

FREE

Place Hereford Civic Society

The City's built environment forum

Autumn 2017

Sustainable Housing We're getting there slowly

Hereford Area Plan

Much to consider

Blueschool House

Do we have to comment?

Amazing Places

Lower House Farm

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PREFACE



As I retire as chairman, after six years, I reflect on what we have achieved, as a Society, with the built environment being our primary interest. As a forum we have no power to deliver but possibly some opportunities to influence and stimulate. This magazine tries to show examples of what is happening outside the county, and occasionally comments on what we see as failings in the administration of the City. We don't like to do this as all members are residents and we want to see the best for our City, and when this magazine is read by visitors we prefer them to pick up on the positives.

We comment regularly on planning applications when there are proposals for inappropriate development. It surprises us when previously agreed plans are ignored, such as further retail in the proposed urban village. (Planning App.No.161446) We are concerned that due process takes so long, and whilst rules must be followed, worry that change and improvement often takes a long time.

Our HCS Pre-consultation Process has been a success where a panel of broad minded stakeholders, at a single meeting, discuss proposed plans, make suggestions and attempt to remove the minor, and contentious, issues before going out to full-on public consultation. Further, at that stage, the extent of options is reduced to an understandable and easy to comprehend proposal. It has worked well on the improvements to St. Owen's Street. See page 7. This is the sort of project that could be stimulated and discussed within an Urban Room, we need a place where visions are promoted, it will happen when the

future of the City's special buildings are clearer.

Our suggestions for the retention of the best of the John Venn buildings in Bath Street together with multi-storey flats behind has just received planning consent (164024). We promoted this in our Spring 2014 and Summer 2016 editions of this magazine. An entirely logical solution helping to retain the best of the past with contemporary new buildings. We believe this is a classic example of how historic towns and cities should expand. Our friends at Civic Voice will be receiving this project as a candidate for their Design Awards in 2019.

Our non-voting seat on the City Council Planning Committee helps to highlight some of our concerns to local Councillors. With the prospect of the new university and the eventual completion of the urban village there is much to be positive about. My oft repeated call for a vision that we stick to and build out still remains a dream.

John Bothamley.

NEWS & COMMENT

Civic Voice Design Awards 2017

"What makes the Civic Voice Design Awards special is that they are not the usual industry awards where professionals give awards to other professionals. Nominated and supported by local people, the awards recognise places that are loved by local people for both their high quality design and positive contribution to the local area. The Civic Voice Design Awards are unique in that they encourage communities to celebrate the best of what is happening where they live. They allow us to shine light on the amazing work of civic champions across England who are making their towns and villages a better place to live, work and enjoy" Max Farrell, chair of judges. None in Herefordshire but let's find one for next year. Our picture shows the winner in the Historic Buildings category, by Design Engine Architects.



Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Herefordshire Council launched its Minerals and Waste Options Consultation in August 2017. The consultation concluded on 6th October 2017. Minerals and waste planning aims to control mineral extraction and manage waste. The Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) will explain the vision, objectives and strategy for Herefordshire. It will detail policies and, potentially, locations for minerals extraction (such as sand and gravel pits or crushed rock quarries) and for the development of waste management facilities (such as recycling plants). It is remarkable that the Local Plan was allowed to be ratified without this essential information being first agreed.

Funding conundrum

"At the Hereford Library Users Group (HLUG) meeting on 8th September it was agreed that the 31 Broad Street project will be repatriated to become the direct responsibility of HLUG and, regrettably, any further activity on this project has been put on hold for the time being" writes Les Watson, the champion behind the adventurous proposal for a completely new kind of facility. It is a sad reflection of the way we arrange funding in this country. The Heritage Lottery Fund has criteria that appear not to cover this sort of innovative high tech approach, or projects that embrace a wider remit.

Yet the residents of Garway, population 430, are the recipients of over seven hundred thousand pounds for a new community centre, for which there is yet to be a proven need. There is an excellent hall at Orcop within a couple of miles and an existing popular hall that would only have needed c£40,000 spent upon it to bring it up to a decent standard. But there is no parking so that fails the first grant application test. The successful application appears to be down to the fact that it is to be built to Passivhaus standards with low running costs; there can be no other justification for a 4,800 square foot facility in this remote locality.

