

A prospectus for

The International
Garden Cities
Institute

A research, advocacy
and resource centre for
global Garden Cities

HELLERAU

PINELANDS

NEW DELHI DON MILLS

KAPUSKASING

PARIS SAO PAULO

SUNNYSIDE BRUSSELS

RADBURN LETCHWORTH

DEN-EN-CHOFU CANBERRA

COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS

GREENBELT



Letchworth Garden City



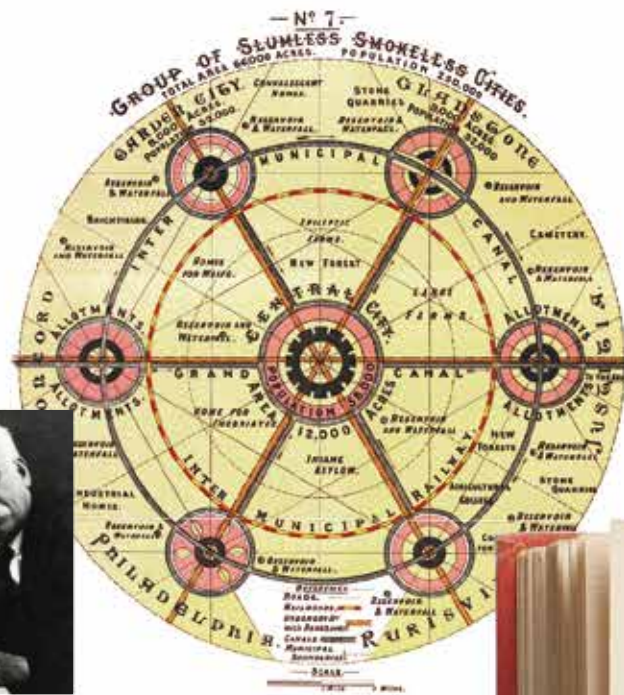
Foreword by Founding President the Marquess of Salisbury

The world is urbanising fast and we have a choice. We can either trust to luck and hope those flocking to the cities are not condemned to living with social dystopia in slums, or we can ensure that they will be housed in places where they will be proud and happy to live and work. The case is urgent and governments, international organisations, academics and, above all, the rest of us should get together to make such places and improve existing settlements.

The United Kingdom has a proud tradition of building such places. The first Garden Cities were built in Hertfordshire at Letchworth and Welwyn and, although much of the new urbanisation will not be in the form of Garden Cities, this kind of development will have a part to play.

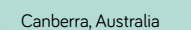
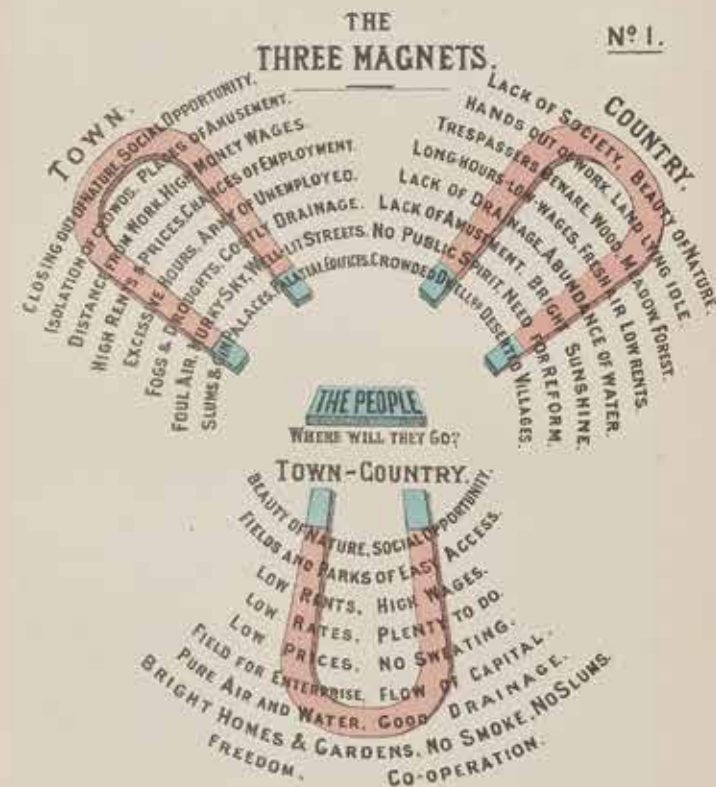
Equally, every nation will want to build in a way that accords with its own culture and traditions. However, there are certain basic principles which seem to underpin most successful communities. The Garden City Institute has been founded to encourage discussion of those principles, to promote their adoption and to exchange views with practitioners and the general public worldwide. With its history of building successful communities, Hertfordshire is an entirely appropriate place to act as the hub of such a network. It is also the home of the University of Hertfordshire which for some years has taken a keen interest in these questions. With modern technology, ambitious projects of this kind have become practicable and I am sure that the Institute will make a timely and important contribution to one of the great challenges of our time.

