

Cranbrook Must Not Fail: A Convention of ‘Future Experts’

led by
Margareta Kern and
Jonathan Hoskins

Top Studio 2.30-4pm
Phoenix Exeter
28th June 2016

Part of *Living Together*
Organised by Spacex and
Claire Louise Staunton

It is also a way for us to consider encounters with things that don't exist yet. So, if you think that you may have an expertise in rambling, parenting, research, art, retail, teaching or activism by 2031, particularly in Cranbrook, then we invite you to speak from this position. If you want to assume another name, that's fine too.

After we introduce each risk, we will invite the Convention to analyse it further through discussion among its future experts. We hope that we can begin to approach a different way of thinking about everyday life in a future Cranbrook that's of use to us all.

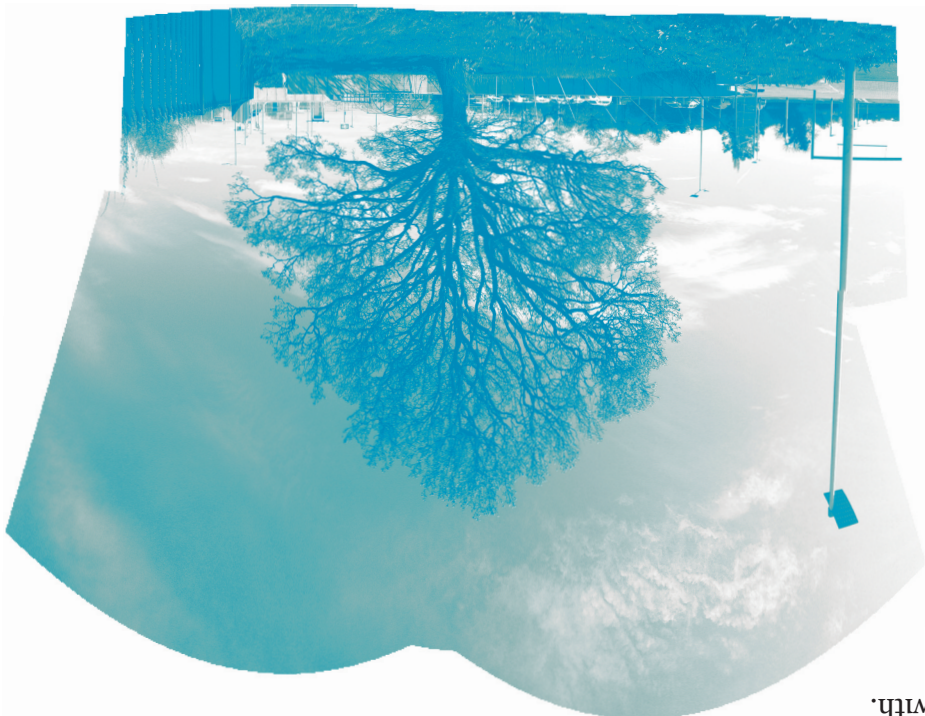
The event will be audio recorded. The transcription of the recording may be edited and published later. We are also planning to develop a radio play from our research after this event, and it may include the performance of parts of the transcription. In any case, no one involved in the research or this event will be identified by name without their prior, express permission.

For further information, or to stay in touch, please contact us on hoskinskern@gmail.com

Budget breakdown >> Artists fees: £4300, £150 per day (£2150 each including £150 per diem) // Labour: 62 days or 31 days each (including visits to Cranbrook; research and project development at other locations) // Travel: £503 // Accommodation: £1077 (including accommodation & travel for Living Together event) // Sound recording at symposium: £300 // Flyer printing: £84 // Full transcript of the event: £400 // Child-care for Cranbrook residents who attend the Living Together event: £40 per day per person.

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Text, design and printing by Hoskins & Kern, 2016



From our research, we have identified a number of 'risks' that we will present for analysis at the Convention. Each concerns an encounter with an infrastructural process in Cranbrook, as experienced in everyday life.

We invite everyone to assume the position of a 'future expert' at the Convention. We make this invitation so that we can recognise the value of analysis from all forms of 'expertise'.

This Convention of Future Experts is concerned with how Cranbrook is experienced by anyone who encounters it, both now and in the future. Through discussion we will try to find ways of thinking about planned spaces in towns and villages. We want to be attentive to aspects of everyday life that are important but often dismissed - moments of discomfort, awkwardness, bemusement, irritation or a sense of the uncanny.

