

Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable?

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

The Moorpool Estate: A Visionary Edwardian Garden Suburb for Birmingham

- **Format:**

Written paper (3,000 words) and Verbal presentation

- **Author(s) Name:**

Charles Hippisley-Cox

- **University or Company Affiliation:**

Huddersfield University

- **Abstract (300 words):**

Built between 1907 and 1912 the development represents an interesting variation on the themes established by George Cadbury on the nearby Bourneville Estate. The Moorpool estate, like the well-known neighbour, was the product of the progressive thinking associated with the Liberal Non-Conformist tradition flourishing in Birmingham during the second half of the 19th Century.

The Moorpool estate has some significant factors from its inception that make it especially relevant to subsequent attempts at creating communities. The significance still resonates today especially with all our contemporary "housing" challenges. Relatively modern terms like low-density, inclusivity, diversity, mixed-use, work-life balance and sustainability are all anticipated in this utopian (but eminently practical) vision which survives tucked-away and almost forgotten just four miles west of the centre of Birmingham.

This study provides an introduction to the context and inception of the estate along with some consideration of the relevance to the current context of a critical housing shortage.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Charles Hippisley-Cox is a Senior Lecturer and Course Leader for Architectural Technology at the Department of Architecture and 3d Design, Huddersfield University.

As an historic building specialist, his research has focussed on the rediscovery of traditional building materials and specialist craft techniques. His wider architectural interests include the systematic study of traditional buildings especially those in rural areas of population decline and he application of sustainability to architectural conservation has recently become a focus for his research and scholarship.

In the past he has had funding from the British Council and AHRC to assess the impact of de-population on building conservation in rural areas. Currently his scholarly activity is exploring the complex relationship between buildings and ecology based on the premise that architecture forms part of a much wider ecosystem. His other research interests include; sustainable approaches to the refurbishment of historic buildings and typologies for traditional buildings in both the Parque Nacional da Peneda-Gerês, Portugal and the Naturel Parque Normandie Maine, France.

He is a member of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation, the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists and is a Fellow of the Chartered Association of Building Engineers.

Originally from Birmingham, he lived at 90 Carless Avenue on the Moorpool Estate between 1963 and 1969.