More information on the future of 31 road Street progress from HLUG.

£300k for Hereford Bypass.

Midlands Connect, a collaboration across the whole of the Midlands between Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, Network Rail, Highways England and central government, has allocated £300k of funding to help progress the Hereford Bypass scheme development. This is now promoted as part of a major route north – south rather than just a bypass. "an improved regional corridor from the Midlands, the Marches and into South Wales" said Cllr. Price.



Contributors

- John Bothamley** – Chairman HCS, developer and chair of charitable grant making trust
- Mo Burns** – Environmentalist and campaigner
- James Copeland** – Environmental scientist and campaigner
- John Faulkner** – Retired chartered civil engineer, chairman of HCS 2003-2006
- Cathy Taggart** – Designer and HCS member
- Stanley Vincent** – Planning visionary
- David Whitehead** – Hereford historian and author
- Design & Layout** – Gary Nozedar

Front Cover

Proposed new housing in Bath Street, maintaining the old John Venn buildings to the road frontage and with new flats behind.

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RIBA

NEWS & COMMENT

Cultural Group

The failed bid to become City of Culture was a great disappointment to the many supporters of the Herefordshire Cultural Partnership; but the enthusiasm is undiminished. The feedback from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport was essentially positive but it would appear we never had a chance because we are too small! Thanks DCMS you could have made the criteria a bit clearer, although the rallying together of many organisations has had a positive effect together with an Arts Council grant to employ three staff to stimulate cultural activities. (HCP present at our 18th January meeting)

The Labyrinth

Mike Booth's dream to establish a labyrinth in Hereford is about to be realised. Sufficient funds have been raised to go ahead with the installation of the Labyrinth in Bishops' Meadow, as illustrated in our Autumn 2016 edition. The Council has signed the project off and a licence has been issued. On the weekend of 30th September/1st October the Labyrinth was laid out and now the wait until the grass is established. There will be a public opening in the Spring of next year. Fundraising will continue through the winter to raise money for seating, solar-powered street lighting and to develop the educational programme for schools.

Interested volunteers, to be involved on all aspects, should contact Mike at enquiries@herefordlabyrinth.co.uk

Forum Meeting

10th October 2017 saw our twice annual meeting with local civic societies from Leominster, Ledbury and Ross. Items discussed included cycling, Blueschool House, the Bath Street news and how best to influence change.

On-street parking charges

Proposals to install Pay and Display machines on some of the city centre's streets were approved in 9 August 2017. The scheme will include nominal charges for short stays in the heart of the city. Parking charges will apply and cost 50p for up to half an hour and £1 for up to an hour stay. Controversial, to say the least, and Hereford urgently needs to revise its strategy with retail parking in new multi-storey peripheral locations; now with the farm sales it has the cash.

Heritage Open Day

At last we are getting there with HOD, more venues than ever this year and some special events as well. At the Shire Hall and Courts over 600 people had an exclusive look behind the scenes at the workings of the Shire Hall and the judicial courts. There were two sell out performances by the Hereford Gilbert and Sullivan society of Trial by Jury in our ancient court room. Guided walks led by the Guild of Guides and the lovely Rotherwas Chapel were part of the 27 buildings open across the county. More for next year please.



Hereford BID Awards

The Awards Evening on 5th October has already received substantial coverage in the Hereford Times; we want to add our praise for the hugely positive effect the Business Improvement District is having on the City, led by chairman, John Jones.

Tourist Information Centre (TIC)

Every town and city should have one and our's is returning and will be in the Buttermarket, all part of the improvements due to happen there. Liz Hill has been doing this unofficially for several years!

HEREFORD NOW

A wonderful new build house in Bauhaus style now stands off Southbank Road. The creation of Claire Jenkins and Huw Rees, however, is a much more substantially constructed building than many of the modernist constructs of the thirties. Their close attention to detail includes concrete block walls and Passivhaus insulation standards. This is a property that respects its neighbours and will be here for centuries to come. With an unusual layout it is a very personal home combining minimalism with comfort. HCS assessment criteria like to see some connection with local materials – no Herefordshire stone to be seen here – just clean white walls and dark bricks in the gardens.

