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Spring 2016

Amazing Places of Hereford

Haywood Lodge

Consultation Supplement

How to consult more sensibly

Sandys Lecture

Sir Terry Farrell

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PREFACE



As part of our consideration of local infrastructure matters we occasionally, meet with Councillors and officers. In

February we had a particularly amiable meeting at which I was surprised by the extent of the consultation that occurs; but it is a highly complicated and controversial issue.

The Statement of Community Involvement consultation (January 2016)

has just concluded, (it is five years old and needed to be reviewed). Over 38 pages it describes the difficulties and complications of consulting everyone on a myriad of issues including planning applications. But this paragraph caught my eye

It is important to recognise that well established local partnerships and communication networks representing many key organisations and groups

exist and operate effectively within the County. To make good use of resources the Council will seek to engage with these partnerships and utilise these communication networks whenever it is possible and appropriate to do so.

But these groupings are largely unelected bodies – just like our own Society – some of whom shout and holler about their own particular interest to the exclusion of society at large. Remember the large numbers of developers at the Local Plan hearing, not residents of Herefordshire, allowed to have input into our Plan!

Consultation has got out of hand, see our detailed review as a supplement this quarter. HCS is concerned that the Council's current consultations will

lead to piece meal decision making. Far better for the results of these consultations to support the intended Hereford City Development Plan as each is just one piece of a much larger jigsaw. Once the pieces are brought together, conflicts can be eliminated, priorities identified, financial restraints considered, implementation planned – perhaps in phases. Sir Terry Farrell's recent lecture again emphasized the need for "Proactive Planning". The immediate priority for the City and County local authorities is not the replacement of paving in High Town but the successful delivery of current projects and the creation of the Hereford City Development Plan.

John Bothamley

NEWS & COMMENT

Worcester Local Plan adoption

The inspector who examined the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) concluded in February that the strategy is sound and can be adopted by the three councils that prepared it: Malvern Hills District Council, Worcester City Council and Wychavon District Council. Although HCS grumbled about progress of our Local Plan it is good to see we were ahead of the "neighbours". The SWDP includes provision for 28,400 new homes and just over 300 hectares of employment land as well as new retail

provision focused in Worcester City and the main towns in the period up to 2030.

New station



Cranbrook Station

A five million pound railway station has opened at Cranbrook eco-town near Exeter. The single platform Cranbrook Station, funded by Devon County Council and Cranbrook New Community Partners will mean hourly services will run on the existing Exeter to London Waterloo line, providing new links to Exeter, Salisbury and Basingstoke. Other cities can do it why not Pontrilas?

King's Thorne bus shelter

Our treasurer, David Fowler, used to regularly shelter here and, along with the local Parish Council, is dismayed that it has been demolished. This iconic 60's stone building is being replaced with a standard boring metal and plastic one at a cost of £12,000. Another case of Balfour Beatty Living Spaces (BBLs) seeing an opportunity for profit? Some decisions defy logic. BBLs please respond.

Trainline



On 26th March I attempted to book a ticket to Glasgow. I clicked on the "last ticket" at the discounted rate of c£35. My password didn't work first time and by the time I sorted it the ticket was c£90, exasperated I chose to do something else. Next day Trainline emailed me asking why I hadn't booked, so I went online and again there was one ticket left. This time I was able to buy at £35! Better than that, on 28th another email with this caption "John, have you got all you need for Glasgow?" and this picture – I kid you not. I will be looking out for the red brolly on the platform; and report back next quarter.

JB

Nimbyism entrenched in UK

A survey conducted by Development Intelligence, a political strategy consultancy, has found that the British public holds entrenched Nimby ('not in my back yard') attitudes and remains resistant to local development.

Support for development among elected councillors was 77 per cent in favour of new private homes, 80 per cent supporting social housing and 59 per cent supporting build to rent. However, nearly four out of five elected councillors felt that their own neighbourhood was "already overdeveloped" or "fine the way it is"! An indication that design education around the creation of PLACE is much needed, see report on Farrell lecture. www.development-intelligence.com

Hereford FC

Sunday, 27th March marked a year to the day since Hereford FC got the keys to the Edgar Street ground following Hereford United's liquidation and what a tremendous year it's been. Thanks to the remarkable efforts of the volunteers, the phenomenal support of the fans and the investment from the owners, Hereford FC is off the ground and chasing a promotion as well trophies on four fronts.

One trophy in particular has taken the city by storm. Thanks to Joe Tumelty's winner that sealed a 3-1 aggregate win against Salisbury, the Bulls now head to Wembley on the 22nd May to face Morpeth Town in the FA Vase final. It perhaps sums up what an incredible story this is. The FA has been told to expect up to 20,000 Hereford supporters on a day that will be enormously special for everyone involved in the club's rise. A Wembley visit in their first year was not something that anybody ever thought was possible. It should be an excellent day and one, after all of the dark and uncertain times, that the fans of the city very much deserve.

Contributors

John Bothamley – Chairman HCS, developer and chair of charitable grant making trust

Mo Burns – HCS membership secretary
Gareth Calan Davies – Geographer and transport expert

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

Chris Phillips - Journalist

Stanley Vincent – Planning visionary

David Whitehead – Hereford historian and author

Design & Layout - Gary Nozedar

Front Cover
Ibidos Library, Portugal – inspiration for the Rankin Centre?

