Officers and Committee - Trust Annual Report 1968

President	Admiral Sir William Andrewes K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.	Sparkford House, St Cross Road, Winchester
Vice President	The Very Reverend O.H. Gibbs-Smith, C.B.E.	Dean of Winchester
Vice President	Lady Charlotte Bonham-Carter	
Vice President	Ralph Dutton, Esq., F.S.A.	
Chairman	Mr F.D.E. Pare, D.F.A.(LOND.)	Abbey Mill House, Colebrook Street, Winchester
Hon. Treasurer	Mr P. Longhurst	Barlclays Bank, Winchester
Hon. Secretary	Miss C. DE C. Hamilton	Colebrook Cottage, Colebrook Street, Winchester
Committee Members	Mr J. F. Brewis, C.M.G.,C.V.O.	49 St Cross Road, Winchester
	Mr J. A. Broughall	13 Christchurch Road, Winchester
	Mrs W.J. Carpenter-Turner, J.P.	10 The Close, Winchester
	Mr W.J. Carpenter-Turner, A.R.I.B.A.	10 The Close, Winchester
	Dr E. Course	Dept Extra- Mural Studies, Southampton University
	Mr G. S. Course	Fairgirth, 60 Chilbolton Avenue, Winchester
	Mr M.C. Gardener	Kingsland House, Chesil Street, Winchester
	Mr M.H. Hughes	Turret House, Brambridge Park, Bishopstoke
	Sir Lionel Lamb, K.C.M.G.	St Cross House, Winchester
	Lt. Col. H.E. Madge	Sandpits, Kingsgate Street, Winchester
	Sir John McNee, M.D., D.S.C., F.R.C.P.	Barton Edge, Worthy Road, Winchester
	Mrs. D. Sanders	The Soke, Chesil Street, Winchester
	Mr D.J. Smith, F.R.I.C.S.	78 Parchment Street, Winchester
	Mr R.D. Utting, A.R.I.B.A.	Itchen House, Bishopstoke

Miss E. Viney	"Antiques", Chesil Street, Winchester
Mr W.D.R. Weller	25 St Thomas Street, Winchester

The First Ten Years - Trust Annual Report 1968

On 24th April, 1968, an Extraordinary General Meeting was called to approve some changes in the Articles of Association of the Winchester Preservation Trust. This was because the Charity Commissioners had indicated that if certain alterations were made to the wording, they would be prepared to award the Trust the status of a Charity. The advantages of this would be that the income which the Trust receives from the house which they own in Canon Street, and the interest on any deposit accounts held at the bank would be free of income tax. It would also be possible for members to covenant their subscriptions for a period of seven years and this would entitle the Trust to reclaim income tax on behalf of members' subscriptions.

In his opening remarks the Chairman pointed out that the meeting could be regarded as a tenth birthday celebration. The Trust was founded on 23rd April, 1958, and it seemed to be a good opportunity to look back and see what the Trust had achieved.

He went on to say that the Trust had been founded in Faith and Hope, but now the time had arrived to add Charity to the other two virtues.

There could be no doubt that the Trust had created a climate of interest in the city, and that it had become a focal point for all those who were concerned about the place where they live and its historic value.

During the ten years the Trust had enabled hundreds of people to attend lectures about Winchester, its historical importance and its beauty. Most of these had been given by Mrs. Carpenter-Turner, a founder member and Vice-Chairman of the Trust. Many of these had been in the form of conducted tours. The importance of this contribution to the work of the Trust could not be overstressed.

The most important single achievement of the Trust had been the saving of St. Peter Chesil Church, which is now the Little Theatre Club of the Winchester Dramatic Society, enabling the Club to increase their membership and extend their activities. Over £10,000 had been raised for the project with the help of grants from sympathetic authorities. Now that a number of trees have been removed on the river bank in gardens adjoining the church, it is possible to see that the restoration is no less important on this side than from the street.

The Trust has opposed demolitions, but alas, not always successfully, but there is no doubt that the Trust's activities in Canon Street have saved this delightful area of the city. A former chairman of the Trust, the late Dr. Sybil Tremellen, had bought on behalf of the Trust, No. 24. This had been put into good order and is now let to the

original tenant at a controlled rent. Houses below that point had been saved by private purchasers.

