

## Some Memories of John Dean....



*CITY PLANNING OFFICER*

*John Dean Dip TP. C.Eng. FRTPI MICE*

*Past President, The Royal Town Planning Institute*

*Special Professor, University of Nottingham Institute  
of Planning Studies.*



*F. Robson, M. Evans, C. Geere, J. Dean, A. Davison,  
D. Colver*

**From:** John dean  
**Sent:** 01 June 2018 15:12  
**To:** Grant Butterworth Justin Webber  
**Subject:** Visit to office. November meeting

Hello Grant and Justin,

Thanks for the recent note. An excellent idea re. Sir Peter. He would be a perfect recipient for an award like that. And it would show real flair on the part of the Institute. (It might be thought unusual if no one sees fit to seek my views—a President of the RTPI when he was Leader of the Council and one who worked closely with him on some innovative and, in those times, original schemes. On the other hand perhaps I would appear to be too close to be totally objective. Maybe you and I Grant, together with Peter, should go over some relevant matters?)

Regarding the planned meeting in November. It might be helpful to you if I give you the title of the paper which I am working on:

*'Town and Country Planning  
An enduring system 70 years on  
Reflections of an old practitioner'*

How about if I come in to spend some times with older documents on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, am? Don't go to any more trouble re the first structure plan. We should have long ago set up a proper archive. Mea culpa. In fact I have found in my possessions a copy of a an important preparatory document, *'Towards a Strategy for the Future-Preliminary Structure Plan Proposals for Leicester and Leicestershire: August 1972.* I'll hand it over/back in due course.

By the way; at that time the officer in charge of the plan at the County was/is an old friend of mine from even earlier times: Martin Bradshaw. He went on to become the boss at West Yorkshire Met County and then Head of the Civic Trust and later President of RTPI (Like another from our group at Manchester, Chris Shepley. Must be a record, 3 from a group of 6 professionals!

Regards, John

**Seventy Years of Town and Country Planning:  
progress, impairment, potential**

Purpose of the paper. To outline the background to the 1947 Act. The system: its aims, its development, its initial implementation, its modernisation through subsequent principal acts. To discuss the parallel development of theory and practice. To examine the changes and the consequences introduced since 1980. To outline a way ahead.

European planning, basic history, drawing on Camillo Sitte, Leonardo Benevolo.

Historical development of British planning, 19thC and later--effectiveness of early--then radical-- public administration.

Architectural determinism. The idea of extensive urban renewal. Le Corbusier et al.

Conservation and the historic environment.

The 1947 Act. Wartime idealism. Early practice and implementation.

The 60s and new ideas.

The 70s--structure plans and local (district) plans

1980s to the present. The erosion of planning. The increasing importance of the environment and 'sustainability'.

Urban design, its importance. Architecture and context. 'Look at me' design.

The need for reform, restitution and a system for the times

*Urban Observatory?  
Autumn 2018?*

# Reactions

Subject	Re: Influential Planner John Dean has died.
From	Ian Lindley
To	Grant Butterworth; Diana chapman
Cc	Mike Richardson; pw
Sent	08 August 2018 11:41
Attachments	<<JOHN DEAN.docx>>

Grant,

I hope you enjoy this.

Best

Ian

## **JOHN DEAN**

I had the privilege of working with John from 1984 until his retirement and I was deeply saddened to hear of his death.

He was a continuing source of inspiration and was a keen supporter of sound innovation. I grew used to his evening arrival in our section. We had a team book case which acted as a screen to the circulation corridor on floor 11 of New Walk Centre. Do you remember team bookcases? I would be at my desk and I would hear the glass door on the bookcase slide open.

I knew it could only be one person at 6.00pm, and, after a few moments a head would appear around the case, followed by the rest of John to enquire about my work. In 15 minutes he would fill me with possible project ideas that would take a couple of years to implement. In fact I came to dread the constant list of potential initiatives, as after a fortnight or so, he would enquire how I had got on with them, when I was still busy trying to address the list he had given me many months and sometimes years before! He never forgot or lost interest.

I learned, sadly, that few of my later bosses showed such interest in – let alone understanding of- the work of their none-core staff. I learned many good lessons from John's approach to management, which I have tried to emulate throughout my own management career.

Those that have had the misfortune to have to read my failed Doctor-style scrawl may associate with this recollection. I received a hand written 'Memo' from Mr Dean. I peered at it, turned it upside down, held it to the light and eventually handed it round my team for possible deciphering. None of us could read it. I passed it to my boss, Colin Thompson, who also failed and suggested Val Farmer, Mr Dean's Secretary.

