



**'CHANGING CHELMSFORD':
AN EXPERIMENT IN COLLABORATIVE
URBANISM – RE-IMAGINING SPATIAL
LEARNING, IDENTITY & INTERACTIONS**

APPROACH

*Dr NezHapi-Dellé Odeleye,
Anglia Ruskin University*

Changing Chelmsford: Overview

Context & Origins

1. Place, Town
2. View from the Academy: *Action-Research, Participation, Transformation, Resilience*

Process & Outcomes

3. Motivations & Reflections
4. What was achieved & learned?

RE-IMAGINING SPATIAL LEARNING, IDENTITY & INTERACTIONS

Context & Origins

Chelmsford Identity: *Dormitory Town?*



- o 'Birthplace Radio' / Crompton Electric works
- o 2 FEIs & ARU University: 8,500 campus students
- o Busiest station in East England
- o 80,000 jobs & 11,000 businesses



BBC NEWS
Chelmsfordians react to city status



Town / City?



View from the Academy

ACTION RESEARCH: 'PARTICIPANT' ROLE

In the participant role, researchers immerse themselves in the context of the study, actively engaging with the participants. This approach fosters trust and allows for a deeper understanding of the lived experiences of those involved. It is particularly beneficial in community-based research where the researcher's involvement can lead to meaningful change.



TRADITIONAL RESEARCH: 'OBSERVER' ROLE

As observers, researchers maintain a degree of separation from the study context. This position enables them to focus on objective data collection and analysis without influencing the participants' actions. This role is suitable for studies requiring rigorous data integrity and analysis but may limit insight into the subjective experiences of participants.

KEY MOMENTS IN ACTION RESEARCH

These key works have shaped the development and understanding of Action Research as a transformative method.

1946

Kurt Lewin's foundational work on Action Research and its implications for social change.

1970

Paulo Freire's influential text advocating for critical pedagogy and participatory approaches in education.

2001

The Handbook of Action Research by Peter Reason and Hilary Bradbury, consolidating various methodologies and practices in the field.

PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH (PAR)

Participatory Action Research (PAR) emphasizes active involvement of participants in the research process, ensuring their voices are heard and their insights contribute to the research outcomes. This approach fosters empowerment and social change through collective inquiry.

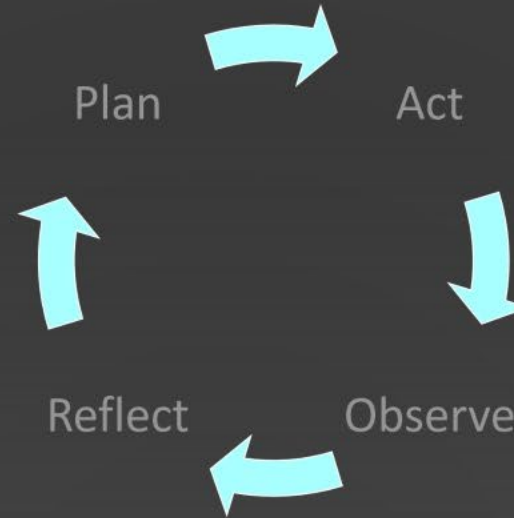
COLLABORATIVE ACTION RESEARCH

Collaborative Action Research involves partnerships between researchers and practitioners or community members, working together to address specific issues. This type emphasizes shared ownership of the research process and outcomes, promoting sustainability and relevance.



PROCESSES AND STEPS IN ACTION RESEARCH

Understanding the essential stages of Action Research helps in effectively executing projects that lead to meaningful change.



Identifying a Problem
Recognizing a specific issue or area for improvement within a given context.

Planning Action
Developing a strategic approach to address the identified problem, including defining objectives and methods.

Implementing Action
Carrying out the planned intervention while ensuring active participation from stakeholders.

Observing the Effects
Monitoring and collecting data on the outcomes of the implemented action to assess effectiveness.

Reflecting on the Process and Outcomes
Evaluating the entire process, analyzing findings, and considering adjustments for future cycles.

Process & Outcomes

CASE STUDY: 'CHANGING CHELMSFORD'

The Changing Chelmsford Initiative illustrates the practical application of Action Research in addressing public engagement in the public sphere.

Through collaborative efforts with community members, the initiative aimed to identify barriers to access and implement changes that foster inclusivity & engagement in its communities.



→ TIMELINE OF KEY CYCLES OF ACTIONS & OUTCOMES

This timeline highlights significant developments in the evolution of Changing Chelmsford & its spinoffs over the past decade & a half (2010-25).

1. HOW BOLD IS YOUR VISION 2009 – 2010
 An 'umbrella' initiative, stimulating and supporting a range of ideas gave coherence and direction to the Changing Chelmsford mission, the growing network of participants and the diverse individual and stakeholder actions.

ACTIVITY
 An initial series of 10 workshops challenged our understanding of Chelmsford's living, working, learning and cultural landscapes.

OUTCOME
 Town Commons with all workshop participants in an intensive charrette. Effective pledges for action.
 YouTube videos and a publication documented the outcome of the first project pledges.



3. HERITAGE TRIANGLE 2011 – 2016
 Focused citizen action on three neglected iconic heritage buildings, with surrounding development land – a former 1800s church opposite the rail station, the 1912 Marconi technical building, and the 1700s Shire Hall.

ACTIVITY
 Changing Chelmsford led a programme of workshops, site visits and student projects, commissioned studies & a mural, and collaborated on possible new uses for them.

OUTCOME
 Generated community awareness and engagement.
 Influenced action on 2 of the 3 sites.