The Trust had added a number of properties in Canon Street and elsewhere to the list of scheduled properties or had them upgraded.

The Trust had consistently opposed the traffic plan, and also the Winchester Gas Storage Bill. It has criticised unsuitable development and has also been able to express the views of its members directly to committees of the City Council.

On the other hand, it has supported the City Council whenever they have been engaged in preservation work such as the restoration of St. Swithun's arch.

If in some degree the faith and hope of the founders had been justified, it was also pertinent to ask 'What of the future?'

The Trust intends to continue the same functions. As committees get larger and planning authorities become more remote, the role of Civic and amenity societies becomes more important.

There are thousands of ordinary, uninteresting towns up and down the country, each with its mass produced stores built from identical materials wherever they may be. Dull and monotonous places they are; but there is only one Winchester. It is unique in its river and water meadows extending right into the heart of the city from St. Cross to the Abbey Gardens. The Cathedral, the College and the old streets are examples of some of the best of their kind. Winchester is, moreover, one of the few cities which can still be approached through unspoiled landscape, without encountering the blight of suburban semi-detached houses which forms the approaches to so many other towns. The inter-war period of development is all hidden in the natural folds of the ground and also by well wooded landscape.

Recent legislation should make the work of Preservation easier, but to the citizens of Winchester the Preservation Trust can give continuous expression of their democratic rights about their concern for the place where they live.

The Resolutions before the meeting were then read out and passed unanimously on a show of hands.

The complete changes to the wording of the Articles of Association are given below.

Winchester Preservation Trust Limited

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Winchester Preservation Trust Limited will be held at Guildhall, Winchester, on Wednesday, the 24th day of April, 1968, at 7.00 p.m. for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the following Resolutions which will be proposed as SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

1. THAT the Memorandum of Association of the Trust be amended by:

- the substitution at the end of clause 3(a) of the words 'charitable institutions' for the words 'national civic or cultural institutions of a non commercial character'.
- the insertion before clause 3(b) of the words 'In furtherance of the foregoing objects but not further or otherwise'.

2. THAT the Memorandum of Association of the Trust be further amended by:
   - the deletion in clause 3(e) of the words 'Subject to the provisions of Section 14 of the Companies Act 1948' and the substitution of the words 'may be necessary or convenient for the promotion of the objects of the Trust' for the words 'the Trust may think necessary or convenient for the promotion of its objects'.
   - the insertion in clause 3(g) of the word 'charitable' before the word 'trusts'.
   - the substitution in lines 3 and 16 of the proviso to clause 3 of the words 'Secretary of State for Education and Science' for the words 'Minister of Education'.
   - the insertion in the fifth line of clause 7 of the word 'charitable' before the word 'objects'.

Dated this twenty fourth day of April, 1968.

G. de C. HAMILTON Honorary Secretary

Plans for the New Hospital - Trust Annual Report 1968

On conclusion of the formal business at the Extraordinary General Meeting, Associate members and the general public were admitted. The Chairman then welcomed five members of the project team of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board. These included an administrator, a doctor, a nurse, an engineer and an architect. The plans were looked at from the point of view of regional needs and organisation, finance, the modern requirements of medicine and surgery, nursing and economy of staff, the great increase of services required by modern science and technology, and considerations of planning, siting and architectural problems.

The talks were illustrated by slides with the utmost thoroughness and lucidity. The size of the task, the organisation and planning, were matter of which the members of the Trust were hardly aware.

This open meeting provided an opportunity for residents in the Romsey Road and Queens Road area to voice their protests on the way in which the plans would be imposed and their houses demolished without adequate compensation. From questions which were asked after the meeting the following points emerged.

In developing a larger complex of new buildings on the present site the Wessex Regional Board was following Ministry of Health policy, which was to develop as many sites as possible simultaneously, so that each area could derive the utmost benefit at once. The alternative would involve building a whole hospital every two or

three years, with the result that the last in the queue would have to wait twenty years or more for a new hospital, and that last one might be Winchester.