On a recent Society visit there was overall praise and support for such a thoroughly well executed development.



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SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

This quarter Cathy Taggart provides focus on social and sustainable housing issues. An overview of the UK housing crisis by the Hereford based CEO of the AECB (Association of Environmentally Conscious Builders) sets the scene. The Architype report includes news of two social housing schemes currently under construction that are designed to the tightly controlled Passivhaus standard, which could be a way forward in the provision of social housing schemes.

Herefordshire Housing is the largest social housing provider in Hereford City and we have news from them about their retrofit programme and of an award-winning scheme in south Herefordshire. Hereford Community Land Trust is an exciting development aimed at providing sustainable housing and working solutions by and for local people.

Reflecting on the breadth and scale of the UK's housing crisis

Andy Simmonds

The UK has a housing crisis, both of quantity and quality. In the UK we're consistently failing to build enough homes to meet current demand, never mind the requirements of future generations. The temptation for governments, and indeed developers, has been to sacrifice quality in the name of quantity to solve the problem. And yet the problem has never been solved, and in fact seems to deepen. Of course this crisis is profoundly influenced by 'deeper' factors that are too often taken and accepted as givens, as too hard to tackle, these include:

- Land ownership (we don't even know who owns 50% of the UK!)
- Too many influential political decision makers with vested interests in private rented property portfolios

(also benefitting from flows of public subsidies in the form of housing benefit)

- Political and cultural ideology that minimises the role of the State in housing delivery
- The reluctance to significantly free up the potential of other forms of housing delivery such as creating serviced self-build sites
- The vested interests of the large energy supply companies which conflict with the development of the built environment's 'First Fuel' – energy efficiency - doing more with less
- A shortage of building land – especially for some forms of housing delivery



- Too few and too narrow a range of housing delivery routes and companies
- Land banking to control the supply and demand – and hence costs – of building land
- The disappearance of many small and medium size housing developers and a deskilling of the construction industry.

Our own country's history during the mid-20th century, as well as the experiences of other countries such as Germany and the Scandinavian bloc, shows that bold, well planned house building programmes are not only possible, but make complete economic and social sense. We need to face up to the challenges of the housing crisis, and address these key questions.

- How can it be so difficult for the UK to sort out its now ever present housing crisis?
- Why is it so difficult to ensure buildings are built to perform to the quality promised and to the performance calculated?
- Why is the number of new houses needed each year never achieved?

The current state of affairs must certainly be benefitting someone, otherwise things really would change. Usually following the money is the best way of casting light on these matters. Leaving aside vested interests and considering what is needed, the sustainability, or otherwise, of the housing stock as a whole could be described in a simple form, as:

- the number and quality of new homes in relation to
- the number and quality of improvement of existing homes - with a third key factor being

- the decarbonisation of the remaining demand for heat and power, particularly our heat supply.

Historically secondary to these top level challenges but of increasing importance, care needs to be taken that we carry out all these activities in ways that minimise (embodied) carbon emissions, protects and enhances biodiversity and existing wildlife, and minimises toxicity to people and the environment throughout the entire manufacture and construction process as well as for occupants during the building's lifetime.

It is more affordable for society to invest in sustainability in new homes than existing ones. Economically speaking, for new houses built to the highest standards based on recognising all the valuable benefits accruing to society, is an economic no-brainer, from the national perspective as well as the building occupants.

Andy Simmonds CEO. AECB is the UK's largest and oldest green building organisation, focusing on society's need to build better buildings and to dramatically improve the performance of existing buildings in terms of energy security, climate change and peoples' health and wellbeing.

www.aecb.net

Further reading:

Why can't the UK build 240,000 houses a year?

By Tom de Castella BBC News Magazine

Unlocking Britain's First Fuel: The potential for energy savings.

