

Built & Natural Environment Career Options

Produced by the Youth Engagement Team – Greater Cambridge Shared Planning

*Town
Planner?*

*Urban
Designer?*

*Landscape
Designer?*

Ecologist?

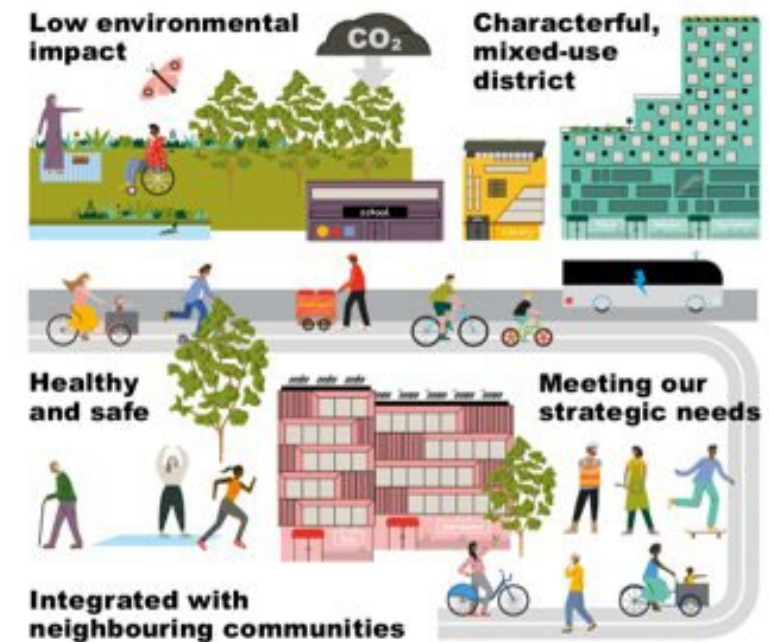
*Tree
Specialist?*

Let's explore the different
career options in the Built
and Natural Environment
industry!



Content

About us.....	3 - 4
Some facts and figures.....	5
Jobs across the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning.....	6
Town Planning.....	7 - 8
Urban Design	9 - 11
Landscape Design.....	12
Architecture.....	13 - 14
Tree Specialist.....	15
Ecology Specialist.....	16
Heritage / Conservation Specialist.....	17
Sustainability Specialist.....	18
Compliance Officer.....	19
Youth Engagement.....	20 – 26
Useful Links.....	27
Contact Details.....	28



About us



GREATER CAMBRIDGE
SHARED PLANNING



Bin Collections

Collecting waste and helping people recycle more.



Benefits

Helping people claim what they are entitled to.

District Council

Local services for South Cambridgeshire's residents, businesses and visitors.



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council

Staff in the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service are employed by South Cambridgeshire District Council. The District Council provides many different types of services for local communities and businesses, as shown in chart.

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) provides planning services for both South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council.

The GCSP aims to:

- Deliver nice homes
- Create safe and beautiful places
- Create a variety of jobs



Business Support

Helping local companies set up, grow or diversify.



Climate and Environment

Monitoring air pollution, tree planting initiatives, grants for local green projects like electric vehicle charging points.



Collecting Council Tax

This money funds local council services and other public services like Police and Fire crew.



Communities

Supporting refugees, cost of living support, grants for local projects, helping people become active and ensuring facilities people need are planned for.



Environmental Health

Rating take-aways for hygiene, anti-social behaviour like loud dog barking, dumping rubbish and noise from loud parties.



Housing

We have 5,000 Council homes.



Licensing

Regulating things like late night events at pubs, taxi drivers, checking dog breeders are acting responsibly.



Planning

Permission for homes and planning the future of our communities eg should new estates, skate parks or nightclubs be allowed?

About us



People

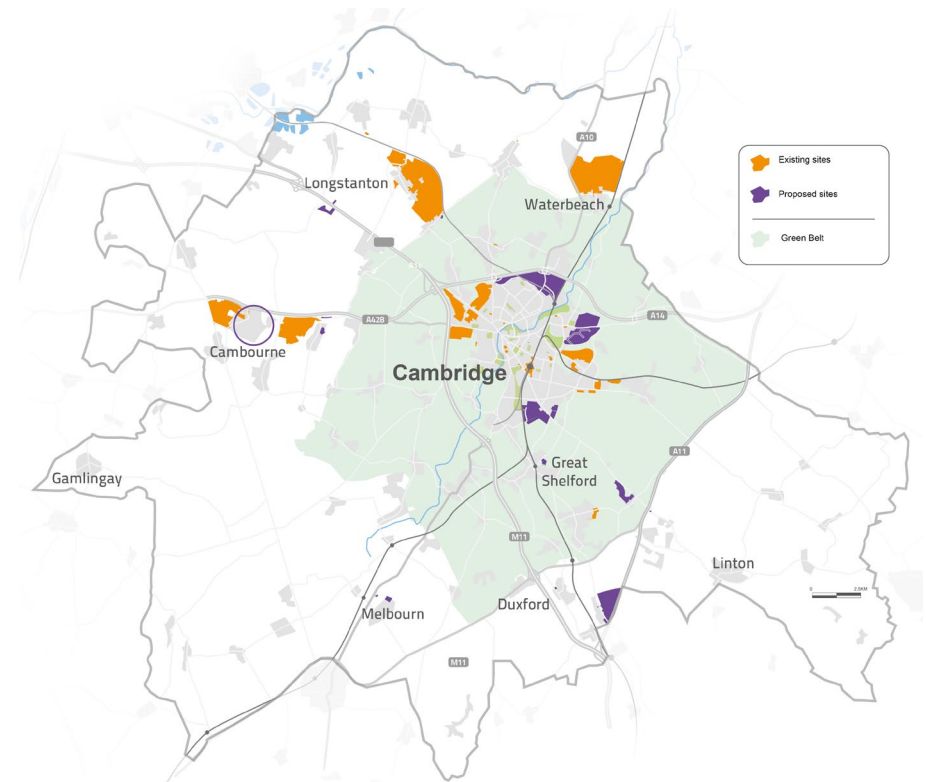
- We are a Local Planning Authority
- We are a shared planning service between Cambridge City and South Cambs District Council
- The Planning Department has over 120 staff: planners, specialists and support staff