It has to be remembered also that a hospital must be within easy and inexpensive reach of public transport. The services required by a hospital are the equivalent of those for one thousand dwelling houses, and the further these are moved out of a town the more prohibitive becomes the cost. For the sake of economy, rational planning, and accessibility there was really no alternative site which could be used.

Town and Country Planning Bill - Trust Annual Report 1968

The Town and Country Planning Bill was given a second reading in the House of Commons on 31st January, and has now reached the Statute Book. Its main aim is to give effect t the proposals of the White Paper 'Town & Country Planning'. In this the Government said they thought the need for quicker decisions and a larger measure of public participation in planning could best be met by more devolutio of power and streamlining of procedure. One suggestion is that members of civic societies should be co-opted on to local planning committees. The City Council, however, did not agree that this should take place in Winchester at present.

The Civic Trust also invited views from Civic Societies on the theme 'To consider and report on the best methods, including publicity, of securing the participation of the public at the formative stage in the making of development plans in their area'.

The reply of the Trust was as follows.

"The experience of the Winchester Preservation Trust in certain recent instances when it has had occasion to voice objection to major official plans affecting the city suggests that while the authorities concerned may be disposed to inform the public of details of plans already drafted (and usually also approved), there is a reluctance to invite the opinions or preference of the citizens, and still less to defer to alternative proposals, however constructive, such as those put forward by the Trust in connection with the local Traffic Plan.

In existing circumstances, except where there is a statutory obligation for some form of public enquiry, the responsible planning authority holds the aces in determining the timing and extent to which the public is taken into its confidence with regard to development proposals, however much the community in whole or in part may be materially or emotionally affected.

It is a cardinal principle of representative government that the people should be frankly informed (unless national security be involved) of administrative acts of decisions affecting their persons or property. It is therefore incumbent upon the planning authority to make known to the public concerned at an early stage, with ample time and facilities for comment, not only the outline, but also the actual details, of any such planning. It might be argued that premature revelation of schemes affecting property might precipitate a fall in land values, but it would seem only

equitable that property owners should be given the maximum amount of warning of any risks of planning blight. The details, with maps where called for, should therefore be announced through the Press and other communication media, as well as being readily available at convenient centres for reference.

Such public notification, however, falls short of consultation and still less of participation of the public in the planning process. Ideally these objectives would be achievable by combination of a moot of residents/ratepayers on the model of the Swiss Landsgemeinden (which have only been able to survive in the smallest Cantons), and a referendum. These procedures being, however, precluded in the United Kingdom by physical limitations and national traditions, an alternative should be sought by the establishment of closer liaison between the planning authority and the community through the medium of mutually acceptable delegates. At the local level of parish, rural, urban or county councils this could be readily and satisfactorily effected by the participation with voting rights of an accredited representative (not being a member of the council in question) of organisations such as preservation trusts in the meetings of the authority's appropriate committees when any planning or administrative project of special public concern is under discussion. Additionally contact with public opinion could be sustained by the routine circulation of council meeting minutes to the committees of appropriate local organisations concerned with the preservation of communal interests in their various aspects.

The above simple expedients should meet the needs of situations arising in the relatively limited spheres of town and county development planning. Evidently the larger the area and/or population involved, the more difficult it becomes to safeguard the public against the incidence of unilateral or arbitrary planning. This is likely to be a relevant consideratic in the context of projects on an extensive territorial basis, such as might derive from a S.E. Regional Development programme. Nevertheless, it should still be possible with mutual goodwill to apply the same principle, with suitable modifications, of active participation from the initial planning stages in the counsels of the authority concerned by qualified representatives of the various localities likely to be affected, such as members of the local councils and/or of unofficial organisations or associations with specific causes to uphold.

An essential element in successful administration is mutual confidence and respect between the governing body and its public, which arrangements on the above lines might serve I establish. The suggested procedure would be facilitated by greater co-operation between the local organisations or associations with similar or parallel interest in sensible and fair planning.

