

## TRANSPORT GURU TO ADDRESS OXFORD CONFERENCE



Professor Phil Goodwin, recently appointed Professor of Transport Policy at the University of the West of England, will give the keynote address at the Annual Conference in Oxford on 20 October.

Professor Goodwin has an outstanding reputation nationally and internationally with both academics and practitioners for his work as policy advisor to the Government and critic in this field. He was Chair of John Prescott's Panel of Advisors for the 1998 Transport White Paper and Director of the Transport Studies Group for ten years and has worked, with others, on many research studies which inform policy and practice.

Professor Goodwin's presentation will set the scene for an exciting conference which will explore many of the challenges facing historic towns and cities, in a City which can demonstrate some radical strategies for the management of congestion. \*

Traffic management must also be seen in the context of the historic public realm and this will be the theme of the second day of the conference, with expert and inspirational speakers offering guidance on good practice.

Details and booking forms are available at [www.ehtf.org.uk](http://www.ehtf.org.uk) or from the EHTF office.

\* This is a change to the previously published programme.

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- And much much more...

### GET ON YOUR SOAPBOX



Do you think this is the answer in your town?

For the first time, at this year's Annual Conference, Members are being invited to submit a paper with their own views on the conference topic. All papers will be published as part of the delegate information pack and the authors of two papers

will be invited to present them to the conference at a 'Soapbox Session'.

If you have not already done so, send your views on traffic management, congestion, alternatives to car use, park and ride, management of the public realm – whatever you have strong opinions about – on two sides of A4 with up to six images as soon as possible to [ehft@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:ehft@uwe.ac.uk) for the attention of Chris Winter.

## 'URBAN EXTENSIONS' IN HISTORIC TOWNS

The need for extra housing and the pressures for rapid growth are affecting many towns, but the impact on the historic cores of historic towns and cities requires special attention.

Working with the Pegasus Planning Group, EHTF is planning to carry out a research project – 'Designing for Housing Growth – Sustaining Historic Towns'.

Mike Carr, a Partner at PPG and a Corporate Member of EHTF, says that the work will aim to:

- Enhance best practice knowledge in the topic area



Are there other models for urban extensions?

- Examine current guidance on integration
- Identify current policy trends
- Identify examples of successful integration
- Examine the knock on impacts of housing extensions

- Add to existing knowledge in such areas as sustainable urbanism and land use disposition
- Explore how developers and local authorities might improve practices
- Inspire confidence in practitioners
- Look at measuring the sustainable capacity of towns

Many Members have already registered an interest in the project and examples have been put forward as case studies. It is anticipated that the project will run for a year with results published next summer.

Please Circulate this newsletter among your colleagues

EHTF is supported by

Colin Buchanan

Donaldsons

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Land Securities PLC

RPS Planning, Transport and Environment

## MEMBERS NEWS

# Annual General Meeting

19 October 2005

Motions and proposals for the AGM should be sent to the Director - Chris Winter, or the Chairman - Ian Poole, by 23 September.

The Annual Report and AGM Agenda will be circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

## New Members

## Ancoats Buildings Preservation Trust Ltd

Kate Dickson, Trust Director  
Beehive Mill, Jersey Street,  
Manchester, M4 6JG  
Tel: 0161 278 1755 Fax: 0161 278 1754

## Cambridgeshire County Council

John Bartram, Commissioning Manager  
(Maintenance)  
Box 1301, Room 302, Shire Hall, Castle Hill,  
Cambridge, CB3 0AP  
Tel: 01223 718543 Fax: 01223 717865

## Camlin Lonsdale

Tom Lonsdale, Director  
15 Peel Street, Marsden,  
Huddersfield, HD7 6BW  
Tel: 01484 841000 Fax: 01484 841104

## Lunson Mitchenall

Neil Mitchenall, Director  
33 Cork Street, London, W1S 3NQ  
Tel: 020 7478 4950 Fax: 020 7491 2344

**Paul Butler Associates Ltd**

Paul Butler, Director  
31 Blackfriars Road, Salford,  
Manchester, M3 7AQ  
Tel: 0161 835 3530 Fax: 0161 835 3531

## Pegasus Planning Group

Mike Carr, Partner  
6-20 Spitalgate Lane, Cirencester, GL7 2DE  
Tel: 01285 641717 Fax: 01285 885115