“She will know – she reads his script all the time.” Val gave up and pushed it promptly onto the Chief’s in-tray with a note and said he would be in touch. Later John asked me to see him. He gave me a quizzical look. “I understand you are having difficulty with my writing...? Hmm, it was a response to your note to me.... It says, I cannot read your writing.” As I left his room he looked up and said, “There’s more to being City Planning Officer than bad hand writing you know!” Drat, I had been counting on that for progression.

He had a quiet but wicked sense of humour. I was once summoned by Val to ‘Report to the Chief Now – he wanted to see me about my budget outturn’. I must have dropped a clanger thought I. Grief, what have I missed? If the Chief – as we all called him – wanted to see me, it must be Cards time.

I entered his office. He and David Colver, the Asst City Planning Officer for Admin sat looking sternly over the desk at me. Not a muscle twitched in either of their faces as I sat down. “We wanted to speak to you urgently about your budget figures” said David. John didn’t move but maintained a stern look. “Specifically your outturn.” ‘Good God, I thought, I’m sure they all add up ok. I bet it’s central finance who have miscoded. Maybe it’s Mike Pepper who has knicked some of my funds. Maybe the centre’s figures are 3 months behind as always? Or, xxxx, perhaps I’ve dropped one.’

“How did you do it, asked John?” NOW his face broke into a smile. “It’s the closest spend to budget forecast we have ever achieved...” The swine.

John’s interests were wide and covered the whole panoply of what used to be called ‘sustainable development’, before that term was collared by every marketing sales type for their remarkably un-sustainable products.

John initiated and chaired the RTPi Urban Energy and Environment Network, which sought to raise the horizons of many participating expert and professional groups from across all sectors, to see beyond their own areas of expertise and to synthesise their work into a coordinated series of policies and processes. He was always the one that pushed us all hard to the very limits of our comfort and knowledge zones, and, behind the somewhat dingy facades of the old RTPi HQ, it created for him a number of tensions within the Institute with which he had to deal. It would have been easier not to bother, but when John believed in something he persevered. It must have been exhausting.

He tramped the streets of Leicester with me in the late 80’s and early 1990’s to assemble the caucus of the great and good that would support and help to implement the Environment City campaign and programme. This became an international role model for wider adoption. Indeed Leicester was one of only a handful of non-Government organisations from across the world, to be invited by the UN, to take an active part in the seminal 1991 UNCED (UN Conference on Environment & Development), which was held in Rio. On that occasion the Council Leader and others represented the city. John carried on in the UK. I got to speak in Derby.

In the years before Leicester became a Unitary Authority, John had already worked out, as both the Chief City Planner and by then also as City Engineer, how the City Council as a major landowner could use both Planning and landlord controls, to enable and manage improved housing design, of greater social mix, with much enhanced environmental performance. He demanded revised highway standards to move away

from the, soulless, divisive and monotonous and - then as now sadly - the ubiquitous distributor road and cul-de-sac solution that was being used throughout urban extensions. We worked with Alan Baxter to implement the new Government Highway Design Standards and set out to apply those at Ashton Green.

He told me during that period, how he was accosted by an irate lorry driver who was lost in the old centre of Leicester. John hesitated as to how to describe the route back to the south-bound inner ring road. It was so complex! Then he recounted that he better not mention that he was both the City Planner and City Engineer as he thought the man might clock him!

I once spoke at a conference on open space planning which was chaired by Chris Shepley, then the CPO for Plymouth. In our initial introductions to each other, he looked at me and said "Ahh, you're John Dean's man." I never felt more proud.

After I left Leicester in 2000, I maintained contact with John, and in the early naughties, I benefitted from his expertise around improving Development Control performance, and most recently we had been sharing ideas on the Landscape Institute's review of the role of Green Belt and considering how best to engage the RTPI with the review. John remained that constant source of ideas, of inspiration, of useful contacts and of insight on *process, policy and practice*, which together with *plans* were some of his favourite words that represented his view of the essential parts of the jigsaw of success.

I will miss his knowledge, his support and his friendship. The RTPI, should realise that they have now lost a great asset. I hope the many lessons and good practice initiatives that he championed will not be forgotten, but will be trawled for their sound content that remain relevant to our Planning world.