In this general context it seems pertinent to quote the following extract from a report in The Times of 20th February 1962, of the debate in the House of Commons regarding the Chilcomb Gas Bill promoted by the Gas Board to provide for the storage of gas under an extensive subterranean area of Winchester (which was significantly withdrawn before its second reading in the face of concerted opposition by the citizens and city council of Winchester, the Cathedral and College authorities, and various other influential bodies, with the active support of the local Member of Parliament and his colleagues of all parties):

'Mr. Smithers, M.P. for Winchester, asked the Minister of Power, Mr. Wood, whether any assurance was given to the Minister by the Gas Council that consultations had taken place with the Winchester City Council and with other bodies or persons directly affected when application was made to him by the Gas Council for his consent to promote the Bill. Mr. Wood. "No"."

(A fuller description of the Gas Storage Bill is given later in this report.)

Planning - Trust Annual Report 1968

To explain the dilemma of city planning today, we must understand its deep roots in the past and particularly the Utopias of the past. From the increasingly accurate tools of art history we now discover that mediaeval planning was by no means accidental. Cities grew slowly, perhaps, but with precise intention, answering to climatic and social conditions. The rectilinear Roman City of Winchester made itself more easily defensible and turned itself into a series of relatively windproof warrens, in a climate less stable than that of their Mediterranean prototypes.

This process continued, with adaptations to suit the way of life in each century, until the nineteenth century, which was the first to face the problems of mass production and consumption, but lacking the elements necessary to ensure dispersal of the population. The steam engine and railway were essentially concentrating devices. By the end of the century this limitation of railway transport led to the over concentration of people in factories and dwellings.

This led to the idea of the garden city of Ebenezer Howard and other reformers who desired to make an hygienic Utopia to combat the terrible slums of the period. In the 1920's Le Corbusier in France developed these ideas still further, but no one at that time could see the effect of motor cars on our cities. His ideas of new cities, however, still hold good in the main essentials. Le Corbusier saw that planning should be based on the principle of the separation of the four functions —living, working, recreation and transport. A quick look at Winchester shows how these principles have come about, achieved as much by unconscious growth as deliberate planning.

The workers have been decanted from their crowded little terrace houses to council estates on the periphery. The workshops have become factories and are packed off to Winnall, while the City centre is turned over to the multiple store and the office block. The ubiquitous motor car links them all together and the roads also have to bear the double burden of local communication and through traffic.

When a new town has been planned on the above four principles they have been economic successes, but too often architectural disasters, because the application of the plan has lacked the one factor which would give it artistic coherence imaginative planning and design. The piecemeal development of each site by multiple firms dooms the system to an ineffectual and unco-ordinated assemblage.

There is enough of this kind of development in the country today to make us realise that Winchester already has what most new towns want—a great deal that is beautiful and valuable Further demolitions in Winchester must be halted as far as possible, and the new planning acts and the powers of the corporation must be vigorously upheld.

Southgate Street - Trust Annual Report 1968

This brings us to the vexed question in Southgate Street, where Winchester City Council's plan to stop the demolition of a terrace of four dignified town houses has been rejected by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

In the Minister's view, the buildings are not of sufficient merit to justify the confirmation of a Building Preservation Order made by the City Council earlier this year. This Order related to Nos. 37 and 39, and the Preservation Trust requested that the Order should also apply to Nos. 33 and 35, the remaining two houses in the terrace.

Southgate Street

On 2nd July a Ministry Inspector conducted a local inquiry, but in the Inspector's view the buildings occupying the site were not of sufficient intrinsic merit in themselves, did not contribute sufficiently to the value of a group of buildings or go any way towards creating any special atmosphere in the street scene as to warrant their protection by a Building Preservation Order, even taking into account their position within a conservation area. A well proportioned building, sympathetically designed to take its place in the street, could make a great or even greater contribution to Southgate Street. These sentiments are unexceptional if you do not happen to live in Winchester, but if you do, you will soon begin to see snags. In the first place, this

terrace is part of the visual history of Winchester. They are good representatives of a period of which there is little evidence in the City, and they contribute to the rich variety of styles which make the City what it is. There are many similar buildings up and down the country now serving the useful purpose of flats, offices or students' hostels. But in Winchester there are few such terraces and this is at an important entry to the City, and because in the past this approach has been partially spoilt by unfortunate demolitions, this does not justify sweeping away the lot. The hope that they will be replaced by better designed buildings is, alas, likely to be vain.

