

*After its city centre predecessor it's easily and quickly accessible - no queuing for up to 1.5 miles in stop start traffic causing undue stress on livestock. On arrival there is adequate room to allow a large number of vehicles to unload at once into raised*

*penning area so no sloping ramps for timid animals to stumble or fall. Animals have access to drinking water and are at all times under cover unlike the old market. The gates seem tailor made to fit all widths and sizes of vehicle and on unloading, the animals are quickly and easily guided to their respective pens by a series of passages and gates with the minimum of agitation"*

*"The architect in your article critised the 60's style {of the café} - what's wrong with that? Its functional and easily cleaned and economical to 'freshen up' periodically, we farmers don't need an upstairs cafe overlooking the cattle pens, our average age we are told is 60 so clumping up and down stairs in wellies for a cup of tea is not on".* J E Burman

\*\*\*\*\*

*"{In}the last part of Peter Gwatkin's "summer walk" article, the Flood Defences brickwork ,match the brickwork colour {and} pattern of the houses next to the Watershed. Why isn't this mentioned?*

*Trees were mooted to turn "St.Martins Street into a tree lined boulevard some time back. There is no mention of specifics in where to locate trees in the three page article by M Townsend. There are no location details of where the photographs of the trees were taken"* Jonathan Roger

## Book review

**Constructing the Worcester & Hereford Railway Line;** Gordon Wood (published by the author); £5

This is clearly a labour of love. In the introduction, local rail historian Gordon Wood reveals that his fascinating 48-page booklet has been published to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Worcester & Hereford Railway Company's line and is only the forerunner to a more definitive history. Nevertheless, it is packed with statistics and some fascinating archival photographs.

In this county, we are blessed by being surrounded by (virtually) unspoilt countryside, best appreciated on a local train journey: Hereford to Ludlow has picturesque rural views in all directions; some vistas on the longer

Shrewsbury to Aberysthwyth journey are quite breathtaking; and closer to home, the short hop from Hereford to Worcester takes some beating, particularly if you're armed with some of Mr Wood's statistics.

Two names feature strongly in this impressive engineering achievement: Stephen Ballard and Charles Liddle. But it must be the unnamed thousands of 'navvies' - several of whom perished - who really should be celebrated. Especially for four epic achievements: the magnificent Ledbury viaduct (containing more than one million bricks and completed in only 18 months); Ballard's elegant twin-arched River Severn Bridge of 1860; and the 3km underground sections of brick-lined tunnels which were driven beneath the Malvern Hills and Ledbury's Dog Hill. NJ

## Hereford Now

**Hereford College of Arts**



**T**he new entrance is, at last, nearing completion. There is no chance of missing it in Folly Lane, protruding as it does almost to the kerb line.

A combination of entrance, meeting and gallery space it's somewhat confusing, especially with the use of so much glass; but has pleasant and interesting landscaped areas providing outside meeting places.

The extravagant and rather laboured way the roof is held up, with giant laminated timber hulks, suggests the architect - Hewitt Studios of Bath, was indulging in some sort of fantasy which is hard to understand.

Flash and pushy it doesn't integrate with the existing buildings and Folly Theatre and has none of the maturity of the Technical College next door. JB

**PRITCHARDS**

BOSS  
GANT  
ARMANI  
LACOSTE  
HUDSON  
PAUL SMITH  
JOHN SMEDLEY  
POLO RALPH LAUREN  
WITHOUT PREJUDICE

PRITCHARDS MENSWEAR, 9 KING STREET  
HEREFORD HR4 9BW

TEL: 01432 272346  
EMAIL: SHOP@PRITCHARDS.CO.UK  
SHOP ONLINE: WWW.PRITCHARDS.CO.UK

# News.....

## LDF: a progress report

Though the deadline for individual and group submissions to the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF) has now passed, there is much water still to flow beneath the bridge of democratic consultation.