## Samantha Raggatt

9 Promenade, Victoria Park,  
Nottingham, NG3 1HB

## Stones Solicitors

Janine Banks, Planning  
Linacre House, Southernhay Gardens,  
Exeter, EX1 1UG  
Tel: 01392 666777 Fax: 01392 666770

## Kirsty-Ann Taylor

Planner, 31 Sugden Road,  
Brighton, BN11 2JG

# Retail Guidance in Historic Areas

English Heritage will shortly be publishing 'Retail Development in Historic Areas'. It has developed this over the last year with the help of EHTF and research commissioned from Urban Practitioners and CB Richard Ellis, which included workshops with Government Departments, the development industry and retail design specialists, as well as local authority representatives.

Its purpose is to set out guidelines for achieving high quality new retail development in historic areas. In addition the guidelines provide an up-to-date position statement in the context of PPS 6, which sets out the Government's objective to promote the vitality and viability of town centres by planning for growth and development of existing centres and encouraging a wide range of services in a good environment, accessible to all.

Shops and retailing form the lifeblood of many historic areas, providing vitality, vibrancy and an essential economic base. The retail world is fast moving and highly competitive and the challenge of accommodating larger shops and complex retail developments in historic areas in a way that enhances the historic character of the place and its competitiveness is vital to address in an imaginative and proactive way.

The report includes a series of case studies which illustrate how retail developments can be fully integrated within their context and add to economic prosperity. In addition, the report provides guidelines to assist local authorities and the development sector to achieve creative, robust solutions for new retail development in historic areas.

It also gives an overview of the challenge facing retail development in historic areas, identifies the importance of retailing, current and future trends in retailing, along with guidance for achieving high quality new retail development within a historic context.

*Charles Wagner, Head of Planning & Regeneration Policy, English Heritage*

## FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

# Making Retail Led Regeneration Work



Conceptual illustration of the  
Princesshay Scheme

The conference held in Birmingham earlier this year explored the role of retail in the regeneration of the city centre. As few of our Member towns can be compared with this large city, relating retail led regeneration to smaller towns and cities will be the focus of an event to be held in **Exeter on 1 December.**

Few cannot have heard of the Princesshay scheme which is being developed by Land Securities PLC in the heart of Exeter. As a supporter of EHTF for many years, Peter Cleary, Head of Retail Development of Land Securities, was keen to offer an opportunity to look at the strategies used, in partnership with Exeter City Council, to achieve a scheme which will enhance and integrate into the historic city.

As well as expert speakers on the topic, the event will offer a chance to explore the Princesshay site and the rest of the City, with plenty of opportunities for information exchange and networking with colleagues working with similar challenges.

Details and booking forms will be available from mid-September on [www.ehtf.org.uk](http://www.ehtf.org.uk) or from the EHTF office.

# Streetscape Good Practice Guidance

Thanks to those who responded to my requests for examples of good practice in the design and use of street furniture in the last newsletter. It is obvious that Members in many historic towns and cities are keen to create some local identity in the use of signs, barriers, litter bins, planters, bollards etc in the historic built environment.

It's ironic that English Heritage has just published their regional 'Save our Streets' publications highlighting good and bad practice in our historic streets. However, although their publications contain many good examples, there is little information on **how** this is achieved and what the financial

implications are of specifying bespoke locally distinctive furniture as opposed to 'off-the-shelf' designs. This is one particular area that I would like to pursue and would welcome contributions from all sides on the costs and benefits of these two options.

If you can help on this, or other matters of good (or bad) practice in street furniture, then please send information to me at [ian.poole@stedsbc.gov.uk](mailto:ian.poole@stedsbc.gov.uk) or by post, marked for my attention, at Planning Policy & Specialist Services, St Edmundsbury Borough Council, PO Box 122, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YS.





## Study visit to Gdańsk

EAHTR is the lead partner in INHERIT – an EU project funded by the INTERREG 3C programme that aims to identify best practice in heritage led regeneration. A team from six European cities visited Gdańsk (formerly Danzig) earlier this year and saw at first hand how different periods in the city's history are impacting on its present heritage led regeneration strategy.

