

Nov 2005

ENGLISH HISTORIC TOWNS FORUM
for prosperity and conservation in historic towns

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INHERIT
European Symposium
Göteborg

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Housing Growth
in Sustainable
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organisation and
email address.

New National Research Strategy

Will a nation-wide research strategy help EHTF members
with the 'value' data they need to progress their aims?

The Forum has been seeking to carry out research which could offer objective, well founded data to support the belief that the 'value' of the historic environment is far greater than just an aesthetic one.

Persuading developers and others to invest in high quality when considering regeneration, housing, retail, public realm and other schemes and projects in historic towns and cities can often be challenging.

However, by recognising the 'added value' to be gained – from property values, retail footfall, rental values etc – the economic incentives could be a useful tool for local authorities, and in turn lead to a greater understanding of other, 'softer' but none the less important, benefits which the historic environment offers, in environmental and social terms.

EHTF was invited, on 27 October, to the launch of a national strategy, led by English Heritage, to co-ordinate the wide range of research and research funding bodies which operate in the field, in order to maximise funding opportunities, pool resources and to avoid 're-inventing the wheel'.



Whilst continuing to pursue the aims and objectives of the Forum, and to seek the best ways in which to serve its members, EHTF will be working with this partnership initiative to research the facts which would support what it believes to be fundamental to its work – that the conservation and prosperity of the historic towns and cities of England is vital to the economy and the well-being of residents, businesses and visitors.

A Chance to Have Your Say

Members will shortly receive a brief questionnaire which will help us to formulate the the forthcoming strategy meeting.

In April 2003, the EHTF Strategy Meeting held in London set the priorities for the programme for 2004 and 2005. We have worked hard to achieve the goals that were set, and believe we have had many successes.

However, as the environment within which we work is a very dynamic one, we must constantly strive to be aware of the issues and pressures on our Members. We plan to hold another

such meeting, early in the New Year, to identify the major concerns of Members and the areas in which we should be seeking to influence the policies which effect the management of our historic towns and cities.

If you receive the questionnaire, please take a few minutes to complete and return it, in order that, even if you are unable to attend the meeting, you can be sure that your views will be taken into account as we plan our programme of work for the next two years.

New Members

Matthew Bartle

Transportation Engineer
100 Grand Avenue,
Worthing, BN11 5BH

CPRE - Cheshire Transport Campaign Group

Ann Jones

Vice Chairman
101 Daleside, Upton
Heath, Chester CH2 1EW
Tel: 01244 390314

New Membership Fees

From 1 January 2006 there will be a small percentage increase to the Membership Fees. The new fees will be:

Full Members	£375
Affiliated Members	£235
Civic & Amenity Members	£ 55
Individual Members	£ 45
Corporate Members	£ 55 - £525*

*dependent on size/number of employees

Annual General Meeting

The Annual Report was presented at the AGM, held in Oxford Town Hall on 19 October.

The proposals put forward were agreed by the meeting:

The Executive Committee Members are:

Ian Poole	Chair
St Edmundsbury Borough Council	
Bill Cotton	Hon Treasurer
Bath & North East Somerset Council	
Jeff Clarke	King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council
Philip Godwin	North Norfolk District Council
Chris Hargreaves	Birmingham City Council
Brian Human	Cambridge City Council
David Reed	Canterbury City Council
Rob Surl	Shropshire County Council
Richard Tuffrey	High Peak Borough Council

New members, for whom nominations were received, will be invited by the Executive to become Co-opted Members. These were Sharon Cosgrove, Oxford City Council, David Jobbins, Christchurch Borough Council and Tony Wyatt, Newcastle upon Tyne Council.

Contact details for all Members can be obtained from the Membership Directory or the Bristol office. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is planned to take place on 20 January 2006.

The Chair, Treasurer and Director were all pleased to report on a successful year of conferences and good practice guidance, with a satisfactory financial outcome and continuing increases in Membership and other support. Minutes of the AGM can be seen at www.ehtf.org.uk/admin/getfile.asp?ID=83

EHTF Annual Conference:

Transportation & the Historic Public Realm ...? It can work

Traffic and transport management, and its impact on the public realm were the topics covered at the Annual Conference in Oxford by a number of the most notable experts in the country.

The conference was closed by the inspiring and revolutionary approach espoused by Ben Hamilton-Baillie.



