



EECAS NEWSLETTER

East of England Civic & Amenity Societies

Issue: April 2011

Website: <http://www.cambridgeppf.org/eecs/>

Message From The Chairman

The East of England Civic and Amenity Societies are an informal regional cluster of active civic and amenity groups. Its aim is to exchange experience among its members, and to organise meetings on topics of interest to them. **The next such meeting will be in Ely on Saturday 7 May and will be on the 'Big Society and Localism'.** The speakers will include:

- Tony Burton [Civic Voice]: The Localism Agenda
- Neil Stott [Keystone Trust]: Big Society - Opportunity or Threat?
- Alex Plant [Cambridgeshire Horizons]: Local Enterprise Partnerships
- Paul Ainsworth [Cambridge CAMRA]: Saving Pubs

Please see the article below for further details.

The region's Local Enterprise Partnerships are:

- Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough
- Hertfordshire
- Kent and Greater Essex and East Sussex
- New Anglia (Norfolk and Suffolk)
- South East Midlands

They are putting their boards in place and beginning to work out how they will operate. Contact details can be found at: http://cambridgeppf.org/eecs/documents/lep_contact.pdf

The government has declared that "Local enterprise partnerships will play a central role in determining local economic priorities and undertaking activities to drive economic growth and the creation of local jobs." The economic health of our region is largely driven by knowledge-based activities, for which there is intense global competition for highly-qualified staff. It is up to our member societies repeatedly to remind the LEPs that attracting such staff to come here, and to stay, will make it important to keep our region attractive for people to live and to work in. This means preserving and enhancing its green spaces, heritage, culture, and the other things we all value. To this end, the Chelmsford Society, in partnership with a local group of the RSA (Royal Society for the encouragement of the Arts, Manufactures and Commerce) has been driving forward 'Changing Chelmsford' (<http://changingchelmsford.wordpress.com/>), engaging with the broader community about what is important to them. As part of this activity, they are organising a joint meeting on Monday 16 May with the local branch of the National Trust, to which EECAS members are invited. The meeting will be at the Anglia Ruskin University at 6.30 for 7 pm. For further details, contact Malcolm Noble: mnoable3211@yahoo.com

In Cambridge, we are running a project called '2030 vision' (<http://cambridgeppf.org/vision/>), asking what we want the Greater Cambridge sub-region to be like in 20 years time and what we must do now to achieve that. You are invited to come and debate Housing 2030 in Cambridge in the evening of Thursday 19 May. For further details, contact planning@cambridgeppf.org

Please feel free to email me about issues that concern you.

Peter Landshoff: pvl@damtp.cam.ac.uk
Chairman, East of England Civic & Amenity Societies

SAVING THE FUTURE PAST: The Norwich Society's Local Listing Project

Everyday things suddenly get more interesting as they age. Today's throwaway furniture and china are tomorrow's precious antiques. So it is with buildings. The ordinary suburban streetscape of one's youth eventually becomes a part of the common heritage. And all of a sudden bits of it are too important to be left to decay or the developer.

But there is always that gap between a building becoming interesting and getting it officially listed. And it was the particularly sad ending of a much-loved and idiosyncratic 19th Century pub, the Earl of Leicester on Dereham Road, knocked down overnight by a developer, that led the Norwich Society to begin what has become a major project – an inventory of unlisted though locally significant buildings in areas of the City within the outer ring road but outside official conservation areas.

In the last three years, using survey criteria drawn up with the help of one of the City Council's conservation officers, ten teams of volunteers led by an experienced conservationist have walked the mean and not-so-mean streets of Norwich's inner suburbs. Last spring English Heritage looked at the work in hand and confirmed that it was up to standard, and in the autumn a team of expert Society members, including a nationally-known conservation architect, whittled the list down to about 135 buildings and other heritage assets. All were judged to be important either to their local communities or to the City as a whole.

The finds ranged from significant Edwardian houses to a Co-op, a pub, a very rare Jewish Chapel in the municipal Earlham Road cemetery and a shoe factory. The next stage is public consultation, through the Norwich Society website and a major exhibition in the City's Forum Library during Heritage Open Days in September.

Hopefully the next step will be inclusion by Norwich City Council of the Local List within the Norwich Local Development Framework, in line with current advice from English Heritage. The Society has also submitted the work for possible inclusion in English Heritage's Good Practice Guide and is making moves to get the information onto Norfolk's Historic Environment Record (HER).

If it is to be of use in the public domain, then the HER is a good platform, not least because developers and planners consult the record as part of any development process. Local Listing does not protect a building outside a Conservation Area from demolition, but it does lend weight to any appeal for preservation. So the Earl of Leicester may not have died in vain.