Simmond's blog is accessible on HCS website



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Former Boys' Home Bath Street

The Hereford Civic Society is proud to have promoted the idea of retaining the best of the old and creating new housing behind the historic buildings on this redundant site. Hereford Housing took this forward and, at last, after protracted discussions with Historic England consent has been granted. Another sustainable project being built to the highest standards. Here there will be 28 affordable units out of a total of 75. However it somewhat fails on environmental grounds with a parking space for every house. Being so close to the City Centre, and with good transport on the doorstep, is this really necessary? All part of the development of our fast changing country – in ten years' time the approach is likely to be quite different?



Architype

Architype maintain that sustainability is the heart of their design culture, that they always achieve better energy performance for buildings than regulations require and that they, where possible, use locally sustainably sourced and healthy materials; sometimes Passivhaus standards. They see sustainability as economic, environmental and social and are involved in public consultation to enable people to understand the benefits of a well-designed and sustainable approach.

Swansea Passivhaus Homes

Architype won a procurement exercise by Swansea City Council to develop the first two housing schemes commissioned by the

Passivhaus buildings provide a high level of occupant comfort while using very little energy for heating and cooking. They are built with meticulous attention to detail and design which can be certified through an exacting quality assurance programme developed by the Passivhaus Trust.

This can be applied to retrofit projects through the EnerPhit route which is a slightly relaxed standard where the existing architecture and conservation issues mean that meeting the Passivhaus standard is not feasible.

council, as developer, in a decade. The development is of 30 one and two bedroom properties located on two suburban sites. They are built to Passivhaus standards and will be for council tenants. The architects carried out physical and contextual investigations and studies of local vernacular architecture and landscape to provide a well-integrated design with a focus on private gardens and public greens.

Much Wenlock Affordable Housing

This development lies just outside the village of Much Wenlock and has been commissioned by the Shropshire Housing Group. It is one of several greenfield sites in the county identified for affordable housing.

The development will provide 10 socially rented properties and two marketed for shared ownership. The design of the homes is through community and client consultation by Marches Community Led Housing, a part of the housing group that specialises in consultation. The scheme is a mix of one to three bedroom houses all of which are designed to achieve Passivhaus certification that will offer residents a healthy and comfortable lifestyle, with the robust building performance that will keep operational costs to a minimum. The timber frame homes will be clad in FSC approved, UK grown thermally modified hardwood and locally sourced lime render and clay tiles which will sit comfortably within the local vernacular.

Herefordshire Housing



Herefordshire Housing is a not for profit housing association providing homes and services to people across Herefordshire. It manages over 5800 properties across the county and aims to support and challenge individuals, families and communities to achieve their potential for sustainable wellbeing and independence. We are committed to ensuring that our customers are getting good value for money and as part of this commitment we carry out retrofits to their properties.

What is retrofitting? Retrofitting means to add new technologies or new systems to properties that improve the

power efficiency, reduce emissions whilst increasing output. By carrying out retrofits to our properties we are helping to reduce the costs paid by our customers on their bills – on an average for a mid-terraced home we are helping to save customers £175 on their fuel bills per year; whilst helping the environment by saving 720kg in carbon dioxide output.

What we are doing? As part of our retrofit programme of works we carry out the following improvements:

- Installing heat pumps, ground and air pumps
- Improve and install external wall insulation
- Install solar hot water panels
- Install photovoltaic systems
- Replace boilers every 15 years, replaced with the most energy efficient on the market
- Install Quantum heaters, which are the most efficient on the market

To ensure that we are able to continue to help even more customers we have accessed an additional £2 million grant for the coming year.



Hereford Community Land Trust

Hereford CLT

What is a Community Land Trust? A non-profit community organisation run by its members - on a one-member-one-vote basis - which acquires and holds land on which to enact its objectives. Most CLTs aim to develop and own housing, possibly with other assets such as workspaces, open spaces and community facilities, which together meet the needs of their local community. Land is held in perpetuity and buildings are protected by a legal 'asset lock' which ensures these can only ever be sold or developed in a manner which benefits the local community.

CLTs offer a way for local people to be far more directly involved in planning and managing local housing than ever before, whether through co-operative,

co-housing or self-build variants, all of which can sit within the umbrella term CLT.