Place

- We cover 360 square miles
- We have a plan to build 33,500 homes and create 44,000 jobs

Performance

- We process around 7100 planning applications per year
- Planning decisions are made by planning officers (small applications) or Planning Committee (large applications)



Map showing the Greater Cambridge area

Some Facts and Figures about Greater Cambridge Planning Service

Local Plan

768 members of the public engaged with at in-person and online events



37,196

homes are already planned for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire between now and 2041.

Over the past year,

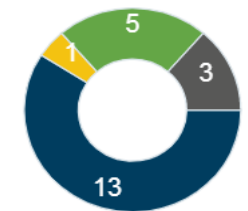
8,807

Planning GCSP Applications processed.



Enforcement actions

GCSP



Enforcement notices	13
High Hedge notices	1
Breach of Condition Notice	5
Temporary Stop Notice	3

Jobs across the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning

At Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, we have various teams working together to help deliver nice homes, build beautiful places and create jobs. You can consider joining one of the following teams after you have completed your college/university studies.



The Built & Natural Environment Team



Admin / Technical Support staff

Town Planning - Basics



Town planning is the planning and design of all the new buildings, roads and parks in order to make them attractive and convenient for the people who live there.

Are you interested in improving the places you live? Or do you want to bring your Minecraft or Lego skills to real life? If your answer is Yes to any of these questions, then you should consider becoming a Town Planner!

Town planning is a profession that decides how land should be used. Planning helps tackle climate change, social justice and public health. Town Planners work with communities and developers to decide where new homes, roads, schools, shops, etc should be built. At the same time, town planners try to make cities, towns, villages and the countryside attractive and safe. Planning touches everyone's lives. At GCSP, we refer to the National Planning Policy Framework, the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and the Cambridge City Local Plan when we assess planning applications.

At GCSP, we have Town Planners working in the Development Management, Strategic Sites and Planning Policy teams. They work with specialists such as urban designers and landscape designers to create beautiful places for people to live and work.



The Marmalade Lane co-housing scheme in Orchard Park won 3 RTPI Planning Excellence Awards in 2020:

1. Excellence in Planning for Health & Well-Being
2. Excellence in Planning to Deliver Homes – small schemes
3. Overall Winner of the prestigious Silver Jubilee Cup



Town Planning – Working as a Town Planner



A town planner helps communities, companies and politicians to decide on the best way to use land and buildings.

A town planner's main aim is to achieve sustainability. This means balancing different social, environmental and economic issues when making decisions on whether a piece of land is built on or not.

Another way to describe this job is about 'making places', such as towns, for people to live and work. Town planners do not construct buildings, but they recommend how and where buildings should be built, what they should be used for and how they should fit into the local surroundings.



Relevant professional organisations:



RTPI
Royal Town Planning Institute



A-Level subjects: Geography, Art, Art history, Economics
University degree: Urban & Environmental Planning / Urban & Regional Planning etc.

Urban Design - Basics



135 URBAN DESIGN

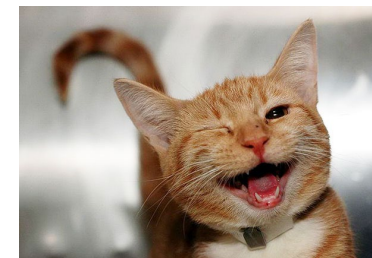
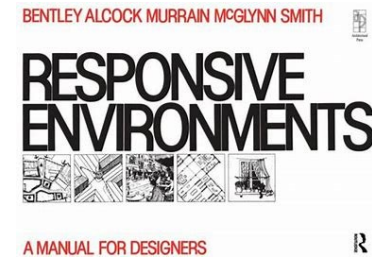
Summer 2015
Urban Design Group Journal
ISSN 1750 712X

THE CITY AS
MASTER DEVELOPER



Urban design is the process of shaping the spaces around us to help create a better life for everyone (including our pets)! This means building sustainable places. It involves the design of buildings, groups of buildings, spaces and landscapes.

