

**FREE**

# news

**hereford civic society**

the city's built environment forum

Spring 2014

## **City shop fronts – do they help our image?**

John Faulkner illustrates with good and bad examples

## **Transport interchange at the station?**

Gareth Calan Davies

## **Bath Street - update on the muddled thinking**

David Whitehead

**TO LET**

**More inspiration from somebody caught short!**

## **Hereford Now**

Station temporary foot bridge

## **Summer Study Day**

**Saturday**

**19th July 2014**

Join us to see some innovative projects in South Wales

**TO LET**

**Magor** – a village Home Zone

**Parc Penallta** – earth sculpture

**Bargoed Library** – a listed chapel with new seven storey extension

**Cyfartha Castle** – Merthyr Tydfil

See back page for details

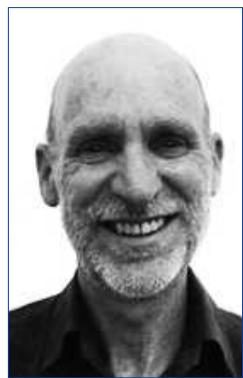
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**CIVIC  
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talking civic sense

The City's forum for discussion about the built environment.  
Check the back page for details and meetings in different locations.

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

# Preface.....



The appearance of buildings is the backdrop in which we live, work and play. We like places that are attractive and well maintained; these places prosper. The new de-cluttering of signs from the City centre as it becomes a 20 mph zone is a major step towards making the centre a more comfortable place. HCS is part of Destination Hereford that drove this initiative forward, as well as diverting funds to improvements to cycle routes.

Might this be a good time to involve shop keepers to check out their signage, it is all part of the street scene? There are some good and bad examples! HCS is not looking to see uniformity; but a respect for the fabric of the building and adjacent shops.

A street of tidy looking shops adds immeasurable value to the City. We are distributing this magazine, with a flyer, to all retailers in the City centre as our contribution to bring the matter of the appearance of retail outlets to the fore. (See page 4).

Trying to remain apolitical we are concerned about the conflicting aspirations of our Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and our Council (see Blue Panel below). Come on guys, you are supposed to be working together. This mismatch of aspirations between a quango, through whom funds flow, and our elected council is unhelpful and frankly disgraceful. Presumably these two organisations are trying to come to some consensus,

- Shouldn't funding currently being spent on bussing children long distances to their preferred schools be spent on **improving cycle infrastructure?**
- Shouldn't the Fire Service **Maintain and Improve** their current iconic building in St Owen's Street rather than build a new one?
- Shouldn't the Council seek **maximum value** from the sale of their Bath Street offices whilst maintaining two of the special Working Boys' Home buildings, as proposed last quarter by HCS?
- Shouldn't the Council adopt **our inspired proposal** for St Owen's Street contra flow cycle route? (see page 6)

Our committee doesn't understand why these seemingly logical decisions about our built environment can't be made promptly. We need a decent backdrop to our lives. Study the just released Farrell Report – it is dynamite – we must act upon it. (Panel on page 3)

Consider joining us on our summer study visit to South Wales to see different approaches to street design, housing and libraries. (Details on front and back pages)

Our regular contributors continue to be controversial and we remain the forum for the built environment.

John Bothamley

## News and comment

### Local Plans

The local plans (LP) of 163 councils have now been adopted, representing 52% of the total across the country. With the Planning Inspectorate (PI) now taking more than 12 months to approve them, the ongoing vacuum in Herefordshire continues. When are we going to hear back from the Officers of HC about the proposed changes and the progress towards depositing our LP with the PI?

### Urban Village

Sanctuary Housing has just started their development in Coningsby Street for just ten one-bedroom apartments. It is a long way to go before we see our long

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promised urban village. Why the delays? Why are the Compulsory Purchase Orders only just now being heard? We were promised the enabling Link Road by April 2015!

### Trees in High Town

It is not official, but there is definitely no chance of getting the replacement trees that were promised when four were removed to make way for the Bull. A proliferation of utility cables and the apparent need for good CCTV sightlines has scuppered our hopes.

### Ledbury and Leominster

Our sister societies should be congratulated on their measured input into the vexed questions over supermarkets. Both have made well researched and considered contributions to the debate and continue to monitor developments. Just when all appeared to be quiet there is now another application in Ledbury!

### City centre car parking consultation

This latest consultation suffers from the usual problem of poorly drafted questions. Fortunately space prevents us commenting in too much detail! How can we be expected to rate in order of importance the economy versus the provision of disabled car parking spaces?!