I am honoured to be associated with this project and greatly look forward to its success.



Garden Cities grew from one man's vision and inspired a movement for global change. Horrified at the urban squalor that followed rapid industrialisation in Britain, Ebenezer Howard envisaged a new form of settlement where everyone could enjoy fresh air and open space, alongside the opportunities for jobs and amenities found in cities.

Bringing together philanthropists and idealists from far afield, Howard founded Letchworth Garden City in 1903 to breathe life into this dream. The town, and the global Garden City movement it inspired, revolutionised ideas about high quality planned towns. The experiment at Letchworth Garden City proved his model worked, and Howard's ideas were soon being shared more widely around the world.



The work of the International Garden Cities Institute

The Institute's aim is to increase knowledge and understanding of the role of the global Garden City movement, and how its key principles can support growth needs across the world. This will be achieved by undertaking a series of workstreams under the following three themes:

A resource centre

By providing a compendium with details of the key features of more than 30 of the most important and relevant Garden Cities already completed, the Institute is a central resource for academics, professionals and individuals who share an interest in the Garden City movement. Our aim is to ensure it is the first place that anyone will wish to go to find out about Garden Cities across the world and where to go for further information.

The Institute brings together knowledge and experience, and celebrates the heritage as well as contemporary development of Garden Cities, and places inspired by them, across the world.

It is the home of the International Garden Cities Exhibition, which tells the story of Letchworth's legacy and influence on town planning across the world.

Advocacy

As an ambassador for new and existing Garden Cities, the Institute seeks to promote the delivery of places where people want to live and work, meeting as many of the Garden City Principles as possible including ownership, governance and stewardship models and encouraging the community to be at the heart of local decision-making.

Working with academics, professionals and community stakeholders in this field, the Institute seeks to develop understanding of modern interpretations of Garden City Principles and how these can be applied as part of the solution to today's worldwide urbanisation trends.



Research

As a centre for learning about Garden Cities, the Institute undertakes an increasingly wide range of high quality academic and applied research. It facilitates discussion and debate, with seminars and publications, to contribute to the wider study of planning, design, housing, communities, and consideration of the Garden City model as part of the solution.

Research is focused on several workstreams including learning from the past, communities, building technologies, delivery, and the stewardship of Garden Cities. Research and think pieces will be published regularly to help support greater understanding of the lessons from Garden Cities around the world.

What is a Garden City?

Garden Cities were founded on a series of principles developed by Ebenezer Howard which remain relevant today:

- Strong vision, leadership and community engagement
- Land value capture for the benefit of the community
- Community ownership of land and long-term stewardship of assets
- Mixed-tenure homes and housing types that are affordable for ordinary people
- Beautifully and imaginatively designed homes with gardens in healthy communities
- A strong local jobs offer in the Garden City itself and within easy commuting distance
- Opportunities for residents to grow their own food, including allotments
- Generous green space, including: surrounding belt of countryside to prevent unplanned sprawl; well connected and biodiversity-rich public parks; high quality gardens; tree-lined streets; and open spaces
- Strong cultural, recreational and shopping facilities in walkable neighbourhoods
- Integrated and accessible transport systems

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS



Zlin, Czech Republic

Principles in practice

In the world's first Garden City, Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, a Community Benefit Society, ensures that land value is captured for the local community, while taking a long-term approach to managing and stewardship of the estate. It reinvests £4million a year back into the Letchworth community through charitable services for the community including a treatment centre, minibus service, cinema, gallery, landscaping and museum services, as well as grants for local groups and individuals.

