



BEVERLEY & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2014

Civic Society Study Day – Friday 7th November 2014

'Houses, Architects and Gardens in Georgian Beverley'

The speakers will be:

David and Susan Neave: '*Houses and People of Georgian Beverley*'.

John Wilton Ely: '*Lord Burlington and William Kent: a Georgian Yorkshire partnership*'.

Lenora Greensides: '*Examples of Georgian gardens in Beverley and Beyond*'.

More details will be in the next Newsletter.

Pamela Hopkins

Membership

The membership year has nearly finished, and members are reminded payment for membership is due at the AGM on 12th October. Payment via standing order is the easiest way to pay the yearly fee of £15. The constitution states that membership will lapse if the subscription is unpaid six weeks after it is due.

Wendy Usher-Bacon
Membership Secretary

Annual Dinner

The annual dinner, which has not been printed in the programme, will take place on 24th October Cerrutti2, Station Square, Beverley. The menu and booking form will be in the September news letter. For further information contact me on 07970886479.

Wendy Usher-Bacon

Forthcoming Public Meetings & Events...

All meetings are held in St Mary's Parish Hall, North Bar Within, Beverley.

Tuesday 24th June 2.30 pm.
Pat Deans
Beverley Minster

PTO

Monday 14th July 11.00 am.

Summer outing to Scawby Hall, Lincs

Tuesday 9th September 7.30 pm.

Michael Flowers

A year of Swine Moor birds

ERYC's unjustifiable proposals to build on Beverley's green fields

At present, East Riding of Yorkshire Council's proposals are merely that. We are now in a period of deliberation in which the many weaknesses in these proposals, and the failure properly to explain them, must be examined. There will be a public examination of ERYC's proposals in the autumn. May I urge members of this Society to attend? Many questions remain, among them:

- The current agreed and approved local plan for Beverley shows no new housing development to the north or south of the town. Why is the current plan being so radically altered?
- ERYC so far has muddled need with demand in its attempted justification for expansion. ERYC quotes population increases, even if they are largely caused by demand and a dormitory population - as a way of attracting developers, who of course continue that line of argument in their press releases. Their statements are somehow given considerable publicity as if what developers say is authoritative.
- What, percentage-wise in the consultations about these matters so far, is the rough balance of support for and against ERYC's proposals? During early consultations about this new local plan, we were offered a simple choice: to remain a market town in character, surrounded by a green belt – or to become a suburb, more or less, of Cottingham and Hull? Was ERYC prepared to accept the result of those consultations, and do the present proposals reflect that?
- ERYC has never given good planning reasons for changing the route of the southern bypass, and taking in more green land. What reasons can the council give us now? Or will ERYC simply reach for its specious 'supply of land' argument ?
- ERYC has said much about a requirement that local authorities should identify a supply of land for possible housing development in the future. This is merely general national planning guidance, however, and the Hull and Beverley area has quite different housing needs from, say, the south east of England. The whole point of local government is to tailor general national guidance to local circumstances. Moreover, local authorities are required to consult with neighbouring authorities in determining land use in their area. How conscientiously has ERYC done this?
- If so, where are the records of ERYC's meetings with neighbouring authorities concerning this important matter, and what decisions were jointly reached, especially about the relative housing needs of Hull and Beverley in this region? The documents ERYC has submitted to the Inspector reveal a grave disconnect between Hull's and ERYC's plans.
- Why build on Beverley's green belt when the real housing need, as opposed to demand, is in Hull - and Hull, just a few miles away, has brownfield sites suitable for such development and vast urban renewal potential. ERYC simply ignores this central question.
- Hull is to be our next City of Culture, and Europe-wide evidence shows that this designation can bring investment and increased vitality to a city. Siemens is to open a factory, bringing a thousand productive jobs, but to Hull, where there is an existing urban infrastructure, not in Beverley. I am certain that both Hull and Beverley residents will welcome these extraordinary opportunities to re-invigorate a great city. Using the

provisions of our town and country legislation, it is now the clear duty of all local authorities in this area to direct developers to Hull's urban renewal plans, not to tempt them to drive yet more bulldozers into Beverley's surrounding green fields. Any reasons ERYC may offer for disagreeing with this argument will be interesting. What are they?