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NEWS & COMMENT

Rail for Hereford

Congratulations are due to Gareth Davies, newly elected chairman of this active lobby group. Hereford needs a better train service, preferably direct, and certainly with an improved connection via Newport. Inquiring at Paddington about train services to Hereford suggests the only route is the occasional, boring stopping train via Oxford. An experienced transport man, Gareth has his work cut out.

The Sandys Lecture The Farrell Review Two Years On

Members of HCS were present on 31st March 2016, at the Civic Voice annual lecture, when Sir Terry Farrell spoke passionately about the importance of "place" in all our lives; and his desire to see more "proactive planning". See our Consultation Supplement.

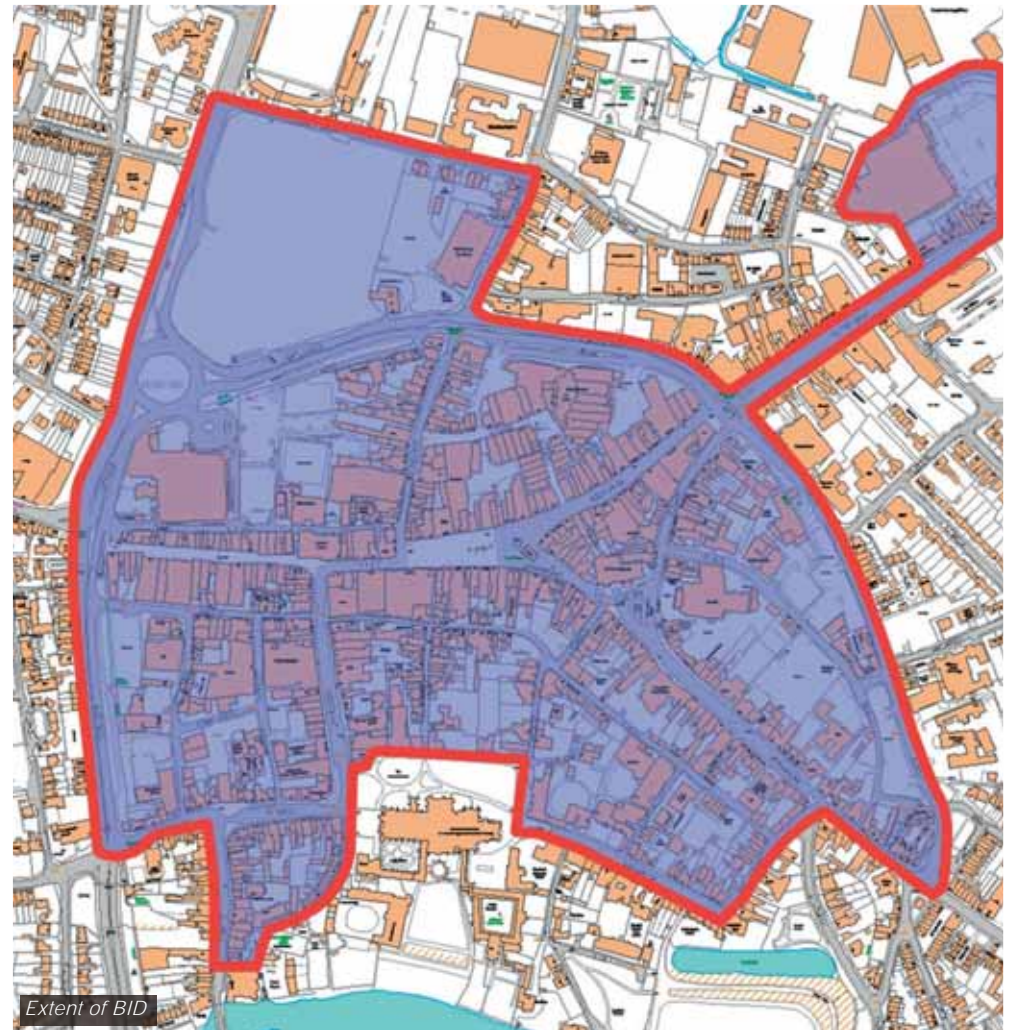
Neighbourhood Plan (NP) overruled

Communities Secretary Greg Clark allowed an appeal involving major housing development in Lewes in East Sussex in a location covered by an adopted Neighbourhood Plan. The proposal was for 110 dwellings in the village of Ringmer and in conflict with the neighbourhood plan (NP). However Clark agreed the scheme could go ahead as the site was allocated for housing in the NP albeit for 24 fewer

units. Clark said the proposals did not represent a "significant" uplift. So all the effort and expense of local people has been ignored. What a disgraceful way to treat the British people, no wonder politicians are disliked. We try to influence the future of our environment because we are interested in our futures, the Government wants us to develop NPs and is now ignoring them.