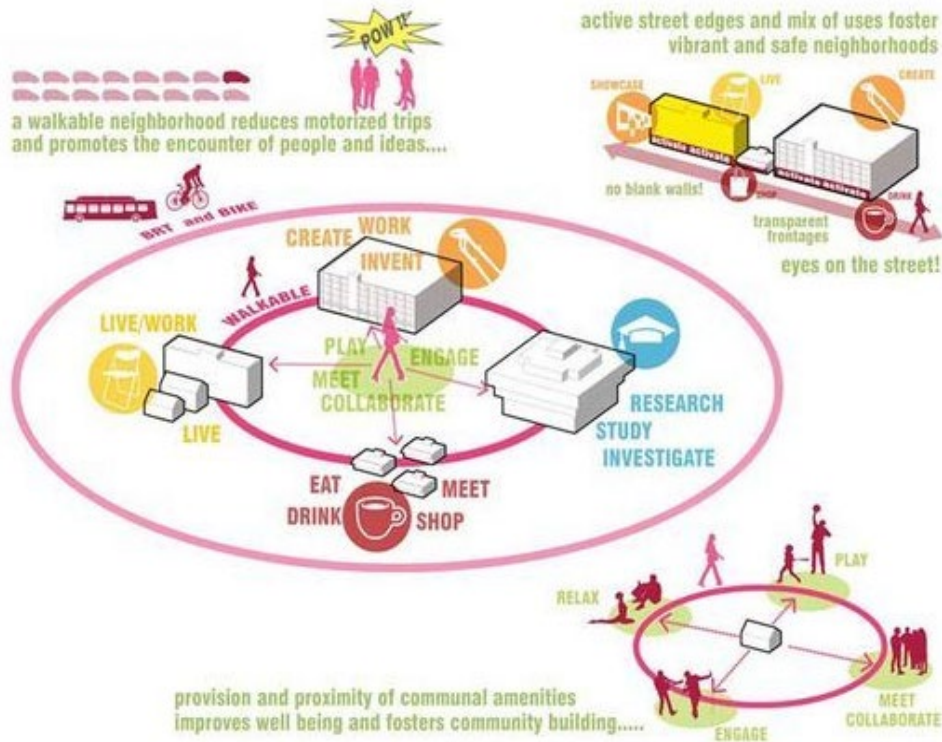
New towns, neighbourhoods, offices, schools, train stations, sports centres, etc developed based on good urban design principles can provide safe and welcoming places for everyone. Urban design also defines how a place could be improved or protected to bring benefits to communities and businesses.



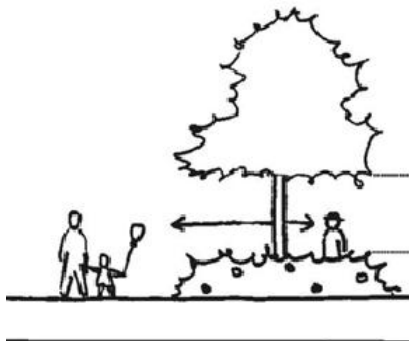
Urban Design - Principles



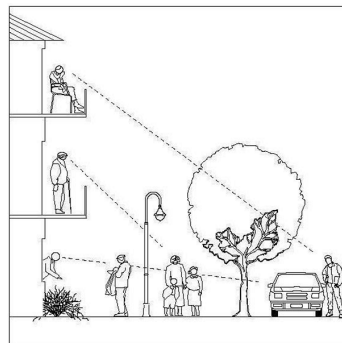
GREATER CAMBRIDGE
SHARED PLANNING



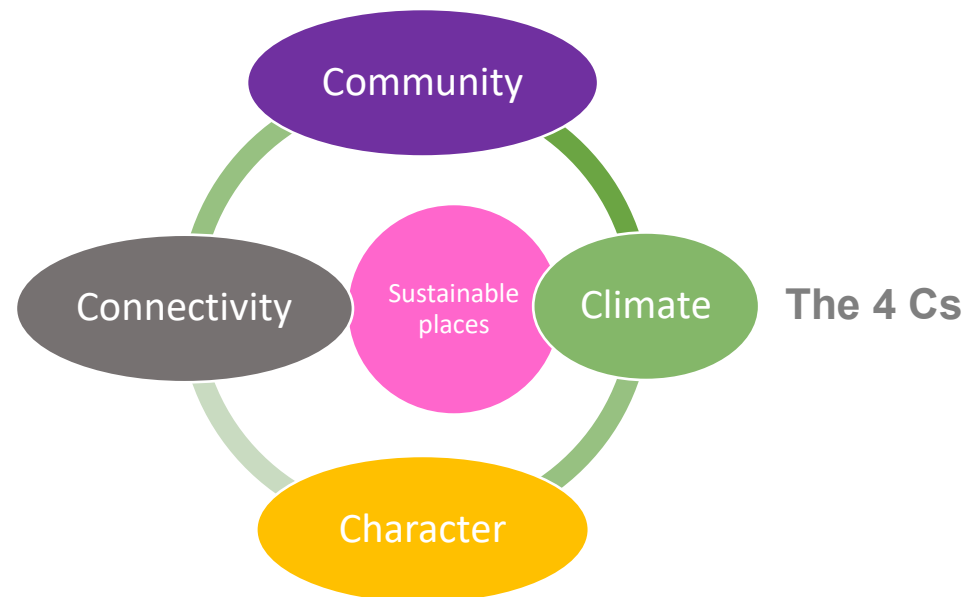
Walkabout neighbourhoods



Natural surveillance



Active frontages, well-connected streets and spaces



Urban Design - Working as an Urban Designer



Urban designers create practical and visually pleasing places, including buildings, open spaces, and landscapes

Working as a vital part of a large team, your role as an Urban Designer is to help to bring developments to life, ensuring that the environments you create are both useful and enjoyable.