An ambitious timetable requires all the stages of preparation of this crucially important planning blueprint, affecting the county's growth for two decades, to be completed in the next 16 months, with the LDF being introduced as the county's Core Strategy by spring 2013. Between May and July 2012, the cabinet and full council must debate a final draft before submitting it to the Secretary of State, probably in October 2012. This latest consultation exercise superseded the 2009-10 survey (*Shaping Our Place 2026*) which was aborted shortly before the May 2011 local government elections and is believed to have cost more than £1-million.

In the autumn, the Council's explanatory leaflet *Help plan the future of Herefordshire* was circulated to some 2000 individuals and organisations and 31 public meetings were held. It was also summarised in the council's magazine *Herefordshire Matters*.

Key recommendations included a county-wide housing target of 16,500 new homes, comprehensive expansion plans for Leominster and Ross-on-Wye, and affordable homes and job creation schemes in rural areas. Hereford city and its suburbs would see housing growth through clustered housing in Lower Bullingham, Three Elms and Whitecross. Park-and-Ride sites north and south of the city will eventually be opened, although HCS News understands that there is little likelihood of the service being introduced before 2023. Despite criticism from many quarters, the £130-million Western Relief Road still remains the council's preferred option.

Two local groups who have been making the running in opposing many of the council's Core Strategy recommendations are Its Our County ([www.itsourcounty.org](http://www.itsourcounty.org)), which had nine councillors elected to Herefordshire Council last May and a new independent pressure group Hereforhereford ([www.hereforhereford.co.uk](http://www.hereforhereford.co.uk)). Liz Moraweika, for the group, says: "We want to see the best solutions for tackling traffic congestion in Hereford but we fear all of Herefordshire will pay too high a price for the continued mistakes of Herefordshire Council." The group also predicts that the Core Strategy could fail at next winter's Inquiry stage if alternatives are not properly tested in accordance with planning laws.

Hereford Civic Society intends to monitor developments in the later consultation stages between cabinet / council approval and the plan's formal submission to the Secretary of State. NJ

## Localism Act makes it to the statute book

The legislation underpinning major reforms of the English planning system has received Royal Assent with ministers arguing the measures represent an historic shift of power back to local people.

As well as abolishing regional strategies and the Infrastructure Planning Commission, the Localism Act 2011 will mean a new tier of land use planning in the shape of neighbourhood plans.

Key measures to increase the power of local government as a result of the Act include introducing a new general power of competence designed to give councils unprecedented freedom to work together to improve services and opening the door for the transfer of power to major cities to develop their areas, improve local services and boost local economies.

The Act clarifies the rules on predetermination which will allow councillors to express their opinions on issues of local importance such as planning proposals without the fear of legal challenge.

The measures also introduce a new regime for pre-application consultations and new planning enforcement rules, giving councils power to take action against people who deliberately conceal unauthorised development and increases powers for councils to remove illegal advertisements and graffiti and prevent fly-posting.

The legislation also enables communities to bring forward proposals for development - such as homes, shops, playgrounds or meeting halls, through the Community Right to Build.

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles said: "For too long, local people were held back and ignored because Whitehall thought it knew best. That is changing for good. Councils have their General Power of Competence and residents have a real power over decisions like planning, community buildings or local services."

Decentralisation minister Greg Clark said: "This historic Act begins to reverse a hundred years of centralisation. It puts power into the hands of citizens, community groups and local councils. It breaks the monopoly on all new policy initiatives having to come from Whitehall by giving a new right of initiative to people in their local areas."

A plain English guide to the Localism Act is available at: [www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localismplainenglishupdate](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localismplainenglishupdate).

## Retail Warning!

Greg Styles, Head of Retail Development at the Leeds office of Colliers International recently commented "The development projects that are likely to remain deliverable are those situated in a prime location in major towns and cities that have an undersupply of quality floorspace, a sizable shopper population and where the land is in control of the developer, together with convenience food store anchored schemes in smaller towns. We expect that many proposals, particularly those in medium-sized towns, will fall out of the pipeline as developers recognise that they are no longer feasible and the amount of shopping centre floorspace that will actually be built will be much lower than the current total pipeline figure."