### Who's running the show?

The business led and unelected Marches LEP draft strategic economic plan has been out for consultation. The Government intends funnelling their, and EU, funding through LEPs for major infrastructure projects. The Marches LEP covers Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin; their plan proposes 4,230 new homes a year. The democratically elected councils have wildly different ideas. Shropshire has an adopted Core Strategy, Telford & Wrekin has an adopted, but out of date, Core Strategy and Herefordshire's draft Core Strategy proposes 825 homes a year. But adding the three plans together only produces a proposal for 2,900 homes a year. These two vastly different proposals are supposed to be in sync. HCS is non-political but Herefordians deserve better.

### Contributors

**John Bothamley** – chairman HCS, architect developer and chair of charitable grant making trust

**John Faulkner** – retired chartered civil engineer, chairman of HCS 2003-2006

**Gareth Calan Davies** – freelance transport geographer

**Andree Poppleston** – researcher and architecture critic

**Joan Simple** – auditor and local activist

**David Whitehead** – founder member of HCS, historian and author, secretary of the Woolhope Club

### Front Page Image:

Shrewsbury's Town Centre Enhancement Office.

## Former Working Boys' Home

HCS is disappointed that English Heritage (EH) has decided not to list the former boys' home being the site earmarked as Hereford's future fire station. An EH assessment on 12th February 2014 said the former working boys' home in Bath Street – now the county offices – is not of "sufficient architectural quality" to merit listed status.

EH outlined the reasons for rejection:-

- \* *Architectural quality: although the building is designed by well-known local architects and exhibits architectural quality, the original building has been altered and significantly extended, and despite attempts to unify the buildings through the use of matching materials and details, the 1902 additions are Palladian rather than Domestic Revival in style and contrast with the earlier buildings, and there are some insensitive mid-C20 additions to the rear;*
- \* *Planning interest: the building has evolved over time and it lacks cohesion;*
- \* *Alteration: whilst it has claims to historic interest as a former working boys' home, evidence of how the building functioned has been eroded by later alteration, particularly to the interior where the original plan form and circulation are no longer legible and the function of the different elements has been lost.*

**Conclusion:** the local architectural and historic interest of the former Working Boys' Home in Hereford **is recognised by its inclusion in a conservation area.** However, the building is not sufficiently intact or of sufficient architectural quality to merit statutory designation.

Listing would have helped HCS's aim to preserve some, at least, of the distinctive buildings. The Council wishes to sell the site to Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Service for a new fire station. The Fire Service say their present premises are no longer fit for purpose. HCS, and many others, think a site on the new Link Road would be ideal.

No support for a new fire station was the conclusion of an innovative 'Café Pol' style meeting held by HCS on Monday 3rd February. Facilitated by Perry Walker, who devised the format for 'Café Pol', the intention was to see if the participants could reach a consensus about the future of the old Working Boys' Home and School in Bath Street.

The meeting heard about several alternative uses including complete demolition of the rather special buildings. A proposal to retain the front parts of some of the buildings, with flats to the rear, appeared to be the front runner. The thought of a large facility for fire engines, in such an important position overlooking the City centre, which would also include the demolition of the existing 1960's fire station to make way for a car park, was unacceptable to the members and interested parties who attended.

This conclusion, believed to be the first consultation on this proposal, has been sent to Harry Bramer, the Cabinet member for asset sales. Café Pol looks set to become a useful forum to discuss controversial proposals where consensus is required following informed input from experts.

See page 5 for David Whitehead's latest view.

## Hereford Now

### Temporary footbridge, Hereford Station



In these cash strapped times one could wonder why this temporary structure couldn't be permanent? It is robust, fit for purpose and not entirely out of place. Galvanised scaffold poles and brackets seem to me to be all part of the rugged infrastructure that is the railway environment. Whilst we look forward to the new permanent bridge (to which HCS contributed design comment) perhaps cost/benefit studies should be more vigorous?

Next quarter our regular contributor David Whitehead, will be providing an architectural criticism on the Old Cattle Market development!

JB

## Bath Street update as we go to press

The Hereford Times have reported weekly about the debacle of non-information and an undated report just lodged on the HC website: *Approval to Dispose of the Land and Buildings known as the Bath Street Offices, Hereford to the Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service to enable the delivery of a new fire station*, by the Head of Corporate Asset Management, now proposes a decision date of 14th April 2014 to be made by one man, Cllr. H.Bramer.