Hereford City Life

The Fragmented Ownership Group of the British Property Federation has published a report - Town Centre Investment Zones - Getting investment back into the high street. It is all stuff we know, thankfully our BID team are actually getting on with revitalizing our City Centre. Well done chaps. The Hereford Business Improvement District will soon be launching a website that represents Hereford City, called Hereford City Life. The site will contain information on all HBID businesses, events, local 'magazine' style articles etc. One key aspect that HBID is particularly excited about is the facility for businesses to put on offers. These can be searched globally within the site or by specific genre so that a consumer planning a day out in Hereford could search for deals on such things as shoes or coffee! Currently HBID is updating information supplied by businesses to the site and is keen for all members to be represented. Mike Truelove, Operations and Marketing Manager, commented "this is all about brand Hereford - reminding, informing and updating



Extent of BID

people that Hereford has something unique and special to offer visitors that all adds up to a full day (and night) out. We have a City that can and is competing with other places as a destination to visit, catering for all ages and budgets. It is important, therefore, that we ensure we set out our offer to

consumers and clearly state the many positive aspects that Hereford City has to offer. If you are a business within the BID area, or have a query about the site, please contact Mike Truelove on 01432 376830 or email info@herefordbid.co.uk.

HEREFORD NOW

Workshop – Holme Lacy campus

An innovative, highly efficient "flat pack" timber structure used as a workshop for the maintenance of tractors and farm machinery. It complements the contemporary Straw Bale Café and other classrooms giving the whole campus a unified feel, even incorporating the old buildings still in

full use. The construction uses Cross Laminated Timber which has an omnidirectional loading capacity and all beams, columns, walls and roof are cut from a single 200mm thick board. Good to see the College leading the way with an up to date approach to new buildings. This building is up for a "property Oscar" having been nominated for the RICS Awards to be decided on 20th May 2016.



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HEREFORD TOMORROW?

Here are some proposals presented with our usual enthusiasm – they may have an air of blue sky about them, but Hereford and its County needs to innovate and make the built environment as attractive as the natural one. Other cities are taking bold steps – so should Hereford. In spite of austerity there is much positive thinking and action about – the Business Improvement District, NMITE university proposals and more ideas here.

Former Boys' Home Bath Street

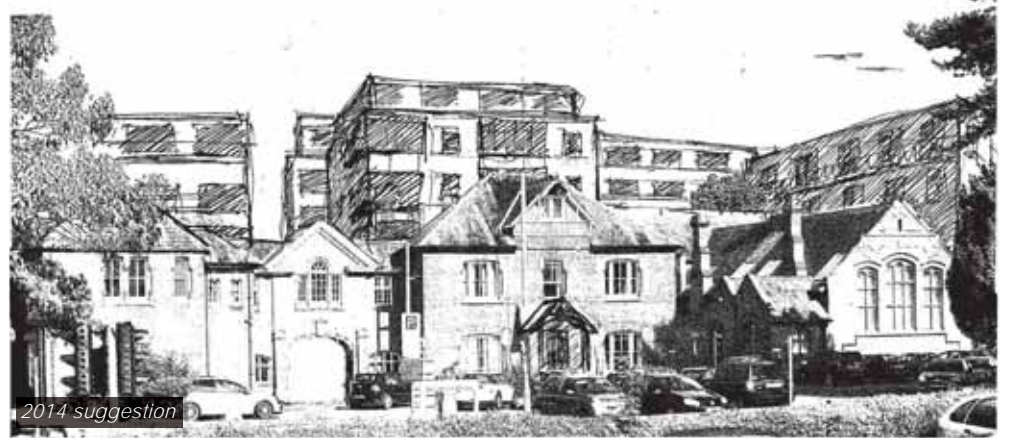
With this important site on the market HCS arrogantly proposes a simplified design code for the redevelopment. In 2013 an application for listing was refused by English Heritage (EH), in spite of the important work of three Herefordshire architects. The decision was well described by David Whitehead in our Spring 2014 edition.

"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". DW



2014 suggestion

Our proposal is based on the suggestion we made in our magazine of Winter 2014. Then I wrote "My proposal involves the retention of the front parts of the original Working Boys' Home and the rooms behind the facades facing onto Bath Street, including the registry office. Behind these retained buildings tall blocks of flats will rise, enclosing informal courtyards.

141 modern flats, so conveniently located, retained history, and all accomplished through organic growth; proving that Hereford can both

"maintain the best of the old and create the latest in contemporary housing" JB At HCS we are pragmatists. We have lost the listings fight but we will press strongly to retain some of our history so that Hereford does not become another anonymous city. Here we make a developer friendly suggestion. This should be the least that Herefordians accept. We don't want a city of all new and possibly cheap housing, reflecting the low values of residential housing in Hereford. Retain the best of the old and create good new stuff.

John Bothamley



2016 design guide

The Rankin Centre

Last December the Cabinet invited Hereford Library User Group (HLUG) to confirm by the end of February whether or not they wished to work with the Council to explore options for the future of the library service. HLUG has now submitted its response to the Cabinet and awaits its reaction.

The submission sets out the options they have studied and describes in detail how the present Broad Street building could be modified to provide a facility that would be much more than a library. It would include space for the museum and art exhibitions, community and care services, tourism, meeting rooms, a café and be a cultural and community hub and 'gateway' for the county.

HLUG have provisionally called it The Rankin Centre to recognise James Rankin who was the main benefactor of the original building in 1875.

The frontage of the building is listed but the proposal is to demolish all the rear area and install a new structure

doubling the present floor area and providing modern facilities. The existing building which has been closed for the removal of asbestos needs to be reopened as soon as possible while an independent community led team works up the proposals, produces a business plan and raises the necessary funding to meet the construction costs provisionally estimated at £7million. HLUG has consulted with and received support from many organisations the museum, new university, the cathedral, the Woolhope Club etc. that would be affected by these changes. At a public meeting the scheme obtained enthusiastic and near unanimous approval.