Ian Lindley September 2018

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Subject	<b>FW: Influential Planner John Dean has died.</b>
From	Jeevan Dhesi
To	Grant Butterworth; Steve Brown
Cc	Art Barnacle
Sent	08 August 2018 15:32
Attachments	<<JOHN DEAN.docx>>

Hi both

Grant – thanks for sharing Ian Lindley's thoughts.

Below is copy of my mail to Marie Holroyde (*italics*), sharing my sentiments. He was as I have said, a true visionary.

I believe his initiatives on Race and Planning eg the Places of Worship polic , ethnic monitoring , urban renewal, etc following the Scarman report in the eighties were instrumental in Leicester avoiding the inner city troubles that many others had. He had the ability to treat staff at all levels as

if they were at his level , and as a mere trainee planner, I recall he took me to actually present at a RTPI conference and a conference in Coventry within six months of my employment .

Steve – you will recall my oft mentioned ‘Hello JD, enjoy last night?’ moment following the cricket match!

Also as the other ‘JD’ in the department at that time, through the internal post, I would mistakenly receive handwritten notes from other Chief Officers – addressed to ‘JD, Planning’ referring to all sorts of high level issues. Regarding his humour which Ian Lindley highlights, I once took a few of these personally back to John Dean. During the afternoon I found in my in tray – in his famously recognisable handwriting – a note to JD (me) sealed in an envelope, stating - ‘You may wish to reply to this ‘ - ? ( it was a note from the head of Legal ,Arthur Price Jones seeking some thoughts on restructuring the Council and budgets !) In the evening he actually rang me and asked if I had any thoughts on the matter ..!

Never forgotten ..

*Very sad indeed .*

*I am here because of him !. A great visionary in many ways – including setting up the EM trainee planner schemes ahead of all others nationally, leading to me being here .*

*He wrote me a memorable letter after Keeret’s passing away, which I have still have.*

*I bumped into him occasionally in town – last one about a year ago - always had time for a chat .Last saw him about a month ago in town going to lunch with Grant and Pete Wilkinson but wasn’t able to say hello.*

*The best testimony I can give :*

*An honour to have known him and worked under him .*

*Will not be forgotten .*

*Jeevan*





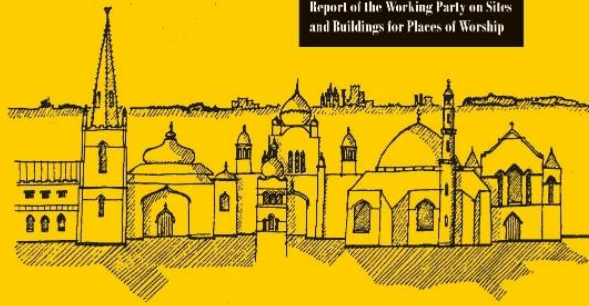




Leicester  
City Council

# PLACES OF WORSHIP IN LEICESTER 1987

Report of the Working Party on Sites  
and Buildings for Places of Worship



## DESIGN NOTES

### EXTERNAL AREAS

1

#### *Paving the Way*

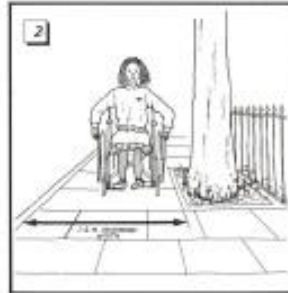
Problems of access for disabled people and people with limited mobility often begin outside the building. A poorly designed and maintained environment can place just as many obstacles in the way of access as an inadequate building.

Such obstacles can appear so great to some disabled people that they become reluctant to venture out at all.

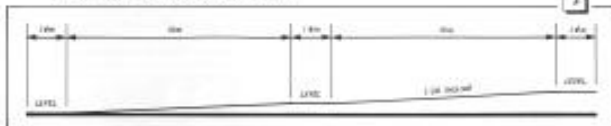
Every effort should therefore be made to provide an external environment which will encourage disabled people and others with limited mobility to go out and about.

#### **Pavements and Footpaths**

Where pedestrian access to any building or facility entails crossing a road or vehicular parking area, dropped kerbs and a clearly marked pedestrian zone should be provided (eg. by the use of kerbs).



1 Any changes in level should be accommodated by ramps and steps. A maximum gradient of 1:20 is recommended or 1:15 if steps are also provided.



2 Pavements and footpaths should have an unobstructed width of 1.2m minimum. This is required for double buggies and wheelchairs.