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/documents/s50018399/2013-2014.CA.009%20KEY%20R%20Disposal%20of%20Bath%20Street.pdf>

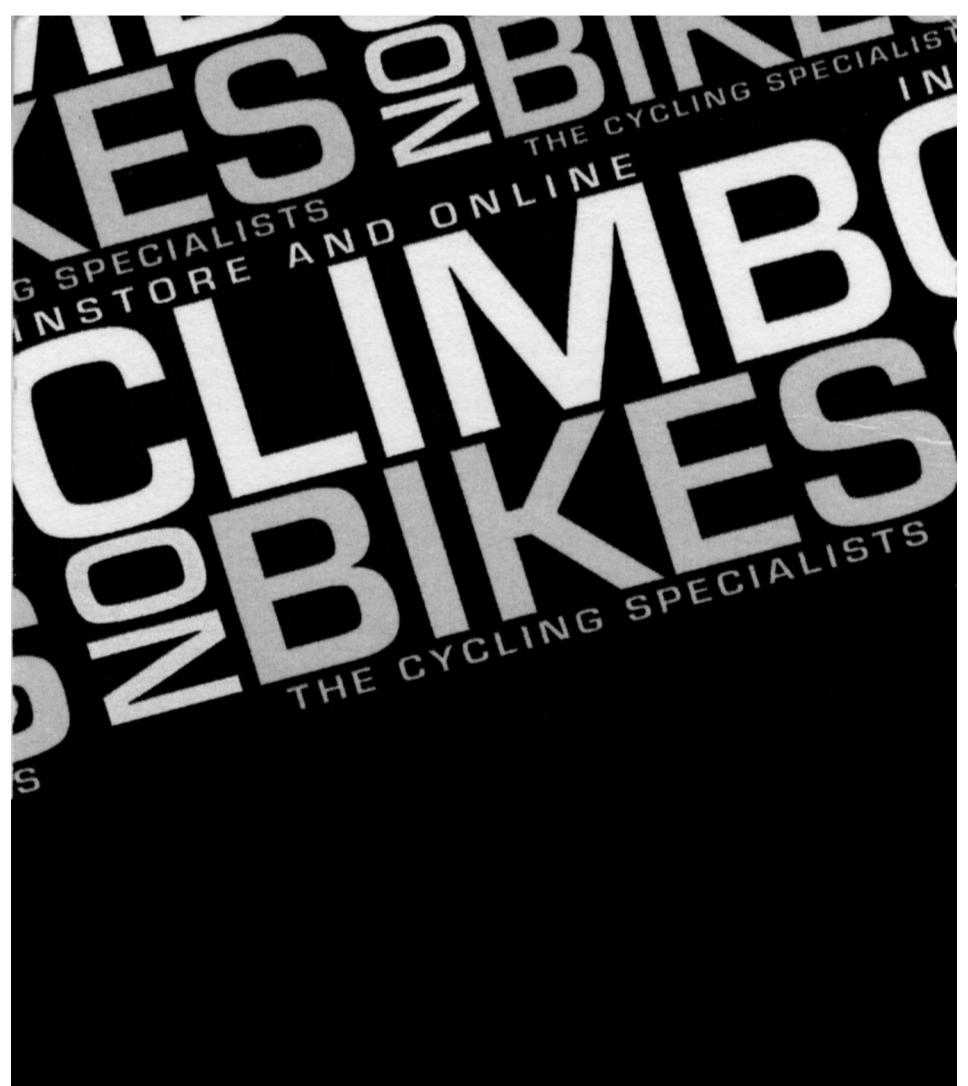
## Farrell Review emphasises proactive planning

A Government commissioned review of architecture and the built environment has emphasised the importance of proactive planning. The review, led by architect and master planner Sir Terry Farrell, says the Government should appoint a chief architect and recommends that planning authorities should use planning fees to attract more design-literate staff. It also calls for cross-discipline PLACE reviews of existing places like high streets and housing estates and of infrastructure projects like road, rail and aviation improvements – the acronym PLACE incorporating the key disciplines of planning, landscape, architecture, conservation and engineering.

Every council should have 'Civic Champions' who would champion local design quality. Every town and city would also have an "urban room" where the public could go and understand the past, present and future of their locality. Other recommendations include a shake-out of the policy on heritage assets and listing and the widening of expertise on Design Review panels to ensure all the key disciplines are represented: planning, landscape, architecture, conservation and engineering.

"The issues covered by this review are not of academic or specialist interest," said Sir Terry Farrell. "They are relevant to some of the most pressing and important issues of our time like the shortage and affordability of housing; the urgent need to reduce our carbon emissions and the flooding crisis that recently afflicted so much of the country. Through proactive, rather than reactive, planning we can tackle these problems."

Just released on 31st March 2014 this report looks like essential reading for us all.  
[www.farrellreview.co.uk](http://www.farrellreview.co.uk)



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# Shop signage

John Faulkner worries about an important part of the background to our City environment.

An attractive shop front entices shoppers and provides a backdrop as we move around our City. We have some attractive ones here in Hereford but regrettably some that don't enhance the street scene or the historic fabric of many of the shops. HCS doesn't want to take a position on individual signs, nor do we wish to be prescriptive, but we have a set of images here that speak for themselves.

We would respectfully suggest that good signage should:

- Be an integral part of the shop's frontage - most shops have a clearly designated panel - avoid being an added on panel.

