Planning enforcement –
What does it mean to do what we do?

Scott Britnell - MSc 2nd year student
“Urban Planning”
Running order

• Background
• The origins of planning
• Justice(s) in planning
• Arcadia
• Case study 1: I can see clearly now...
• Case study 2: Yes, in my back yard!
• What is it you think you are doing when you are doing it?
• Conclusions
Background

- Planning as a means of wealth creation
- Emergence of neo-liberalism
- Revanchism
- The role of people in planning
- Skeffington Report 1969
- The utopian vision of the 1947 Act
- Why we do what we do on a human level
- Planning as part of the human condition
The human condition...

The Human Condition – Rene Magritte (1933)
Activity and influence

- Planning
- Social, Environmental, Economic, Cultural
- Consciousness, Reflection, Feeling, Emotion, Prejudice, Virtue, Personality
The origins of planning

Hippodamus (Greek – 5th Century BC)

- Architect
- City Planner
- Hippodamium Plan (Grid of right angles)
- Public and private space allocated
- Ordered
- Uniformed
- Disciplined

Ancient China

- Chang’an City – Tang Dynasty 7th century AD
- Regional Planning 200 BC
- Strategic
- Centrally controlled
- Growth of cities break strict grid rules
- Economically flourishing
The industrial revolution

- Rapid urban growth
- Mass migration from rural areas to expanding cities
- Little sanitation
- Squalor
- High mortality rates
- Poor working conditions
- Child Labour
- Poor living conditions
- Labour Movement
- Welfare Reforms
The origin of species a better way

• Not always a battle of the fittest
• Founded in the basic human instinct to protect and nurture
• To create a better life
• Evolved to seek better places - utopia
• The freedoms and enjoyment of the individual
• Building communities
• Protecting what is instinctively important
• Ensuring equality
• Delivering justice
The planning laws...

- Town Planning Act 1909
- Housing Act 1919
- Housing Act 1930
- Town and Country Planning Act 1932
- Restriction of Ribbon Development Act 1935
- The Town and Country Planning Act 1947
- The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
- The Planning Act 2008
- Localism Act 2011

Compiled from Planning Help (2015)
Justice(s) in planning

• Social justice
• Environmental justice
• Economic justice
• Cultural Justice
Just/Unjust places

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UPGRD (2015)
Arcadia

Jaywick, Essex (Wrekin’ Blog 2015)
We need to do something...

• Small holdings used to build holiday homes
• Rural /coastal areas
• No planned infrastructure
• Often old railway coaches, sheds and chalets
• Became upgraded overtime
• Holiday homes became retirement homes
• Developments became permanent suburban settlements
• Some are now gone
• Others remain – occupants have fought against the system

Colin Ward (2015)
Case study 1 – Sandbanks Tree

- 40ft protected Scots Pine tree felled
- Unlawful under the cover of night
- Created uninterrupted views of Poole Harbour and Corfe Castle
- Added 000’s to the price of the neighbouring property
- Fine of £75,000
- Proceeds of Crime £50,000
- Fine to make sure there was no chance the transgressor would ever profit from his actions

Above: Owner with the remaining tree stump (The Telegraph (2012))
Question 1: -

How should breaches of planning control be punished?
Case study 2 – Mr Churchill’s Shed

Winston Churchill’s secret war room
The issues

• Needs to be moved for access to garage
• No views from the public realm
• No-one visits it
• No-one will know it’s gone
• Looks like a normal shed
• No special architectural features
• Listed due to social importance
• The LPA will not permit its removal
• Individual’s rights -v- wider society
Question 2: -

Who decides what is important and how?
Question 3 – What is it you think you are doing when you are doing it?
Conclusions

These are yours not mine
A final vision...

“I had a dream, which was not all a dream. The bright sun was extinguish'd, and the stars Did wander darkling in the eternal space, Rayless, and pathless, and the icy earth Swung blind and blackening in the moonless air; Morn came and went--and came, and brought no day, And men forgot their passions in the dread Of this their desolation; and all hearts Were chill'd into a selfish prayer for light”

Darkness, Lord Byron (1816)
Lines 1 – 9
References


