

ABSTRACT

THE REALITIES – AND REWARDS – OF BUILDING A 21ST-CENTURY GARDEN CITY

In the north of Scotland, two pioneering new communities are in the making. Chapelton, outside Aberdeen, and Tornagrain, in the Highlands, are two new towns that are striving to break the mould of much contemporary development. With a combined total of nearly 10,000 homes, sitting shoulder to shoulder with shops, schools, healthcare, employment and parks, they are aspiring to combine ambitious social aims with Scotland's rich history of town planning to create aesthetically rich, community-centric places to live, work and play.

In this session, Paul Roberts will outline the very real challenges that are involved in creating new communities today that are underpinned by the values that inspired the original Garden City Movement. Using the examples of Tornagrain and Chapelton, he will sketch out the regulatory, financial and logistical complexities that face the creation of new towns, comparing the twenty-first century context with that faced by the founders of Letchworth, Welwyn and other historic Garden City communities around the world.

But he will also emphasise that these difficulties can be overcome, through the right combination of vision, high-quality design and construction and, most critically, the long-term involvement, faith and tenacity of the town founders. And, when this happens, the difference in the place thus created is clear.

Chapelton and Tornagrain are breaking new ground. By challenging the conventions of contemporary development, they are a model for how the values and aspirations that inspired Ebenezer Howard and his acolytes can be applied to address the increasingly acute urban problems of twenty-first-century society.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Paul Roberts

As a Director of London-based Turnberry Consulting, Paul Roberts has been extensively involved in a wide range of planning and development projects internationally, including leading the development of several new settlements. Since 2006 and 2010 respectively, he has acted as advisor on the development of Tornagrain and Chapelton, and he also consulting on the development of several other garden village schemes across the UK.

He writes and lectures regularly on the topic of Garden City history and the development of new communities today. Past publications include *Site Planning in Practice at Welwyn Garden City* (2017), exploring the development, design and legacy of Britain's second garden city, and *Chapelton: The Making of a Town* (2018).

Selected Bibliography

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