MARCONI'S 1912 ICONIC BUILDING, EMPTY AND UNSAFE – CHANGING CHELMSFORD COMMISSIONED DESIGNER NICK BROUGHTON'S NEW WINDOW DISPLAY, KEEPING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE BUILDING, PROMOTING INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN FUTURE CHELMSFORD
 Source: author's personal archive



4. CHELMSFORD IDEAS FESTIVAL 2011-2018
 A community-led series of events celebrating the city, its arts, culture, heritage, community, academic research, and technology.

ACTIVITY
 Unlike Cambridge, Bristol, etc. this has been a community-led festival. The number of events grew each year. Emphasis was on exploring ideas about the people and places that make the city.

OUTCOME
 Most sustained aspect of Changing Chelmsford and how it involved communities effectively.
 Inspired a new river festival (2014-18).



6. IDEAS HUB, CHELMSFORD 2012 – 2018
 In 2012, the festival led to a permanent collective space – a city centre community café, event space and co-working hub occupying a 2-storey meanwhile space in the High Chelmer shopping centre.

ACTIVITY
 It began as a one month festival venue for community events, and evolved into an established community base for 5 years.

OUTCOME
 Impact has been considerable, with many communities finding a home here.
 Developed into a charitable company.



1. HOW BOLD IS YOUR VISION 2009 – 2010

An 'umbrella' initiative, stimulating and supporting a range of ideas gave coherence and direction to the Changing Chelmsford mission, the growing network of participants and the diverse individual and stakeholder actions.

ACTIVITY

An initial series of 10 workshops challenged our understanding of Chelmsford's living, working, learning and cultural landscapes.

OUTCOME

Town Commons with all workshop participants in an intensive charrette.
Effective pledges for action.

YouTube videos and a publication documented the outcome of the first
& project pledges.

Changing Chelmsford
How bold is your vision?

Report of the summer
2010 proceedings

Stephanie Mills
*Project Manager 'Changing Chelmsford',
on behalf of the RSA*



11_Town Commons (Charette)



Altogether NOW
A Celebration of Culture in Chelmsford
14th May to the 5th June
Over Three Weeks of Events, Workshops,
Lectures, Concerts and Shows
www.altogethernowfestival.wordpress.com

Shire Hall to stay in public ownership



Decisions: The Shire Hall in Chelmsford

A LANDMARK building will remain in public ownership.

A new group has been established to help decide what should become of Shire Hall, in Chelmsford city centre.

The building at the top of Chelmsford High Street often hosts weddings and seminars, but has no permanent tenant.

Malcolm Noble, of Changing Chelmsford and the Chelmsford Civic Society, said: "I am glad to see that Essex County Council has made it clear it will be retaining Shire Hall in public ownership.

The new group includes Peter Martin, county council leader, and Roy Whitehead, the leader of Chelmsford Council.

3. HERITAGE TRIANGLE 2011 – 2016

Focused citizen action on three neglected iconic heritage buildings, with surrounding development land – a former 1800s church opposite the rail station, the 1912 Marconi technical building, and the 1700s Shire Hall.

ACTIVITY

Changing Chelmsford led a programme of workshops, site visits and student projects, commissioned studies & a mural, and collaborated on possible new uses for them.

OUTCOME

Generated community awareness and engagement.

Influenced action on 2 of the 3 sites.

MARCONI'S 1912
ICONIC BUILDING,
EMPTY AND
UNSAFE – CHANGING
CHELMSFORD
COMMISSIONED
DESIGNER
NICK BROUGHTON'S
NEW WINDOW
DISPLAY, KEEPING
PUBLIC AWARENESS
OF THE BUILDING,
PROMOTING
INNOVATIVE
IDEAS IN FUTURE
CHELMSFORD

*Source: author's
personal archive*





MARCONI BUILDING
New street temporary visual presentation

4. CHELMSFORD IDEAS FESTIVAL 2011-2018

A community-led series of events celebrating the city, its arts, culture, heritage, community, academic research, and technology.

ACTIVITY

Unlike Cambridge, Bristol, etc. this has been a community-led festival. The number of events grew each year. Emphasis was on exploring ideas about the people and places that make the city.

OUTCOME

Most sustained aspect of Changing Chelmsford and how it involved communities effectively.

Changing Chelmsford invites you to a...

CC

31st OCT
+ 5th NOV

ONE DAY WORK A THON

FESTIVAL OF IDEAS!

CATHEDRAL CHAPTER HOUSE
HIGH CHELMER MARKET SQUARE
MOULSHAM MILL

<http://www.changingchelmsford.org>

THE ACADEMY OF URBANISM
RSA
CREATIVE

CC A Changing Chelmsford Initiative | **Chelmsford City Council** | **Anglia Ruskin University**

CHELMSFORD Ideas FESTIVAL 2012

IF...
INNOVATIVE CITY

13th to 20th October 2012

A week for sharing innovative ideas through talks, workshops, debates, exhibitions, community media, making things, films, enterprise fairs and more.

Can urban innovation be sustainable? | How bold is your vision? | Are we more creative collaboratively? | Do you know your local university?

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS www.changingchelmsford.org/IF2012

CC & Changing Chelmsford Initiative | **Anglia Ruskin University** | **Chelmsford City Council** | **High Chelmer**

CHELMSFORD Ideas FESTIVAL 2013

IMAGINE

if...

Saturday 26 October - Sunday 3 November

A week of creative and cultural activities for all ages

www.changingchelmsford.org/IF2013



6. IDEAS HUB, CHELMSFORD 2012 – 2018

In 2012, the festival led to a permanent collective space – a city centre community café, event space and co-working hub occupying a 2-storey meanwhile space in the High Chelmer shopping centre.