Two months of research has led to this Convention. Throughout this time we have been looking at Cranbrook through the lens of physical and social infrastructure. This is usually understood as the objects that enable everyday life, such as public transport, domestic utilities and communal spaces. These objects are important, but they are only one half of the picture. They only become 'infrastructure' when they are involved in processes with people in everyday life. These processes - and our experiences of them - are the focus of the Convention.

In the past two months we have been visiting and researching the new town of Cranbrook as a physical and psychological proposal for a new community. We now invite you for the presentation and consideration of the future risks we have identified.

The convention will take the shape of a chaired but open and generous discussion where everyone is welcome to assume a 'future expert' position. We especially invite anyone who will become an expert on Cranbrook through some kind of involvement in the town, leading up to its completion in 2031. All kinds of expertise and experience will be invaluable, from civil servants, parents, researchers, artists, retailers, teachers, ramblers, commuters, activists and students.

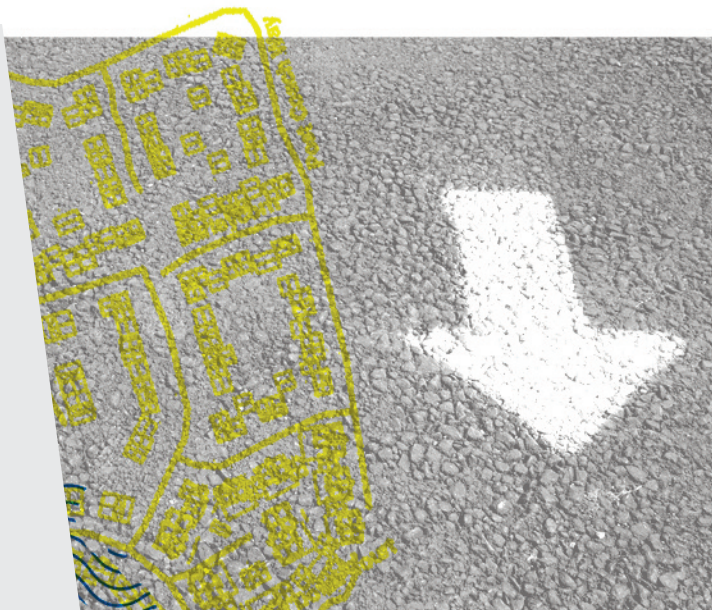
With the future expertise to hand, we will conduct a 'risk analysis' to help ensure the town's spaces are completed without failure, and to establish exactly what that would mean. We are particularly concerned for the future of infrastructure, and whether in 2031 it will refer to things like water and broadband provision, or supportive relationships and an identity you can be happy with.

Cranbrook

is a new town that is currently under construction in East Devon, close to Exeter. It is the first “free standing new settlement” in Devon since the Middle Ages.

Construction began in 2011 and now 1,300 houses have been completed and are home to 3,000 people. By 2031, Cranbrook will comprise 8,000 homes and 20,000 people, making it the second largest town in East Devon.

It is part of the Exeter and East Devon Growth Point, a public-private sector partnership delivering a series of large developments in the region. Its staff are part of East Devon District Council, but it involves central government, nearby local governments and the New Community Partners Consortium of property developers and Hallam Land Management, a land developer that acquired the site of Cranbrook before the development began, when the land was still agricultural.



5

The town’s physical and social infrastructure is being put in place at different moments between 2011 and its completion. The timing of each is determined by the ‘Section 106’ agreement drawn up between local and regional government and the members of the Consortium. As new homes are completed and sold, ‘trigger points’ are met, requiring specific physical and social infrastructure to be built.

In the past five years several local government documents have been produced to determine, or at least influence, the future direction of the construction of Cranbrook. The latest is the new Development Plan, and it is now the mid-point in the council’s public consultation period. Later, the final draft of this document will determine the final stages in the completion of Cranbrook.

All figures are approximate. All facts and statistics in this document have been taken from the East Devon Local Plan 2013-2031 (Jan 2016), the Cranbrook Development Plan (May 2016), the website of the Exeter and East Devon Growth Point (<http://www.exeterandeastdevon.gov.uk>, accessed 19 June 2016) and the Agenda for the East Devon District Council Extra Ordinary Development Management Committee meeting of 31 May 2016.