- Maintain joinery details in historic buildings.
- Respect one's neighbours' signage in relation to size and colour
- restrict protruding and hanging signs and keep in proportion.
- Usually restrict to ground floor areas.

We are distributing this magazine to all shop keepers in the City suggesting they review their own signs, and possibly put pressure on their neighbours who they feel don't help to promote Hereford as an attractive place! Please respond with your views.



Good and bad examples of Hereford shop signage. More examples on our web site: [www.herefordcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.herefordcivicsociety.org.uk)

## New Transport Hub for Hereford

Gareth Calan Davies promotes what had been promised for the Station.

The existing country bus station is located on the site of the old prison off Commercial Road. The bus station is currently used by 34 bus services but of these only eight operate every hour. During the morning and afternoon peaks, when schools and colleges are open, some of these services (notably the 476) operate with duplicate buses. The remaining ten services operate daily, at the most every two hours, and 16 that operate with one return journey only on certain days of the week. There are four daily National Express journeys.

It is clear that the bus station is under-utilised; the concept of a new transport hub appeared in the Edgar Street Grid master plan in front of the station on the new Link Road. The phasing of the Link Road is still indeterminate but as a move towards it, the Rockfield DIY warehouse site was acquired and turned into a long stay car park. As part of this scheme a new layby for buses was created. This brings the number of bus stands in the immediate vicinity of the railway station to three. It does not take much imagination to realise that the majority of country bus services can be readily accommodated at the railway station.

The estimated number of bus stands needed, given that the majority of regular services will have minimal lay-over at the station, is five. Ideally these would be located on one island in the station forecourt with direct passenger access to the

station entrance. There would be one set down stop, with buses turning in the area currently occupied by empty industrial units in the old goods yard. Completion of the Link Road would see a revised circulation pattern for the station forecourt, eventually eliminating the need for buses to reverse.

Such a proposal will need the active support of Network Rail (owners of the land), Arriva Trains Wales (operators of the station) and Herefordshire Council (public transport authority). The cost of this relatively simple scheme could be funded with a bid from both the Marches Local Transport Body and the Sustainable Transport Fund; and by the disposal of the existing bus station site.

Importantly for the city, movement of bus services to the railway station will release the existing bus station site for redevelopment. If the Hereford & Worcester Fire Service have to re-locate the City fire station then this could be a suitable site.

It needs an organisation such as Rail for Hereford, with the support of HCS and other groups to bring the interested parties together on a scheme that will encourage and benefit the public transport user, whilst at the same time releasing a central development site.

A fuller version of this article, with bus movement statistics etc. is on [www.herefordcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.herefordcivicsociety.org.uk)

# The A49 in Hereford

Joan Simple - auditor and local activist

In February on BBC Hereford & Worcester, the Leader of Herefordshire Council, Cllr Johnson claimed that the Highways Agency was concerned about traffic movements on the A49 and the implications for growth on the Rotherwas Enterprise Zone.

He concluded Herefordshire will need to fund new road building schemes, including the massively expensive Western Relief Road, costing over £110 million (2010 costs); all at a time when investment and funding for more sustainable modes of transport is being severely cut and the Council is not able to maintain the existing County road infrastructure. The Marches LEP draft Strategic Economic Plan refers to the need for the Western Relief Road in Hereford stating "The barrier to delivery of additional jobs at the Enterprise Zone is the current and forecast congestion on the A49 through the centre of Hereford, as a result of high motor vehicle demand".<sup>1</sup>

Sadly, these comments are not based on fact or evidence that is publicly available. The Highways Agency never objected to the development of Rotherwas as an Enterprise Zone due to poor access and its impact on traffic volumes in Hereford. The Marches LEP seems to be unaware of the latest Local Transport Review by HC which shows that since 2009/10 vehicle flows on radial routes in Hereford have declined by 3% and traffic flows on other routes in Herefordshire have declined by 4%.<sup>2</sup>

If the A49 was a problem in Hereford, surely the Highways Agency would be objecting to the new Link Road which will see yet another set of traffic lights appear on Edgar Street (by CRW Carpets) to allow traffic from Aylestone Hill to join the A49. But then, like the Western Relief Road, the Link Road is not about reducing congestion, promoting sustainable modes of travel or improving the health of the city. No, the current administration sees road building in Herefordshire as a way the taxpayer can provide access infrastructure for housing developments for a few developers and landowners.

