

Keeping Cambridge Special

Wendy Blythe, FeCRA Chair



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Keeping Cambridge Special -

The Views of Residents



What makes Cambridge special?

- Neighbourhoods
- Human scale
- Beauty
- River
- Green spaces
- This is not just about architecture

Informal paths & open spaces criss-cross the city





Hidden allotment path runs alongside Vicar's Brook

Cows graze on Midsummer Common just 5 minutes away from Marks & Spencer



An impromptu game of football Jesus Green

Threats to the quality of Cambridge life

- Development
- Capacity
- Traffic
- Water supply
- Flooding

Development

- Headlong pace
- No reference to heritage
- Impact on community life
- The University & Colleges' role
- Volume
- Impact on Local Plan
- Ugliness

20 mph signage hit streets with the casual vandalism of a small tornado



Ugliness

- Loss of green spaces
- Ugly signage & street furniture
- Lack of design & landscaping input
- “Milton Keynes” style bland urbanisation
- Overcrowding & litter
- Poor maintenance & potholes

New CB1 Station hub:

‘A could be anywhere investment’ – Allan Brigham



Overflowing bins. Streets packed with tourists



Densification

- Lack of affordable housing
- Aggressive expansion of student accommodation
- Transience
- “Garden grabbing”
- Institutional expansion
- Loss of green space

Suggestions

- List views, streetscapes, paths, walks
- Public realm strategy tailored to Cambridge
- City design & heritage champions
- Green stewards & guerilla gardeners
- Responsible tourism
- Neighbourhood plans & urban parishes
- Cambridge “Friends”

Crocuses planted in verges reflect style of Backs



Portland, Oregon has a system of
“Green” streets & stewards



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