## 1st December 2011 – Pedestrian Signposting in the City

The Society was invited to contribute to a discussion at Amey's offices, to develop the style and extent of sign posts necessary to assist tourists and new residents. Our view was that there should be no more, but there will be some improved siting etc.. Budget restraints impinge, but the policy for these signs is drawn up by Amey, for Herefordshire Council to ratify.

## Waveney's LDF completed 18.11.11

A planning inspector has approved Waveney District Council's regeneration plans for the heart of Lowestoft. The council's Area Action Plan for the Lake Lothing and Outer Harbour area of Lowestoft was found to be "sound" following a public inquiry.

The Suffolk planning authority is now one of a handful of local authorities in England with all of its Local Development Framework approved. HC's is a year away!

## Long awaited guidance on "shared space" published

Many civic societies are involved in discussions over managing traffic and improving the conditions for pedestrians and cyclists. This can be achieved through everything from reducing speed limits, cutting street clutter, improving crossings and creating Homes Zones. One of the most far reaching idea, which is now winning wide support is to create a "shared space" where pedestrians, cyclists and cars all have equal priority.

The idea is now winning official recognition with the publication by the Department for Transport of Local Transport Note 01/11 Shared Space. This shows how shared space works best where traffic speeds are less than 20mph and can be greatly helped by sympathetic street design.

It is encouraging to note that Ben Hamilton-Bailie, the lead advocate in this country, is also a consultant to our Herefordshire Council.

## Architects call for end to "shoe box" homes

The Royal Institute of British Architects has launched a hard hitting campaign to improve the quality of new housing. The Case for space campaign is based on new research showing that housing is being built at less than the recommended minimum size.

## Traffic signs policy review from the Dept. for Transport

The review sets out recommendations to reduce regulation and provide more flexibility for local authorities. Traffic signs can clutter the highway network if used to excess which makes our roads look unattractive, and can be a distraction for road users.

It recognises that travel behaviour is changing as people make more sustainable transport choices; and provides a range of proposals for improved signs and traffic signals, that will help pedestrians as well as promoting safer cycling and allowing more innovative measures to be used on the roads.

The Department will implement these recommendations in stages. Amendments to TSRGD came into force in November 2011 BUT it is unlikely that the new TSRGD will be completed before 2014!



# E.C. JOSEPH & SONS LTD.

## BUILDERS

**General Building Work Undertaken. Maintenance & Repairs. Established 1957**

**Specialists in Felt Roofing & Repairs. Plumbing. Decorating. Free Estimates & Advice**

**119 St. Owen Street, Hereford HR1 2JW**  
**TELEPHONE 01432 - 353643**  
**FAX 01432 - 341742 MOB. 07977-067771**  
**www.ecjoseph.co.uk**

# NEXT ISSUE

## SPACE IN OUR CITY

Seven contributors concerned about spaces.

## Recent Meetings

26th October 2011 – **The 1951 Skylon** – Garry Thomas

The swansong of our former chair – an excellent account about the building of this centrepiece of the Festival of Britain. The historical context being the need to inspire Britons out of their malaise following the war, a showcase of modern Britain and what it could achieve; conveniently on the centenary of the Great Exhibition of 1851 at Crystal Palace. It was located on the South Bank near the new Festival Hall. The Skylon, a slim needle like monument, suspended on just three main cables and held vertical by another three, was made by Painter Brothers of Hereford.

The present Chief Executive, David Goldsmith, attended and provided a wonderful archive film of the fabrication and erection of the Skylon. By today's standards it was a boys' own project with large metal frames bolted together on site in the vertical position; but with a precision not seen before in London, and not a hard hat in sight.