- As we all will agree, Beverley has its own different and very considerable attractions: its Minster and St Mary's, its market, its medieval layout, its possibly unrivalled green surroundings, and its deserved reputation – a town both 'splendid and precious' -such that it is often ranked as a market town of national importance. It is potentially a World Heritage site. How is all this reflected in the plan that is being drawn up for Beverley's future? Preparing the town for a bid for World heritage status would be both exciting and refreshing, with much to show whatever the outcome. UNESCO advice in making such preparations is often available.
- Another requirement we hear nothing about from County Hall, but it certainly exists, is that local authorities must ensure that building and development work of any kind within a conservation area should maintain and enhance the character of that area. Will ERYC please demonstrate its existing commitment to that duty, and explain how that is reflected in its new proposals for Beverley?
- Our town and country planning legislation exists to protect our countryside as well as to ensure good urban development. What commitments has ERYC made to protecting the countryside around Beverley? I have found no demographic analysis that demonstrates a need, as opposed to a demand, for yet more suburbs to be built on what are still green fields around Beverley. What neutral analysis, not confusing demand with need, has ERYC relied upon in any attempt it might have made to justify its present proposals ?
- What reasons does the council give for the abandonment of Southwood, a large recreational area, planned and formally approved as the equivalent of Westwood to the south of Beverley? This ambitious plan, the product of the best of County Hall thinking, was deliberately designed to emphasise the importance of preserving what is special to Beverley's market town character, surrounded by green pastures and open fields. The scheme was inaugurated by a tree-planting by a former leader of the county council. What has happened to Southwood? It cannot have been rejected on grounds of cost, for ERYC already owns some of the land needed, and of course the open fields are already there. Such a carefully discussed, agreed, costed, and approved scheme must not disappear without thoughtful explanation, so what is the explanation for its complete absence in ERYC's thinking?
- Why is ERYC apparently ignoring flooding possibilities to the south of Beverley Minster, and what steps are proposed for the safety of the Minster and its environs in the future?
- Has ERYC ever opposed the building of yet more supermarkets in and around the town? Or does simple demand, obeying which appears to be ERYC's only instinct, exploiting to the full the goose that lays its golden eggs and bringing in the developers, always win the day?
- I hope that ERYC will show considerably more commitment to recognising Beverley's distinctive and outstanding qualities. Beverley is a place that absolutely everyone but County Hall, it seems at the moment, wishes to see appropriately conserved, nurtured and cherished. Will ERYC please make that commitment, and adjust its current local plan proposals accordingly, as it agreed, for example - a welcome and imaginative change of heart - to keep Beverley's stone setts?

These are only some of the questions that I have heard being asked since ERYC published its current land use proposals. I am sure, in the interest of transparent local government, that County Hall will welcome the opportunity, in a fair and open public space like this, to answer them. Our county councillors will have to agree that a failure to give evidenced and reasoned answers might give the impression that ERYC prefers to operate secretly, or are these new proposals based on more than so far unexplained whimsies?

PTO

Finally, ERYC's leader, in an over-his-dead-body statement, promised that there would be no more housing to the south of Beverley. Would he care to comment?

Richard Wilson

Editor's Footnotes - and thanks to Barbara English for some last minute additions

- A year ago I wrote that I had been informed by the Secretary to the Pasture Masters that action would be taken in connections with the all-day car parking on the Westwood near Westwood View. Following that nothing happened as the Pasture Masters, Council and Police played pass the buck. Eventually the Pasture Masters decided to employ a parking firm to enforce the bylaws, and the cars immediately disappeared. But the ward councillor who had been most vociferous that something had to be done by the Pasture Masters questioned the legality of this (admitting he didn't know the bylaws) and the cars immediately came back again. This is a ridiculous situation, and unless the councillors are prepared to act themselves they should keep quiet.
- Readers of Saturday's national *Guardian* will have noticed with pride that on 7th June Beverley and its great food was praised to the skies: 'Beverley, in the east of the county, smells of woodsmoke and clean air and is every bit as pretty as the Cotswolds. At every corner there's a deli groaning with local produce, or a quirky little bistro' (naming them). Enjoy.
- Beverley Georgian Festival (a partnership between the Civic Society and Beverley Renaissance) announces with pride their Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £8,800. We believe we are the only town in Britain to be recognising the accession of George I, and the beginning of a glorious age for Beverley and Britain. It is also the 300th birthday of our beautiful Market Cross, now being carefully restored - join the party in September.
- It is planned that from the next newsletter onwards there will be a column informing membership of their Executive Committee's recent activity.