There are a number of restraints that can affect the viability of the proposals such as finding suitable members of the project team, the possible need for a temporary library during construction, the success of fund raising from such bodies as HLF and the Arts Council and the Council's contribution towards future revenue required to run the Centre.

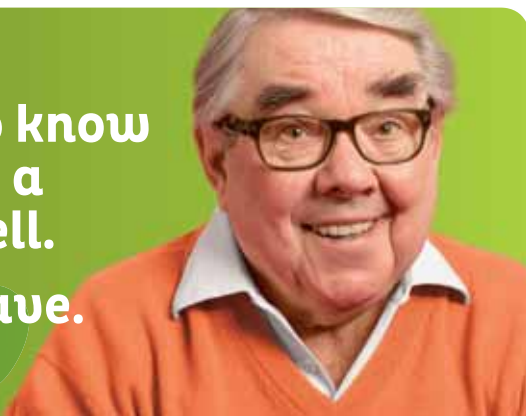
This is an opportunity to give the city and county a long overdue update of the Broad Street building and provide a new and nationally unique centre of huge benefit to Herefordshire.

John Faulkner



Broad St. Library

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HEREFORD TOMORROW?

Tram proposals

Although the Cabinet dismissed, in March, the suggestion of again considering a tram system for Hereford some experts believe there is still a need for reappraisal. Here a substantial proposal is suggested and it has some thought provoking ideas. Is there something that can be developed from this idea?

A Re-affirmation of the Case for a Light Tramway System for Hereford

Over the last decade significant developments have taken place in the technology and use of light tramway systems. Such developments have led to cost reductions in vehicle construction, energy requirements and track construction. In 2010, lightweight flywheel kinetic energy trams were introduced on the conventional Stourbridge Town rail branch in the West Midlands. This trial has proved a success and the trams continue running today.

In 2010/11 Herefordshire transport geographer Gareth Calan Davies and Phil Evans, Managing Director of Pre-Metro Operations Ltd undertook a preliminary study of a light tramway route in Hereford. They concluded that:

1. Given the fact that Herefordshire Council own and maintain the Great Western Way, considerable savings can be made on a phase 1 light tramway using this route in conjunction with a walk/cycle way.
2. Major land use development within the city demands a system with a considerable degree of connectivity internal to the city.
3. The use of lightweight kinetic energy trams removes the need for an electricity supply, electric substations and costly overhead transmission lines.
4. Costs of track construction with 'carpet' track development have significantly reduced.
5. New signalling developments have reduced the need for expensive systems.
6. Vehicle construction costs have reduced

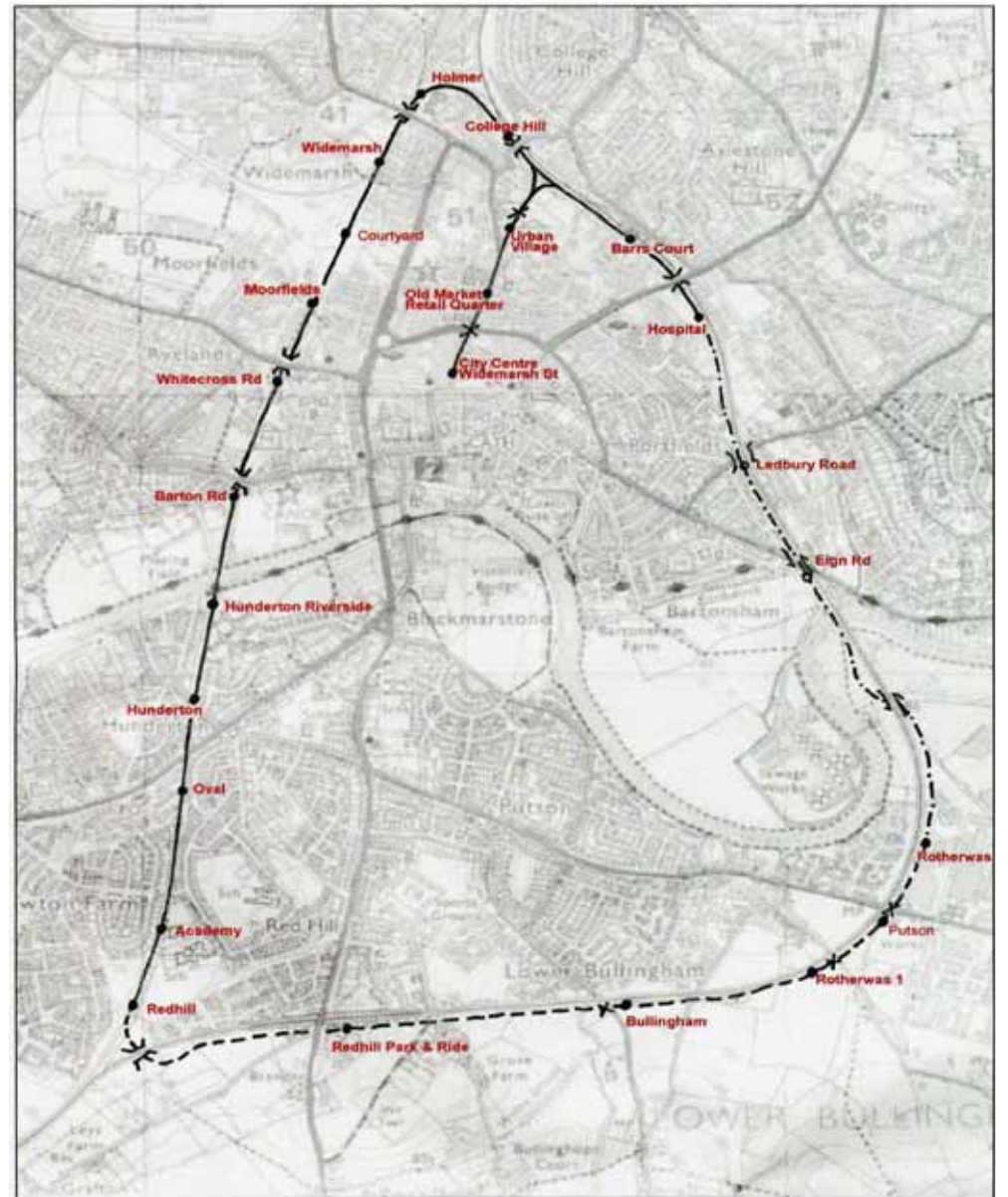
7. The environmental advantages of kinetic energy trams are overwhelming

