

<b>Name of project/group</b>
Peterborough Civic Society
<b>Type of project</b>
Community empowerment
<b>Location</b>
Peterborough, East of England
<b>What was involved</b>
<p>Peterborough Civic Society and Peterborough City Council are working together to prepare a revised list of Buildings of Local Importance (BLI) for the district.</p> <p>The list, designed in conjunction with the city and parish councils, aims to celebrate local distinctiveness and safeguard important buildings, ensuring that repairs, alterations and extensions are sympathetic to their character. It covers a wide range of buildings and structures, from the cathedral square to small seasonal agricultural workers shacks and a 1970s office building.</p>
<b>Achievements</b>
<p>A list of buildings of local importance does not carry the statutory weight of a formal listing or inclusion in a Conservation Area. However, there are whole classes of further buildings and structures which merit care in deciding their future and such lists help ensure planning officers and councils take their significance into account when making a decision.</p> <p>The Civic Society is participating in this, partly because the project is a labour intensive piece of work and so may be less likely to be undertaken by the Council without assistance, but also because it is a task which Civic Society members care about and are well qualified to do. Members include architects, semi-retired planners and a building conservation professional as well as interested lay people.</p> <p>When Peterborough started the list it was not expected that it would contain so many buildings. When the city council passes its local development plans this can afford a measure of protection. The list can be used to help ensure that special care is taken over alterations or neighbouring development. The work has brought a whole new range of buildings of historic value to light and is raising public awareness. As much as anything else it is a way of letting owners know about the importance of their buildings.</p>
<b>Future plans</b>
A public consultation will take place on the list in 2011.
<b>Lessons learnt</b>
The project shows the role that Civic Societies can play in assisting local authorities understand, and care for, local heritage.
<b>Project contact</b>
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