

5. Transforming Towns through Culture and Sport

Tom Bolton of CABI, part of the Living Places Partnership, led this workshop. CABI has been the Government's advisor on design for approximately 10 years, being directed by the Government to areas with a widespread of activity to research. Culture and Sport plays a part in design of towns and thus the organization has developed specific planning tools.

That design of the town plays a smaller part – it is the 'functionality' of the town – ie. how the town works that occupies the focus of the organisation's work. Conservation in towns is a matter for English Heritage. Tom showed the value handbook produced, based on the costs of bad design, which was used by local authorities to influence their decision making, together with the research entitled 'Paved in Gold' which looked at high street case studies. The organization wanted to work more closely in partnership with people on the local level. The toolkits can be found online by visiting: www.living-places.co.uk

Delegates raised questions which largely took the form of considering rural issues when planning/design of towns.