<sup>1</sup> Marches LEP SEP Draft Feb 2014, Page 83 Appendix E para 1.2

<sup>2</sup> Herefordshire Council LTP Annual Progress Report 2012/13 page 2

# Amazing places of Hereford

David Whitehead – Hereford historian and author

## The Working Boys' Home: not listed but not lost



English Heritage, from its elevated national perspective, was not prepared to recommend that the Boys' Home should join the pantheon of buildings of architectural and historic interest in England. It

did, however, acknowledge that it had local value and was protected by its inclusion in Hereford's Central Conservation Area. As anyone with a passing interest in conservation realises, Herefordshire is/was far removed from the mainstream of English culture and its vernacular buildings, especially if, like EH investigators, you spend your days evaluating edifices erected in the great industrial cities of Victorian England.

To justify its decision EH found the Boys' Home disappointing in several respects. Albeit designed by three 'well known architects' with listed buildings to their credit elsewhere in the region, the Boys' Home lacked 'unity'. The 'Domestic Revival (?) style' of the original building by George Haddon of 1876 was in conflict with the 1902 additions by George Godsell who, according to EH, worked in a 'Palladian style'. This supported the dismissive statement that the building lacked 'cohesion'. Moreover, the accretions and deletions of recent times have destroyed the evidence of its historic function.

These negative judgments arise when a building is viewed in isolation, simply evaluating its intrinsic qualities, with

yardsticks taken from the corpus of buildings found in larger and more prosperous cities. However, from the perspective of its position in Hereford's Central Conservation Area a much stronger case can be made for its preservation. The Conservation Area boundary ignores the implicit line of demarcation made by the inner ring road – Bath Street – and deliberately embraces the buildings associated with John Venn and the Society for Aiding the Industrious – the corn mill, the public baths, the alms-houses (Venn's Close) and the Boys' Home. Taken together this is a remarkable group – a veritable townscape of philanthropy – and it is difficult to think of a parallel elsewhere in the Midlands, apart from Bourneville in Birmingham. These buildings make a major contribution to the Conservation Area and their coherence contrasts conspicuously with the fragmentary landscape, dominated by temporary car parks, across the road.

Even EH accept that the three structures that make up the Boys' Home are given some unity 'through the use of matching materials and details', which, we might feel, reflects the best that a notable trio of Victorian architects could achieve within the limits of their budget and the aesthetic canons of their time. Indeed, from a townscape point of view it is their picturesque divergence that is most pleasing; creating a varied roof-line to 'lead the eye on a wanton chase'. Without the Boys' Home the character of this corner of Hereford's Central Conservation Area would be much diminished and this case could be made very convincingly at a public inquiry. In modern parlance, listed or not, it remains an important 'community asset'.



Haddon's building 1876



Godsell's Meadows Memorial Hall 1895

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# Inspiration ???????

For over fifteen years there have been ideas floated for a contra flow arrangement for cyclists in St Owen's Street.

The latest proposal was seen by HCS at a Destination Hereford meeting in February. This proposal, along with other sketch schemes, is due to come out for public consultation in April.

In the meantime a shy HCS member has developed a common sense approach and suggests a simpler and cheaper scheme. After fifteen years, and now in these times of austerity, can we afford more consultation costs, more consultants' costs and more of our time talking and not acting?

These are facts:

- the entire City centre will be a 20mph zone (this implies a move towards a 'shared space' concept; whilst not fully embracing it).
- cycle lanes imply that the lane is exclusively for the use of cyclists.
- cycle lanes tend to encourage faster cycling.
- contra flow cycling (official and unofficial) in one way streets is happening in some towns, including all of London.
- drivers, in one way streets, tend to drive on the left hand side of the road.



So in the absence of a fully 'shared space' concept she proposes the layout shown



City Of London contra flow roads.