What generally happens is, that a development of this size is in the hands of a large operator from outside. An architect, without knowledge of the city, takes charge and his brief is to construct the largest area of space legally permitted to produce the maximum rents with the utmost economy of means. Under these circumstances, you do not even get a decent piece of wall, you only get an assemblage of mass produced windows and doors, with the cheapest possible infilling which looks shabby in five years. There are already numerous examples of this approach in Winchester and no more should be permitted. So much for the Minister's pious hopes. If there were some prospect of getting one of the few architects who could tackle such a problem successfully, one would have fewer misgivings.

A statement from the Ministry said: 'The Minister accepts the facts as found by the Inspector, and notes his conclusion that this terrace has not outlived its usefulness and is not beyond economic repair. In view of this, the Minister would not have agreed to the demolition of these buildings had they been listed.

'The buildings however are not listed, nor was there any evidence given which suggests to him that they ought to have been listed because of their architectural or historic interest. Under these circumstances, the Minister feels bound to accept the conclusion of his Inspector, that the buildings are not of such merit either in themselves or in their contribution to the street scene, as to justify him in confirming the Order'.

This decision shows how vital it is that all important houses in a Conservation Area should be listed, a task on which the frost has embarked. It has become apparent after only a few months that the designation 'Conservation Area' affords very little protection.

From this kind of experience almost everybody would agree that we are making a monumental mess of our towns and villages, though we have to be thankful that the process has been far less drastic in Winchester than in many other places. We are at least fortunate to have so much worth preserving. There is no doubt that earlier generations had the knack of grouping houses into agreeable communities, and that the pattern is not by any means uniform, but varies from place to place so that Winchester, York, Bath and Stamford for instance, has each developed its own rich variety.

Previously, quite ordinary men had created houses of convenience and charm without the aid of registered architects or town planners, but try as they may, these people are unable today to create an environment which is half as successful as the old builders working without diplomas or academic distinction of any kind. It is

certain, however, that living within the community they developed 'the feel' of the locality in a way which no outsider can achieve. They were also men of taste in their own right, basing their work on local tradition and good pattern books. Mass produced components were unobtainable. Houses sprang from the local timber yard, the brick yard or the quarry.

They then proceeded to build without affront to their neighbours or posterity. Older houses were left to live out their span just as long as they were still useful. It made no kind of economic sense to demolish a building which had years of useful life in front of it, though mediaeval timber-framed houses were often brought up to date in Georgian times by a new frontage. But the converters still possessed the knack of making it fit in with the surroundings.

This is however not the only reason. The gentlemen of the 18th century had had an education extending over three or four years on the grand tour. They regarded an interest in classical literature and a capacity to judge the decorative arts as essential qualities of a gentleman. Tastes acquired in France and Italy brought a sophistication to the smaller towns of England, and by imitation the unique privilege of the aristocracy became the common experience of the provinces. Although travel is now more widespread, looking at architecture and works of art is reserved for bad weather, or is accomplished in a perfunctory manner as the coach stops for an hour. So now general ignorance is widespread, and not nearly enough is learned about matters of taste in general education, which is reserved for useful subjects.

Walls - Trust Annual Report 1968

Drawing by Garrick Palmer

Wall at 25 Hyde Close

Last year the Preservation Trust began to make a record of boundary walls within the City. Of special interest, is the one drawn for us by Garrick Palmer at 25 Hyde Close. Here, stonework of the Jacobean period has been inserted into an even older wall of Tudor origin with some unusual semi-circular brick buttresses.

Formerly the garden wall of Hyde Abbey House, this now contains a terrace of modern houses built within the last few years.

Buriton House - Trust Annual Report 1968

In our 1966 Annual Report we reproduced a drawing of Buriton House in Chesil Street which was at that time undergoing renovation. We are now happy to report that the restoration is complete and that the owner intends, with the co-operation of the Trust, to take steps which will ensure, so far as may be, that the property remains in good hands for very many years to come.

Obituary Dennis Weller - Trust Annual Report 1968

We very much regret having to record the death of Dennis Weller at the early age of forty eight. He was a founder member of the Committee who was also our Secretary for several years. In addition to this, he played a major role in both the big Auction Sales which were held in aid of the St. Peter Chesil Appeal. These were the two events which made the largest contribution to the fund and both depended for their success very largely on his efforts.