As an Urban Designer, you will work with developers, local communities, architects, town planners, traffic engineers, landscape architects, etc to resolve problems and conflicts in order to create better spaces.

Urban design has grown considerably as a career path and a career in this field offers an interesting and varied environment with good opportunities for progression. At GCSP, we have a team of experienced Urban Designers providing a wide range of services to help support the creation of well-designed developments.

Relevant professional organisation:

**URBAN
DESIGN
GROUP**



A-Levels: Geography, Art, Art history, Economics
University degree: Urban Design

Landscape Design



Landscape architects design attractive and functional public parks, gardens, playgrounds, residential areas, college campuses, and public spaces.

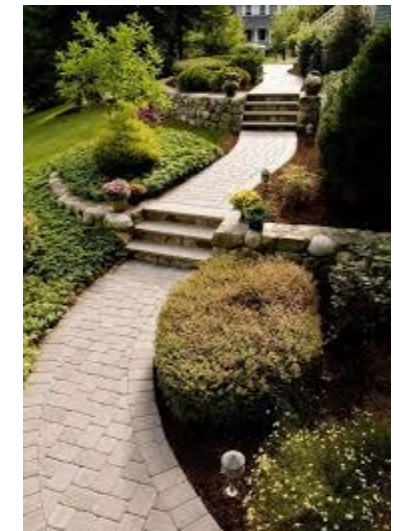
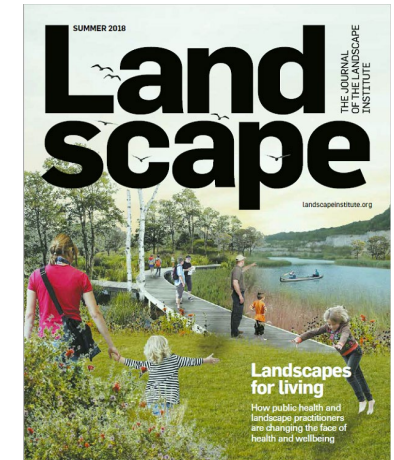
Landscape architects also plan the locations of buildings, roads, walkways, flowers, shrubs and trees within these environments. The profession is the decorative and functional alteration and planting of grounds, especially at or around a building.

Landscape architecture embraces all aspects of the science, planning, design, creation and management of landscape, in both urban and rural environments. It covers all scales, from the smallest garden to the greatest wilderness. Landscape Designers consider proposals for new building work and how it will affect the surrounding landscape of a site.

At GCSP, we have a team of experienced Landscape Architects to deliver high-quality public realm and open spaces for our communities to enjoy.

Relevant professional organisation:

**Landscape
Institute**
Inspiring great places



A-levels: Geography, graphic design, art, environmental science, biology
University degree: Landscape architecture

Architecture - Basics

Architecture is the art and technique of designing and building, as distinguished from the skills associated with construction. It is both the process and the product of sketching, conceiving, planning, designing, and constructing buildings or other structures.

Examples of good architecture projects in the Greater Cambridge area (all were nominated for the 2022 Housing Design Awards!)



King's College, Cranmer Road
by Allies and Morrison, and King's
College, Cambridge



Rubicon, Eddington by Alison
Brooks with Hill Partnerships



Darwin Green, by TateHindle and
Barratt Homes



Phase 2B, Northstowe by
BoonBrown and Keepmoat
Homes.

Architecture - Working as an Architect



People who choose to go on this career path and become architects will do more than design buildings, offices, and structures. They will design homes, they will design places where people live, work, laugh, and spend most of the time.

It is useful to be good at drawing but drawing is a skill that sits beside other skills to be an architect: analysis, synthesis, creative problem-solving, sensitivity and understanding around people's needs/wants, so you don't need to be 'good' at drawing.

In order to qualify as an Architect, you will need to study for an undergraduate degree and a postgraduate degree, followed by minimum of two years' work experience.

Relevant professional organisation:



A-levels: Graphic design, art, art with art history, maths, economics
University degree: Architecture



Tree Specialist

A Tree Specialist works on the cultivation, management and study of individual trees, shrubs, vines, and other perennial woody plants.

Tree specialists have good knowledge of how trees grow, and about the selection, planting, training, fertilization, pest and pathogen control, pruning, shaping and removal of trees. They also consider tree proposals for new development projects, and how new development proposals will affect existing trees and the surrounding biodiversity of a site.

At GCSP, our Tree Officers provide an exceptional service to ensure that existing trees are carefully managed, and that all new tree proposals are well-considered.

Relevant professional organisation:



The Arboricultural Association

A-levels: Geography, graphic design, art, environmental science, biology
University degree: Environmental science, Horticulture, Arboriculture, Countryside management, Woodland management or Forestry.



