

Future Directions

Wendy Pollard: Futures Group Convener
& Newsletter Editor



February	Open evening hosted by the Chairman Alan Elkan to discuss future directions for the Society.
April	AGM with keynote speaker Richard Barnaby, Head of Architecture & Planning, UWE. Teaching architecture within a wider context of land use planning and urban design.
May	The Architecture Centre Debate Series: "Is Bristol's Environment being Manhandled?" Four speakers with a view of urban design from a woman's view.
May	Walk in an around Bristol Floating Harbour with Derek Beer - a fund of information on history and present use.
June	Visit to Acton Court at Iron Acton. The complete restoration of a long forgotten tudor house.
September	Visit to High Kingsdown. Learning lessons from the award winning development.
October	Tour of the RAC Control Supercentre at Bradley Stoke.
November	The Architecture Centre Debate Series: Transport Congestion Relief: who pays or cares? Looking at the Government's road pricing policy.
December	Derek Robinson presented "A shocking history of Bristol".

With 33 new members joining during the year, membership stands at 570. As an independent organisation we are proud to rely entirely upon subscriptions and donations for our income.

□ Forward Plan

The latest Forward Plan for the Society was adopted and published in October 2004. It is in the nature of the Society's work that we deal with very complex processes of urban change and development. We also face complex central and local government systems and private market organisations. All are far from user friendly.

Recognising this, our Plan seeks to identify, focus upon and apply our limited resources to the activities through which the Society can have most impact. We wish to make a difference. At present there are at least three ways in which we can make that difference:

• Monitoring

Keeping up to date with government legislation, key planning applications, land use and transport plans and the management of the city.

• Publishing

Through the Newsletter and special supplements, the Society has long taken a leading role in publishing proposals for the better development of Bristol. We aim for an increasingly wide range of contributors from government, business and academia. Themes for new articles include plain English guides to Government policy; best practice from inside and outside Bristol; proposals for key sites within the city, ahead of events on the ground. The Newsletter is now distributed widely to all city libraries, local amenity and community groups and to each City Council Member.

• Neighbourhoods

The Society is very actively involved in helping the Redcliffe and Spike Island communities to have more direct influence over the development of their neighbourhoods. The same community-based approach should also be applied to many outer-city housing estates.

At a time when local communities are encouraged by radical new legislation from Government, to become actively involved in deciding the future of their areas, we will be asking in 2005 how the City Council is responding to the call for more effective community involvement □