3 Edges of pavements and footpaths should be defined by the use of a kerb. This is important for blind people.

4 Kerbs should be dropped to a height of 1.5cm at access and crossing points. The maximum positive of drop should be 1:10, maximum width 1.4m where possible. Dropped kerbs are necessary for wheelchair users and people with pushchairs or buggies. However a small upstand is necessary for blind people to be able to identify the edge of the pavement and to help provide good drainage.



From: Diana chapman

> Sent: 09 August 2018 13:01

> To: Grant Butterworth

> Subject: John Dean

>

> The planning profession has lost a true legend.

>

> Not only was John a man of integrity but his actions as Leicester's City Planning Officer lived up to his ideals . What follows is just one aspect this.

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> John was keen to get a representative workforce that reflected the City he served . Thus ethnic diversity and a more gender balanced workforce was his aim, despite there being very few qualified women town planners in those days and even fewer from minority ethnic communities . To strive towards a more ethnically diverse department, a post graduate training scheme was introduced . Some of those trainees are now senior employees of the Council . To get more women returners and carers, part time posts were created .

>

> I joined Leicester in 1985 on a part time basis as one of only two newly created part time planning posts. Possibly the only ones in the UK at that time . Job share hadn't been thought of then ! After a long period of training to get qualified it was difficult in the 1980s to combine bringing up a family with keeping a career going, so I'd had to give up employment to care for my two young sons . I nearly lost my job at Leicester after I became pregnant with my daughter about a year later. John Dean stepped in to support me and against departmental policy at the time he enabled me to take six months unpaid leave . On my return I eventually went full time and ultimately became Head of Planning Policy and Design when I retired around six years ago . John was always an inspiration and I was fortunate to call him a friend once he retired . He was often borrowing books from our planning library to continue his study of all things planning related !

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> John not only encouraged women to progress in his department but also supported practical initiatives within the City . We worked on setting access standards to require wider doors, lifts and the provision of ramps down to the Waterside, wider parking spaces for those with limited mobility or accompanying children and baby changing facilities. The list is endless.

>

> He also spearheaded policies for places of worship , housing space standards and a plethora of environmental and regeneration initiatives . His approach was always positive, expecting his team of officers to look at ways of enabling sustainable and suitable development of the highest standard, rather than being negative and obstructive . It was not enough to say no to a proposal but come up with a workable alternative if the development was not up to scratch . We had a mission to serve the people of Leicester and future generations . The reputation of Leicester City Council as an exciting place to work was testament to his drive and vision, alongside the Councillors who shared his ambitions.

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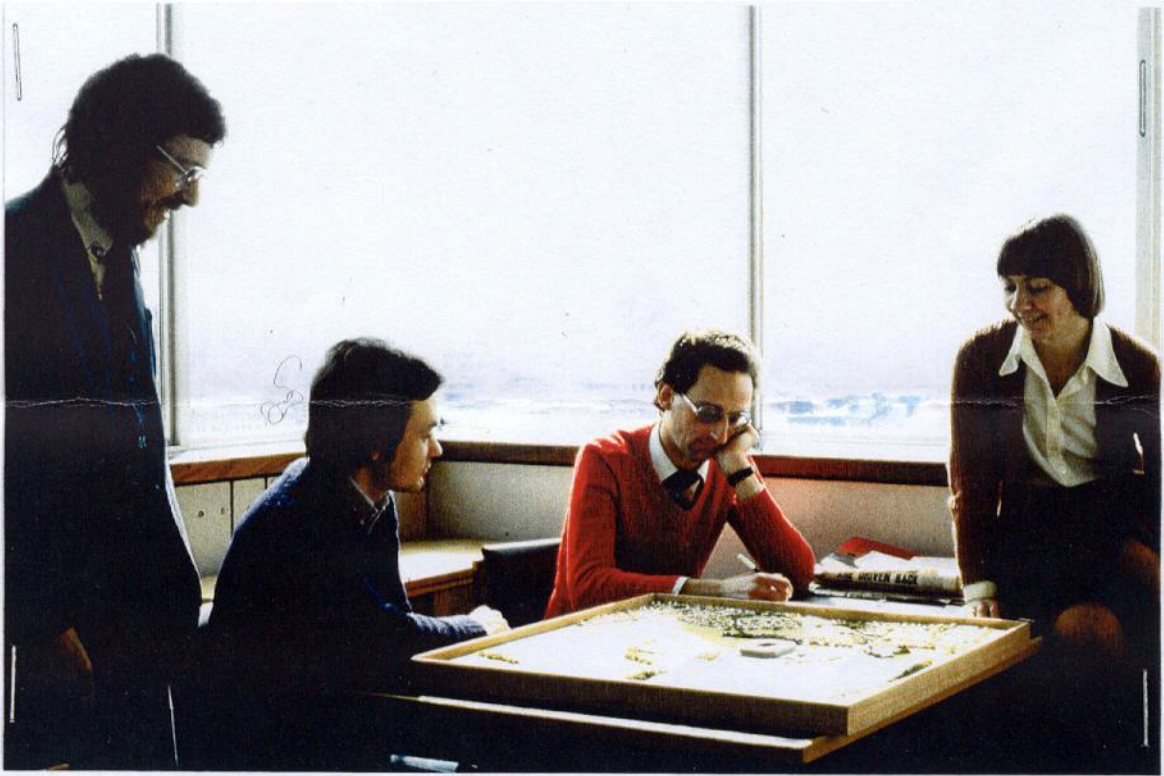
> Kind regards