ACTIVITY

It began as a one month festival venue for community events, and evolved into an established community base for 5 years.

OUTCOME

Impact has been considerable, with many communities finding a home here.

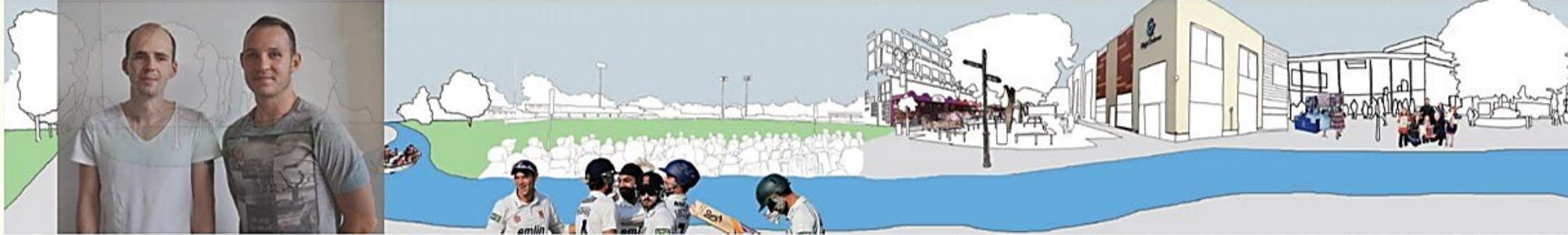
Developed into a charitable company.



CreativeCityLab

Chelmsford Mural

A 60m long banner, installed in High Chelmer Atrium mapping community groups around Chelmsford.



Sensation Festival

A month long Art Festival with workshops, exhibitions and events. Various venues around Chelmsford.



Ideas Festival & Chelmsford City Council / Architectural Practices

A week long festival with events around Chelmsford. Heritage Open Days. 2 Architects' practices: Longstaff Associates & Plater-Claiborne



Leading Change

The festival provided a feast of imaginative change-making topics that sparked new connections and initiatives. Events ranged from the Ethics of sustainability, the FairShares co-operative model, Philosophy for Communities, Green transport, Neighbourhood planning and design, the forgotten women of history and the issues faced by professional women who leave to have a baby, as well as an investigation of the hidden reality of racism today.

Architect Robert Hutson hosted the Riverside Leisure Centre event to showcase his vision for a refurbished cultural and sports centre. Their event attracted around 120 people and sparked lively debate and new awareness around the issues and potential users. It also generated two newspaper articles – one before and one after the event.



A seminar explored the importance of sustainable local economies, followed by a bus tour of Chelmsford's key local centres the 'Real Chelmsford'



Our City Commons event explored notions of place-making for disused spaces in the city



At the 'Imaginary Mayor' event we heard eight visionary manifestos for the future city of Chelmsford



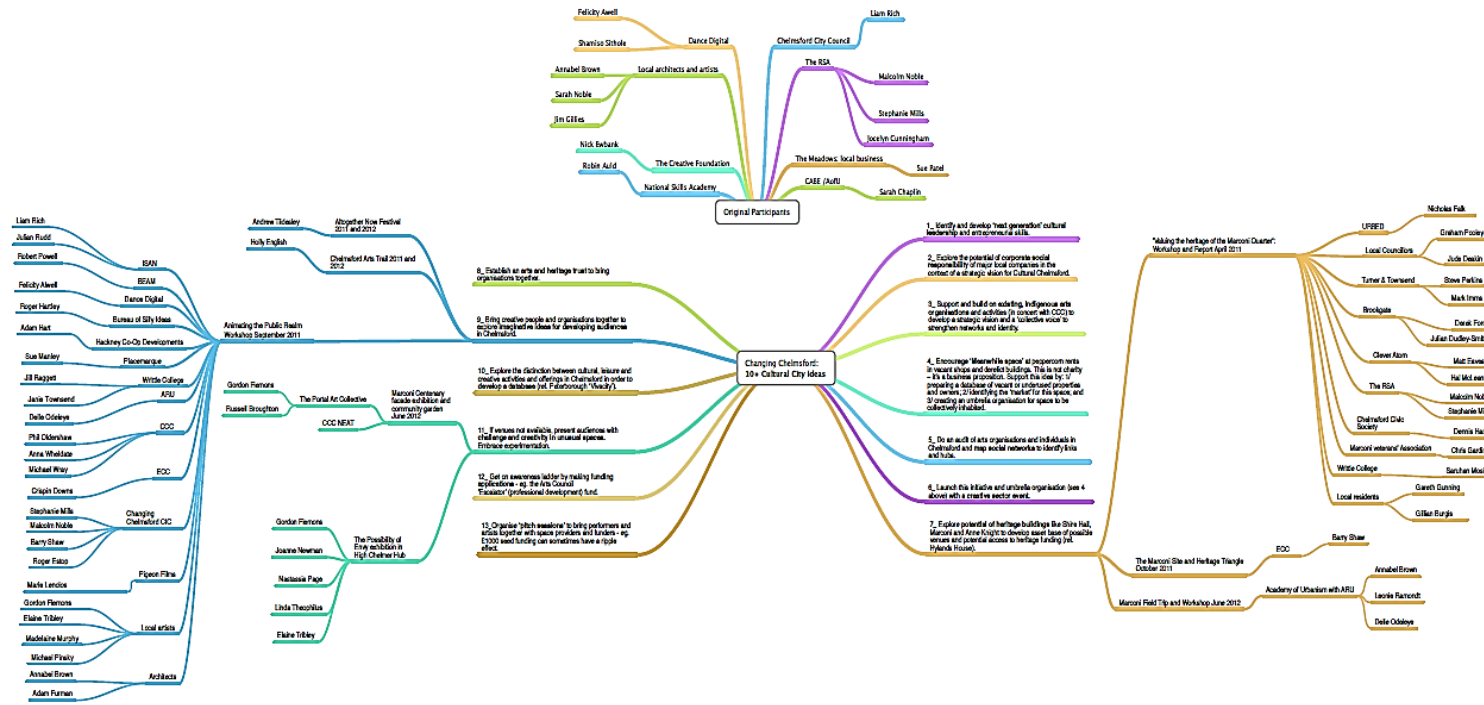
Civic / Local Economy?