Hereford CLT aims to establish 'affordable, sustainable housing by the community for the community'. It welcomes new members and is looking for project sites around the city. It is also helping to spawn other CLTs around the county, and is busy planning with others a Herefordshire Centre for Community-Led Housing, which will work with CLTs and Neighbourhood Plans groups around the county.

Nick Sherwood HCLT

Further article by Nick in PLACE Winter 2016/17
Extended article available on HCS website

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AMAZING PLACES OF HEREFORD

Lower House Farm, Tupsley

Tucked away in an abandoned meander of the A438, Lower House Farm has hitherto been the headquarters of the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust. It is now for sale with permission granted for residential use. The Trust has outgrown the premises and the cars, lorries and sheds that disfigure the Lugg Meadows when viewed from Lugwardine Bridge will, hopefully, be removed. The grade II listed building with six or seven bedrooms and three acres of land is modestly priced at £450,000. The photographs in the sale catalogue, taken in May, reveal its lyrical setting, just above the flood-plain of the Lugg with iconic views across the Hampton Meadows towards the Woolhope Hills. The burgeoning orchards around the house, planted by an earlier chairman of the Civic Society – Ray Boddington – are in a flourishing state and the cow parsley flanking the front path of the house makes one reach for smock and gaiters.

The history of the property has been ably explored by the late Anthea Brian and Beryl Harding and published as a lavish pamphlet by the Trust in 2010. In the Middle Ages the property belonged to the bishop of Hereford and together with its land, varying at different times from between 30 and 80 acres, was held by copyhold tenure. In the early 16th century it became known as Nobblets, after a family bearing that name. Tree-ring dating provides a felling date for the frame of 1614 – close to that of the Old House in High Town (1621) – with which building it shares the ubiquitous use of the classical ovolo moulding on ceiling beams, fire places etc. Henry Merrick was the tenant in 1614 and with two chimney stacks serving five hearths; he was clearly a man of substance. It remains the best period house in Tupsley and will still convey high status on its purchaser.

In February 1996 members of the Civic Trust were invited to view the

house by Graham Roberts, retired City Surveyor and project manager for the restoration. The building was shrouded in polythene; its roof was off and the plaster cladding was being removed. A remarkable amount of the original fabric remained, and inside were the encrustations of several centuries of domestic life. Graham Roberts and his committee were determined to restore the building to 1614. As today's sale particulars state 'original features (were) preserved and exposed and the beauty of the property was allowed to shine'. Consequently, every detail deemed to be later than 1614 was scrapped, or as William Morris might have said 'scraped'. Lower House Farm got the Freddie Charles treatment, which you can 'enjoy' at the Avoncroft Museum of Buildings or in Spon Street, Coventry – archaeology without history.

Many people in Hereford still remember Lower House in the time of its last occupiers, Mr and Mrs J.D. Watkins,



lower house farm

whose family had lived in the property for most of the 20th century. The interior was nooky and gloomy and everywhere the patina of domestic life was proof of antiquity. Some of this should have been preserved. Externally, the house had been rendered in the 18th century, which time had mellowed to an ochre hue – the colour of the soil upon which it stood. In 1996 I wrote in an earlier Newsletter that 'one cannot help shedding a tear for the soft brownness of the old building, straight

out of a sepia photograph of the late 19th century. Restored to all its Stuart finery, the building will have brashness more in common with the racy world of the late 20th century'.

David Whitehead

1 F. W. B. Charles of Worcester (1912-2002), architect, worked with Gropius and developed an expertise and enthusiasm for medieval framed buildings, which he erected on new sites without later alterations. He admired framed buildings for their function and form rather than nostalgia and charm.