>

> Diana

>

> Sent from my iPhone



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Subject	<b>FW: Our days on open space policy and ecology</b>
From	Justin Webber
To	Grant Butterworth
Sent	08 August 2018 09:19

**From: Ian Lindley**

**Sent:** Wednesday, **March 16, 2016 6:13 PM**

**To: John Dean**

**Cc:** Richard Riley

**Subject:** Re: Our days on open space policy and and ecology

Dear John,

Glad you are considering this as there were lots of ground breaking and successful initiatives:

1st the Ecology Strategy – winner of Eastern Region then national (Open Cat) BANC (Br Assoc of Nature Conservationists) Local Authority Wildlife Awards 1989. This was made poss by the City Wildlife Project (CWP) city-wide survey of over 1400 sites of ecological interest (completed 86 under overview of CWP Board which included (myself), Jenni Owen author of various nature in the city types of books and of some UK leading research & attended amongst others by the County Ecologist - to ensure compatibility of standards between county, LNR, NNR &SSSI etc categorisation. We had about £50K pa and planted annually around 155,000 trees, prepared 3000 sqm of wildflower meadow; 8 new ponds; 200 bird boxes, got a new LNR at Kirby Frith, creation of Prebend Gds, Spinney Hill Park brook edge softening etc etc examples, but importantly fed into the Local Plan to designate, protect, and lead to management, interpretation, enhancement and creation of eco / POS type issues, inc land purchase. Phil Lomax was the ex CWP ecologist who was the 1st such post appointed outside a Met County in the UK, (and given their demise maybe the only such role for a City for many yrs).

The Riverside Park Europa Nostra Dip of Merit also in 1989, (plaque on the Newark Bridge) which was for the creation of strategy / coordination of landowner and other interests and delivery (inc management) of the Park, (inc Gt Central Way – footpath/cycle/bridleway with Sarah Keyes / Julie Nixon holding fort there on much of that project). Award recognised the long term vision and phased delivery / persistent application of policy and effort on the ground to define, protect, manage, market, interpret and enhance the ‘park’ , incs land purchase and use of CPO, reclaim of disused sand & Gravel workings, (Watermead); ex domestic refuse sites (Aylestone Meadows); UK largest and derelict battery breaking plant, (off Narbro Rd), asbestos extraction / car and rly carriage breaking, (cant remember company name but next to the Gimsons / Raab Kaarcher Timber Yd (both relocated with £ under City Deal??); the Victorian gas making plant (inc gas holder base discovered during works again adj to Aylestone Rd), involvement of local volunteers (Aylestone Meadows Nature Trail) reclamation of towing path with BW( B); building of 22 mls of footpath / cycleways; interpretation, signposting; 1000’s of tree and native shrub planting, eco land management inc grazing regimes / stocking levels for LCC estate, pond construction and refurb, bridge restoration, steps, boundaries, disability access leaflets etc etc. 1984-91 funds were £1M LCC; £250K L Co Co; UDG £250K; UP £300K; STW £85K; private contribs £300K; BW

£50K; Coside Commn £75K. There were exciting links made between rather underused river-side museums (inc technology) and Watermead / Great Central Steam Trust via hired narrow boats and an LCC sponsored 'River Bus' from the restored Leicester waterside centre (LCC / Private works funded).