*A Celebration of Culture in Chelmsford
Over Three Weeks of Events, Workshops,
Lectures, Concerts and Shows*

Community

& Institutions

CC cultural city ideas_example



What makes **you** and your **community**



Safeguarding long-term value

VALUING THE HERITAGE OF THE MARCONI QUARTERS
 A report for Chelmsford Borough Council and Essex County Council

What next for the Marconi factory site?

- A shared vision
- A development agency
- A financial boost
- A working partnership.



CC

MailOnline

From on-air to disrepair: Battle to save first ever wireless factory where Marconi broadcast to the world 100 years ago

Historic building in Chelmsford, Essex. Has been empty since 2009

Street map showing where radio waves cut across 100 years before the Marconi's office

Site Masterplan

Shire Hall: 2013 -16

Chelmsford Shire Hall's future reviewed by Essex County Council

The long-term future of a 226-year-old civic building in Essex is under review by the county council.

Shire Hall, in Chelmsford, which opened in 1791, has been the venue for trials, inquiries, conferences and balls.

The magistrates courts are set to leave the grade II-listed building's ground floor in April 2012 and its future role is currently uncertain.

Shire Hall to stay in public ownership

Decisions: The Shire Hall in Chelmsford

A LANDMARK building will remain in public ownership.

A new group has been established to help decide what should become of Shire Hall, in Chelmsford city centre.

The building at the top of Chelmsford High Street often hosts weddings and seminars, but has no permanent tenant.

Malcolm Noble, of Changing Chelmsford and the Chelmsford Civic Society, said: "I am glad to see that Essex County Council has made it clear it will be retaining Shire Hall in public ownership.

The new group includes Peter Martin, county council leader, and Roy Whitehead, the leader of Chelmsford Council.

NEWS

Home UK World Business Politics Tech Science Health Education Environment

England regions Essex

Chelmsford Shire Hall's future reviewed by Essex County Council

15 October 2011 Essex

The long-term future of a 226-year-old civic building in Essex is under review by the county council.

Shire Hall, in Chelmsford, which opened in 1791, has been the venue for trials, inquiries, conferences and balls.

The magistrates courts are set to leave the grade II-listed building's ground floor in April 2012 and its future role is currently uncertain.

Shire Hall Chelmsford: crumbling icon transformed into pole palace

CRHnews - Shire Hall Chelmsford: crumbling icon transformed into pole palace



RSA Fellowship

THE ACADEMY OF URBANISM

Chelmsford BOROUGH COUNCIL

Essex County Council

CHELMSFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

High Chelmer Chelmsford

Anglia Ruskin University

Writtle College
 A partner of the University of Essex

3. Anne Knight Building: 2014

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS: Waitrose has just got planning permission for a new store, but it is not the only firm with exciting plans for city

Renaissance of Chelmsford to make it worthy of city status

By Peter Baker

2009 marked the centenary of the first wireless broadcast from Marconi's office in Chelmsford. It was the first ever wireless broadcast to the world.

TO BE DEMOLISHED: It's a historic building in Victoria Road, near the railway station. The building was built in 1824 and was used as a Quaker meeting house.

The Anne Knight Building was used as a Quaker meeting house between 1824 and 1955 before being sold to Essex County Council. Subsequently it was acquired by Anglia Ruskin University.

ANNE KNIGHT 1786-1862
 Quaker, feminist, slavery abolitionist and supporter of Universal Suffrage. Born in Springfield, Resident of Chelmsford.

re-discover the city of Chelmsford

Change your life. Become a Councillor.