There was talk, during the reminiscing, of recreating it in Hereford; possibly in the new Enterprise Zone. But this would hardly be forward thinking, perhaps a new contemporary Skylon? After all, we seem to be heading for depressing times much like the late forties, and could do with a beacon to inspire us? JB

23rd November 2011 – **Low energy refurbishment** – Andrew Simmonds

Andrew Simmonds has unrivalled experience in restoring historic buildings, and in sustainable and low energy building construction. His fascinating talk, took us from the early days when a green building was little more than an experimental prefabricated shed, to modern efficient and comfortable eco-construction. 80% of energy costs could be saved by careful renovation of even the most unpromising dwelling, by careful design, using modern insulating materials and membranes. Those of us without architectural know-how found many of his observations on the practicalities of eco-insulation quite new and enlightening. Two examples were the increased difficulty and much reduced efficiency of insulating a building from the inside; also the dangers of mould growth behind internally applied insulating panels. We saw pictures of the thermal upgrading, at considerable cost, of an old Victorian terrace without cavity walls or damp course. The costs can be recouped through the very large savings on energy expenditure. The external appearance of the property after insulation, though quite pleasing, was significantly different from that of adjoining properties. He agreed that widespread use of such external alterations could significantly affect the character of a neighbourhood. HEP

14th December 2011 – **A landscape history** – David Lovelace

David entertained the meeting with a map based history of Hereford city and its environs. South of the old bridge there was the Forest de la Haye stretching out over the Callow and down to Kivernoll. The next map showed a developing situation, then the map of 1606 more detail; all shown to the same scale. The technology is known as a digitised Geographic Information System, which is now available to provide full and detailed information precisely recorded; and, of course, he brought us right up to date, including Belmont before and after ASDA.

With others, David is promoting a pilot project, using GPS technology and volunteers, to record the "green infrastructure" within Hereford. Precise photographing of trees, with overlaid measuring, can be linked back to maps precisely. This work aims to provide a greater depth of background research from which we can plan. This is where it all becomes less precise. Politics and prejudice, lack of knowledge and even lack of respect for our city's green infrastructure make the way forward not an easy one. Lovelace acts as a consultant to the Herefordshire Council, currently working with the Hereford Tree Forum, on which the HCS is a major player. See our web site for film of the latest tree planting project and [www.bosci.net](http://www.bosci.net) for information on David Lovelace. MB

### New governing team

Since the AGM in October, the committee has met three times and established a team based approach to our work, with each member responsible for a particular project. These projects have been chosen to reflect members interests, and where we believe we can raise the level of debate and discussion; living up to our role as the City's built environment forum. From here we can, hopefully, raise standards and help to create a better City.

#### Planning Matters

Team leader – Andree Poppleston  
[apoppleston@fsmail.net](mailto:apoppleston@fsmail.net)  
01432 343333

*To secure and encourage logical decisions by planners and councillors at Herefordshire Council; to create a positive environment.*

#### Local Development Framework

Team leader – John Bothamley  
[john@johnbothamley.co.uk](mailto:john@johnbothamley.co.uk)  
01981 580002

*To monitor the progress of the development of the plan through the Council.*

*To comment, when possible, highlighting areas of concern.*

#### Integrated Transport

Team Leader – Andy Simmonds  
[andy@simmondsmills.com](mailto:andy@simmondsmills.com)  
01432 353443

*To study, in depth, the whole movement of people in and through Hereford and environs.*

*Propose a plan for further discussion and consideration.*

*Raise the profile of "integrated transport" as a way of considering the movement of people.*

#### Enterprise Zone

Team leader – Julie Orton-Davies  
[jod43@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jod43@hotmail.co.uk)  
01432 760772

*To inspire Herefordshire Council to establish an interpretive centre in Rotherwas, highlighting the historical context of the former munitions factories.*

*To propose the establishment of a design guide for the site*

#### Tourism

Team Leader – Peter Gwatkin  
[pmgaccountancy@gmail.com](mailto:pmgaccountancy@gmail.com)  
01432 359973

*To understand the work of Visit Herefordshire and Hereford City Tourism.*

*To inspire HC, or another body, to run Heritage Open Day, as it is supposed to be done. i.e. providing access to buildings not normally open to the public.*