Broadway, Letchworth



Our vision

The International Garden Cities Institute is the realisation of a long-term ambition by founder Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation to bring together expertise to showcase Garden Cities from around the world as a solid model for new development, in recognition of their global influence. Homed in Letchworth, the Institute will benefit from the diverse knowledge and experience of our Academic and Founding Partners and President.

Academic partners

The Institute has a very strong focus on learning and understanding of Garden Cities and the wider context of planned settlements which is being pursued through our partnership with our lead academic partner, the University of Hertfordshire as well as through our other academic partners.

As lead academic partner, the University of Hertfordshire is governing its partnership through a management group led by Professor Jonathan Morris and is being represented by Dr Susan Parham who is the Institute's first Academic Director.

We also have academic partnerships with Sichuan University, China, Centre of Excellence in Architecture, Environment & Building Cultures, the Ecole Nationale Supérieure Architecture de Grenoble in France, and Cambridge University in the United Kingdom.



The Institute at Barry Parker's former drawing office

Who we are

Founding President:
Marquess of Salisbury

Founder:
Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, represented by David Ames, Head of Heritage and Strategic Planning

Academic Director:
Dr Susan Parham, Head of Urbanism, University of Hertfordshire

Founding Partners:

Janet Askew, University of the West of England & Past President of the Royal Town Planning Institute

Sir Nicholas Bacon Bt, President, Royal Horticultural Society, and Chairman, Prince's Council, Duchy of Cornwall

Keith Boyfield, Research Fellow, Centre for Policy Studies

Guy Butler, Glenbrook Property Limited

Andrew Cameron, Director of Urban Design, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff

Peter Clegg, Chief Executive, Gascoyne Cecil Estates

Anthony Downs, Director of Planning and Development at Gascoyne Cecil Estates

Jane Duncan, Jane Duncan Architects & President of Royal Institute of British Architects

Peter Freeman, Founder of Argent (Property Development) Services LLP

Catherine Harrington, Director of the National Community Land Trust Network

Kate Henderson, Chief Executive of the Town and Country Planning Association

Gillian Hobbs, Director, Building Research Establishment

Neil Jefferson, Business Development Director, National House Building Council Federation

Dr Mervyn Miller, Independent Architect and Town Planner & Parker Scholar

Chris Pattison, Director of Planning, Turnberry

Trevor Saunders, Independent Planning Adviser, Board member LGCHF

Kim Slowe, Zero C Holdings Limited

Kerry Thompson, Executive Director, Inventa Partners Limited

David Waterhouse, Head of Strategic Development, Design Council Cabe

Ursula Howard, Great Grand-daughter of Ebenezer Howard

International Federation of Housing and Planning

The Prince's Foundation for Building Communities

Contact us

Partnering and governance:

David Ames
david.ames@letchworth.com

Research and learning:

Dr Susan Parham
susan.parham@letchworth.com


Communications:

Sara Gaines
+44 (0)1462 476071 or +44 (0) 7713 565645
sara.gaines@letchworth.com

The International Garden Cities Exhibition:

Josh Tidy
+44 (0) 1462 476070
josh.tidy@letchworth.com

General enquiries:

enquiries@gardencitiesinstitute.com
www.gardencitiesinstitute.com
 @gardencitiesins

International Garden Cities Institute
Parker Drawing Offices
296 Norton Way South
Letchworth Garden City SG6 1SU
England UK

www.gardencitiesinstitute.com