Delegates enjoyed a tour of the former prison at Oxford Castle

In the period between these two fascinating speakers, a total of 136 delegates representing a wide range of professions, were offered a variety of solutions to consider, ranging from the controversial – congestion charging – to vital practical details – font styles on bespoke signage.

With opportunities to explore the issues in the beautiful Oxford City environs and to network with colleagues, the feedback has been very positive and we are grateful to all of the people we work with to make these events possible. With the exception of a few technical hitches and being victims of our own success (in that the conference room was a bit 'cosy' with such good attendance) we were pleased to be able to offer our members and

others a comprehensive view of the subject. Also, to come closer to formulating a strong policy stance to support our members in their work and to lobby policy making bodies on their behalf (see 'View from the Chair, page 4). The conference included the launch of a new EHTF guidance leaflet – 'Making Better Applications for Listed Building Consent', together with the re-launch of the very successful document published in 2003 – 'Making Better Planning Applications'. Copies of both of these can be downloaded in pdf format – www.ehtf.org.uk/admin/getfile.asp?ID=80 and www.ehtf.org.uk/admin/getfile.asp?ID=81 or obtained from the Bristol office.

A full report of the conference can be seen at www.ehtf.org.uk/admin/getfile.asp?ID=84 and copies of the Powerpoint presentations can be obtained from the office - 0117 975 0459.



Above: Innovative Public Art

Right: Regeneration in Göteborg 'The Fish Church'

Transport 'Guru' and advisor to Government, Professor Phil Goodwin opened the conference with an enlightening presentation on our "love affair with the car" and the importance of managing demand.

Destination Management

The 'Destination Managers Handbook' was launched in 2003 to help tourism destination managers deliver successful and sustainable tourism solutions for their area. The Handbook contains a four-stage process (auditing, planning, development and monitoring) and covers a wide range of sustainable tourism practices and case studies. The Tourism Management Institute and DCMS are planning to update the Handbook and to make it accessible to a wider audience. DCMS aims to go out to consultation in November to ask for views on its usefulness in its current form, its content and possible additions. The DCMS contact for this work is Graham Catt (020 7211 6042).

Tourism Workers

The tourism industry spends an estimated £886m a year dealing with high staff turnover and trying to improve retention.

The Government has now announced plans to develop a new skills strategy aimed at improving the skills gap and staff shortages in the UK's tourism workforce. Working with the Sector Skills Council, People 1st, the aim is to produce a clear guide to help the industry and partners boost skills and productivity.

For more details see www.people1st.co.uk

Brian Human
Cambridge City Council
Tourism Portfolio Holder

Out and About

EHTF was represented at the following events:

'Heritage Led Regeneration - Delivering Good Practice'
INHERIT, Göteborg 15 & 16 September

'The Order of Nature: The City as Ecosystem'
The Prince's Foundation, London 20 September

Cityscape 2005, London 20 & 21 September
The event organisers have suggested that EHTF might become a partner in the next conference, we look forward to exploring this opportunity with them.

Launch of English Heritage Research Strategy
London 27 October

The 2005 Georgian Group Architectural Awards
London 1 November

The National Retail Planning Forum
London 8 November

'Heritage Counts 2005' - English Heritage
London 15 November

Commissions East & Arup - Joint Reception
Cambridge 17 November

Prince's Foundation Scholarships

Through our partnership with the Prince's Foundation, members of EHTF are invited to apply for the scholarships available for short courses run by the Foundation. For details of the course programme see www.princes-foundation.org.uk or contact The Prince's Foundation on 020 7613 8500.

EHTF in Europe

Ian Poole (Chair) and Chris Winter (Director) of EHTF attended the European Symposium in Göteborg on 15 & 16 September -

'Heritage Led Regeneration - Delivering Good Practice' which was delivered through the Interreg 111c INHERIT programme.

This offered the opportunity for information exchange on good practice and to maintain our links with European colleagues.

A waterborne tour of the City showed the innovative approach

to development along the historic canal and river-sides, with contemporary buildings side by side with reminders of the city's past.

The 'Göteborg Declaration 2005' which followed the event emphasised, among other things, the "contribution of heritage to modern day life - 'a city without a past is like a man without a memory'" and the "importance of putting people first and keeping heritage accessible, useful and vital".

For further information see www.historic-towns.org



Designing For Housing Growth - Sustaining Historic Towns

The pressure for housing growth is a nation-wide challenge but no-where is this pressure more keenly felt than in historic towns and cities. In partnership with the Pegasus Planning Group, EHTF is engaged in a project to identify best practice and to offer some guidelines for its Members.