The Eco Strat (89) revealed that whilst Leicester may achieve excellence in one area, it really needed to seek to improve policy and practice in other fields such as transportation, energy, built environment, community engagement, economic/work focus, (i.e. which types of business to seek and how to promote the city); pollution; recycling and these together with natural environment made up the working groups for a cross sector approach and the creation of the LECTrust Board with reps from County & City Councils, private, voluntary and third sector reps. You may recall tramping the streets with me to set out the potential of this to stakeholders. This initiative emerged from the Ecology Advisory Group which met to coord the x agency interests to deliver the Eco Strat, (I chaired EAG on your behalf). We promoted this idea to the Civic Trust, (CT) which then involved RSNC Wildlife Trust Partnership; UK2000 (a Richard Branson env works / engagement of unemployed type of body that Thatcher spoke very highly of) (((even though we achieved better rates of placing our CP / YOP / ET / EP / YTS Riverside 'trainees' into permanent work with some 62% of ours finding PW compared with high 20's-low 30% by UK2000))); FoE; Br Trust for Conservation Volunteers, CSV and the Keep Britain Tidy Group. With the work of David Nicholls in particular (of CWP later Leicester Ecology Trust/LET), RSNC / CT backed the idea of a national campaign, got DoE funding and using Leicester as a pilot, launched a phased national award to get other cities to engage with the environment agenda that had emerged from the Stockholm Conference World Commn on Env & Devt 'Our Common Future' 1986. The LECT went on to gain £1M LIFE funding for 3 yrs and a further £300K also from LIFE (1st time LIFE had ever funded the same initiative twice) and was the ONLY UK vol body to be invited to attend the UNCED in Rio 1992 and one of only 7 such bodies in Europe to attend. I recall Peter Soulsby (well deserved ) plus the former Director of Env Health (never did understand how he achieved that) and Ian Roberts attended Rio (I got to go to a conference in Derby. Twas ever thus).

The ES spawned SNAIL (School Nature Areas in Leicester) using an annual awarded grant to a limited number of applicant schools for works to grounds inc planting / sowing, different mowing regimes for study purposes etc. The Community Woodland project, (to plant on monoculture parks and OS using both Countryside Commission / Agency funds (for paths, interpret / bins / seats / tables) matched with LCC and Forestry Commission to create eco / landscape / study etc features and a stream of timber income to LCC when harvested, (I came across a Black African community group at the Watermead CW 10 yrs later who use the site for their religious ceremonies (inc weddings) which I hadn't foreseen. I was so pleased.)

Inspired on my MA Landscape Design course by the 'Copenhagen 5 Finger Plan', I thought Leicester would lend itself to a similar approach with fingers of green piercing the city and enabling access to countryside / nature / open-air recreation opportunities / fresh air and flood zone / retention / ground water recharge / air flow corridors agriculture / city farm etc etc activities to be created and managed as an equal element of the city devt plans. The idea that the Green Wedges (policy adopted by LCC 1988) then linked to narrower green corridors (river / brook courses / old rly lines, POS joined up by land reclamation and by positive Planning policy to create links, and then be managed by LCC and local communities as part of the commuted sum approach from developer funding in Planning negotiations) spawned the 'Green Plan for Leicester.' Riverside formed 2 of the 9 'Wedges' which also had to balance the demand for public transport (P&R) sites from within their land allocation, (notably Birstall). I have written to you before (for RTPi comic) to outline my belief that this

approach is more useful than Green Belt, allowing for continuous mass tran corridor & growth of the city along predetermined corridors, but simultaneous parallel policy expansion of the wedges as the city grows. In each phase it would be the aim to fund some of the creation / adaptation and land management from developer contributions. No strangling growth, no hope value land neglect, no leapfrogging costs for commuters, and positive planning on a *permanent basis* for all the natural and other daily services of a city, (inc transport, recreation, green commuter walk / cycle corridors etc.) Pity no one is biting this one in the rather worn Green Belt debate. The Green Plan also used accessibility to POS as a Planning tool. Using cells defined by 'barriers' such as rail lines, rivers/ canal, major roads, the safe local access to POS (of different categories) was mapped to define areas deficient in certain types of POS and then Planning policy and funds adjusted accordingly to acquire / create / enhance access to / neg public access over private spaces, use new devt to create POS etc. This nested with NPFA stds for PLAY, but importantly expanded the POS to address casual recreation type spaces....I spoke at a few national conferences on that to RTPI / LI and Janice Morphet at Brum Poly in 1990.