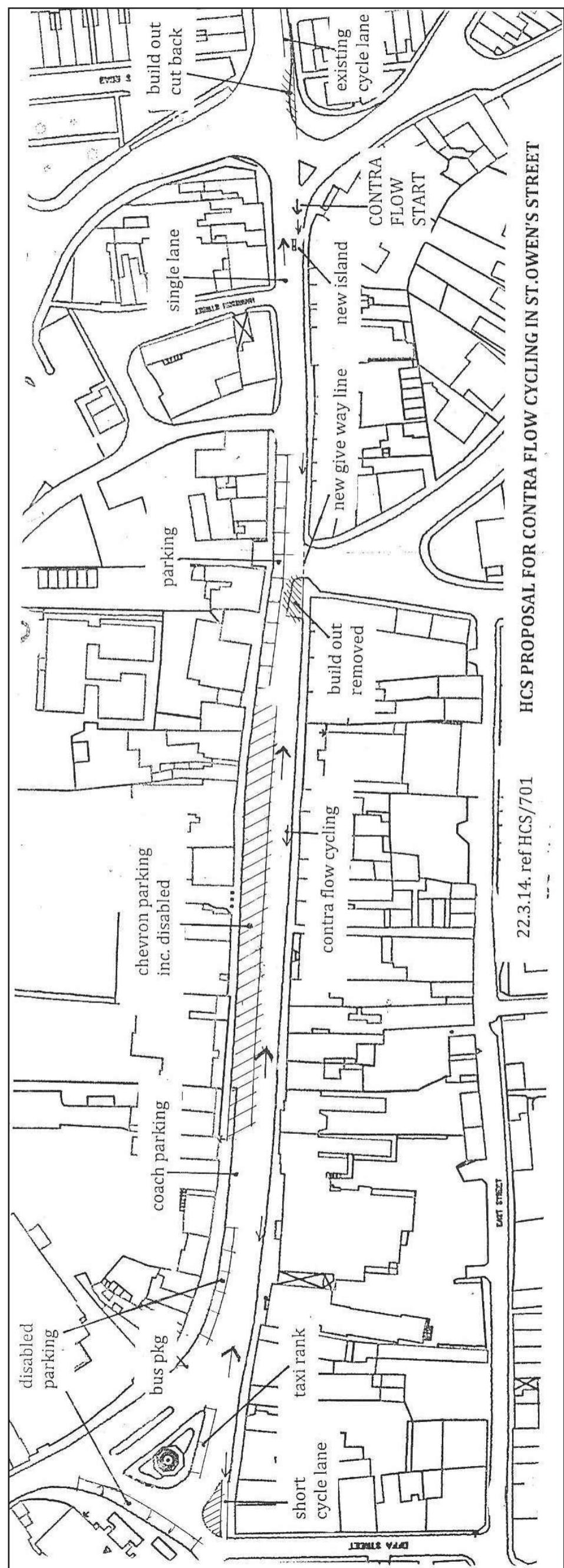
Let's get real, make some decisions and get this scheme sorted after all these years.

We implore you to lobby your local councillors, Mark Hubbard and Len Tawn, reply to the official consultation, and, **if you like it, say this is your preferred scheme.**

**The City is hard up - this is the cheapest and best proposal – vote for it now.**

## More inspiration?

A civilised City needs public conveniences and the furore over closures continues. Whilst there is no research on the actual use of lavatories in Hereford, we suggest that the vast majority of visits are by men just wanting a pee. So why not have several modern pissoirs? The image shows one in Soho Square, London. Made of stainless steel, it is easy to keep clean and requires a very simple connection to the utilities.



# Planning Matters.....

Andree Poppleston continues to search planning applications for interesting and controversial schemes. All applications are accessible using the Herefordshire Council web site – [www.herefordshire.gov.uk](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk)

## Delays in registering planning applications.

We have noticed that applications now take as long as a fortnight before they are displayed on the Council's website. There has been no improvement since Christmas and this is an unacceptable situation if we are to have sufficient time to comment constructively. All part of our slide away from being a democratic society.

## 120 new dwellings (132851) Ms Rachel Adams

An appeal against non-determination has been lodged so, on 2nd April 2014, the Planning Committee discussed how they would have determined the application if it were within their jurisdiction. Going against officers' advice they gave delegated powers to defend the appeal, essentially on the grounds of the character of the landscape. The discussion seemed to favour a smaller scheme and it is a pity that negotiations couldn't have been proposed to draw a consensus decision to benefit all. With the officers' advice in favour of consent, if the ruling by the Planning Inspectorate goes in the applicant's favour then Herefordshire Council will be liable for costs.

## Relaxed shop-to-home conversion rules to come into force in April 2014

New rules to allow shops and offices to be converted into homes without the need for planning permission came into force on 6th April.

The Government has published an order to amend existing permitted development rights. It follows consultation on the proposals, aimed at supporting the high street and rural communities. Under the rules, shops and buildings used for financial or professional services with a floor space below 150m<sup>2</sup> may be converted into homes without the need for planning permission.

## Amsterdam not perfect!

Regular readers will know we like the Dutch approach to road design, especially Shared Space and Sustainable Safety. Well, on a recent visit to Amsterdam a group of us were somewhat disappointed with the hectic road layout in the City centre. Hoping to see a mature shared space regime we fast realised here is an older approach to highway design. Even in relatively narrow roads, often alongside canals, cyclists have their own lanes! So we pedestrians spent our time not only looking out for vehicles on the roads but cyclists on their lanes, and bendy trams all over the place.

Most intriguingly we did not see one cyclist with a helmet nor one with a flashy bike. All were on sit-up-and-beg types. It is a phenomena. Like 50 years ago? Nor did we see one come to grief on the tram lines at the many awkward junctions. So the next visit to Holland will have to be to a modern new town to see how road design can be done, 21st Century style.

