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| **URBAN UPDATE** | **7th Jan 2016** |
| **Main news**  **Look to the hills to prevent urban flooding**  Road Test Frideswide Square Oxford  **Contact with nature may mean more social cohesion, less crime**  How crowded should or can cities get? What should be driving tower design?  **New Recognised Practitioners in Urban Design**  January Events  **Jobs – EDP, Turley, Barton Willmore, Crawley BC** | **from the Urban Design Group**  *A free service for all individuals and organisations who care about life in cities towns and villages ……… planners – landscape architects – architects – conservation practitioners – engineers –surveyors – masterplanners – managers – urban designers - urbanists – health professionals - politicians – public*  ***We are here to encourage anyone and everyone who wants to see better urban design – the design of towns and cities – streets and spaces*** |

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| ***National Urban Design Awards 2016***  **Wednesday 9th March 2016**  **18.15-22.15**     * Practice Award - Francis Tibbalds £1000 Award * Public Sector Award * Book Award * Student Award – Francis Tibbalds £500 Award * Lifetime Achievement Award   Practitioner Tickets - 50 % discount **£37.50**  UDG, RICS, RIBA, ICE, CIHT, RTPI and other sister professions  Standard Tickets **£75**  [**http://www.udg.org.uk/events/national-urban-design-awards-2016**](http://www.udg.org.uk/events/national-urban-design-awards-2016)  ***Next UDG Solent Event***  **Update on Garden Cities – David Rudlin – UDG meeting Savills Southampton, 4.00pm Thursday 21st January 2016**  David Rudlin from Urbed has kindly agreed to provide an update on his Wolfson Economics Prize winning work on delivering Garden Cities.  This is currently planned for the 21st January in Savills offices, 2 Charlotte Place Southampton.  ***UDG London Events 2016***  **Film Night – Urban Agriculture**  **– Brooklyn Farmer**  Followed by Q and A  Wednesday 13 January @ The Gallery  <http://www.udg.org.uk/events/london-and-south-east/urban-agriculture-%E2%80%93-brooklyn-farmer>  **Public Space or Corporate Public Space**  led by Philip Cave  Wednesday 10 February  **Latin America**  Tuesday 15 March  ***South West***  ***Urban Design - From Process to Place***  RTPI supported by UDG  16th March 2016 - @ Taunton  <http://rtpi.org.uk/media/1576329/draft_programme2_-_urban_design__16th_march_taunton.docx>  <http://rtpi.org.uk/the-rtpi-near-you/rtpi-south-west/events/>    Home  PRACTICE OF THE WEEK  **Bradford City Plan**  [**David Lock Associates**](http://www.urbandesigndirectory.com/practices/david-lock-associates)    KEY PROPOSALS  Bradford City Plan responds to the city’s growth ambitions by drawing together different elements of regeneration to form a plan for action and delivery of the coming decade. City Plan identifies the roles and responsibilities of the key partners who will drive forward these plans. The list of partners includes academic institutions, leading businesses and agencies across all sectors.  OUTCOMES  City Plan will now form the basis for a decade of delivery in the City, ensuring that Bradford City Centre asserts its role in the district and wider City Region as a centre of learning, living, culture, transport and dynamic business.  “As the City emerges from recession into a new, increasingly optimistic future, the ability to build on recent investments & opportunities will be vital. By working closely with a range of city centre partners, DLA has developed a visionary and delivery focussed City Plan for Bradford that will act as a prospectus for investment and delivery in the city centre allowing all parties to unite and build on the hard won momentum in the city that is now being realised.” Andy Fisher, Senior Associate.  ***Read more***  <http://www.urbandesigndirectory.com/projects/bradford-city-plan> | **“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it”**  ***Don’t repeat the past – use the Urban Design journal archive.***  ***100+ editions now available to download free***  UDG volunteers working over the holiday break have completed the digitising of all available back copies of Urban Design. Well over 100 are now available to download free.  You can read reports of lectures by Kevin Lynch, articles by Francis Tibbalds, Terry Farrell, and a host of others. There is a huge resource of ideas and insight, energy and anger that the towns and cities, streets and spaces that we continue to build are lost opportunities.  To download the pdf’s go to….  <http://www.udg.org.uk/publications/journal>  **Jobs**  **Masterplanner - EDP - Cirencester**  <http://www.udg.org.uk/jobs/south-west/masterplanner-edp-cirencester>  **Associate Director, Urban Design, Turley - Bristol**  <http://www.udg.org.uk/jobs/south-west/associate-director-urban-design-turley>  **Design Director, Turley**  <http://www.udg.org.uk/jobs/south-west/associate-director-urban-design-turley>  **Urban Designer - Crawley Borough Council**  <http://www.udg.org.uk/jobs/london-and-south-east/urban-designer-crawley-borough-council>  **Urban Designer – Edinburgh - Barton Willmore**  <http://www.udg.org.uk/jobs/urban-designer-%E2%80%93-edinburgh-barton-willmore>  To advertise jobs in Urban Update – please email [administration@udg.org.uk](mailto:administration@udg.org.uk)  **Look to the hills to prevent urban flooding**  Is it possible to deal with flooding at source? Local urban flood defence schemes can have a significant visual impact that destroys the value of a river frontage. In Dumfries,3.5 metre high flood defences are needed to protect White sands area of town from a 1 in 75 year river levels. The standard option would be to create a 3.5 metre high earth bund. Careful redesign involving the community has resulted in a £15 million proposal using reinforced glass panels and demountable barriers that reduces the height of the bund to below eye-level.  *Details of scheme*  <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=12392>  *Google Street view*  <http://bit.ly/1mHSIQX>  Even so – is protection from 1 in 75 year flooding adequate, especially now that climate change may be changing rainfall intensity. Should other or additional means to reduce flood risk be found?  The Independent has observed that while York has been heavily flooded, despite conventional flood protection schemes, nearby Pickering escaped…. and the reason is the *Pickering Slowing the Flow* project which has sought to reduce run-off in the entire river catchment above the town. It has included:   * Construction of large woody debris dams * Construction of timber bunds * Blocking moorland drains and controlling erosion * Establishing no-burn buffer zones in the heather moorland. * Planting riparian and floodplain woodland * Planting farm woodland * Amending forest plans and restoring streamside buffer zones * Implementing farm-scale measures * Construction of low level bunds   Full details:  <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/slowingtheflow>  The report highlights the Reservoirs Act as a significant problem. It imposes a design orthodoxy that favours single heavily engineered dams that are designed to 1:10,000 year events, rather than successions of very small dams right across a catchment.  If the climate is changing, and atmospheric physics predicts a 7 percent increase in 24-hour extreme rainfall for every one degree centigrade increase in temperature, then there is probably no alternative to these types of flood control measures  <http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/uk-weather-why-the-recent-devastating-floods-will-become-the-new-normal-a6793291.html>  N**ew SUDS Manual published by CIRIA Free to download**  This 800 page guidance represents the state of the art in Sustainable Drainage Systems. It contains of scores of examples and design ideas that can be incorporated in new and existing development.  A Introduction  B Philosophy and Approach  C Applying the approach - - the design process  D Technical Detail – detailed descriptions of different types of SuDs components  E Supporting guidance  <http://www.ciria.org/Memberships/The_SuDs_Manual_C753_Chapters.aspx>  What the guidance leaves is the job of putting everything together. There is guidance for every aspect of the urban environment (apart from utilities where the guidance and legislation is deficient). The need for drainage in urban areas is often dictated by the demand for car parking; the demand for car parking is dictated by development density, the provision of public transport, cycling and walking infrastructure, and the presence of shops and community facilities that can be reached without the use of a car. It is not immediately obvious that local shops reduce urban run-off…But they do. | | **New Recognised Practitioners in Urban Design**  **Congratulations go to:**  Christopher Peatfield  Haodong Hu  Andrew Collin Ford-Marsden  Jim Fox  Cathy Russell    *Recognised Practitioner in Urban Design* is a leading mark of professionalism in urban design. Minimum requirements are 5 years relevant experience, reducing to 3 years where an applicant has a post graduate qualification (diploma/masters) in urban design or a closely related subject, plus evidence of commitment. There is no entry fee. Subscription is £80 per annum.  Further details  <http://www.udg.org.uk/join/recognisedpractitioner>  **Barry Sellers – UDG Exec Member represents sector at House of Lords Built Environment Inquiry**  Thanks go to Barry for his efforts in compiling a submission to the committee. We hope to see positive results in 2016.  **Road Test**  **Frideswide Square Oxford**    Short video  <https://vimeo.com/150654810>  Frideswide Square is a £5.8 million public realm and highway scheme in Oxford. Public realm schemes should never be considered in isolation but taken in the context of the wider network of streets and highways and surrounding development, all of which greatly influence how road users behave. Most of the roads leading into Oxford are ancient, narrow, and heavily trafficked, with large volumes of buses. Provision for cyclists is not ideal. There are some streets where there are 20 mph limits, though the coverage is half-hearted. The impression is that Oxford’s streets are hostile, congested, and often unattractive. What needs to happen in Oxford is far more than a single public realm scheme, but a major investment on all the main routes, and in new routes for cyclists, to bring them up to a standard that reflects a world class city.  Against that background however, there can be no doubt that the new Frideswide Square scheme is a huge improvement in public realm on a key gateway to the city of Oxford – Frideswide Square is the main route from the railway station to the city centre, as well as being the main road route from the west. Traffic signals and multi-lane highways have been slimmed down, channelized, replaced with roundabouts, footways have been widened, and landscaping added, plus new generation street lighting.  The scheme differs from the ground-breaking Poynton scheme (2011) in a number of important details.   * in Poynton, the approaches to the roundabouts/shared space are calmed by around 50-200 metres of channelized street, whereas in Oxford, drivers are likely to have been seriously wound-up by the congestion, and wound-up by the traditional negative press coverage associated with ne schemes. * to naturally reduce driver’s speed, the the visual width of the carriageways at Poynton, is reduced to the bare minimum by using rows of stone cubes laid in the channel by the footways and central median. A quadruple row of cubes is laid on the footway side, which naturally leads drivers to keep clear of the pedestrians. Using stone cubes to line channels is a traditional feature going back at least as far as the 19th century. Omitting this feature will save money, but if used on approaches the greater visual width would also lead to higher vehicle speeds. * The edge of footway in Poynton is marked by rough texture “cauliflower kerbs” which can be detected by blind and partially sighted people. In Frideswide Square the kerbs are smooth surfaced.   The design of the Frideswide Square bus bays has come in for some criticism from bus operators, who claim they are too small, with concerns raised about planting. Our inspection of the site shows that the bus bays are actually very long, and the planting comes nowhere near the carriageway. It is true that it is easier for bus drivers to get close to the kerb in saw-tooth bus bays. But the bus companies don’t appear to have taken issue with this. Unfortunately the press reports don’t detail what the bus companies are objecting to other than safety and size.  We observed drivers were giving way to each other at the roundabouts – at no time were they blocked. But neither did we see drivers giving way to pedestrians, though the observation period was fairly short. In any case the central median and low traffic speeds enable sighted pedestrians to pick their time to cross easily between gaps in the traffic. .  It is clearly a traffic flow success, and certainly a provides a far more attractive and convivial environment for pedestrians. For cyclists the jury is still out. What is clear though is that Frideswide Square, together with Poynton offers an alternative to the bog standard lines signs and signals approach that blights so many towns and cities across the entire world.  Let’s hope that 2016 marks a turning point in the way we design main streets and urban junctions. Out with space-hungry, multi lane signal controlled blots on the townscape. In with broad pavements and attractive streetscapes, channelled traffic, and slow, safe, smooth movement, and plenty of space for people.  **Red Light District…**  2015 was also the year when Beverley hit the international press for a 42 traffic light junction which was ridiculed in the German newspaper under the headline – “Diese Kreuzung ist ein Rotlichtviertel” (there’s a pun in the title)  <http://www.bild.de/news/ausland/verkehrsbehinderung/diese-kreuzung-ist-ein-rotlichtviertel-42374616.bild.html> |
| **Events and Webinars** |  | |  |
| **Academy of Urbanism**  <http://www.academyofurbanism.org.uk/events/>  **Landscape Institute**  **Rethinking the Urban Landscape Exhibition**  Leeds, Sheffield – see website for dates  <http://www.landscapeinstitute.co.uk/events/>  **MADE**  **Build your own - Wolverhampton Arts & Heritage**  Competition deadline 8th Jan  **City Builder Academy**  July 2016  <http://made.org.uk/events> West Midlands Urban Design Forum Next events 2016  **Yorkshire**  **Regional Urbanism in the Era of Globalisation**  3-5 Feb – University of Huddersfield  <http://www.hud.ac.uk/schools/artdesignandarchitecture/research/conferences/regional-urbanism/> Engage Liverpool **Neighbourhood Planning Network Event**  19th January  <https://www.engageliverpool.com/events/> Urban Design London Events coming up – extensive programme some free, some charged/ £175+VAT (Free for UDL subscribers)  **Cultural Interventions**  14th January 2016 (Full Day)  **PiP – Design, Quality and Technical Consents Workshop**  **20th January**  **Challenging Practice: Street Design**  26th January  <http://www.urbandesignlondon.com/events-listing/>  **Design South East / Kent Design**  <http://www.kentdesign.org/events/>  Event Calendar  <http://www.kentdesign.