



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

While we wait for the sun to return, here's a high summer round up of what we've been up to and what we've got in the wings for you. Do get in touch if we can help you create or steward places to be beautiful, sustainable and popular.

CORONATION STREETS: WHERE SHOULD THE KING GO TO TEA?

To mark King Charles III's coronation and to celebrate ten years since our own formation, we ran our [Coronation Streets competition](#) to discover Britain's best street. We received 1,406 votes and in clear first place was Vicars' Close in Wells, Somerset. To celebrate we sent a virtual King Charles to tea there. You can read about our winning street and how great streets are forever young [here](#). You can also read about one of the runners up, London's Pavilion Road, and what it teaches us about regenerative development [here](#).



CAN WE SUPERCHARGE EUROPE'S SCIENCE CAPITAL BEAUTIFULLY AND SUSTAINABLY?

On 24 July, Michael Gove announced plans to 'supercharge' Cambridge and [invited his listeners](#) to 'imagine a major new quarter for the city, built in a way that is in-keeping with the beauty of the historic centre' connected 'with a sustainable transport network that sees current congestion becoming a thing of the past, drawing on Cambridge's existing strengths in promoting



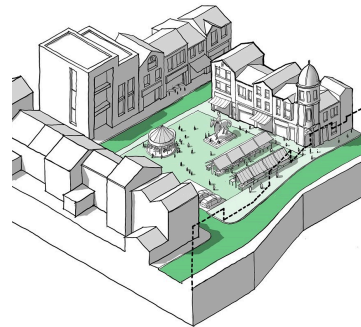
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So we did. We imagined, and [shared via social media](#) to much online comment, what a new greater Cambridge might be like. Responses were fascinating. Lots of love for it but also much scepticism that what gets built will be any good. The trick will be to escape the model of the last generation and create a clear pre-approved street pattern and beautiful design code to de-risk popular place-making and help local builders and self-builders operating within a really clear framework. Much on this to come no doubt.



A DESIGN CODE FOR SURREY

Surrey County Council have just launched their [web based highways design code](#) and we're incredibly proud to have led its creation with them. It is a tool that draws on a database of rules and allows you to search for the exact coding requirement you want, de-risking and helping great place-making. In time, this database will be able to talk to others making it easy for residents and developers to know what's going on. More details on our [website](#) or this [thread](#).



A NEW WAY TO REDUCE CONSTRUCTION POLLUTION

London's air quality is rather controversial at present. In June we published a [short paper](#) by Create Streets fellow, Hugh Gatenby, setting out how to halve air pollution coming from construction. We dare to hope that the proposals are ones most people could agree with.

They were featured in [The Times](#) and [Building Design](#).



HAVE WE BANNED SASH WINDOWS BY MISTAKE?

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We've been warning that recent changes to building regulations risk creating tiny windows, small dark rooms, preventing new homes 'fitting in' with their predecessors and may effectively ban sash windows in all but the richest neighbourhoods. Sadly examples are now coming to light of a real world effect: window sizes were reduced on this home following the new regulations. Our director wrote about this [last year](#). And, following Robert Kwolek's research, Create Streets fellow, Samuel Hughes, has written this [summary](#) of the problem and how to fix it. The government has [announced a review](#). Fingers crossed for a sensible resolution...



EDUCATION: THE CREATING PLACES ACADEMY

URBAN DESIGN SUMMER SCHOOL

Earlier this month we welcomed 17 students from all backgrounds to the first ever Create Streets Foundation residential [summer school](#) in beautiful Sherborne, Dorset led by Create Streets fellow Dr James Armitage. Feedback has been very kind: *'I learnt more in these three days than my three-year degree!'*, *'fabulous course...my mind was buzzing.'* *'...so many lovely and fun people'*. We're now planning the 2024 course and have one place already sponsored. Dates soon.



DARE TO DRAW WORKSHOP

Interested in improving your hand drawing skills? Superlative feedback from previous attendees on the wonderful Mark Shepherd: *'...an amazing balance of instruction and letting us get on with drawing. The day flowed really nicely and I think everyone came away with new skills they will use as well as having had a very enjoyable time.'*

Next session: Saturday 16 September | [DETAILS AND REGISTRATION](#)



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Missed our last webinar? Watch it again [on our Youtube channel](#). Create Streets have pioneered the use of area wide design codes and are working on a range right now across the country. Robert Kwolek discussed our approach [here](#) in *Building Design*. You can find out more about how we can help with your design codes and guides [here](#).



IN THE BLOG AND MEDIA AISLE

[The promise of Cambridge](#)

Samuel Hughes reviews the future of development in Cambridge.

[The Office for Place](#)

Nicholas Boys Smith discusses the future of the Office for Place in Stoke-on-Trent.

[Building better brownfield with community consent](#)

Tom Noble on our work in Chesham to pre-permit hundreds of locally popular beautiful homes.

[Beautiful and safe high streets](#)

Nicholas Boys Smith and Caroline Simpson (Chief Executive of Stockport Council) summarise key themes from the Office for Place discussion on the future of high streets.

[The newest medieval castle you will ever visit](#)

Nicholas Boys Smith considers the sustainability of medieval building in *The Telegraph*.

And that's a wrap!
Till next time and do stay in touch.

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