Ecology Specialist



Ecology is the study of the relationships among living organisms, including humans, and their physical environment. Ecology considers organisms at the individual, population, community, ecosystem and biosphere level.

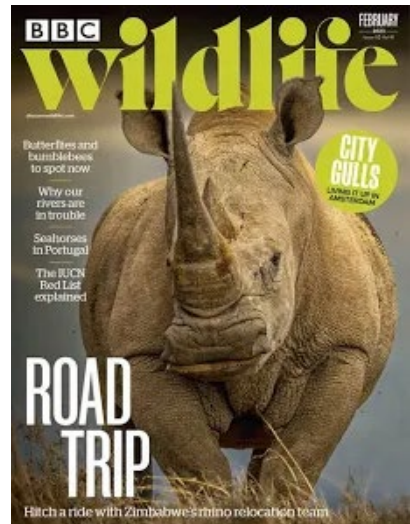
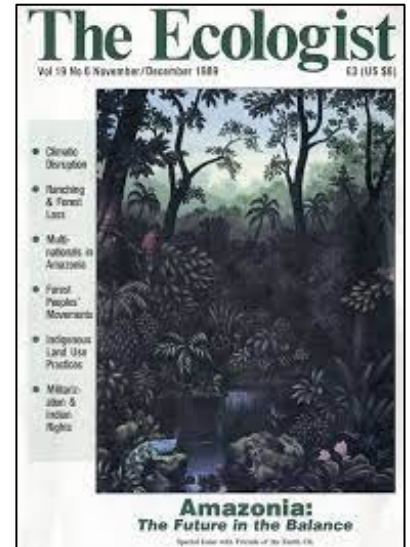
Ecologists study these relationships among organisms and habitats of many different sizes, ranging from the study of microscopic bacteria growing in a fish tank, to the complex interactions between the thousands of plant, animal, and other communities found in a desert. Ecology enriches our world and is crucial for human wellbeing and prosperity. It provides new knowledge of the interdependence between people and nature that is vital for food production, maintaining clean air and water, and sustaining biodiversity in a changing climate.

At GCSP, our Ecology Specialists consider proposals for new building work and how it will affect the surrounding biodiversity of a site.

Relevant professional organisation:



A-levels: English, biology, geography, chemistry, physics, maths
University degree: Ecology, Environmental Science, Environmental Science Conservation, Conservation Biology, Applied biology.



Heritage / Conservation Specialist



Heritage / Conservation Specialist take care of buildings, monuments and places valued for their cultural and historical importance.

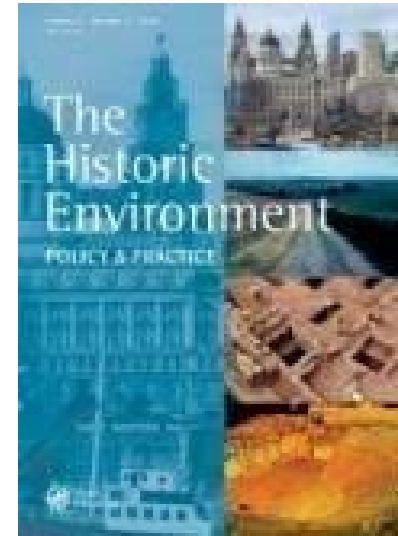
Our heritage is what we have inherited from the past, to value and enjoy in the present, and to preserve and pass on to future generations. Our heritage comprises of historical sites, buildings, monuments, objects in museums, artefacts and archives.

At GCSP, our Heritage / Conservation Specialists consider proposals for new building work at or near listed buildings. A listed building is a building or structure of special historical or architectural importance. They ensure that extensions or alterations would not negatively affect the building's character or destroy historic features. There are 67 Grade I listed buildings in Cambridge!

Relevant professional organisation:



A-levels: English, history, art, art history, geography, economics
University degree: Historic building conservation, archive or museum studies, archaeology, history, art conservation, or history of art.



Sustainability Specialist



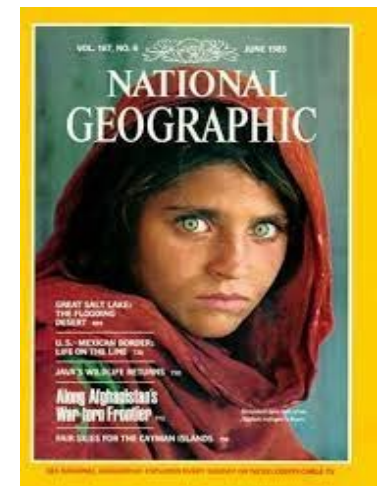
Sustainability Specialists oversee a range of activities related to reducing environmental impacts and applying sustainability principles.

They offer advice in relation to climate change and carbon reduction. They co-ordinate climate change actions and environmental projects. Sustainability specialists support and implement programs that focus on improving the environment and helping their local community.

At GCSP, our Sustainability Specialists consider the sustainability aspects of proposals for new building work and how it will affect the surrounding environment of a site.



Relevant professional organisation: **IEMA** Transforming the world to sustainability



A-levels: Geography, Biology, Maths, Economics
University degree: Sustainability, environmental science, natural resource or environmental management.

Compliance Officer



The GCSP's Compliance Team handles planning enforcement issues. These are situations where building work or alterations has occurred without the required permission being granted – these occurrences are called breaches of planning control. When this happens, the Compliance Team investigates to assess the extent of the problem and to decide on what action should be taken.