#### Street scene

Team leader – Hubert Porte  
[office@hubertporte-shenmore.co.uk](mailto:office@hubertporte-shenmore.co.uk)  
01432 250561

*To inspire Herefordshire Council and Hereford City Council to declutter the City of unnecessary street furniture and signs.*

#### Trees

Team leader – Mo Burns  
[moburns@live.com](mailto:moburns@live.com)  
01432 352559

*To represent the Society on the Herefordshire Tree Forum promoting a holistic approach to trees.*

Other members coordinate the overall running of the society. If you would like to be involved in one of the above teams, or have a passion that is about the built environment please contact our chair – John Bothamley – 01981 580002 [chair@herefordcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:chair@herefordcivicsociety.org.uk) Do come to one of our regular monthly lecture meetings, open to all – we would like to meet you.

### Forth coming events

#### Wednesday 29th February 2012

"Plans to take forward Herefordshire Tourism"

Sir Ben Gill

Herefordshire's tourism czar, former chief of the NFU, on his drive to up Herefordshire's profile as a tourist destination. Logos, TICs and much more.

#### Wednesday 28th March 2012

Burghill American Aircrash 1942

Jerome Corr and Neil Taylor

The investigation into the tragedy surrounding the B-24 liberator bomber crash in Burghill in 1944

#### Wednesday 25th April 2012

Redefining Spiritual Space

Michael Tavinor, Dean and Glyn Morgan, CE,

Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust

The recent works on Cathedral Close, the intentions and the delivery of this high quality project.

**Meetings open at 7.00 p.m. for conversation and discussion and presentations start at 7.30 p.m.**

### Contributors

HEP Hubert Porte

JOD Julie Orton-Davies

JB John Bothamley

MB Mo Burns

JF John Falkner

NJ Nick Jones

2nd November 2011 – **Midlands Network of Civic Voice**

HCS is affiliated to Civic Voice, being the successor to the failed Civic Trust. For just £1.50 per member we are part of a 250 plus strong group of civic societies agitating for a fair hearing from Government.

At a regional meeting in Birmingham, a motley crowd from the very small to the large societies covering conurbations, gathered to further discuss how to proceed. Griff Rhys

Jones, the president, plugged the message that the new planning regime might well have a more devastating affect on towns and cities, than on the countryside; whose lobbyists have a loud voice. This new organisation is developing its character and style. Already there is an excellent enews that updates us all on the latest relevant news, together with ideas on how we could run our own individual societies. Do we want to see another national design award? No. but perhaps we should consider for our own local areas. Do we want to shame bad design?

Probably not. Certainly HCS wishes to see a more positive approach to design. Shouldn't we be talking up design, inspiring the need to be relevant, to be local yet innovative, to respect locality?

We all know this is important, and that is what Civic Voice, inspirationally led by Griff, is about, and in the local context, our own Hereford Civic Society – the City's built environment forum.



I am interested in joining **Herefordshire Civic Society**.

Please send membership information, subscription rates and an application form to:-

Mr / Mrs / Ms .....

.....

.....

.....

\*e-mail address .....

\* optional information which HCS will not share with other organisations.

Return to: Andree Poppleston, 33 Breinton Avenue, Hereford HR4 OJZ

**JOIN HCS NOW**

### HCS Contact Details

Secretary: Andree Poppleston, 33 Breinton Avenue, Hereford HR4 OJZ 01432 343333  
[apoppleston@fsmail.net](mailto:apoppleston@fsmail.net)

Chairman: John Bothamley, Treferanon, St.Weonards, Hereford HR2 8QF  
01981 580002

[john@johnbothamley.co.uk](mailto:john@johnbothamley.co.uk)

Vice-chairman: Hubert Porte, Springwood, Madley, Herefordshire HR2 9NX  
01981 250561

### Disclaimer

The views expressed in the letters, reviews, news and features in this issue are those of the individual contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of members of Herefordshire Civic Society.