A summary of the report was sent to all Herefordshire Councillors, the South Herefordshire Member of Parliament and other interested parties. However, the response was poor and the then Herefordshire LTP remained dependant on a perceived road based solution to the city's transport problem whilst acknowledging the need to reduce a dependence on the car and tackle the environmental issues associated with road transport. Bearing in mind the policy statements in the new LTP there is undoubtedly a case for a re-examination of a light tramway for Hereford City with a view to working up a Transport Business Case for investment following the Department for Transport guidelines. In this respect the assistance of the Local Marches Transport Body, as part of the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), is necessary as it is the LEP which is taking responsibility for major capital infrastructure projects and finance in the Marches area.

Let us all get on with changing the City to a less road polluted, a less congested road orientated City that is a pleasure to live in, work in and to visit. Let us make the policies as declared in the Council's LTP work in reality. Let us make Herefordshire and Hereford the gateway to the Marches....a small historic and attractive city with a big innovative and environmental transport system the first in the Britain.

Gareth Calan Davies

Further information from
www.kineticenergytrams.co.uk;
www.parrypeoplemovers.com;
www.premetro.co.uk



Phasing of a Hereford City Light Tramway System

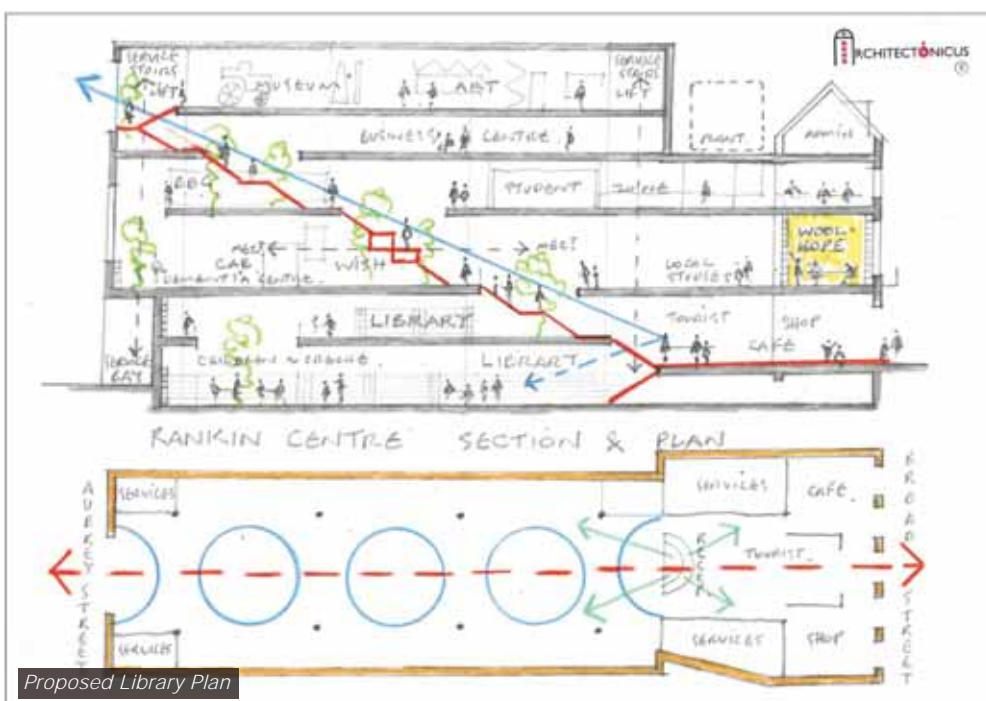
Phase 1 and 2: Redhill - Barton - City Centre - Barrs Court - Hospital ———

Phase 3: Redhill - Bullingham - Rotherwas - - - - -

Phase 4: Rotherwas - Barrs Court - . - . - .