re-discover the city of Chelmsford

BACK TO THE FUTURE

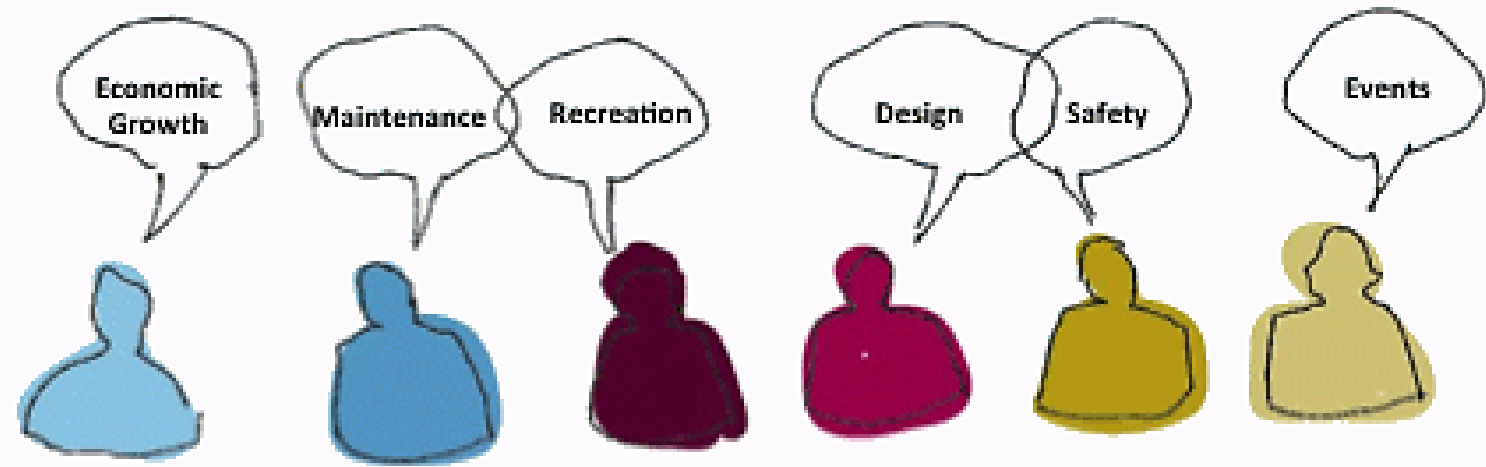
SHIRE HALL CINEMA

OCT 21 20:15:07:28

PRESENT TIME

A simple pattern marked in the paving defines the shape and scale of the space. A radical paving pattern featuring cut from Shire Hall, including its stone arches and surrounding the building with a 10m square paved plaza.

Identity



Institutional siloes ignore place & often degrade its potential value.



‘Heritage Triangle’: challenging convention

The Ideas Festivals

Urbanism Events Programme: Town Commons, Towns like Ours, Chelmsford Young Explorers, Neighbourhood economies...

Ideas Hub

Cultural space / activities: local arts, music

Many initiatives, ongoing conversations, connections

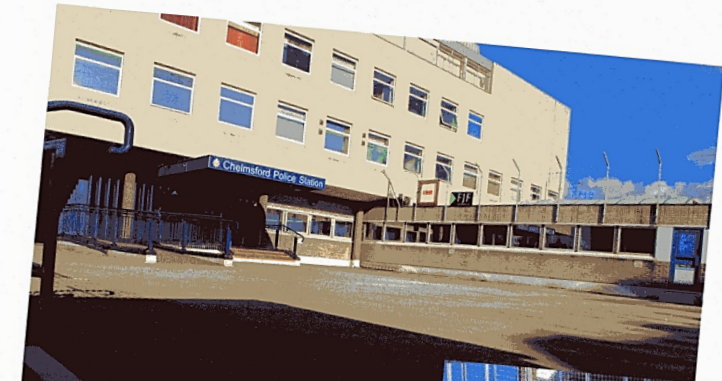


Police Station podium central Chelmsford

As part of the Changing Chelmsford initiative we are discussing a proposal for the temporary use of the Police Station podium for street sports. This would involve the erection of a demountable 12 m x 8m football cage which can be rented from Nacro Chelmsford. There is a lift from street level to the podium which means the space has access for those of more limited ability and there is external lighting from the police station.

Through the Chelmsford Young Explorers project we have identified an urgent need for space for 13-19 year olds to meet and have fun in the early evenings in the town centre. The YMCA young carers group meet on Wednesday evenings and the Social Acknowledgement Junior Group meet on Tuesday evenings at the YMCA which is 200m away from the site on Victoria Road. These groups and other young people would greatly benefit from having the use of such a facility.

We would ask that interested parties who may be able to help this project happen should contact either: Craig Gough at the YMCA Craig.Gough@chelmsfordymca.co.uk or Annabel Brown at info@chelmsfordexplorers.net



D-GENERATION
JOIN CHELMSFORD'S YOUNG URBAN EXPLORERS
13-19 YEAR OLDS HELPING TO RE-IMAGINE THEIR TOWN

Community

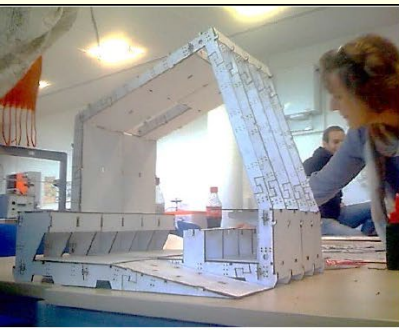
Identity

Sense of Place

The Commons?

Public Space
/ Planning

Civic/Local
Economy



Ideas Festival 2011: WikiHouse Demonstration

Ideas & tools for the 'printable house' (future self-build)

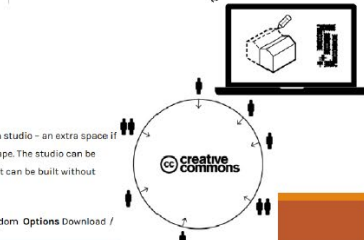
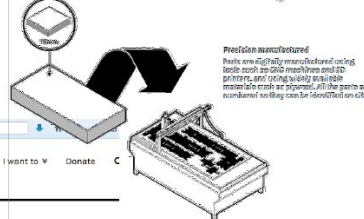
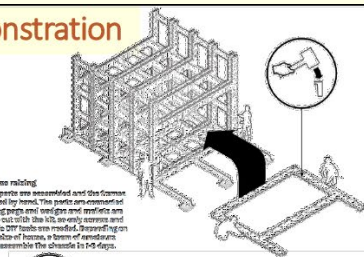
Concept & design by 00;/Architecture

ARU-Led Workshop (laser-cut model) with Writtle College students

Materials sponsored by Bellway (facilitated by Council Urban Designer)

Timber CNC-Routing in Cambridge

ARU & Writtle Staff & students: Live-assembly in town centre



STUDIO

£14,500

A small, beautifully designed garden studio – an extra space if you need somewhere to work or escape. The studio can be self-assembled, and in many areas it can be built without planning permission.