His profession as estate agent had given him an intimate knowledge of the City for which he had a deep affection. At Committee meetings he always had a practical point of view to contribute, and his first thought was always for the people affected by planning proposals which were likely to rob them of their homes.

He will be sadly missed by us all. His contribution to the life of Winchester was not confined to work for the Preservation Trust, and we can ill afford to lose a citizen who was so public-spirited, and willing to work so hard for the community. He leaves a widow and two children to whom the Trust extends the deepest sympathy.

New Powers - Trust Annual Report 1968

Neglect has been one of the factors which in the past contributed so much to the decay of ancient cities. This has often been evident where the possibility of demolition has actually increased the value of a site so that a new building can be erected. Now, however, it is possible for a repairs notice to be served by the Local Authority on the owner. This will inform him of the repairs that are considered necessary and advise him of the authority's compulsory purchase powers. If he carries these out the building will cease to be liable to compulsory purchase. If he does not, the authority may acquire the building compulsorily. It is to be hoped that this new power will be invoked whenever necessary.

Hyde Abbey Gateway - Trust Annual Report 1968

The Preservation Trust is very pleased to learn that the City Council is proceeding with repairs to 15th Century Hyde Abbey Gateway which is now more fully revealed since some cottage demolitions took place some time ago.

Founded in 901 A.D. and transferred from a site close by the present Cathedral in 1110, it is the last remaining part of an important site which, when redeveloped, will contribute to the improvement of the whole area surrounding St. Bartholomew's Church.

The Traffic Plan and the Gas Storage Plan - Trust Annual Report 1968

On our tenth anniversary it seems a suitable opportunity to record two of the most important happenings which took place during the period. As these events extended over several years it is useful to have the facts brought together into one document.

Summary Record of the Winchester City Internal Road Plans - Trust Annual Report 1968

A comprehensive local traffic plan was approved in principle at City Council (subsequently referred to as the Council) meeting 24th June, 1964. A consequent report dated April 1965 was considered at Council meeting 28th July, 1965 at which the Town Clerk referred to Ministry of Transport Circular 8/65 inviting local authorities to submit by 30th September, 1965 'with outline particulars of road improvement schemes which they would wish for inclusion in a list of schemes for inclusion in the Ministry's programme for 1970 onwards'. This meant, in effect, 'no plan, no chance of financial support from central government funds', so that it was expedient to queue up with a plan now while the going was good.

The resultant plan which involved, in various stages, complicated road adjustments and considerable destruction of notable residential property, particularly in the St. James' Terrace, Christchurch Road, and St. Cross Front Street areas with special relation to an inner link to make Southgate Street one-way traffic, aroused profound disquiet among residents thereby threatened as well as from advocates of the preservation of Winchester's architectural assets, and their views were conveyed to the Council through various local residents' associations and other organisations, and vocally in the press correspondence columns. In response the Council expressed their readiness in principle to consider alternative detailed proposals.

Public dissent was re-affirmed at a public meeting convened by the Council at Guildhall on 28th July, 1964 at which (see Hampshire Chronicle report 1st August, 1964): 'Well over 600 people packed the Guildhall to let the Council members know their feelings on the matter and left little doubt that certain points in the plan were extremely unpopular'. Among the organisations which presented their objections to the plan in its current form were the Winchester Preservation Trust in a calm and objective statement by its Chairman, Mr. D. Pare. A proposal from the floor that a vote should be taken on the plan was rejected by the Chair, after consultation with

the Town Clerk, on the grounds that this would be out of order as not being representative of the Winchester community.

This inconclusive meeting between Council and residents sot unnaturally did not relieve public concern, particularly in sum of the danger of planning blight in the threatened areas. Various local residents' associations made representations to their ward councillors, and discussions were held with the Council by interested organisations, but with little apparent success.

A revised, though basically unchanged, plan for an inner ring road was accepted by the Council as a basis for more detailed planning, at a meeting on 28th July, 1965, for submission to the Ministry of Transport.

At a meeting on 30th June, 1966 the Council discussed a Winchester Town Centre Map, but detailed study was deferred until October session.