ambitious proposal

Diagrammatic: Not to Scale



Proposed Library Plan



Ross Road, Callow, Hereford.
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AMAZING PLACES OF HEREFORD

The Significance of Haywood

Historic England, which for a short time, had stopped the progress of the Hereford Southern Link Road has been brow-beaten by the nuances of the National Planning Policy Framework and a lorry-load of technical reports into withdrawing from the fray. It had claimed that the Council and their advisors, Parson Brinckerhoff Ltd, have underestimated the impact that the new road would have on Haywood Lodge, a grade II* listed building, in the Queen Anne style, and in Historic England's view 'one of the very few houses of this quality and importance in Herefordshire'. The Council, it claimed had ignored the recent Good Practice Advice note 3 on the National Planning Policy Framework, which came into effect on 25th March 2015. This stated that in the case of a Grade II* building the contribution that the setting makes to a 'significant' asset is likely to be 'substantial' i.e. the quality of the building and its appreciation relies very much on its surroundings. Historic England believed that the Council had under estimated the impact of the road, which is 330 metres away, in terms of visual intrusion, noise and light and the Desk Based Assessment made by the Council's consultants showed little understanding of the existing historic landscape. In February 2016 Historic England surrendered on this point.

Haywood Lodge was used as a working farm for 200 years, thus, unlike many similar houses of this quality it is not embedded in ancient gardens and established parkland, like, for example, Langstone Court at Llangarron. The present owners have, however, created a fine new garden, exploiting the historic farm buildings and ancillary enclosures to the west of the house. Unfortunately, the Lodge was not considered as a candidate for *The Survey of Historic Parks and Gardens in Herefordshire* (2001) but I suspected, at the time, that the orchard that falls away steeply, across Haywood Lane,

to the east, looked as if it ought to be part of the pre- 19th century man-made landscape. Haywood Lane is a new road created as an approach to Belmont House in c.1800, at a time when the house was tenanted. A cursory investigation of the orchard in the summer indicated that it had once been a terraced garden, dropping down towards a large pool, dammed-up at its SE end to carry a walk, still marked by a cast iron balustrade. More exciting, at the top end of the pool where a small stream brought water from beyond the road, there are the substantial remains of a stone-lined cold plunge-



Haywood Lodge

bath. These were very popular in the Georgian era and used by both men and women for pleasure and well-being. Examples elsewhere in Herefordshire occur at Foxley, Wilcroft (Bartestree), Downton, The Lodge (Richard's Castle), Holme Lacy, Moccas Court and Harewood. The last has recently been re-excavated and preserved by Prince Charles and is similar to that at Haywood in that the water came into the stone cistern from above. It was also partially roofed, which may also have been the case at Haywood. Historic England has yet to take this recent find into account but if the cold plunge was restored it would be within 100 metres of the road so 'skinny-dipping' in the Georgian fashion would be out of the question.

Historic England is very much aware that the Lodge was the royal centre for Haywood Forest, probably from the time of Edward the Confessor (c.1050) until the end of Elizabeth's reign (c.1570). King John (1199-1216) was especially fond of hunting from his castle at Hereford and extended the forest to improve its scope. The royal forester looked after the Lodge, although in the early Middle Ages he lived at Kilpeck Castle. One of his duties was to ensure that the sandstone quarries were working to provide stone for public buildings in Hereford such as the town walls and the bridge. It appears that the pool in the orchard started life as one of the quarries and one or two large stone blocks still survive, abandoned for some reason, before being used. Also around the pool are some veteran oaks, the largest is a sessile or durmast oak (*Quercus petraea*), the indigenous oak of West Herefordshire before it was supplanted by the English newcomer (*Quercus robur*). All this represents real landscape history, which the Council and its advisors wish to ignore. Also pertinent to this discussion are a series of oil paintings by George Lewis (1782-1871), a fashionable London artist, who was commissioned by Col. John Matthews of Belmont House to paint a series of views of Herefordshire, including at least two from Haywood

Lodge. One of these is *Haywood at Noon* (1815), which is painted from the first floor window of the Lodge, looking down to Hereford Cathedral. The foreground is bosky and remarkably similar to the way it appears today. The new road would take-up the middle ground of the picture. The second, more famous image by Lewis is *Hereford, Dyndor and the Malvern Hills from Haywood Lodge* (1815-16), which embraces a more south-easterly prospect. It depicts some sturdy reapers in their well laundered shirts, taking a drink, whilst bringing-in the harvest. They are thought to represent veterans, returned from the recent wars, probably serving with the Herefordshire Volunteers, commanded by John Matthews. The message is clear: whereas elsewhere in England social revolution threatened after 1815, at Haywood the old patriarchal order still prevailed.



view from Haywood Lodge

So, not only is the setting of a very special house under threat but an iconic painting – available on the Tate Britain website – which can still be referenced on the ground; a view we might regard as Hereford's equivalent of Dedham Vale, is to be trashed for a piffling relief road. David Whitehead – Hereford historian and author.



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PLANNING MATTERS

Application 160552 – Postponed Decisions Eign Street.



