New Town Heritage Research Network

Introduction

Milton Keynes Council, led by its culture team, has been a partner in setting up the New Town Heritage Research Network, which was funded with the support of the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

The two-year project, which has been led by the universities of Oxford Brookes and Coventry, has also involved the International New Town Institute, Vivacity Peterborough, Harlow District Council and Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre.

The purpose of the AHRC New Towns Heritage Research Network is to share research and policy on the architectural heritage value of the Post War New Towns in the UK and Mainland Europe and to bring together academic and community research and researchers into one programme and going forward create a single website platform for this unified approach.

The Network brings together international researchers and policy makers from universities, government, and the community sectors that are studying this built heritage, and are engaged in policy debates about its value and has been supported by the Town and Country Planning Association and the Dutch National Cultural Agency in the advancement of their own agenda and programmes.

Programme Update

The project organised a programme of three UK-based New Town Heritage Research Seminars, one European New Towns Seminar in Rotterdam, in the Netherlands, and a Plenary Conference at Coventry University at the conclusion of the project in summer 2018. The seminars were aimed at New Town researchers and policy makers, not just from universities but also from government and from the community sector in New Towns which has often accumulated a significant amount of original research and data.

Following the Plenary a connected series of follow on events and activities have been delivered, all with the aim of widening debate and discussion into the public forum.

The partners are now focussed on completing the evaluation from these additional events, preparing a follow on funding application and supporting the forthcoming A Festival of Creative Urban Living in Milton Keynes, to realise a second project of public programme in 2020.

For more information on the seminars and plenary held and the learning being taken forward, visit the project website hosted by MK City Discovery Centre here

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