The Hamilton SDA featured by LCC in the last 2-3 yrs as a 'ground breaking' approach to creating a multi-purpose water retaining body. I designed that concept when preparing the landscape master brief for Hamilton , (1988) to look attractive (and help sell the devt to developers / customers), to meet storm needs and to be of value to wildlife and possibly recreation, (so its design enabled a natural 'zoning' of activity in the larger open end and the intricate wildlife northern end – a concept I later used at the city lakes of Watermead. Unfortunately, I could never get our LCC engineers to accept that shallow profiling of the SDA bank edges was practicable, given that there was no 'shortage' of open space as the SDA sat in the POS allocation and thus could have been wider with shallower approaches and thus more user friendly / eye sweet. I was adamant it was NOT going to be a crater in the ground with a few discarded trolleys or a soggy football pitch (a la Beaumont Leys) in the base or worse surrounded by broken chainlink with vandalised keep out danger signs around it. At least we achieved that and I was thus pleased to see that LCC was still peddling it as a success recently.

Ashton Green is worthy of note and I think the web site for that is useful, but the background story is of course more tortuous. I recall some CPO suggesting that as LCC owned the land, was Highway, Planning and Drainage authority, we ought to be able to do better. MGE fiddled about with University WE to get some master Plans prepared that were inappropriate and cost a lot and then LCC didnt own the rights to their use! I was in the newly formed Environment Unit at the time having returned from LECT to find I had no post, no staff and no budget. I offered to help MGE and with the talented Marcus Adams architect set up discussions with experts in all the above LECT type of fields to set down what a leading edge devt may look like, cost be spec'd etc. That took about 12 mths and then Marcus and I prepared a series of overlays for a master Devt Plan and a family of briefs. I was v keen that we marketed and released land differently and got the support of Peter S to do this differently. I spoke at a regional House Builders Conference showing them the context (Charnwood Hills and villages views, Castle Park, local schools access to bypass etc etc and the Master Plan and devt objectives. I recall both Nile and poss Fraser there. There was little comment at the time and I returned to the office thinking it had sunk. The phone didn't stop for 6 mths thereafter and I was invited to see Caxton (now Cambourne) by Macleans who wanted to buy the lot. I explained we wanted a variety of developers / product and would phase the site over time and moreover look to a Building Licence release approach to ensure we maintained control of the land and that developers built out to an agreed contract (as per Coin St at the time). Land value rose from barely £100K / acre to £350K / acre at a time when national and local land values were static and we moved from the predictable Estates



Dpt / staff led usual suspects offering cartel agreed low land offers and building out for £49,950 to developers falling over themselves to get a foothold. It was at this time that I had moved to UrbanRegen and I recall PAS asking me not to bring in more than £5M pa as it would affect our Govt settlement adversely. Not sure LCC used Building Licences in the end. Missed a trick if they didnt. I may be going off topic here so will stop.

I have cc'd in Richard Riley who as you know is still with LCC and formed part of the team. He may be able to add to this, but I know his time is extremely precious.

Hope this helps, I've just bashed it down so it is a bit disjointed and staccato so if you struggle with any concepts / abbreviations etc or need more do try me again. Remember, none of this would have happened but for you. It was one of the most enjoyable (albeit exhausting) times of my career and the team I had was excellent. Like you, I wish I could have taken them with me through my career.

Re Floods, this area didn't really get caught, though the Tweed did flood as usual, (and provided a nice supply of free wood for my log burner). As we live on the side of a (south facing) hill, I think the UK would go under before we did. My microclimate analysis always leads me to think about such issues. If we were 50 feet higher we would be in the low cloud zone. Any lower and the damp / frost pocket and east-west wind corridor along the Tweed. There are no houses in the floodplain proper, though I never discount a 1000 yr flood possibility! I saw the video of NWC falling down and was relieved to hear that Richard in his UD role has had involvement in its successor scheme.

Very Best. Contact me any time or if you need more. I will look for the talks stuff, though most of that went a few yrs back, I know where it may be if I still have it, so will take a look before the weekend and let you know.

Ian

**From: Ian Lindley**

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2016 3:02 PM

**To: John Dean**

**Cc:**

**Subject:** Our days on open space policy and and ecology

Dear Ian,

Hope all is well with you and the flooding earlier in the year did not trouble you?