Eign St. montage

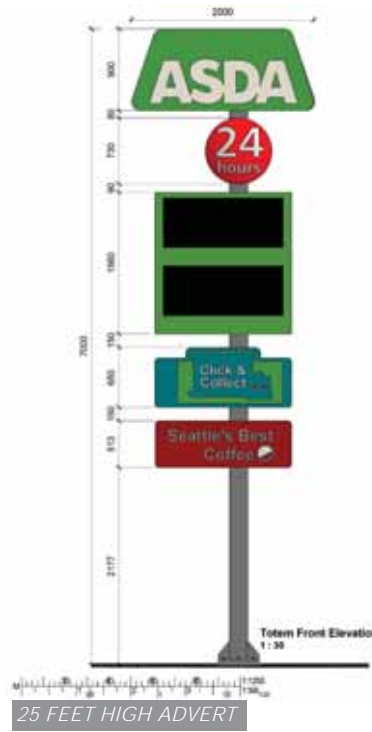
This is our objection submitted to the Herefordshire Council

HCS believes this is an appalling proposal, creating tiny bedsits in a secondary shopping street with no attempt at anything better. We appreciate that shopping streets are going through major change but appearance matters on this primary route into the City. The street elevation is pure shanty town. Let's not forget this is in the Central Conservation Area. Clearly there has been no reference to the Council's Shop Front Design Guide 2011. Here we have superimposed the applicant's drawings onto a photograph. We were most concerned that the City Council has not objected, should it not be protecting the appearance of our wonderful City – these small developments are all part of the atmosphere that make a PLACE.

Some controversial proposals make the headlines and then become lost in the mire of process. Many thought that the future of the Broadleys as a pub, rather than a convenience store, was clinched; it is still outstanding.

The same applies for the proposed ASDA service station on the Belmont roundabout, (153772) many opposed it but the Highways Agency is still prevaricating (and, no doubt being heavily lobbied).

HCS fears both will be lost down to process.



Heritage Open Day (HOD) 10th and 11th September 2016.

Together with the Woolhope Club HCS is organising this annual event in Hereford enabling members of the public to see behind those doors that are usually shut. This, well established, free event gives us the opportunity to go inside special buildings whose owners have graciously agreed to open. We already have a number lined up and if you would like to open up your doors we can make the arrangements for you. Our suggestion is that we open on Saturday 10th and/or Sunday 11th September for as many hours as you are comfortable with, and we have

volunteers available to assist you with stewarding if you would like. Firstly please contact either David Whitehead (david.whitehead.hafod@care4free.net) or John Bothamley (01981 580002 or email john@johnbothamley.co.uk) to hear more and we'll take it forward from there. We even arrange the insurance-please join in – Hereford has so many buildings to show off and HOD here hasn't been the huge success it has been in other cities. Please join us.



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Rotherwas Remembered

Although there is a lottery funded project recording the activities at the munitions works, and overseen by Hereford Archive and Records Centre, unfortunately plans for a super heritage centre at Rotherwas seem to be held up. HCS presents this possible solution.

This inspiration takes an uncommon view of our heritage at Rotherwas. Instead of the praise and admiration for the workers we hear so much about, sometimes we can forget this was a place making bombs - thousands of bombs that caused widespread death and injury. Rather than be proud of this work should we not be reflective of the futility of war and quietly and personally consider the ammunition store as a place for reflection. The sheer size and span of the building is awesome and it is a wonder that it still stands. Refurbishment is not possible as engineering standards would quickly condemn the trusses spanning several hundred feet. Our proposal is to have

a poppy red container adjacent to the store within which would be display boards explaining the history. At the end of the container there would be a door into this vast space. There would be no need to have the facility manned and there could be signage indicating entrance at own risk (there could be a few hard hats available). This could remain for decades as the trusses fail being a sad statement of the passing of time and a disreputable wreck. Or possibly, more adventurously, we could ask our very own SAS to blow the place up on Armistice Day 2018. A real marking of the day 100 years on that was supposed to be the war to stop all wars. John Bothamley



Proposed information centre

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MEETINGS

Thursday 21st January 2016 Building the Hereford – Worcester railway

Gordon Wood entertained a packed meeting about the difficulties of getting a railway line to Hereford in 1861. He described the political and illustrated the engineering challenges involved - the tunnels under Perseverance Hill (1,567 yards) and at Ledbury (1,323 yards) as well as the impressive 330 yard viaduct to the west of the town. The railway bridge across the Severn was judged unsafe and replaced prior to the first train leaving Foregate Street station for Hereford. The original tunnel under Perseverance Hill was replaced in 1926, but found a new use during WWII storing Naval munitions made at Rotherwas.

The section of line between Great Malvern and Ledbury has always been single track. That between Ledbury and Shelwick Junction a little to the north of Hereford was reduced from double to single track in 1984.

Thursday 18th February 2016 Conserving wildlife in an expanding urban environment

John Clark, Development Director at Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, gave a full round up of green issues in Hereford with positive descriptions of natural corridors and flood plains. Bishops Meadow works well storing water in times of heavy rains, delaying its progress downstream. John referred to the high phosphate levels in the Wye which will restrict

the future economic development of Hereford; together with the Lugg both are Special Areas of Conservation (a European designation higher than an SSSI). These issues were conveniently excluded from the Core Strategy. Bees remain at risk but Herefordshire has the highest numbers of bats in the country. It was good hearing that the Wildlife Trust is active in Hereford with 55 of its own reserves and an active children's programme Wildplay.