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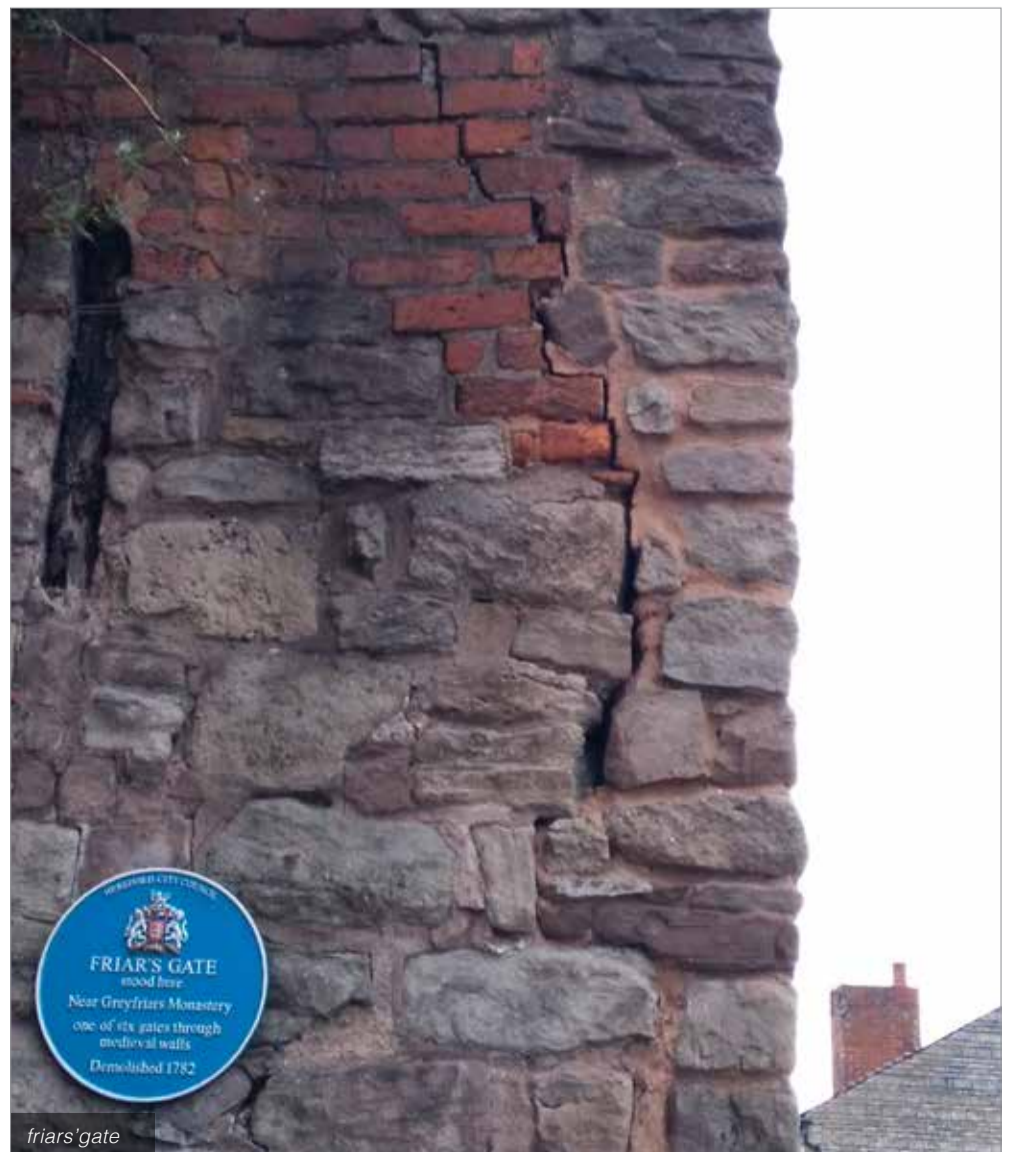
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Friars' Gate

At one of our recent lectures an image of the City wall, adjacent to the location of the long gone Friars' Gate, was shown. Disappointingly a rather prominent crack is noticeable, suggesting a possible collapse at some time in the future. This is a matter that ought to be checked out; before HC say they have no cash HCS is of the view that this could be categorised as a capital expense, rather than a revenue one, so farm sale income can be used.



friars'gate

PLANNING MATTERS

16-18 High Town (172824)

Revised plans for this troubled site suggest the new owners are serious about getting the project to mesh into High Town in a positive way. Unfortunately the usually excellent Herefordshire Council website was not showing the revised layouts when we reviewed the project. However the Conservation Officer's report was clear including "belt and braces" requirements on some of the details. We've all lived with this site and the scaffolding for some eight years now!

