

e-Newsletter for May 2013 from the East of England Civic & Amenity Societies Committee



EECAS e-newsletter May 2013

Regional Summer Seminar - Saturday 6 July 2013

Protecting Your Local Heritage:



The Built Environment

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Venue: Becket Chapel, Peterborough Cathedral

Registration: 10 - 10.30am; Finish 3.30 – 4pm

Speakers include - detailed programme to follow:

- **Steve Graham – CEO, Civic Voice: NPPF, Local Plans etc. – update of planning policy**
- **Simon Hickman – Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas, English Heritage: The challenges posed by listed buildings: King's Cross & St. Pancras**
i.e. focussing on "constructive conservation" - the different approaches used in the regeneration of the historic environment in the King's Cross area
- **Peter Lee – Chairman, Peterborough Civic Society and Vicky Manthorpe – Secretary, The Norwich Society: Local Listing**

- **Carolyn Göhler - CEO, Cambridge Past, Present & Future: Update on Planning Policies: protecting local pubs**
- **Guided Walk - within historic core of Peterborough by the Peterborough Civic Society**
- share information with other regional civic and amenity societies.

Book in advance essential – please contact: Carolyn planning@cambridgeppf.org or (01223) 243830 Ext 203

Cost - £15 individuals (or £25 couples) by cheque payable to 'Cambridge Past, Present & Future' (to include coffee & tea as well as hire of venue).

There will be a break for lunch to visit Peterborough's shops and cafes.

Message from the Chairman

20 mph speed limit

I learnt several interesting things at a meeting on imposing a widespread 20 mph speed limit in a town:

- The Department for Transport has announced that this is now a priority for consideration by local authorities
- Some 20 towns now have 20 mph schemes, with a total population of 8.4 million. They include Edinburgh, Oxford, Bristol, York and Bath.
- On average, the result is a 1.5 mph reduction in speed, and some 20% reduction in casualties
- Most people are JIMBYS (just in my back yard): they want a scheme in their area but do not want to observe those in other areas. This is partly because they feel pressure to drive faster from other drivers, and they do not fear getting caught. They want a clear enforcement strategy, which targets taxis among other drivers, with more clear signs, particularly illuminated vehicle-activated ones.

Gross national product

As a particle physicist, I have spent 40 years studying experimental data and I have learnt that one should never, never, quote data without including their likely errors. So why does the Office for National Statistics do it? We have learnt this week that last year it needlessly threw politicians and economists into panic by reporting that the GNP had decreased by 0.1%. That surely was a nonsense statement: can they really measure the GNP to an accuracy of less than 0.1%?

Heritage Lottery Fund

The April meeting of the region's Historic Environment Forum heard a presentation about the [Heritage Lottery Fund](#). Among the points made were:

- The fund will award £375 million per year for the next 5 years, more than twice as much as was expected 5 years ago
- In deciding on applications, the Fund has moved away from "criteria" and is concentrating more on "outcomes" related to the difference that is made through Lottery funding
- In our region, Luton, Castle Point and Thurrock, the Fens, Broxbourne, Three Rivers and Watford, have had less money than average
- There are open-grant programmes for different ranges of funding: £3k to 10k, £10k to 100k, and over £100k
- In addition, there are various targeted programmes. One is for partnerships between a youth body and a heritage organisation, others for places of worship, parks, landscape, townscape heritage etc.
- A programme to commemorate the First World War will be launched this summer

East of England Estates Gazette

In a recent newsletter, the Cambridgeshire/Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership has drawn attention to a [publication](#) that carries news about various developments around the region.

Bicycle paths

According to the 2011 Census, just less than 4% of residents in our region use a bicycle to travel to work, while in Cambridge it is more than a quarter. Even so, and rightly, there is strong campaigning for more cycle paths, and it is urged that they be at least 2m wide. But this can cause disfigurement to our precious green spaces, the more so if the paths are to be lit at night.

What is the most attractive solution?

Heritage centenary

On 7 March I spent the day at an English Heritage master class to mark the centenary of the Ancient Monuments and Amendments Act, which is also being celebrated by a BBC4 series [Heritage! The Battle For Britain's Past](#) and by exhibitions at the [Wellington Arch](#) in London. Championed by the former viceroy of India Lord Curzon, the act introduced listing, and founded the national heritage collection of buildings now looked after by English Heritage. The [searchable on-line list](#) of listed buildings now has 375,000 entries, covering 500,000 properties.

The master class took place at [Wrest Park](#) in Bedfordshire. English Heritage has been restoring the house and a large area of formal gardens laid out in different styles. It is well worth a visit.

Meeting of regional chairs - Civic Voice

A second meeting of regional chairs took place on 25 February, together with four of the Civic Voice trustees. Civic Voice now seems to recognise that the disbandment of the old Civic Trust regional structure was a mistake, and it was agreed that the regional chairs should meet regularly, probably 4 times a year.

Local listing

Following his offer at the last Civic Voice AGM to give advice to societies, at the January meeting of the EECAS Committee Peter Lee of the Peterborough Civic Society gave a short [presentation](#) on how the society had compiled a new list of Buildings of Local Interest. It was the view of the Planning Authority that the list should form an annex to the new Local Plan to ensure the Local Plan conforms to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework. Since then there has been an exchange of experiences among regional chairs. It is clear that many local authorities are able to provide little effort or money, and so civic and amenity societies can play a valuable role. An example of a local list is that of [Wakefield](#). For more information come to our seminar on 6 July 2013 (see details right above).

Peter

Please feel free to email me about suggestions and issues that concern you

Peter Landshoff: [pvl at damtp.cam.ac.uk](mailto:pvl@damtp.cam.ac.uk)

Chairman, East of England Civic and Amenity Societies

OTHER NEWS

HS2 consultation

Consultation has opened on the draft design and environmental statements for HS2, the high-speed rail line linking London to the West Midlands (includes potential impact of the line, including plans for mitigation and integration into the landscape and follows representations made to date from concerned groups).

Consultation runs until 11 July 2013. To see the full document and to respond, please click here:

<http://www.hs2.org.uk/draft-environmental-statement/> or follow the links in '[Have Your Say](#)'.

Victorian Society - Top Ten

The Victorian Society is calling on enthusiasts, experts and concerned local groups across the country to nominate Victorian and Edwardian buildings under threat - previous years have included everything from viaducts to stately homes, Victorian schools to pubs.

Buildings don't have to be listed to be nominated, but they do need to have been built between 1837 and 1914. For more information, click here [\[http://www.victoriansociety.org.uk/news/topten1/\]](http://www.victoriansociety.org.uk/news/topten1/).

From the e-Newsletter Editor:



Please e-mail or call me with news and articles from your area for the next issue: deadline mid June 2013.

Carolin Göhler –

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