In the meanwhile a Public Meeting at Guildhall was convened for the evening of 26th July, 1966 for discussion of the above Winchester Town Centre Map at which, it was announced, Officers of the Hampshire County Council and the Winchester City Council were to be present 'to explain the proposals with the aid of large scale plans and to answer any questions'. The announcement of the meeting added that a period of three months would be allowed to enable any individual or group of persons to make objections, representations and suggestions, which were to be made in writing to the Clerk of the County Council by 28th October, 1966. Copies of a booklet describing the proposals could be obtained at a price of 10s. from the offices of the County Planning Department or the Town Clerk.

The official planners' explanations and traffic statistics, particularly relating to the volume of purely internal movements, failed to convince the great majority of the citizens present, the consensus of whose opinion was at least to abandon, or defer commitment to, any internal link scheme until it could be established to what extent the completion of the King's Worthy Link, the commencement of which in the near future was now assured, relieved the pressure of traffic within the city, as it logically ought to do. The Mayor as Chairman accepted several petitions against the St. James' Terrace/Christchurch Road/St. Cross Road inner link scheme signed by a representative number of residents, but no vote or resolution by the audience was recorded (no opportunity for such an expression of opinion having been accorded).

It appeared, however, from the proceedings of the Council meeting on October 1966, approving a recommendation of the Highways Committee of 26th September, 1966 for the abandonment of the St. Cross/Sussex Street Inner Link plans, that economic consideration and perhaps also the pressure of public opinion had effected at least the shelving of the most controversial items of the road plan.

Nevertheless in response to further offers from the Count Council to underwrite a greater proportion of the costs involved, the City Council at the meeting of 7th December, 1966 reverted to the original intention with a resolution that the plan should be proceeded with in its entirety.

It was reported in the Hampshire Chronicle of 13th Jun 1967 that 'Winchester traffic schemes to cost nearly two million pounds are included in the "Preparation List" of urban road schemes announced by the Minister of Transport (Mrs. Barbara Castle) on Wednesday 10th June. It covers the ten-year action plan already prepared by the City Council and the Minister's intention is that the work should start within a period of 5 to 8 years from 1971'. The items, listed with their estimated costs include the North Walls widening (£320,000) and the St. Cross to Romsey Road via St. James' Lane (£270,000). This then is the up-to-date situation, with work on the Kingsworthy/Winchester By-Pass link begun and proceeding steadily.

Summary Record of the Winchester Underground Gas Plot - Trust Annual Report 1968

In the spring/summer 1961 the Winchester welkin was rent in sundry places by the continuous clatter of what could on some sort of pile-driving machinery.

No announcement was made by any authority as to the nature and purpose of those operations. In the case of a set-up near St. Cross, for instance, the workmen referred enquiries to the foreman, who merely stated that these were exploratory borings (and nothing to do with secret military projects or oil-piping from Fawley Esso etc.) such as his firm, a North country or midland specialist concern, had already done in E. Anglia and elsewhere.

Towards the end of the year it was suddenly revealed that the Gas Council had arranged for the presentation to Parliament of a private **The Gas (underground storage) (Chilcomb) Act 1962**, copies of which were duly deposited inter alies at the offices of the City and County Councils about 20th November, 1961. This Bill sought to give the Gas Council extensive powers for the acquisition and exploitation above and below ground of selected property in the Urban and Rural areas of Winchester for the storage of gas, under two categories: Green area for immediate use and Pink area as reserve or supplementary zone.

On 30th November owners and occupiers of property in the St. Cross area within 500 yards of the Pink area in that vicinity received a notice relating to this Bill under Standing Order 17 (no such notice being, however, received in the case of local properties actually within the designated areas).

The Pink area, it transpired on examination of the plans, impinged upon the sites of St. Cross Hospital, and also of Winchester Cathedral and Winchester College. Public Notice of the Bill with details was published in the local press, e.g. Hampshire Chronicle of 1st December, 1961. This only confirmed public anxiety as to the implications of the Gas Council's intent.