Thursday 17th March 2016 The Courtyard's activities and expansion

Roger Morgan, Chairman of the Courtyard, welcomed HCS to the arts complex and described a myriad of projects reaching out into the community as well as activities at Edgar Street. Being the first recipient of a

major Arts Lottery grant it has to work hard to balance the books, especially now that Herefordshire Council is to cease funding and is transferring the freehold of the site to them. Concept plans are drafted for an extension of the centre but much at the embryonic stage.

As a member of the team competing for the City of Culture 2021 Roger explained the concept behind the award, which is granted to cities with cultural activities that need an added boost to build capacity and inspire an appreciation of the arts. We will be hearing much more later. (Disappointingly much discussion ensued about parking issues!)

YOUR OPINIONS

Neighbourhood Plans

What sounded like a good idea a few years ago appears to be falling apart with bureaucracy; and now we hear that councils will impose policies on those areas without a plan. But as your piece in Place Winter 2015/16 so ably stated - little parishes were never supposed to have their own plan but to gather together in larger groups. I suspect that again the consultants have stitched us up - where were the Council Officers during all this? I suspect retired early and now consulting themselves. Matthew Wiltshire

St. Owen's Street cycle route proposals

This is the third iteration of a scheme to allow cyclists to travel into the City from the east. What are the costs of another consultation? The Ben Hamilton Baillie Design Strategy for Hereford was adopted as the blueprint for new works but has sadly not been taken into account in this proposal. Didn't the Society make a suggestion in Spring 2014 for St Owen's Street? Although it did include for loads of parking. Presumably HCS has changed its stance and now wants proper shared space. Hurrah. Richard Aber.



BRIAN HATTON 1887 - 1916

A Centenary Concert

Commemorating his Life and Era

in Words and Music with The Britten Singers

Director: Pamela White

Friday 24 June, 7.30 p.m.,

St. Nicholas' Church, Friar Street, Hereford

Entry free of charge

Donations to the Royal British Legion

Herefordshire Painting Club

Ever thought about painting outdoors? We are a longstanding Club who draw and paint together at venues across Herefordshire from private houses and gardens to villages to public spaces.



Our season runs weekly April to September, 10am to 4pm, on different weekdays (not weekends). A friendly bunch, we vary in experience from beginners to professionals. Our days are mostly untutored, though we do have an indoor demonstration and invite tutors a couple of times a year.

Membership costs £15/year,

for more information: herefordshire-painting-club.com
or phone Richard Bavin (07792 298271 - evenings preferred).

Herefordshire Life Through a Lens is inspired by the photographic archive of the Derek Evans Studio (1950-1980s) who took fantastic photographs celebrating many aspects of Herefordshire life.

Catcher Media aim to film 100+ first-hand stories to uncover nostalgic tales of hop-picking; revel in Hereford Football Club's moments of glory; take a spin around the Mayfair's risqué past; stroll down memory lane with Fownhope's Heart of Oak walk and explore the Derek Evans Studio, charting the social history it recorded and the talents it nurtured.

A taster exhibition of Derek's photos can be seen at county libraries: Ross-on-Wye April 18th - May 7th, Kington Jun 7th - July 2nd, Ledbury July 4th -23rd, Leominster July 4th - 30th

www.herefordshirelifethroughalens.org.uk

Forthcoming Events

All meetings are 7.00pm refreshments for 7.30pm start at the Kindle Centre by ASDA, Belmont, Hereford HR2 7JE

Thursday 19th May 2016

Jason Hodges, Reconstructive artist
Illustrated presentation including artistic reconstruction of Hereford Castle including references to the Magna Carta Song Story

Thursday 16th June 2016

PJ Pikes, local archaeologist
'The emerging picture of medieval Hereford'

Saturday 25th June 2106

Twentieth Century Society visit to Hereford

We'll join them for an all day walking tour of the city. Meet 9.30am at Hereford Station forecourt
Booking essential:-
herefordcivicsociety@hotmail.co.uk

Saturday 16th July 2016

Summer outing: Newtown, Powys. Robert Owen museum, three decades of new housing from the sixties, contemporary Art Gallery, visit "Gregynog". Leave Hereford 9am. Return 6.30pm. Cost £20
Contact David Fowler:- 01981 541058
david693fowler@btinternet.com

Saturday 10th / Sunday 11th September 2016

In conjunction with the Woolhope Club, Herefordshire Heritage Open Days
Details of locations/ opening times to be announced see www.heritageopendays

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 the members of Hereford Civic Society.

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Sister Societies

We meet regularly and all societies welcome visitors. Information on talks and news from:

Kingston History Society

www.kingstonhistorysociety.com

Ledbury Civic Society

www.ledburycivicsociety.org

Leominster Civic Society

www.leominstercivicsociety.co.uk

Ross-on-Wye Civic Society

www.rosscivic.org.uk

Join Us

If you want to influence the future of the City and 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 and, web site and publicity costs. It does not cover members' time - all of which is freely given.

Subscription: Single £15 pa. / two memberships at the same address £25 pa. Questions?

☎ 01981 580002

🌐 chair@herefordcivicsociety.org.uk

Join By Cash

Pay at one of our meetings.

Join By Cheque

Complete the form below, cut along the dotted line and return to: David Fowler, Stable Cottage, Kingsthorne, Hereford HR2 8AJ.

Full name (please print):

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