Designer 00 Available United Kingdom Options Download / Kit / Assembled / Customised

UniverCity?: CreativeCityLab 2013



Changing Chelmsford: a collaborative city visioning process

CC

THE ARTS AND URBANISM

CreativeCityLab



2013 Projects & Interns

Chelmsford Mural
A 60m long banner, installed in High Chelmer Atium mapping community groups around Chelmsford.

Sensation Festival
A month long Art Festival with workshops, exhibitions and events. Various venues around Chelmsford.

Ideas Festival & Chelmsford City Council / Architectural Practices
A week long festival with events around Chelmsford. Workshops Open Days. 2 Architecture practices Longstaff Green & Planer-Clabona

Making things

The 100 project...
The 100 project...
The 100 project...

Food and Nature

An initiative from the Essex Festival...
The Essex Festival...
The Essex Festival...

Ideas Festival 2013

CHELMSFORD Ideas FESTIVAL 2013

Saturday 26 October
Sunday 27 October
November

Imagine...

Inaginative Kids

There was plenty to do for the little ones...
The little ones...
The little ones...

CHELMSFORD Ideas FESTIVAL 2012

15th to 20th October 2012

INNOVATIVE CITY

15th to 20th October 2012

A week of sharing innovative ideas through talks, workshops, debates, exhibitions, community events, market stalls, films, interactive tools and more.

Third Annual City Commons

Stephanie Mills AoU, Lia Ghilardi AoU, Yogesh Taylor, Angela Koch AoU

CREATE Ideas FESTIVAL 2014

20 OCT-2 NOV

A creative and cultural festival for all ages

Monthly Archives: September 2014

River Celebration Day -25th Oct

September 10, 2014 in #2014, News by @changingchelmsford

As part of the Chelmsford Ideas Festival from 20th October - 2nd November this year for the first time we are holding a River Celebration Day on the 25th October 10.30am to 4.00pm in the waters of the Chelmer River at the River Cam and the River Chelmer.

2014-15 & Beyond

WORK IN PROGRESS

IDEAS FESTIVAL 2015

A CULTURAL FESTIVAL TO CONNECT PEOPLE OF ALL AGES

INSPIRE | INNOVATE | IDEAS

Ideas Festival Chelmsford

YOUR CITY. YOUR FESTIVAL. OUR POSSIBILITIES

OCTOBER 2016



THE ACADEMY OF **URBANISM**

RSA, Changing Chelmsford
ARU, Writtle, Ideas Hub...

What Changing Chelmsford achieved & learned

- Rethinking the nature of place
- Challenged urban process
- The way we relate to buildings and spaces, the meaning of heritage
- Local initiatives to lead change
- Generating locally distinctive culture: art, music, food and public life
- Nurturing community wellbeing
- Inspiring innovation and enterprise
- Learning from other neighbourhoods, towns and cities, gathering expertise & experience – from within Chelmsford, east of England, Britain and Europe.

Making & Changing the Sense of the City

1. Shaping a sense of the City using small initiatives

- Altogether Now
- Young Urban Explorers
- Artist-led projects
- Revitalising the Civic Society

2. Institutions & Community collaboration

- ‘UniverCity’ collaborations
- Landowners & enterprise
- Networks of influence
- Asset mapping

3. Nurturing the local economy

- Ideas Hub
- Ideas festivals
- Moulsham-First initiatives
- Inspiring individuals & groups to act
- Co-working spaces

4. Encouraging resilience

- Transition Chelmsford
- Wiki-house experiment
- Local food
- River festivals

Shaping the Civic / ‘Changing Chelmsford’



Ideas Hub 1 year on

We're growing way beyond our initial idea of the pop-up venue, café, and meeting place we started in September in advance of the Ideas Festival in October 2012. It's been a roller coaster ride of highs, lows, and challenges as well as a time of fun and friendships. The reality of being 'a not for profit' pop-up community hub has meant moving 3 times. However, thanks to the extraordinary generosity and support of High Chelmer we continue to have a space for the community to meet, connect, share skills, and try out new activities.

Our volunteer team has grown from 4 to 20+. These dedicated people give hours of their time freely to help organize and run the growing timetable of events and workshops. In April we hosted more than 25 workshops in the hub.

In May we ran a music performance and creative

During August the co-working space hosted CreativeCityLab, initiated by Dellé Odeleye of Anglia Ruskin University, seed funded by Unltd. Both Anglia Ruskin University and Writtle School of Design graduates gained experience as Interns for local businesses and civic partners on trial projects. This would otherwise be very difficult in the current economic climate.

In September the Hub transformed into a gallery space to host Art Month - with a week of multi-sensory exhibition and participatory workshops and talks by local artists and designers as part of the City Council's Sensation Festival

Community Interest Company (CIC):
Directors

Steering Group

Ideas Hub

Partners/
Individuals

Occasional
Participants

Hub Hosts

Interviewee Reflections

“It’s very profound, it’s much bigger than I thought it would be. Being networked and involved in Chelmsford that before was far less, through my children not necessarily through me.

I’ve become more engaged with the Festival and I’ve joined the Chelmsford Civic Society and through this organisation I’ve been involved with the Chelmsford Cycling Action Group.

So, there are other things ...happening and you feel a lot more connection and better understanding of the fabric, the social, there are very interesting people that are here and the University that I was only vaguely aware of before.