An Enforcement Officer has an important job. They safeguard the environmental quality and amenities of the district and maintain public confidence in the planning system. Negotiation is a key skill of any enforcement officer and in the majority of cases breaches can be resolved through this process.

Relevant professional organisation:



A-Level subjects: Geography, Art, Art history, Economics
University degree: Urban & Environmental Planning / Urban & Regional Planning etc.

Youth Engagement – About us



The award-winning Youth Engagement Team at Greater Cambridge Shared Planning provides a wide range of services to the local communities and businesses across Greater Cambridge to support sustainable growth, based on an established Youth Engagement Framework:

- Youth Engagement Workshop Service (housing design, public space design, public art, etc)
- Youth Engagement Talks – Best Practice
- Career Talks
- Work Experience Programmes

Successes:

In November 2022, the Youth Engagement Team at GCSP was nominated for the 'Social Value' and the 'School Collaborations' by the prestigious Thornton Education Trust. Our Planning Youth Engagement Lead Bonnie Kwok won the 'Individual of the Year' award in the Thornton Education Trust Inspire Future Generations National Award.



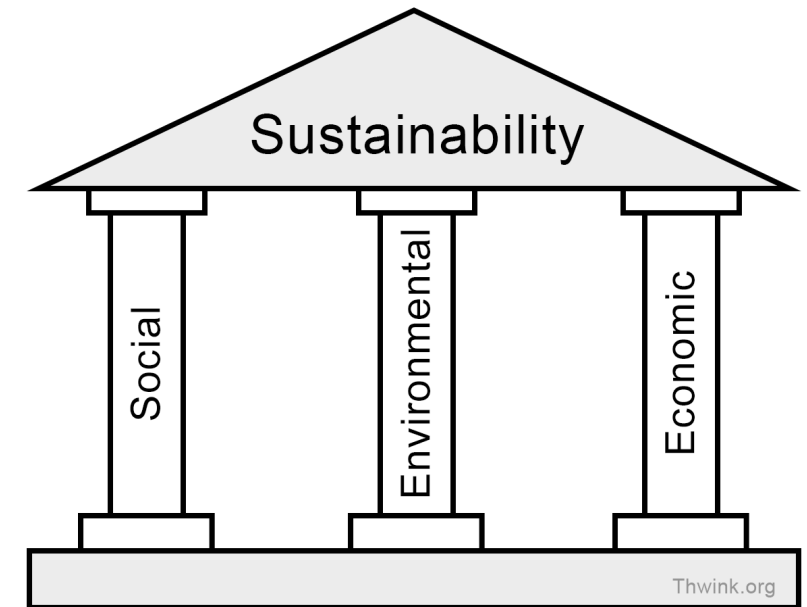
An Award-Winning Youth Engagement Service!



Children need to **PLAY** to
BE ADAPTABLE
CONSTRUCT KNOWLEDGE
PROBLEM LEARN CREATE
SOLVE PROCESS EMOTIONS
INTERNALISE EXPERIENCES
DISCOVER CHALLENGE
BE HEALTHY THEMSELVES
LAUGH & HAVE FUN
LEARN TO WORK IMAGINE
TOGETHER LEARN TO LEAD
EXPRESS EXPLORE SPEAK
IDEAS DEVELOP READ
MANAGE AN INQUIRING MIND WRITE
STRESS MIND COUNT
Because **PLAY** matters.