Alec Hartley

Norwich Society

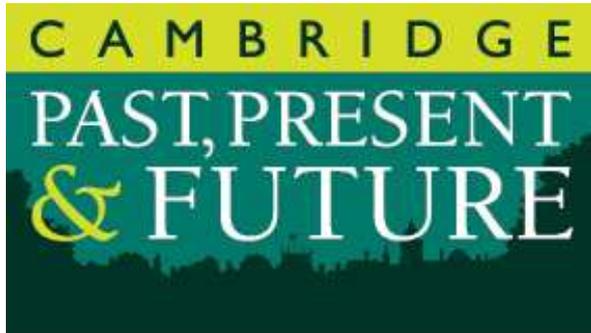
<http://www.thenorwichsociety.co.uk/>



The Norwich Society

Est. 1923 Registered Charity No. 311118

Building for our future – A Cambridge Workshop



Formerly Cambridge Preservation Society

By 2025, one in five people in South Cambridgeshire is expected to be over the age of 65. So what are the implications for how and what we build? Cambridge residents had their say on Tuesday 21 September 2010 – with a particular focus on the opportunities a more mature population presents with regard to major housing developments on the periphery of the city.

Nearly 50 people turned up for the meeting hosted by Cambridge Past, Present & Future and others at the Centre for Mathematical Sciences.

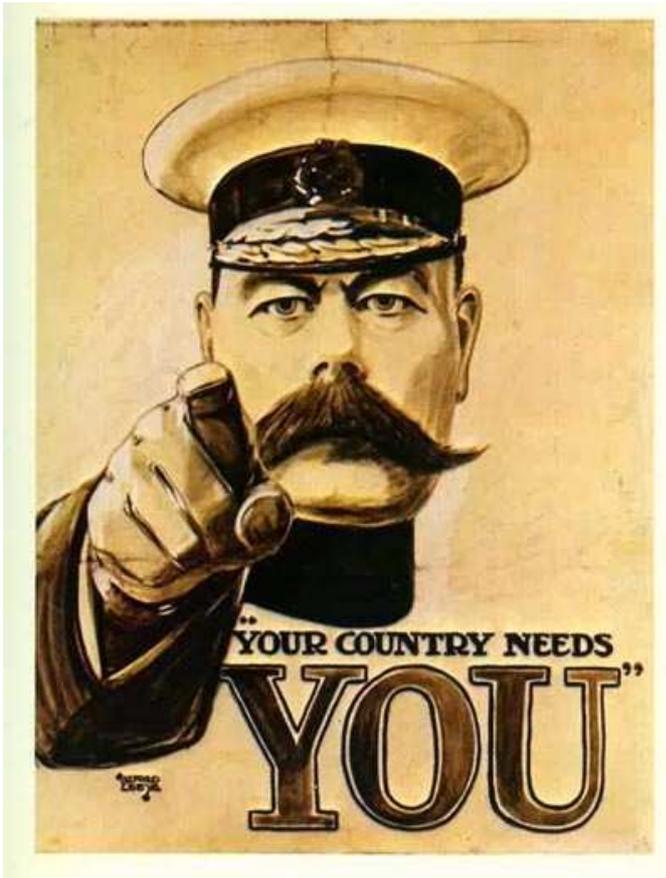
Morcom Lunt, from the Federation of Cambridge Resident Associations, chaired the meeting. Discussion began with introductory talks from Trevor Baker (Research Manager, Cambridgeshire County Council), Joe Oldman (Senior Policy Officer, Age UK) and Carol Brayne (Director, Professor of Public Health, University of Cambridge).

Attendees focused on practical recommendations, and during the session established a working blueprint for best practice regarding accommodation for an ageing population. This asks what must be done to help people stay in their own homes for as long as possible. The events key findings are shown below.

- Communities and homes must be designed to be adaptable to residents' changing needs as they age.
- Providing simple things such as level access, circulation space and walk-in showers could save the country more than £5 billion over the next 60 years.
- Isolation and loneliness are big challenges. Older people must have good access to services, shops, public toilets, green space and other facilities such as community halls, without needing to use private transport.
- 90% of older people live in mainstream housing. While they require a choice of housing, they want to be part of the community.
- The ageing population of Cambridgeshire will increase more rapidly than the national average, because of our economic success - the proportion of over 65s could double by 2031.
- People need advice in choosing - preparing early rather than moving in haste.
- Some people want to downsize as needs change. Houses can be built to allow division of family homes into smaller units.
- About a quarter of over 85s will have dementia, and more than half will have difficulties with locomotion and reaching up.
- Environments should not make things too easy: it helps to give people a bit of a challenge, keeping active is key to being able to enjoy our own homes for longer.
- There is a lack of awareness among architects and builders.