At a meeting on 6th December, 1961 the Winchester City Council decided not to oppose the main principle of the Gas Council's pilot scheme for the underground storage of gas in an area of about 3,500 acres at Chilcomb, on the outskirts of the city, but expressed concern about an additional area, spreading under the South-

eastern sector of the city, which the Gas Council had nominated as an additional storage zone which might be needed in the future, and decided therefore to oppose the demand for the use of land under the built-up area of the city (see Report in Hampshire Chronicle, 9th December, 1961).

At about this date a number of Winchester residents and organisations likely to be affected received formal R.S.V.P. invitation cards from the Chairman of the Gas Council to a meeting at Guildhall on the evening of 13th December at which details of the Bill for the underground storage of gas in the Chilcomb area would be explained. At this meeting, which was well attended by 'land and property owners, representatives of public and private organisations' (Southern Evening Echo, 14th December) it was evident that public disquiet had in no degree been assuaged, despite the display of explanatory diagrams etc. On the contrary opposition was forcefully and expertly voiced.

At a public meeting convened by the City Council on 29th January, 1962 in Guildhall a crowded audience endorsed the City Council's purpose to oppose the Bill through community and parliamentary means. Consequently a humble petition in the name of the Mayor, Alderman, and Citizens of Winchester was formally drawn up for submission to the House of Commons, and the support of the Member of Parliament, Mr. Peter Smithers, sought and obtained. It appeared, incidentally, during the discussions at this public meeting that the Gas Council had asked for and obtained the City Council's authorisation to undertake the trial borings, and that the City Council had also acceded to the Gas Council's request that the purpose of the said initial exploratory operations should not be disclosed.

The combined efforts of the M.P., who energetically and effectively canvassed support among his colleagues of all parties, the Corporations and citizenry of Winchester, the Warden and Fellows of Winchester College etc. and press publicity won the day and the Bill was withdrawn before its second reading.

In the spring of 1965 a comprehensive and extensive Gas Bil with nation-wide application was presented to Parliament to authorise underground storage, subject to certain safe-guar in any area where the geological formation was known to be suitable. It passed its Third Reading as The Gas Act 1965 in May of that year.

In connection with the subterranean course of the Chilcomb Gas Bill the following extract from the report of relevant parliamentary proceedings from The Times of 20th February 1962 is not without interest: (Mr. Smithers asked the Minister for Power, Mr. Woods) 'whether any assurance was given to the Minister by the Gas Council that consulations had taken place with the Winchester City Council and with other bodies or persons directly affected when application was made to him by the council for his consent to promote the bill. Mr. Wood. No'.

St Peter Chesil - Trust Annual Report 1968

The restoration of St. Peter Chesil is now nearing completion. The cost so far has been £10,142 to which will be added further sum estimated at £450 for the work in progress, making the total £10,592.

The amount collected by the Trust is £6,750 and the difference between these two figures of £3,842 represents grants and loans which we have now begun to repay.

As this major project for the Trust is nearing completion we would like to thank all those who have supported this conversion making possible the Little Theatre Club of Winchester Dramatic Society.

Activities for the year 1968 - Trust Annual Report 1968

Events to which members of the Trust were invited:-

January, February and March
A series of ten lectures given by Mrs. Carpenter-Turner on Georgian and Victorian Winchester, organised by the Committee for Adult Education.

July 16th and 23rd.
Two lectures on the Cathedral by the Cathedral Architect.

Events for members:

April 24th.
Extra-ordinary General Meeting to amend the Articles of Association, followed by a talk by the project team of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board on the new Hospital plans.

Tours of Winchester conducted by Mrs. Carpenter-Turner.

May 2nd.
Colebrook Street.

May 9th.
Wharf Hill.

May 16th.
St. Clements.

August 1st.
The Broadway.

August 8th.
Village of Hyde.

August 15th.
Kingsgate Street

September 27th.
'Talking Antiques'. Discussions by panels of experts. Proceeds to Winchester Diocesan Council for Social Responsibility.

October 4th.
'Talking Antiques'. Discussions by panels of experts Proceeds to Winchester Preservation Trust.

During the Summer Mrs. Robin Cole organised a number of voluntary guides from members of the Trust for the benefit of visitors to Winchester. The proceeds were divided between the Preservation Trust and the Wild Life Fund.