JB

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## The responsibilities of HC's Building Conservation Officer

(see report on page 8)

### Herefordshire's Heritage Assets

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| • Grade I list descriptions                      | 127 county / 4 city    |
| • Grade II* list descriptions                    | 367 county / 39 city   |
| • Grade II list descriptions                     | 5418 county / 307 city |
| • Conservation Areas                             | 64                     |
| • Article 4 Direction area                       | 1                      |
| • Registered Parks and Gardens                   | 25                     |
| • Heritage Assets considered of local importance |                        |
| • Unregistered Parks and Gardens – landscape     |                        |
| • Scheduled Ancient Monuments – archaeology      |                        |

### As a statutory consultee

- Listed Building Consent applications
- Planning Applications involving the setting of Listed Buildings
- Conservation Area Consent applications
- Advert Consent applications involving Listed Buildings
- Planning permission applications in Conservation Area and for rural conversions
- Planning applications for some housing developments in and out of settlements – design advice

### To enforce

- Enforcement of The Planning Act (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) 1990
- Enforcement of breaches of conditions for Listed Building Consents
- Unauthorised works
- Investigating site histories
- Investigation of sites for pre-purchase enquiries

### To give repairs advice

- Advice regarding all areas of repairs to listed buildings and heritage property – materials, philosophy of conservation.
- Site visits prior to start of work, during works and, occasionally, after works
- Replacement windows and roof repairs advice

### To give development advice

- Pre-application advice regarding internal and external alterations
- Advice regarding installation of solar panels or alternative heat sources
- Design assessments

### To worry about new legislation

- Heritage Partnership Agreements
- National Listed Building Development Orders
- Local Listed Building Development Orders
- Certificate of Lawfulness for works to a Listed Building

## New Housing Design

With many new proposals coming forward for planning, HCS decided it was time to research the approach to design by housing developers in the County.

We did not receive one reply in response to our letter asking developers for an overview of their design criteria. As we regularly comment on planning applications in a measured way we were disappointed; especially as we believe that applications should be considered against a set of criteria. We intend looking at this in more detail in our Summer edition.

Next quarter we will report on our HCS meeting "Design Review Panels" of 17th April 2014.

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George Young  
Upton Bishop, Herefordshire

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## Recent Meetings

16th January 2014 – **Dr Sarah Lewis (EH)** – Buildings at Risk

Dr Lewis is one of nine divisional heads of English Heritage responsible for buildings at risk, covering just Grade I and II\* buildings and ancient monuments; 24 buildings in Herefordshire and 29 archaeological sites.

At Kilpeck, EH has just completed the stabilisation of the old castle, removing undergrowth, stabilising walls using extensive stainless steel anchors and straps, and soft coverings of the wall tops using two layers of turf. At Glibes Farm, Michaelchurch Escley an almost original 16th Century dwelling, with oak cross wall, has been partly restored. Here the owner was not prepared to match an EH grant, but he has pragmatically undertaken limited works to prevent further deterioration. Whilst there is a responsibility on owners to repair listed buildings (I and II\*) the extent of the administration involved means this enforcement seldom happens.

At Craswell Priory much exploratory work was undertaken by well meaning archaeologists but excavations were not covered up leading to much further deterioration. EH has now stabilised the structures, where possible with banks of imported stone, which have been grassed over.

Dr Lewis concluded by talking about local buildings, not realising that some members of the society were intimately involved! It was encouraging to hear of EH's positive approach.

## Sister Societies

We meet regularly and all societies welcome visitors.

Information on talks and news from:-

Kington History Society - [www.kingtonhistorysociety.com](http://www.kingtonhistorysociety.com)

Ledbury Civic Society - [www.ledburycivicsociety.org](http://www.ledburycivicsociety.org)

Leominster Civic Society - [www.leominstercivicsociety.co.uk](http://www.leominstercivicsociety.co.uk)

Ross-on-Wye Civic Society - [www.rosscivic.org.uk](http://www.rosscivic.org.uk)

## Join us

If you want to influence the future of the City and you enjoy lectures and discussions about the built environment, old and new, JOIN US – your membership fee covers printing and distribution of our magazine, meeting expenses, web site and publicity costs. It doesn't cover members' time – all of which is freely given.

**Subscription: Single £15 pa / Two memberships at the same address £25 pa.**  
Questions? Phone 01981 580002 or email [chair@herefordcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:chair@herefordcivicsociety.org.uk)

The Society assumes this is gift aided, allowing us to claim back from HMRC. If it is not, please add NOGA (No Gift Aid) after your surname.

## Join by cheque

Send a cheque to The Treasurer, Hereford Civic Society, 60 Broomy Hill, Hereford HR4 0LQ.

## Join by Cash

at one of our meetings

**Full name (please print):**

**Address:**

**Postcode:**

**Telephone:**

**Email:**

20th February 2014 – **Sarah Lowe (HC)** - No more conservation?