Further Information available at:

http://www.damtp.cam.ac.uk/user/pvl/PLANNING_OUR_FUTURES/



BIG Society & Localism

Seminar at

ELY CATHEDRAL CENTRE

Saturday 7 May 2011 from 1pm to 5pm

Organised by EECAS: the East of England Civic & Amenity Societies

Speakers include:

Tony Burton [Civic Voice] : The Localism Agenda

Neil Stott [Keystone Trust] : Big Society – Opportunity or Threat?

Alex Plant [Cambridgeshire Horizons] : Local Enterprise Partnerships

Paul Ainsworth [Cambridge CAMRA] : Saving Pubs

There are also limited places available for a rare chance to tour Ely's 15th Century Grade 1 Listed Bishop's Palace - early booking is essential

Venue: The Etheldreda Room, The Cathedral Centre, Palace Green, Ely, Cambs CB7 4EW
[Located opposite the main entrance to Ely Cathedral – please note that Ely has excellent train links.]

Travel information: <http://www.elycathedral.org/visitors/travelling.html>

Parking information: <http://www.elycathedral.org/pdf/carparkingposter.pdf>

To book please complete the booking form below and post it with a cheque for £5 payable to 'Cambridge Past, Present & Future', by 30 April 2011.

Contact: Nigel Bell 01223 243830 Ext 205 or E-mail: planning@cambridgeppf.org

BOOKING FORM

**for the 'Big Society & Localism' Seminar
7 May 2011 at Ely Cathedral Centre**

Please complete this form and post it with your cheque to:

Ely Seminar
Cambridge Past, Present & Future
Wandlebury Ring
Gog Magog Hills
Babraham
Cambridge
CB22 3AE

Name:

Organisation (if applicable):

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Do you wish to book on the 5pm tour of the Bishop's Palace?

Please note that places on this tour are limited and allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis...

You must include a cheque for £5 payable to:

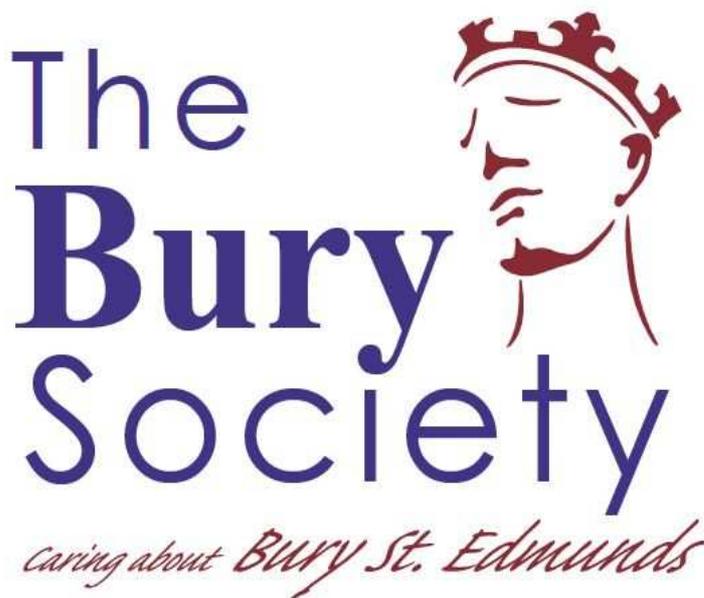
'Cambridge Past, Present & Future'

EECAS Seminar – Why not make a day out of it?

Please note that not only does Ely have excellent Rail connections but also has a host of attractions.

Please see Ely's Tourism Pages at: <http://visitely.eastcambs.gov.uk/attractions/where-visit>

BURY SOCIETY CELEBRATES 40 YEARS



Registered charity 263230

Founded 1971

The Bury St Edmunds Society is marking its 40th anniversary with an exceptionally interesting programme; including a photographic competition titled 'My Bury', outings to the Olympic site and a celebratory dinner.

The society is campaigning to increase its membership of nearly 500, set out its views on plans for new housing, 'Vision 31', and the town's future needs.

The society was formed in 1971 following a hard fought battle to save historic St John's Street from being demolished and replaced by a concrete shopping mall.

It also campaigned to save the 19th century Corn Exchange from a similar fate and is now urging caution over the likely conversion of the building into a Wetherspoon's pub and restaurant.

You can find out more about the society on the website <http://www.burysociety.com/>

E-newsletter Editor:

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(I usually work Tuesday and Wednesday – if unavailable, please leave a message)

E-mail: planning@cambridgeppf.org

Please e-mail or call me with news and articles from your area.