Town Hall, St.Owen's Street.



town hall scaffolding

We cannot fail to highlight this piece of architectural scaffolding propping up the canopy, (see picture) which has been in place for over two years. There is a problem with the fixing of the terracotta façade, or possibly the whole structure of the front elevation. What is intriguing is that the County Council want to transfer ownership to the City Council (our own parish council) who are not interested until the present queries are resolved. Whatever happens it will have to be repaired and HCS respectfully suggests that the hire



blueschool house

Blueschool House - our architectural crit.

What a wonderful display of white plastic downpipes, ready and waiting to be knocked for six, and with architectural twists and turns especially on the rear elevation. The shiny plastic, wood effect, cladding reminiscent of 70's Formica is a poor interpretation of stained barn-like boarding seen in much of Herefordshire, was that the intention? But the subtle pink red render is good, following planning officers' attendance on a colourisation course, apparently.



blueschool sign

costs of the scaffolding are possibly more than the interest on a sum of money to make good the defects. Somebody needs to get hold of the situation and make some decisions.

90 Gorsty Lane (173417)

A large mature Corsican pine here is just that – mature. That is no reason to fell it, especially being one of the city's fabulous pines – we have objected as it is part of the street scene. Members of the Herefordshire Tree Forum are unanimous in their support for the retention of this important feature.

Sheffield City Council

Sheffield City Council has announced that it will make sure all new purpose-built student accommodation developments will have the capacity to be converted into residential accommodation at a later date. The Labour controlled council already has a Student Accommodation Strategy to ensure that the right numbers of student homes are being built, and are a mix of tenures and sizes to create mixed communities. The council want to ensure that Sheffield's housing market is adaptive enough to meet the city's needs for future generations.

Ben Curran, cabinet member for planning and development, said: "We know that there needs to be flexibility in the housing market. If student numbers go down it is essential that properties aren't left empty but can be used as residential homes".



beautiful downpipes

An odd curving piece of coloured tarmac directs you into the entrance, past a sign, more suited to a field than a building, into a long hallway with receptionists at high desks. I'm not sure I should be here, I feel I'm not welcomed; if I had a housing problem I'd run. The sign said Herefordshire Council but no details – perhaps it is SAS recruitment? Oh yes, there is a Job Centre sign. But no I think it is a penitentiary – that's why there are flimsy plastic downpipes – to dissuade climbing.

I was told this was a local authority building on a prime site – it's beyond redemption. Stanley Vincent.



harc sign

Hereford Area Plan

Work proceeds apace attempting to visualise what Hereford should become over the next fifteen years. Cllr. Philip Price continues to underline the fact that we must get it right. "Once in a lifetime opportunity".

A recent meeting of the Steering Group covered jobs and the economy. Sites for industrial development are fast being taken up at the Enterprise Zone. Do we need to plan for more? Should poor quality factory units be permitted to change use to leisure? Where should the sites be located? Movement and transport could get bogged down with TRICS modelling of future movement patterns. HCS questions how it is possible to forecast the potential changes to residents' travel preferences. What, if any, effect will the new bypass have on City centre movements? Can we influence residents to get out of their cars (so many short journeys) and onto bikes? We have too many little car parks, too many privately owned; is there a need for peripheral carparking, specifically for shoppers, and where? This is not easy.

On 3rd October 2017 some of the Steering Group visited Lincoln to see how the City has absorbed, and worked with, their university. A long day of meetings possibly further complicating our thought processes. Lincoln is on a hill and Hereford is flat for a start! JB

Blueschool House (164024)

We do not want to write this piece. This saga does not reflect well on the City or the Herefordshire Council. With personnel failings and Cabinet sign off of a project with many risks highlighted it reflects badly on all involved.

At the planning stage HCS, together with the City Council, objected on the grounds this was a building beyond its useful life standing on probably the best site in the City. There was almost complete agreement by members of the planning committee, who then voted for it. Clearly, in our view, a politically motivated decision.

For Cllr. Bramer, Cabinet member, to put out a press release (PR 080/17) saying "all renovation works continue to be delivered within allocated funds..... this will bring the total estimated cost to £1.92 million" was a disgraceful blurring of actuality. The budget for the building refurbishment has overrun by one hundred per cent.