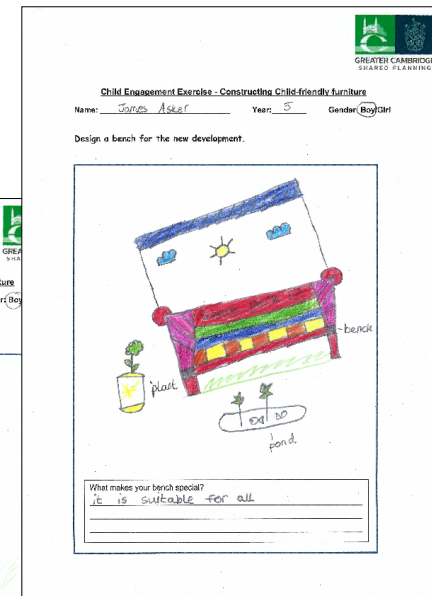
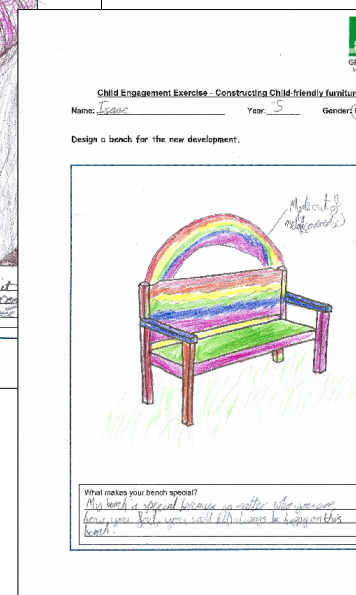
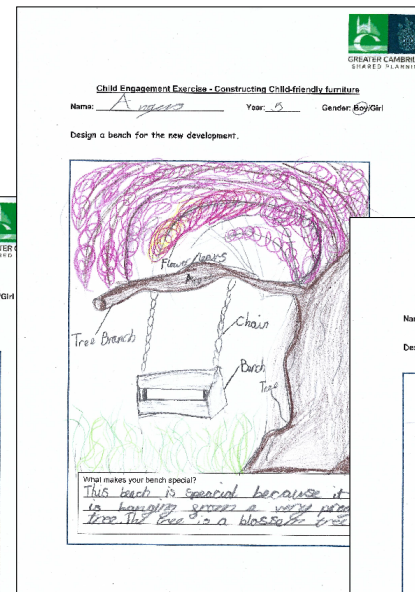
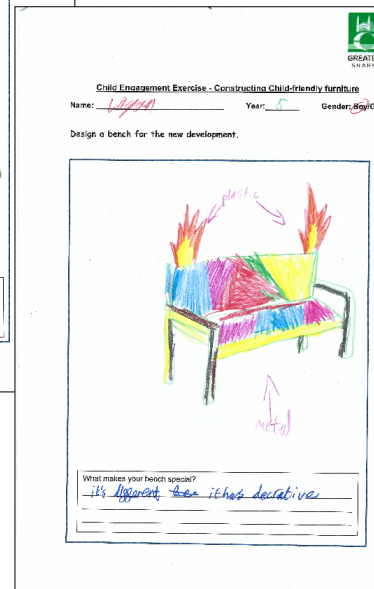
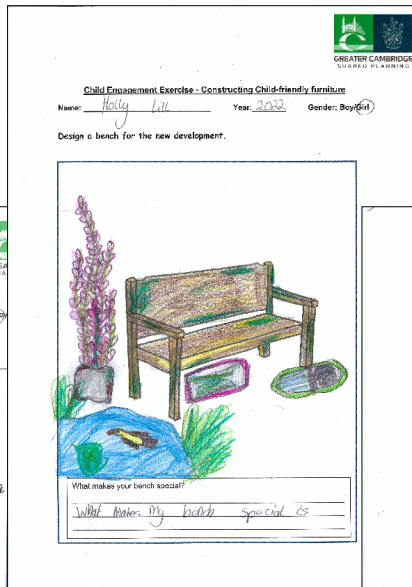
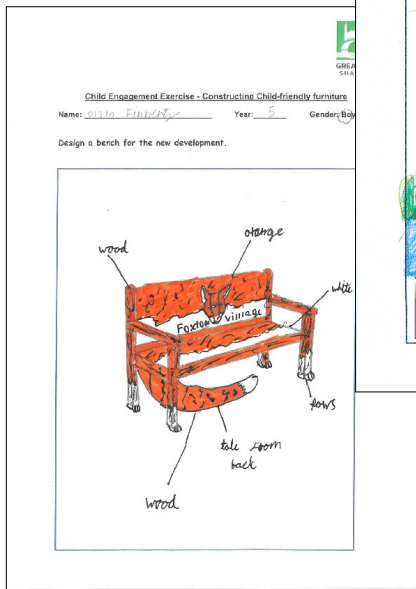
Youth Engagement - Why children and young people should get involved in the planning process?

- ▶ Children and young people are our future and we want you to have a happy childhood, and have safe access to play spaces to help you with your development.
- ▶ Children and young people are an important part of our population and it is important that adults take into account your ideas as we build new parks and facilities for you.
- ▶ The concept of child and youth engagement forms an important part of the concept of “sustainable development”.



Youth Engagement – Examples of our work

For public open space projects. Our Youth Engagement Team ensures that children have a genuine input into the design of street furniture for development proposals via our 'Have Your Say' workshops.



**GREATER CAMBRIDGE
SHARED PLANNING**

30 Oct

Youth Engagement – Examples of our work

‘Let’s Dance’ Public Art Child Engagement Project with the Grove School in Cambridge Science Park, working with artist Jason Bruges 2020-2021



Youth Engagement – Stories in Residents' Magazines

Child Engagement Workshops in Sawston and Cambourne 2021

Inspiring young people to plan the world we need

Back in July this year, colleagues from our Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service dropped-in at two local schools to run exciting workshops.

During the first visit, Year six children from Icknield Primary School in Sawston gave their views on the design of a housing development proposal in the Babraham Road area of the village. The fun workshop was designed by our Built Environment team. It aimed to give children the opportunity to have a say in how the public open spaces in the proposed development should be designed. Our Officers, and representatives from the developer's team, discussed the proposals and how to create attractive, vibrant places. The children were asked to come up with a design for the public open spaces, including a large play area, that they would enjoy using. Their ideas will be incorporated in the final layout of the proposed housing scheme. Prizes were awarded to those who came up with the most creative designs. Elsewhere, more than 60 year six children from Monkfield Park Primary School in Cambourne gave their views about the design and layout of a proposed housing scheme in Cambourne.

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Planning, Cllr Dr Tumi Hawkins, officers from our Built Environment team and the developer's landscape architect ran a fun workshop. Children were asked to design street furniture and the play space for the new housing development. There were also a discussion about the importance of caring for the environment, and pupils received career advice on the steps to take to become an urban designer, a landscape architect, a town planner or one of our Councillors. Trophies were awarded to those who came up with the best furniture design and play space design.