The scale and quality of the reconstruction in the Old Town, after World War II, largely as a 'replica', is hugely impressive if somewhat controversial - but there are now problems that need to be addressed. These include very high levels of housing in public ownership, an older population living in the old centre conflicting with the demands of tourists, a limited amount of mixed uses and, particularly, a lack of retailing needed to give the centre vitality and viability. In other areas, the project partners were shown how the recent history of Solidarity is influencing the redevelopment of part of the shipyards and how a large Napoleonic fort is being developed into a flagship astronomical centre.

EU membership is now providing access to Structural Funds for much needed infrastructure improvements. The long period of Soviet influence has resulted in other challenges, such as a lack of legislation for public/private partnerships, and, particularly, how to encourage public participation. The strategy for the future is to extend the historic centre by regenerating adjacent historic areas through innovative initiatives, including community arts projects involving young people.

For further information about the work of INHERIT, contact Ian Walters or Brian Smith at bsmith@historic-towns.org

## Good Practice Guidance

### Special Offer

As a topic which offers one of the greatest challenges to historic towns and cities, traffic and transport management has been the subject of many Forum projects and publications. This year's Annual Conference continues to bring expert speakers and best practice advice to a wide audience and in support of this we are pleased to be able to offer our range of publications at a special price.

Until 31 October the following publications can be purchased as a set at **HALF PRICE!**

Publication	Full price
Historic Core Zones Project Review	£ 6
Historic Core Zones Project Report	£16
Transport Demand Management	£26
Bus-Based Park & Ride	£31
Traffic in Historic Town Centres	£ 6

### Plus

Focus on the Public Realm	£ 6
<b>Total price</b>	<b>£91</b>

### Special price £45

To take advantage of this offer please send the order form on [www.ehtf.org.uk/publication\\_order.asp](http://www.ehtf.org.uk/publication_order.asp) quoting 'Transport offer' in the 'Other (please specify)' box on the form and your discount will be deducted.

### Management Consultants to the Tourism, Leisure and Cultural Sectors



**www.lrcconsulting.co.uk**  
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Midlands : 01684 578 664  
Sussex : 01903 779 933



## 'Making Better...' Publications



A new EHTF guidance note will be launched at the Annual Conference in Oxford on 19-21 October. The second in a short series, this note centres on improving the quality of applications where consent is required for work to listed buildings.

Building on the success of 'Making Better Planning Applications', 'Making Better Applications for Listed Building Consent' guides applicants and their agents through the process of preparing and submitting an application, with succinct and well-illustrated information on the type and quality of supporting documents that should be included. The leaflet aims to raise the standard of submissions to assist local planning authorities to deal with applications efficiently and within agreed timescales and, in turn, give applicants the best possible chance of gaining consent.

The original guidance note ('Making Better Planning Applications') is to be re-launched at Oxford, with the layout and presentation updated to accord with the latest document.

Copies of both documents will be available free to Member towns from the EHTF office, and to download as pdf files on the website after 21 October.

*Prue Smith - Conservation Area  
Guidance Portfolio Holder*

## Slovenia Study Tour Postponed

Following the very successful study tour of Slovenia in June 2004, it was hoped that we might extend similar hospitality to our Slovenian colleagues. An itinerary was proposed, with generous support from our Members in Norwich, Chichester, Bury St Edmunds, Bath and Bradford on Avon but, unfortunately due to the considerable difference in income and costs between UK and Slovenia, we are unable to go ahead at this time.

It is hoped that members of the Association of Historic Cities of Slovenia (AHCS) will be able to investigate potential funding support from

Europe and we will be able to host a visit at a future date.

In the meantime we are keeping communications open and hope to be able to provide support for colleagues in Slovenia, who are very keen to share our experience of managing historic towns and cities.

Both the Chair and Director of EHTF will be attending the Inherit Symposium in Göteborg from 14-16 September and will have the opportunity to discuss future collaboration with the representatives of AHCS.



*Public Art in Slovenia*

## Whitefriars, Canterbury



In September, Land Securities PLC formally celebrates the completion of its £140 million Whitefriars mixed use regeneration scheme located within the medieval city walls of Canterbury, Kent.

An 'open street' development comprising 41,805 m<sup>2</sup> of prime retail space, together with a 3,231 m<sup>2</sup> residential element, Whitefriars has also delivered a 530 space multi-storey car park and a re-configured transportation hub interchange. The scheme is widely acknowledged as an exemplar of urban regeneration providing Canterbury with a new retail core, introducing city centre apartments and integrating itself seamlessly with the city's historic fabric.