Both the University here and City Planning are exploring the idea of a seminar and an exhibition on the history of policy/schemes etc. I have been consulted on various matters. Can you recall the awards/citations which came around 1990 and the Europa Nostra commendation of a few years earlier. We did put some of the plaques on the corridor wall on floor 10. (You probably know that the New Walk Centre was demolished a couple of years ago?). Also, can you recall which national organisations were behind awarding the 'Environment City' accolade.



Certainly, if you have any other recollections from your time with Leicester, kindly let me know. Anything on the Riverside, Watermeade, the Ecology Strategy? If you are of the opinion that any other scheme/policy was innovative and worth considering as particular to our time, please prompt my memory. You presented a paper for a conference in London which I attended with Peter Soulsby. Do you have a copy?

Best Wishes, John



## **John Dean- A personal Thank You**

Planning can be a challenging job. Most planners seek to make the world a better place by trying to reconcile conflicting positions, of developers, neighbours, councillors and Government. This can lead to less than optimal decisions.

The best planners, however- like John Dean was to the core- are fiercely confident in their beliefs and judgement. John led. John delivered. John set the agenda and expected his staff to make sure things happen, and they did. Mr Dean did instill not a little fear but much more respect in his staff, and together they achieved much in securing Leicester's position as a thriving sustainable city which emerged from the manufacturing decline of the 1970's well placed to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

The news last week of his passing was received with much feeling and sorrow in the office

When I joined Leicester City Council as Head of Planning four years ago, I was very keen to meet him- he was a legend in the office, and he didn't disappoint. I found him to be an effervescent fount of memories, anecdotes and very generous with giving advice/direction on all matters planning and Leicester. His memory was crystal clear, and he embellished stories of Leicester's development characters and schemes over the last 50 odd years with sharp wit and a mischievous twist. He told me the truth about Smigielski's departure (bit of a political cloud there) and many other reminiscences quite few of which are not shareable over social media. I enjoyed a number of lunches with John and my predecessor as Head of Planning, Mike Richardson and 'young' Steve Brown Leicester's Group Manager for Planning. All three of us were treated to John's warmth and humour, with not a little spice in terms of the planning issues of the day- John kept a keen eye on what we were up to.

He was very proud of the profession, but angry about how planning was suffering from Government interventions which didn't appreciate the subject's complexity and purpose. John knew how to ensure the development world properly respected key environmental and social- as well as economic- objectives. John marshalled letters to the Times from Past RTPI presidents taking the Government to task, and his grasp of the key policy issues of the day never dimmed.

From high status as Fellow and Past President of the Royal Town Planning Institute, to the initiator of numerous innovations in planning for the City, when John spoke, people listened

John was proud of many diverse achievements: ground-breaking flood protection works designed with county council colleagues in the 1970's in the absence of government direction or leadership. Under his stewardship the City won the Europa Nostra award; John appointed one of the first Access Officers, and was keenly aware of the need to make sure planning policy respected the diverse cultural needs of the City's growing communities. John was a driving force behind the production of the first edition of the 'Quality of Leicester'- a book which celebrated the heritage of the city in a way which made people look at the city afresh, and lifted the confidence and pride of citizens and officers alike

There will be other places where John's achievements will be recognised and celebrated, but it is a real shame that we will not get to hear John's Leicester Urban Observatory City Series lecture outlining 70 Years since the enactment of the 1947 Planning Act which we were planning for this November.

The last time I saw John I passed him some notable but dusty Leicester planning documents for him to research for the lecture. John remembered every detail of them, from the Beaumont Leys Masterplan to the seminal joint Structure Plan adopted in the early 1970's- hearing his lessons learnt would have been fascinating and enlightening.

Such a shame. But I owe John thanks for one more thing.

In the final year of my Planning Degree at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, I was given a tough time by a fearsome external examiner who tested the logic and thinking behind my 80,000 word dissertation. Despite the grilling, in the end I got a good mark and avoided my 'Desmond' as a result. I'd forgotten his name until we met almost thirty years later. John said he remembered me, and the dissertation- I think he was being charming and generous- but I never got chance to thank him for his 'hard but fair' assessment which set me on my way in my planning career.

Thank you John.

My sincere condolences go to Alwyne and all his family in coming to terms with such a great loss- truly one of a kind who will be very sadly missed indeed

Grant Butterworth, Head of Planning, Leicester City Council

6th August 2018