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Event-Calendar-2015-16-edited-14.4.15.pdf>  **Garden City II Eastgate, Springhead Park**  February  **Designing our Highways**  10 February Canterbury  Booking…  <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/kent-and-medway-neighbourhood-planning-summit-tickets-19573908086> | **Architecture and Design Scotland**  <http://www.ads.org.uk/category/news/>  Several workshops on the use of traditional materials coming up. No one should attempt architecture or urban design in Scotland without a knowledge of Ballachulish slate!  **IHBC**  <http://ihbc.org.uk/events/>  [**Culture. Capital. Cities. UK City of Culture 2021 / European Capital of Culture 2023**](http://ihbc.org.uk/events/?p=5468)  11 February 2016 - Manchester Museum of Walking **Dash or Dawdle – Clerkenwell Pubs**  Any day until the 10 January 2016  [**http://www.museumofwalking.org.uk/events/**](http://www.museumofwalking.org.uk/events/)  **Centre for Cities**  **Cities Outlook 2016 Launch**  25 January 2016 | 12.30pm | CIty Hall, London  <http://www.centreforcities.org/events/>  **BOBMK Events**  <http://bobmk.org.uk/our-programme/>  Future of Transport and Innovation February 2016  @ Milton Keynes PTRC **Transport Practitioners Meeting 2016 – Nottingham**  29-30 June 2016 | Nottingham  Call for papers open.  <https://www.ptrc-training.co.uk/Events/TPM2016.aspx> Transport Planning Society <http://www.tps.org.uk/main/events/>  **4th Annual Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Forum 2016**  9th February  <http://www.tps.org.uk/main/events/id/0833> | | **Latest Lectures  on UrbanNous**  ***New***  **Improving the quality of new housing: Negotiating improvements in delivery and design**    Amy Burbidge is Design Action Manager at North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit.  <http://www.urbannous.org.uk/housing-quality.htm>  **Improving the quality of new housing: New issues for affordable housing.**    Andy von Bradsky is former Chairman of PRP, Chair of the RIBA Housing Group, Board Member of the Housing Forum and recent chair of the Government appointed Challenge Panel for the Housing Standards Review that advised on UK standards for housing of all tenures.  <http://www.urbannous.org.uk/housing-affordable.htm>  **A better future for high streets and town centres.**  Julian Dobson, Urban Pollinators  <http://www.urbannous.org.uk/from-agora-to-polis.htm>  **Towns and cities: Function in form**  Julian Hart, Lancefield Consulting  <http://www.urbannous.org.uk/cities-function-in-form.htm>  **Designing the business model:   Sharing land uplift and unlocking long term value.**  Yolande Barnes, Director of the World Research team at Savills  <http://www.urbannous.org.uk/development-economics.htm>  **Weather in the City – How Design Shapes the Urban Climate**  **Sanda Lenzholzer**  <http://www.urbannous.org.uk/climate-and-city-design.htm>  *All urban designers, architects, planners, and highway engineers should have a knowledge of this subject.*  ***UrbanNous Catalogue available on-line***  *Highlights include Christopher Alexander, George Ferguson, Hans Monderman and scores of others.*  [www.urbannous.org.uk](http://www.urbannous.org.uk)  Urban Nous is produced and operated by Fergus Carnegie for the benefit of practitioners worldwide. |
| Urban Design around the WorldNew Zealand **Pedestrian-only becoming way to go**  <http://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/369012/pedestrian-only-becoming-way-go> UK **475,000 homes with planning permission still waiting to be built - LGA**   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **2012/13** | **2013/14** | **2014/15** | | **Planning permission granted** | 165,903 | 207,539 | 212,468 | | **Units completed** | 123,931 | 127,130 | 136,893 | | **Units unimplemented** | 381,390 | 443,265 | 475,647 |   "These figures conclusively prove that the planning system is not a barrier to house building. In fact the opposite is true, councils are approving almost half a million more houses than are being built, and this gap is increasing “  <http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/media-releases/-/journal_content/56/10180/7632945/NEWS>  The LGA have called government to permit council tax to be levied on unbuilt planning permissions from the point that the planning permission expires. They are also concerned that nationally-set planning fees prevent councils from being able to recover the full cost of processing the 467,000 planning applications submitted on average each year.  **Housebuilders sitting on 450,000 undeveloped plots**  <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/dec/30/revealed-housebuilders-sitting-on-450000-plots-of-undeveloped-land>  **Government to build homes**  Ministers will commission the building of 13,000 homes on five sites around southern England, the largest housing project led by central government since the redevelopment of the Docklands in east London in the 1980s  <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/jan/04/13000-homes-in-south-east-to-solve-housing-crisis>  <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-35217418>  **Pavement Parking Bill Withdrawn – talks promised in 2016**  Pavement parking is illegal in London, The Pavement Parking (Protection of Vulnerable Pedestrians) Bill 2015 sought to extend the prohibition beyond London. The government took the view that it might create a disproportionate burden on local authorities. A round table is to be held in 2016.  Permitting uncontrolled pavement parking is likely to be against the public sector equality duty in the Equality Act 2010 as pavement parking clearly disadvantages elderly and disabled people, and the damage caused to paving surfaces creates trip hazards.  <https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/news/2015/december/a-clearer-path-to-parking-free-pavements-government-responds-to-pavement-parking-bill>  <http://www.breakeryard.com/blog/pavement-parking-bill/>  **These cartoon people are advertising luxury apartments. So why do they look so depressed?**  <http://www.citymetric.com/business/these-cartoon-people-are-advertising-luxury-apartments-so-why-do-they-look-so-depressed>  **News in Brief: Government response to court and tribunal fees consultation; Edinburgh Marina development gets permission**  <http://www.theplanner.co.uk/news/news-in-brief-government-reponse-to-court-and-tribunal-fees-consultation-edinburgh-marina> USA **A DIY initiative encouraging people to walk their cities is taking off across the U.S.**  <http://torontoist.com/2016/01/public-works-the-sign-says-walk-there/>  **How crowded should or can cities get? What should be driving tower design?**  <http://www.wsj.com/articles/how-to-build-a-better-city-1452031289>  **Kounkuey Design Initiative is learning from the urban design movement’s failures and in the process, discovering new ways to collaborate with communities.**  <https://nextcity.org/features/view/community-design-kounkuey-design-initiative-public-interest-design> | | Latest Research, Policy and PracticePolitics, Philosophy, Economics **CITY (RE)BUILDING: Brave enough to move beyond ‘this will do’**  <http://www.thespec.com/opinion-story/6217936-city-re-building-brave-enough-to-move-beyond-this-will-do-/> Movement **Agenda 21 is dead, but its legacy is still killing transit**  <http://www.treehugger.com/urban-design/agenda-21-dead-its-legacy-still-killing-transit.html>  **Civil War era corrugated road surface uncovered beneath US Highway**  <https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/construction-crew-unearths-remains-of-corduroy-road-in-fairfax/2015/12/21/be1e0b9a-a5d2-11e5-ad3f-991ce3374e23_story.html>  **Roman streets made hazardous by olive oil rich starling guano**  <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/04/rome-seals-off-roads-caked-with-droppings-from-birds-that-binged-on-olives> Humans, Health, Society **Flexible working can make you ill, experts say**  <http://www.theguardian.com/money/2016/jan/02/work-life-balance-flexible-working-can-make-you-ill-experts-say>  **Crime in the community: when 'designer' social housing goes wrong**  <http://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/jan/04/crime-community-designer-social-housing-winnipeg>  **Green space, social cohesion, crime reduction**  Dr Netta Weinstein, senior lecturer at Cardiff University’s School of Psychology, and Brian Quinn, advisor at Design Council Cabe, talk to PSE’s David Stevenson about the impact green spaces in urban areas can have on social cohesion and crime reduction.  [http://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/Public-sector-focus/open-spaces-inviting-places](http://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/Public-sector-focus/open-spaces-inviting-places#.Vovo5uX6XHE.twitter)  **Contact with nature may mean more social cohesion, less crime**  Human exposure to nature is linked to safer communities with better social, community interactions  <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/11/151125125105.htm>  **33,000 years of dog domestication**  <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/science/science-news/12052798/Dog-has-been-mans-best-friend-for-33000-years-DNA-study-finds.html>?  there is a great opportunity for the research community to look at the relationship with pets in the built environment and how best they can be accommodated Environment **Pinpointing the Most Powerful Design Elements in City Parks**  <https://nextcity.org/daily/entry/best-design-city-parks-traits-nature-power> | |

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