And my friends that aren’t so locally networked ...they don’t see this side of Chelmsford which is really nice. “

- Mary, local resident & urban practitioner

“I think it has been productive to get students involved, ...And getting feedback ..., they loved hearing from the Dean of the cathedral and from Matthew Taylor on the role of economics and change, all relevant to planning. Then in the afternoon ...was a walking tour of Chelmsford ..., a few architecture students dropped off but all planning students went and you had this group of 70-80 people following Roger around Chelmsford telling the story of {new} buildings, ‘oh the developer said this... and eventually that was built’, and for many local people, it was the first time someone had explained the place in planning terms...”

- Sharon, local Tutor

Interviewee Reflections

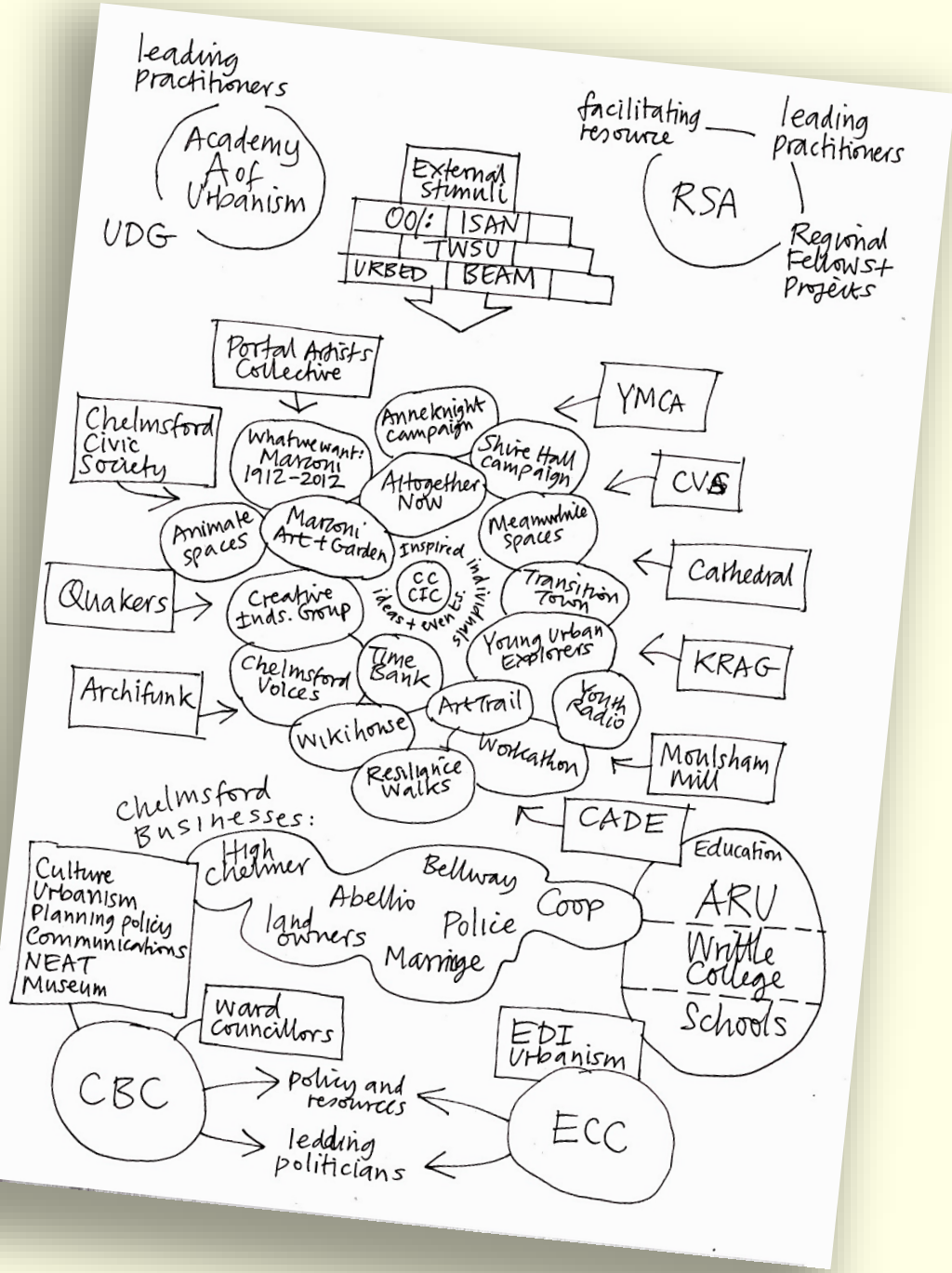
“I think both have had a significant impact in that there was no sense of community in Chelmsford, I mean Chelmsford is a strange place in that you’ve got a really high ...income from a commuting population, ...and it means that ...the people not employed don’t get a look-in with funding and there’s very few resources for people with mental health issues and mums with kids, even, ..., long term unemployed, pensioners. ... all the people who aren’t working really.

So I think it has brought a place, I think it has made people much more aware of the importance of community, made community visible. I think it has been a place for many, many relationships and initiatives to start.”

- Louise, former Hub volunteer

“... And the second thing is, even though I was only involved with running the Hub on Saturdays, I’m really proud of what people said when coming into the Hub, they felt safe, comfortable, somewhere where they wouldn’t be embarrassed, or left out, that they didn’t have to buy a coffee or anything they could come down for a chat, and I’m really proud they feel it’s a space for them and welcoming...”