Following an appeal for expressions of interest, a group representing the membership met in Cirencester on 29 September to pool information in order that Mike Carr of PPG could carry out research which would lead to:

- Guidance to help focus on locally specific proposals
- Concise and easy to access guidance
- A review and distillation of existing, disparate guidance
- An exploration of the problems evident from recent schemes, with potential solutions
- A clarification of the issues to assist the planning process
- Case studies which illustrate best practice

It is anticipated that findings will be disseminated in the summer of 2006.



Lancaster



Salisbury



Ely

View from The Chair

Time to make places out of spaces:

The annual conference at Oxford reinforced the Forum's concern that many of our historic towns and cities are struggling to cope with the consequences of the motor car. Although many good examples of management were demonstrated at the conference, I can't help feeling that our historic streets and spaces are still losing out to the car and all the clutter it brings with it. The Forum's Historic Core Zones Project demonstrated that lines can be removed and traffic signs reduced, but we still have not been brave enough to put all the different users of spaces on a level playing field.

Just as in the 1990's, it looks as if we have to turn to Europe for examples of good practice. The Forum's publication 'Traffic in Historic Town Centres', which launched the concept of Historic Core Zones, used examples from France to illustrate that signs and lines can be removed without detriment. Conference speakers Ben Hamilton-Baillie and Brian Evans provided illustrated examples from Europe where the infrastructure required by cars is minimised and spaces are shared by all users on an equal basis. Take the example of the Vendome in Paris. It is a huge historic square where vehicles pass without regulation.

Perhaps it is time that the traffic regulations in our historic towns and cities were changed to enable cars and other users to share streets without the need for all the regulatory signs, lines, bollards and barriers? Imagine a street where cars, pedestrians and cyclists have equal "rights" to use the space without segregation. The idea captured the imagination of delegates at the annual conference and perhaps it's time the Forum embarked on the next step Historic Core Zones?

Ian Poole, Chair, EHTF



Vendome, Paris

New Website Launch

The new and improved EHTF website is currently under development and will soon be launched.

Some of the new features proposed are:

- online publications
- a secure online payment facility
- an improved discussions forum
- an image library
- conference presentations.

The new site will also offer staff at EHTF more control over content management, thus reducing costs. Members will be notified once the new site is live.

If you have any comments regarding our website - www.ehtf.org.uk please contact Samantha Shore at ehf@uwe.ac.uk



Letters

Urban Design Strategy

"I am a Senior Planner at East Hertfordshire Council doing an MA in Urban Design. I am developing ideas for a dissertation. The Design Project would be to produce a whole town Urban Design Strategy for Hertford. Are you aware of any similar Urban Design

Studies that have been carried out on Historic Market towns? Hertford has a particular issue of through traffic due to the A414 cutting through the town in the 1960's. This will be a more detailed aspect of the study. Are you aware of studies on similar towns that have developed an Urban Design Strategy for instance after a bypass has been built?"
Replies to ehf@uwe.ac.uk

Tim Hagyard, East Hertfordshire Council

Feature Town: Carlisle Carlisle Renaissance

The Carlisle Renaissance Prospectus was launched at the end of August 2005 as a vision for the regeneration of the city's urban core in the wake of the devastating January floods.

The vision is for economic, physical and social regeneration to create a better Carlisle in the next 10 to 15 years, recognising that re-modelling the city centre will be a catalyst for economic growth in the rest of the district.

Three transformational projects have been highlighted in the Prospectus, which is currently out to public consultation. A dedicated team is about to be appointed and they will help work up the Development Framework and Movement Strategy that will drive the next stages.

Proposals include a new Civic Quarter, new theatre offices and residential

development and a riverside development that will extend the city centre westwards and connect it to the River Caldew.

Partnership working is fundamental to the realisation of Carlisle Renaissance; that doesn't just mean the existing partnerships within the public sector, but engaging early on with the private sector as they can bring essential skills and experience to the process.

Key to any future developments is getting the infrastructure right and improving movement into and around the city, traffic congestion and parking, are issues that must be addressed.

A copy of the Prospectus is on the City Council's website www.carlisle.gov.org

Carolyn Taylor, Carlisle City Council

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To discuss these valuable opportunities, please call our Marketing Administrator, Helen Johnson, on 0117 975 0459 or email at ehf@uwe.ac.uk

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