

Vivacity
presents

Case study 3: Peterborough

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Peterborough: Brief history

1118 Peterborough Abbey

1330 Longthorpe Tower

1541 Peterborough becomes a city
(population 1500)

1850 Great Northern Railway London to York line
opened

1901 30,872 people

1967 Peterborough Development Corporation.
Prior population 80,000, post 160,000.



The Peterborough Effect – November 16 2017

Expanding Peterborough under the New Towns Act;
Graham Walker, Architect, formerly of Peterborough
Development Corporation

Peterborough in 2017 – Where we are now; Simon
Machen, Corporate Director Growth and Regeneration,
Peterborough City Council

Heritage and Culture in Peterborough New Town;
Richard Hunt, Head of Culture, Vivacity and Ivan Cutting,
Eastern Angles Theatre Company

Expanding Peterborough under the New Towns Act

26,000 new homes

25,000 new jobs

26 miles of new parkway

2,500 acres of green space
(Nene Park)

Queensgate shopping centre



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Peterborough today:

Out of 62 cities, Peterborough is:-

- 1st for annual housing stock growth (1.7%)
- 4th fastest growing city by population (1.8% annual growth)
- 10th highest for housing price growth (8.1% annual growth)
- 7th highest for the proportion of private sector jobs (3.8 private to 1.0 public)

Peterborough today continued:

Development and Transport

Fletton Quays: 7 hectare river-fronted site, 5 minutes walk from the city centre

Peterborough Local Plan 2016-2036: allocations for 18,840 new homes

Fastest commute time by car of any UK city

Fletton Quays



Peterborough today continued: Challenges

28% population increase 2013 to 2031

Housing register – 3,300 and increasing

Skills - Business demand for higher level qualifications, lower than the national average for professional and technical skills, 14% of the workforce have no formal qualifications.

Peterborough has one of the lowest Council Tax levels in the country

Need to save a further £38m over the next 3 years

Heritage and Culture in Peterborough New Town

40 Years On project

Catalogue the records of the Peterborough Development Corporation

Run an oral history project across three stages

Produce a theatre production for touring round the city and beyond.

Statistics

400 boxes of material

114 volunteers (9276 hours)

128 oral history interviews

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Parkway Dreams

Value of New Town Heritage in Peterborough

Examples of value

- Success of Forty Years On
- Strong appreciation for reminiscence of the 1960s onwards- Archives talks
- Peterborough Civic Society a keen ally
- Appreciation of successful elements of PDC work: Nene Park, parkways, Queensgate
- “Subconscious appreciation” - Rhubarb Bridge
- Desire by some for Queensgate to be listed

Value of New Town Heritage in Peterborough

Examples of lack of value

- Peterborough doesn't identify as a New Town
- No 50 year celebration
- Civic Society haven't put forward much interest towards specific PDC protection
- Demolition of buildings – Bretton Wood School
- Council not following PDC ideals: Fletton Quays, Queensgate refurbishment

Google images: “Peterborough”



Value of New Town Heritage in Peterborough

Reasons for devaluing of New Town Heritage

- Lack of support from important advocates eg Local History Society
- PDC left a lot of responsibility to PCC: financially difficult
- Changes in City planning
- Lack of civic pride in PDC areas
- Generational divides

Impact of New Town Heritage project

- Presence on Peterborough's Digital Timeline
- New Town Heritage influence in Archives education programme
- Influence on wider Archive activities: talks programme, projects

Going forward

- Influence other areas of the business: museums, arts, libraries

Advantages of increased New Town Heritage understanding

Public educated in New Town Heritage can lobby against threats

Increase in Civic Pride

Improve community: Peterborough currently a fractured city post-Brexit (72.4 % turnout, 61% leave)

Protect New Town Heritage