With just one Building Conservation Officer to cover the entire county, it was not surprising that Sarah was just a little exasperated by the organisational changes and challenging workload at Herefordshire Council. As Senior Building Conservation Officer her responsibilities are wide reaching. (see schedules on page 7). With these numbers of buildings, one would expect three members of staff. No longer able to field telephone enquiries, her job is to process written enquiries and comment on statutory enquiries and planning applications. Essentially she is tied to her desk!

Partnership working might be a way forward, in the interests of maintaining a better overview of conservation matters. Help from organisations such as ours is difficult to organise, and is dependent on individuals with the right experience.

Discussion followed with much "pre-application advice" sought! Sarah is happy with double glazing in conservation areas provided the right design is used. She will not approve PV or solar heating tubes on listed buildings unless they cannot be seen from the ground. Usually ground source heat pumps, and other paraphernalia, can be suitably screened. She won't approve slate look alike PV panels. Everybody felt happy that conservation is in safe hands whilst she is coping.

## Summer Study Day Saturday 19th July 2014



Join us to visit some gems of innovation in South Wales



**Magor Village** – one of the pilot areas where streets are for people – shared space



**Parc Penallta** – spectacular views across the county - carved from a former coal tip, one of the country's largest figurative earth sculptures

**Bargoed Library** – historic former chapel transformed into an exciting new library and customer services centre. A striking new extension houses a café and community facilities.

**Cyfartha Castle Museum** – Merthyr Tydfil's testament to the spirit of the working man - exhibits range from the first voting ballot box to dresses by Laura Ashley. All housed in a grand castellated mansion overlooking the ironworks.

- Leave Merton Meadow car park on a coach at 9.00am and return by 7.00pm
- Bring a picnic to share at Parc Penallta or buy lunch at Bargoed Library.
- Book a place on 01981 580002 or email [herefordcivicsociety@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:herefordcivicsociety@hotmail.co.uk)
- Send £20 cheque to Treferan, St Weonards, Hereford HR2 8QF

## Calling all members

HCS is your Society and what we achieve is down to you. We still need more help with the little organisational things.

Sorting the projector, liaising with speakers, undertaking some research, perusing planning applications etc. As our membership continues to grow, so can our influence. More ideas from you help us to stay up to date and relevant. If you are prepared to offer practical support call the Chairman for more information - John Bothamley on 01981 580002

We remain **the** forum for the built environment.

## Rebranding

We're pleased to write about our collaboration with the Visual Communication Department at Birmingham Metropolitan College. Describing me as a typically difficult client, students have come up with new layout ideas, colours and illustrations. Now we need a new name for our magazine – ideas BEFORE 1st May. We think you will be impressed, ideas please.

20th March 2014 – **David Whitehead** – Building Craftsmen 1700 – 1930

We all knew the man who started our Society was knowledgeable about the history of our local built environment but did we know his archive was just so complete? His card index built up over decades covers more than just our County. It was helpful to hear of all the reference books to which he refers and cross references, although he is not entirely happy with the latest Pevsner's comment on his own house in Hafod Road!

Starting with a full analysis of the former Working Boys' Home in Bath Street (Haddon, Godsall and Chick) David was positive about the possibility of saving the principal parts from demolition, not least because it is all part of the City Conservation Area.

Like all good lecturers he had some intimate little asides such as Chick changing his name to Cheiake, thinking it sounded more important; and inspired us to further study mentioning:- Bettington, Evins, Gilbert Scott, Groome, Hargness, Hayes, Heather, FJ and WJ James (builders), Johnson, Nash, Panson, Parker, Smirke and Symonds all of whom built locally.

To some it was a bit of a surprise that David is a fan of well detailed Brutalist architecture!

## Forth coming events

All meetings at the Kindle Centre, by ASDA Supermarket, Belmont, Hereford, HR2 7JE. 7:00pm refreshments for a 7:30pm start (unless specified otherwise).

### Thursday 15 May 2014 **Herefordshire's River Bridges**

John Faulkner, Civil Engineer  
Illustrated lecture from the perspective of a local Civil Engineer

### Thursday 19 June 2014 **Summer Walks from Rotherwas Chapel**

Progress on the Enterprise Zone including the new Archive Storage building under construction (Archetype) and the new Connect2 Bridge.

Opt for a long or short walk.  
Meet at 7:00pm at Rotherwas Chapel.  
Wine and canopies.

### Saturday 21 June 2014 **Civic Day across the country**

Visit our pagoda in High Town for the latest news on all things Built Environment

### Saturday 19 July 2014 **Coach Trip to South Wales**

Meet at Merton Meadow car park at 9:00am.  
See adjacent panel  
Book at 01981 580002

### Thursday 18 September 2014 **Question Time chaired by "David Dimbleby"**

Local politicians and activists – it's your agenda!  
Send in your questions please.

## HCS Contact Details

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## 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 Hereford Civic Society.