A 30 month archaeological programme funded by Land Securities has demonstrated how archaeology can be preserved for future generations. Findings have been captured in a permanent piece of public art installed in the new Whitefriars Square.

Nick Davis, Development Manager at Land Securities, comments: "Whitefriars has been a challenging yet highly rewarding scheme to deliver, which provides us with a benchmark for heritage development. The prime requisite was to deliver a scheme sympathetic to the city's architectural heritage and respecting its historic context, whilst providing a 21st Century destination that fulfils the needs of future generations. Whitefriars' qualities have been acknowledged with the scheme being 100% pre-let, a recent Property Week Award for the Best Shopping Centre 2005, together with an endorsement from English Heritage."

For further information, please contact: Gaye Charlton, M&N Associates Tel: 01483 415915 Mobile: 07974 816151

Nick Davis, Development Manager, Land Securities PLC

## Letters

### Areas of Local Interest

*"Traditional suburbs are under increasing threat from proposals to demolish large houses in large plots and replace them with higher density, inappropriate development.*

*Many of these areas, while possessing high amenity value will probably never attain conservation area status. It seems logical therefore to consider making these areas Areas of Local Significance or Interest. Has anyone had experience of this and/or has anyone any other ideas?"*

Will Scott, Principal Conservation Officer, City of Worcester Council  
Replies to [wscott@cityofworcester.gov.uk](mailto:wscott@cityofworcester.gov.uk)

### Environmental Capacity Studies

*"Have any Member towns recently undertaken Environmental Capacity Studies? I have a copy of a study taken in Chester in 1995 and wonder if there is anything more recent than this?"*

Barbara Le Pelley, Principal Forward Planning Officer,  
States of Guernsey. Replies to [ehf@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:ehf@uwe.ac.uk)

## View from The Chair

As we near half time in my term of office as Chairman and rapidly approach the refreshments in the form of the Annual Conference and AGM, it's time to take stock of how the team is doing. That team is the Executive, elected every year by the membership to ensure that the EHTF remains in the premier league of organisations looking after the interests of the historic urban environment.

Members of the team are senior local authority officers with an interest in the historic environment who are prepared to attend around four meetings a year plus occasional one-off meetings on particular issues and, wherever possible, the Forum's Conferences. The Forum is also in a position to co-opt people on to the Executive who can provide a particular knowledge or expertise which would be of benefit to delivering the projects which the Forum is undertaking.

If you are interested in being elected to the Executive then why not contact either myself or Chris Winter before the AGM. We would welcome more volunteers joining the Executive and it's a great way of ticking off those CPD requirements.

*on tour*

## Feature Town: Oxford



Early development of the city in the 7th Century stemmed from its strategic location at the confluence of the rivers Cherwell and Thames, with its role as a seat of learning only beginning during the 13th Century.

The rich history, cultural and economic diversity and prosperity of the city generates significant pressures and challenges to manage change and balance the competing demands, but also offers exciting opportunities.

The redevelopment of Oxford Castle is well underway, involving adaptation of the existing castle and prison buildings to provide an hotel, apartments, restaurants and a heritage centre. A complex site with significant heritage value, the redevelopment scheme has come to fruition through creative partnerships and commitment between developers, local authorities, stakeholders and external funders. Adjacent to the castle is the Westgate Centre, the focus of another major redevelopment scheme and collaborative working that will introduce additional shopping facilities and major changes to the public transport infrastructure.

The castle site is a gateway to another quarter of Oxford, the West End, which has been the focus of a master planning study, commissioned by local and regional agencies, to provide a framework for the renaissance of this part of the city.

The University of Oxford has begun masterplanning the redevelopment of Radcliffe Infirmary site in the city centre - a major redevelopment opportunity for the city, which will help meet the University's education and research needs.

Long term success and prosperity brings other challenges and, for Oxford, one of greatest is the need for affordable housing. Following the Local Plan Inquiry at the beginning of the year, the Inspector has given his support to the Council's policy for 50% affordable homes on residential development sites within the city, a high target to tackle a severe housing issue.

Nick Worlledge, Conservation Officer, Oxford City Council

Do you represent a Full Member organisation? To feature your town in 'NEWS', please send a short article (150 words) and an image (300 dpi, tif) image to EHTF by email to [ehf@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:ehf@uwe.ac.uk).