Cllr Dr Tumi Hawkins, said:

"It's been super to see children being so enthusiastic about planning – and lovely to see their excitement around planning the world we need. It is important local children can feed into proposals in their local area, and planning applications consider their views. Providing young people with the opportunity to have an input in the design of a proposed development is an excellent way to get them involved in planning the future of their community."

Principal urban designer Bonnie Kwok and developer Landscape Architect Konstantina Stara present to children at Monkfield Park Primary School



Child Engagement Workshop in Foxton 2022

Children have their say on design of public open spaces

A group of 30 students from Foxton Primary School took part in our fun workshop to help plan new open space.

The children gave their views on the design of a scheme to refurbish and redevelop the Burlington Press premises, fronting Station Road and High Street in Foxton.

The year five and six children looked at plans to create a research and innovation hub for the life sciences sector.

The plans include a publicly accessible café idea in the centre of the village of Foxton.

Officers from our Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Built Environment team ran the workshop. The aim was to give children the opportunity to have a say in how the public open spaces in the proposed development should be designed.

Children and their teachers visited the site where they learnt about the history of this former printworks building located at the heart of the village. Council Officers and representatives from the developer's team discussed the specific proposals and spoke to them about good place-making principles with the youngsters.



As part of the workshop, children were given the exciting task of designing some bespoke street furniture for the new development that would meet their specific needs. Their ideas will be incorporated into the final layout of the proposed scheme. Prizes were awarded to those who came up with the most creative designs.



Our Lead Cabinet Member for Planning Cllr Tumi Hawkins attended the event and said:

"It is important that local children are consulted on proposals in their local area and that planning applications consider their views. The workshop enabled the children to have an input into the planning and decision-making process."

"As part of the workshop day, children were also taught the importance of environmental sustainability in Foxton and received career advice on steps to become an urban designer, landscape architect, town planner and Councillor."

Child Engagement Workshop in Sawston 2022

Schoolchildren help plan R&D space

Pupils at Icknield Primary School in Sawston were awarded prizes for the most creative designs, after participating in a series of recent planning workshops.

The sessions in September were run by our Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service, which we share with Cambridge City Council.

The workshops examined proposals by the development company Abstract, to build research and development facilities for office and laboratory space at Dales Manor Business Park in Sawston.

The 10- and 11-year-old pupils in year six had a say in the planning and decision-making process, as well as developing skills in placemaking and planning, all while learning about the importance of protecting and enhancing the natural environment. This work is based on our well-established Youth Engagement Framework that aims to get young people move involved in the planning system. The pupils also received career advice on becoming urban designers, landscape architects, town planners and local authority councillors.

The children were asked to design bespoke outdoor furniture, such as benches, for the new development, based on their local knowledge and place feelings. Subject to planning approval, their ideas will be incorporated into the landscape layout of the proposed scheme; several benches designed by the students will also be placed in the school playground. Prizes were awarded to those who produced the most creative designs.

Schoolchildren with their prizes, along with Cllr Dr Tumi Hawkins and members of our Greater Cambridge Shared Planning team.



Our Lead Cabinet Member for Planning, Cllr Dr Tumi Hawkins presented the awards, along with the site developers and architects, said:

"It was wonderful to spend time in the classroom and watching young people get excited about influencing the planning process. It is hugely important that our next generation are involved in the planning system that will impact their lives both now and in the future. Our Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service has created another exemplar of genuine youth engagement, which aligns with the Council's commitments to community engagement, social value, and responsibility."

www.greatercambridgeplanning.org



Youth Engagement - Collage!



Useful Links



Urban Design

Urban Design Group: www.udg.org.uk/

Town Planning

Royal Town Planning Institute: www.rtpi.org.uk/

Town & Country Planning Association: <https://tcpa.org.uk/>

Architecture

Royal Institute of British Architects: www.architecture.com/

Architects Registration Board: <https://arb.org.uk/>

Landscape Architecture

Landscape Institute: www.landscapeinstitute.org/

Trees

Arboricultural Association: www.trees.org.uk/

Heritage/Conservation

Institute Of Historic Building Conservation - www.ihbc.org.uk/

Sustainability

Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment www.iema.net/

Ecology

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management <https://cieem.net/>

Planning Compliance

Royal Town Planning Institute: www.rtpi.org.uk/practice/2020/may/planning-enforcement-handbook-for-england/



Contact Details



The Youth Engagement Service at Greater Cambridge Shared Planning aims to ensure children and young people are provided with the opportunity to engage in the design and planning process in the Greater Cambridge area. We run Youth Engagement workshops with our partners to ensure genuine youth participation. We also provide talks on best practice in Youth Engagement. We run Work Experience Programmes and Careers Workshops to help children and young people understand the wide range of career opportunities in the built and natural environment, e.g. town planning, urban design, landscape design, architecture, etc. Please contact us if you require any further information.

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning website:
www.greatercambridgeplanning.org

Youth Engagement Service - Greater Cambridge Shared Planning

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Youth Engagement Officer: Tom Davies
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Youth Engagement Support Officer: Maxine Ross
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Search

Check out our LinkedIn posts for the latest update on our Youth Engagement work!



Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service