

HEREFORD
UNIVERSITY CENTRE



University
of Worcester



Herefordshire &
Ludlow College

**POLITICAL HUSTINGS ABOUT HEREFORD'S
BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Candidates' visions for Hereford in 15 years time

Chaired by John Bothamley, CBE

Taking place at Herefordshire & Ludlow College,
Hereford campus, Folly Lane, Hereford

on Thursday 11 April 2019

Arrivals from 6.45pm, for a 7pm start, and a 8.30pm close

What plans do our political candidates have for Hereford's built environment if they are elected in May 2019?

The Hereford University Centre and the Hereford Civic Society will bring a lively structured Pecha Kucha meeting with all parties invited. Each candidate will be able to show five slides in a five-minute presentation. It will be a unique opportunity seeing politicians held to time, respectfully questioned and, hopefully, showing off some deliverable visions for Hereford.

During this year, Place magazine has been highlighting concerns the Hereford Civic Society has about piecemeal development, and the apparent omission of an overall master plan. The Society's aims include promoting high standards of design as well as preserving the best of our historic buildings. The candidates will be explaining their approach to highway design, their vision for the City and just where they would like to see new developments.

At the evening's lecture there will be the Conservative, Green, It's our County, Labour, and Liberal Democrat parties.

This lecture is free of charge and open to the public.

Please RSVP by Thursday 4 April to

e. studentHUB@hlcollege.ac.uk

t. 0800 032 1986

Hereford Civic Society
hcs
the city's built environment forum



riverside walk?



not like this!



rickshaws?



urgent need for an urban room



for our approach roads?



dutch approach



green tower block?

HUSTINGS 2019

Councillors have the power

The governance of our Local Authority – Herefordshire Council - rests with our elected representatives. There are 56 councillors of whom eight form a Cabinet to make major decisions. Their role is to make the decisions about the overall direction and delivery of statutory and other services. Delivery is overseen by the Chief Executive, who recruits and oversees competent staff to advise councillors on what is legal and possible within the allocated budgets.

What is clear, from recent years, is the lack of a consistent approach towards the creation of an enlarged City; economic influences apart, just what is Hereford and Herefordshire going to be like in fifteen years' time? The Local Plan became bogged down in detail and with unresolved waste issues and previous plans, such as the infamous Edgar Street Grid, only partly delivered. Staff will advise and act upon instruction but how

consistent has been the direction from the Cabinet?

It is not easy running a City with increasing financial restraints but Hereford is becoming a disparate conglomeration of generally low grade retail sheds surrounding an eclectic core of historical buildings, many of which are only partly occupied. How has this come about? Have we had the leadership we deserve?

The elections on May 2nd could be a time of change, a time when new councillors, of all persuasions, could contribute to creating a new Hereford.



We are in a different world now – time to see what is being created in Europe, time to embrace change, time to put long term plans in place to gradually recreate a truly unique and great City.

Hereford City Council

The Hereford City Council is a big parish council, and feeds in comments and opinion into the Herefordshire Council but it has little power with a precept of less than a million pounds. Planning decisions are all taken by the Herefordshire Council.



blueschool house pipes!

Invitation to our political parties

An email was sent to the Conservative, Green, Independents, It's our County, Labour, and Liberal Democrat parties in December.

Our Hustings meeting in April will be especially related to the development of the built environment in Hereford. We have invited one candidate from each party to take part in a Pecha Kucha Session; this is a presentation style in which five slides are shown for one minute each (five minutes in total). The format, which keeps presentations concise and fast-paced, will allow all political parties to present within half an hour,

before answering questions from attendees.

What we are hoping to see is how each party intends to progress the onward development of our City. HCS has for a long time been concerned about the lack of an overall vision. Here is their chance to say how their party will take this forward over the next four years.

John Bothamley - Editor PLACE - 01981 580002 - 0780 1207 401



hereford icon

YOUR VIEWS SO FAR

These are a selection of comments on our Autumn edition of PLACE and Master Plan proposals – not HCS policy just ideas to stimulate debate.

J E Dunn

Wrote suggesting that to wish to ban cars from the centre of Hereford made us look like crackpots. He made the point well that to carry shopping and goods from a distant car park was unreasonable, and that he is able to garage his car off road. His second concern was against the proposed walking route along the north side of the river, suggesting that the several private properties would object and that it was entirely impractical.