Neil King

Articles in the Beverley & District Civic Society Newsletter express the views of individuals and are necessarily the official view of the Society.

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Please send material by email if possible: this saves re-typing. However, if you do not use email, no matter – all contributions and letters, no matter how brief, are welcome. **The deadline** for copy to be included in the Autumn 2014 Newsletter is **Sunday 24th August 2014**.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A WEEK EARLIER THAN THE USUAL END-OF-MONTH DEADLINE

32% of our membership now receive this newsletter in electronic form via email, thus saving valuable Civic Society resources for other use, not to mention the distributors' shoe-leather and time. It is appreciated that many do not use email or prefer to receive their newsletter in hard copy form, but if you are able and willing to join the e-circulation list, please could you let me know via the above email address. Many thanks.

English Heritage Day – Saturday 13th September 2014

A call for help

I'm sure you are aware that plans for the Beverley Georgian Festival are well underway. The Festival will run from Saturday 13th September to Sunday 21st and a brochure giving details will soon be available. The Civic Society contribution to the Festival is organising English Heritage Day when about 20 Georgian buildings in Beverley will be open to the public.

For the past 20 years English Heritage has organised Heritage Open Days throughout the country, and in Europe. This is the first time that Beverley has joined in. The aim of Heritage Open Days is to demonstrate the local heritage we have in this country and open up some of our splendid buildings for members of the public to visit. In the case of Beverley we are concentrating on Georgian buildings. We now have a list of about 15 houses and gardens to see.

English Heritage recommend that we provide three stewards at each site: one to take the name and postcodes of all entering the building, one to provide historical guidance (Susan Neave is providing a potted history of each building) and another to make sure that entry is limited in number.

So far I have gathered the names and email addresses of about 50 people who are willing to help. But we need more – about 100 in total. Each steward would be 'on duty' for a two-hour stint. Some Civic Society members have already given me their names but we always need more!

If you would like to take part in this venture could you either phone me (01482 861836) or send me an email.

prhopkins@prhopkins.karoo.co.uk

I look forward to hearing from you.

Pamela R Hopkins

BEVERLEY AND DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

A DAY EXCURSION TO SCAWBY HALL AND SAXBY CHURCH IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

MONDAY, 14th JULY 2014



Scawby Hall is a 17th century building set in 200 acres of park and woodland. Attached to the house is a walled Victorian kitchen garden of nearly three acres, which used to supply the hall with produce and flowers.

The house was begun about 1605 but over the centuries has received further additions. The kitchen dates back to around 1675. The house contains an interesting collection of paintings, portraits and china.

The oldest part of the house was begun by Richard Nelthorpe (1569-1640). The Nelthorpe family originated from Beverley where Edward Nelthorpe was mayor in 1609-10 and James Nelthorpe in 1641-2. Members of the Nelthorpe family still live in the house today.

Saxby All Saints Church -late 13th century Gothic with Gilbert Scot additions.

Programme of the Day

11.00 Leave Beverley by Pearson Coach, starting at the Durham Ox, Norwood.

12.00 Coach arrives at Scawby. A buffet lunch will be served at Sutton Arms.

1.30 Tour of Scawby Hall and gardens. Because the house is quite small the group will be divided into three.

4.00 Leave Scawby

4.30 Arrive Saxby where afternoon tea will be served in the rectory gardens or village hall if wet. There will be a tour of All Saints Saxby church

6.00 Coach departs Saxby

6.45 arrives Beverley

Cost: £30 per person. This covers coach travel, lunch, afternoon tea and entry to house. (If you are a member of Historic Houses Association deduct £5.50. = £24.50).

.....
NAME (please print).....

ADDRESS

.....POSTCODE.....

TELEPHONE NUMBER.....

I would like ticket(s) for the excursion to Sawby Hall on Monday 14th July and enclose a cheque for £..... in payment thereof. (Cheques made out to 'Beverley and District Civic Society').