HARC Signage

HCS members much like this building in Rotherwas, and like the way it is involving volunteers and generally working in positive ways looking after our archives. But if Blueschool can get a sign, even an inappropriate one, surely HARC should have one.



Steven Thomas of Watkins Thomas

Steven Thomas first joined the company in 1987, and became Director of Watkins Thomas Ltd in 2012. Born in Hereford in 1964, Steve graduated with a BSc. in Estate Management in 1986; is a Fellow of the National Association of Estate Agents (FNAEA) and a Member of the Association of Residential Letting Agents (MARLA).

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MEETINGS

Saturday 15th July 2017

Woodchester Mansion and Newark Park



woodchester visit

Our summer visit took in the unfinished Gothic revival mansion in Woodchester – an amazing un-finished building with no floors and vast spaces open to the rafters. Lunch in a pub was followed by calling in at the parish church funded by Edward Leigh, who never finished his own mansion, and then to Newbury Park, a medieval house, much altered and extended over the centuries. All three visits were enhanced by knowledgeable guides enthusing about their special buildings.

Thursday 21st September 2017

Hereford City Walls

Derek Foxtan, Hereford's most revered photographer and historian, entranced a packed meeting with images of what the old walls might have looked like. Sometimes interspersing reconstructions and ideas with the actuality of today brought history to life. All will be wondering, as they walk around our ancient City, whether they are above the old ditch or rampart or, indeed, looking at the original.

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.

YOUR OPINIONS



wolsztyn fountains

Wolsztyn, Poland

Holidaying somewhat off the track in Poland this charming town square was always buzzing with children dodging the constantly changing fountains. Expensive to maintain but a real draw for a City centre, how about one for Hereford in High Town – a project looking for a generous sponsor. What a legacy for a Herefordian to endow?

Cllr. Graham Powell

We hear that Graham has left the County. Whether that is 'to spend more time with his family' or 'because he likes to make positive change' it is a great loss for the City. HCS appreciated his pragmatism on built environment matters which included saving the Rotherwas cycleway bridge; the diversion of Sustainable Transport monies into improving cycle routes; the 20mph limit in the City Centre and inspiring his local parishes to group into clusters for their neighbourhood plans. If only others had followed his lead. His work within the cabinet generally also deserves recognition for its astute

and fearless practicality, but more importantly for his constant willingness to engage and communicate.

Cycling

We, at HCS, have long worried about the juxtaposition of pedestrians, cyclists and motorised vehicles. Many theories abound and yet confusion remains. To segregate or integrate pedestrians and cyclists remains a debate and apparently within the minds of highway engineers as well. With our local MP, Jesse Norman, now the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department of Transport and tasked with considering the state of cycling, we are pressing him to confront the subject full on – hopefully using Hereford as a test bed?!

A carpark is essentially a shared space between cars and their drivers and passengers as they park and proceed on their way. Why then has Asda designated a strip of tarmac just for cyclists? See image, as well as a better solution for cycle routes crossing side roads than our infamous Holme Lacy Road.



sensible crossing?



cycle lane asda

Forthcoming Events

All meetings at the Kindle Centre, by ASDA, Belmont, Hereford HR2 7JE.

7.00pm refreshments for a 7.30pm start.

Thursday 16th November 2017

Libraries in the modern age

Expert, Les Watson, explains how libraries can succeed now, and into the future, including Hereford

Thursday 14th December 2017

Community Land Trusts in town and country

Local Trust Chairman, Andy Johnson, describes this exciting new housing initiative for empowering local communities

Thursday 18th January 2018

Hereford's City of Culture bid, the experience and the legacy

David Marshall and Roger Morgan, chair of the Cultural Partnership board

Thursday 15th February 2018

Humphry Repton in Herefordshire: a bi-centenary celebration

David Whitehead (unmissable – a preview of a forthcoming exhibition)

Thursday 15th March 2018

Skylon Park – update on the Hereford Enterprise Zone

Neil Kerr – HEZ board member. New builds, new employment, heritage protected and enhanced, new connections.

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

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