Jeremy Milln

The Green Party surveyed central area residents in the Summer and found these issues relevant
Most important:

- Affordable homes for local people
- Supporting local shops and businesses
- Safe routes for walking and cycling
- Protecting the countryside around Hereford

Important:

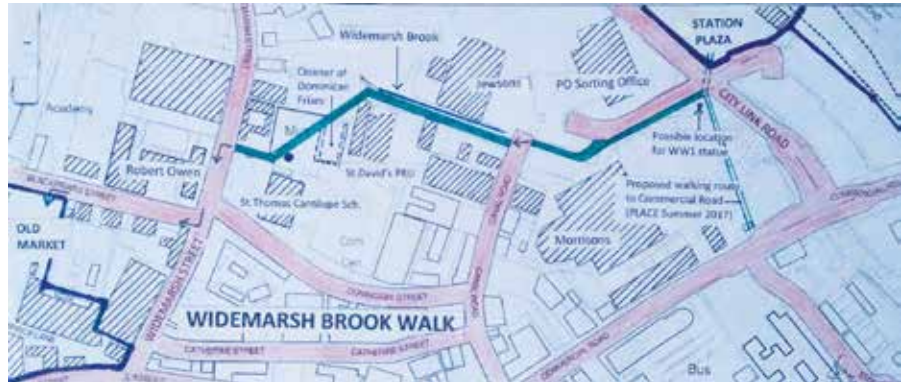
- Accessible homes for elderly or infirm
- Well cared-for green spaces & public realm
- Reducing litter & antisocial behaviour
- Looking after our heritage, museums etc.
- 20mph limit on all local streets

Not so important

- Hospital & proposed central GP surgery
- Traffic-free streets in City Centre
- Proposed bus & coach hub by the train station
- Proposed University & student accommodation

T Minton

Wrote saying that the elderly have every right to full access to



the City. Banning cars would be unreasonable and many older people do not qualify for the blue badge scheme but have mobility issues. Concern was also raised over the cost of taxis and just how this could work in a practical way.

Hubert Porte

As usual I read 'Place' with great interest, and write about better access for coaches with visitors to our cathedral.

"At present coaches have to squeeze down West Street and manoeuvre through parked cars on to Broad Street in order to drop tourists off. I think our masters have made this deliberately difficult in order to deter tourists, who are generally unwelcome in Hereford (hopeless signage, no toilets, excessive parking charges, no 'pay on exit' etc. etc.)

Tourists are attracted by the river, the Cathedral and the Church Street area, leading into High Town. It would be much better for the coaches to turn off the main road from the New Bridge on to St. Nicholas Street. This junction could be modified to make this easy. As a tourist, unfamiliar with

Hereford, I would much rather be dropped off with the inviting view of the cathedral in prospect and then have the option of walking through the precinct into Church Street than being dumped anywhere near the 'Old Market' with its tawdry shops available anywhere else in England.

Keep up the good work".

Rupert Smith

I've just had a look at the Place... Master Plan supplement. Think it's excellent - can imagine the cabinet sat together looking at this with some trepidation as to what might follow.

Initial thoughts

- an overlay showing how the city centre links out to cycle routes?
- where's the parking for those who cannot cycle or walk?
- I think the Green Dragon will become a feature (where's the parking?)
- where will coaches park?
- loading and unloading hours and access will need definition
- signage confined to the gateways - remove the rest of the clutter but add pedestrian finger posts.

All set for an exciting evening

We're pleased to say that so far five parties have responded positively and will be attending the Pecha Kucha session. Book your place now – this could be the event that inspires the re-creation of a fantastic historic City with a modern twist! We're working with the politicians and interrogating the validity of their proposals – we're looking for deliverable blue sky thoughts! Bookings are expected to be high so here is your chance to challenge your prospective councillors and layout your ideas. See booking arrangement on back page, or just turn up and take your chance.



student flats?



dutch style urban housing?



gloucester inspiration?



city link road



all electric cars



boring bus station?



HCS proposal



newmarket street envisaged in 2008



holme lacy road improvements!!

ABOUT HEREFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

The Hereford Civic Society is concerned about all aspects of the built environment and the civil society which lives in Hereford. They liaise with both the Hereford City Council and Herefordshire Council on relevant matters, and the Society reviews all planning applications within the City.

The Hereford Civic Society has a non-voting seat on the City Council Planning Committee, and also submits comments via the Herefordshire Council website.

The aim of the Hereford Civic Society is to:

- promote high standards of planning and architecture in, or affecting, the city of Hereford.
- educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of Hereford.
- provide related advice and information.
- secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in Hereford.

ABOUT JOHN BOTHAMLEY

John Bothamley is the Editor of *Place*, the official magazine of the Hereford Civic Society and chairman of today's Pecha Kucha session.

A passionate advocate of the importance of our surroundings he has campaigned for decades for consideration of the built environment to be an integral part of our education, and to receive more attention by our political representatives. "We feel good about ourselves in attractive places, we communicate more positively together and generally achieve so much more. Councillors who think that good design is unimportant must be taken to task. This evening our candidates will be under pressure to tell us about their vision for Hereford"