- Henry, Hub host



Changing Chelmsford unlocked a new energy

- Understanding place as active, cultural, in-flux
- Re-imagining, visioning, initiating outside the established planning processes
- Off-agenda, ongoing
- Constructive anarchism
- Ideas-driven, creative, exploratory, Idealistic
- Engaging motivated talented people
- Reaching overlooked communities



LEGACY: THE IDEAS HUB



Community Space & Education



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS AS A CHARITY

10 YEARS IN NUMBERS

800,000+ Engagements with Public

(Visitors, Attendees, & Supported) & 132 nationalities

20,000 individuals supported one-to-one

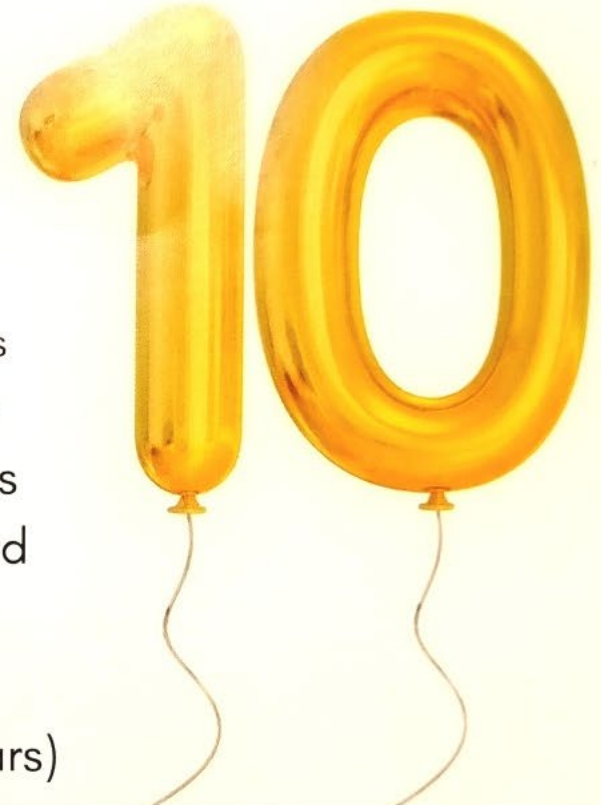
2,000 volunteers delivering these outcomes

£1.55 million of value created in Chelmsford

£550,000 fundraised

£400,000 raised in grants

£600,000 raised for local artists (in 5 years)



Implications for practice

- Engages civic society – harnesses responsible participation.
- Breaks down barriers – integrates public, private and civic sectors.
- Increases awareness and understanding – clarifying choices and easing decision making.
- Moves from regulation to change management.
- Generates leadership and participation through small-scale, incremental initiatives.
- Shows how localism can work with the planning process - opportunity for community-led plans and strategies.
- Secures cultural inclusion as part of the process of development.

OUR CITY?

COUNTERING
EXCLUSION
IN PUBLIC SPACE



*Edited by Minouche Besters,
Ramon Marrades Sempere, Juliet Kahne*

stipo PUBLISHING

A PLACEMAKING EUROPE
PUBLICATION

Thank you!

Questions?

Selected References

- ARNSTEIN, S.R., 1969. A ladder of citizen participation. *Journal of the American Institute of Planners*, **35**(4), pp. 216-224.
- BROWN, A. 2014. **Chelmsford Young Urban Explorers**. www.chelmsfordexplorers.net/ [accessed 8-9-2014]
- BROWN, A & RAMONDT, L. 2012. **Marconi 1912-2012 & Beyond: Field Trip 16th June**. Chelmsford Essex; Changing Chelmsford & Academy of Urbanism
- **CHANGING CHELMSFORD**. 2014. Project webpages. www.changingchelmsford.org [accessed 8-9-2014]
- CHELMSFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL, 2011. **Application for Grant of City Status**: Civic Honours Competition. Chelmsford, Essex
- ESTOP, R; MILLS, S; NOBLE, M; SHAW, B & WORTHINGTON, J. 2011. **Changing Chelmsford: a collaborative city visioning process**. Presentation to Urban Design Group. London: www.urbannous.org.uk/Chelmsford-Collaborative-Planning.htm [accessed 8-9-2014]
- IDEAS HUB. 2014. Project Webpages. <http://ideashubchelmsford.org/> [accessed 8-9-2014]
- INNES, J.E. & BOOHER, D.E., 2004. Reframing public participation: strategies for 21st century. *Planning Theory & Practice*, **5**(4), 419-436.
- MILLS, S., 2011. **Programme for 'Festival of Ideas' Autumn 2011. Summary_06** November 2011. Chelmsford, Essex: Changing Chelmsford.
- MILLS, S., 2011. **Changing Chelmsford: How bold is your vision? Report of the Summer 2010 Proceedings**, Chelmsford, Essex: Changing Chelmsford & RSA.
- ODELEYE, D. 2013. **CreativeCityLab: UnLtd Award - Evaluation Report**. September. Chelmsford Essex, Anglia Ruskin University,
- ODELEYE, D. 2013. **Chelmsford CreativeCityLab**. www.creativecitylab.co.uk/ [accessed 6-9-2014]
- RAMONDT, L & NOBLE, M., 2012. **Chelmsford Ideas Festival 2012: Report & Evaluation**. Chelmsford, Essex: Changing Chelmsford.
- RAMONDT, L; HALL, H; TAYLOR, Y; WILSON, V; BUTTON, V & ESTOP, E. 2014. **Chelmsford Ideas Festival: Review of the 2013 Festival & Proposal for 2014**. Chelmsford, Essex: Changing Chelmsford.
- SHAW, B. 2012. **The Marconi Site & New Street Chelmsford: a new vision – transitional to transformational - Discussion Draft & Sketchbook**. Chelmsford, Essex: Changing Chelmsford & Essex Design Initiative.