



Respecting the past, shaping the future

Press release from
Suffolk Preservation Society
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Society director stands down

The director of a leading environmental campaign group has announced he is to step down from his role next year to pursue new opportunities and interests.

Richard Ward has been director of Suffolk Preservation Society (SPS) since 2003. Over the coming months, he will be working with the society to help appoint a successor.

Mr Ward, who joined SPS after 30 years in planning, half of which was spent as a conservation and design specialist, said his decision was made with sadness. But he added that he would look back on his years with the society – and its achievements during that time – with great pride.

“It is with great regret that I announce my decision to leave Suffolk Preservation Society, but I feel that the society is in a strong position and it is the right time to move on to new challenges,” said Mr Ward.

“SPS has achieved a great deal over the past six years, not least cementing its position as a voice of the community on planning and environmental issues. We have also driven forward some hugely exciting projects, such as the exemplar affordable housing scheme at Elmswell, and have carried out a major internal restructure to ensure the society is working in the best way possible for the people of Suffolk.

“My personal highlights include work carried out by the Suffolk Building Preservation Trust to protect and enhance Pakenham Watermill and Lavenham’s Little Hall, which are some of our most treasured buildings.

“I am also extremely proud of the workshops and conferences we have held to help ensure the county’s planners are up to speed on the latest developments and can properly manage the future development of our county.”

Lord Marlesford, president of Suffolk Preservation Society, said: “Richard has done a great job. He has been an outstanding director of SPS. We owe him a deep debt of gratitude.

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“Crucially, his professionalism and enthusiasm has the respect of those who we have to influence in our task of keeping Suffolk the lovely county that it is. I know that he plans to carry forward elsewhere our campaign to protect and enhance the beauty of rural England. So Suffolk's loss will be Cornwall's gain.”

Alfreda Thistlethwaite, chairman of SPS, also thanked Mr Ward for his time at the society on behalf of its members and trustees.

She said: “On behalf of everyone at Suffolk Preservation Society, I would like to express our gratitude to Richard for what he has achieved on our behalf in past years. We wish him every success in the future.

“We will now begin searching for a successor who can continue to build on the good foundations we already have in place and ensure we continue to provide Suffolk's residents with a voice for years to come.

“This is an exciting opportunity for us and we are looking forward to the recruitment process.”

Ends

Note to editors:

SPS, founded in 1929, originally worked to protect the county's buildings and landscape. Today, the society has broadened its focus to help shape Suffolk's future, largely campaigning for sensitive and appropriate development, more and better quality affordable homes and to ensure sustainable infrastructures are in place to support the county's communities.

For more information please contact:

Richard Ward, SPS director, on 01787 247179, or Liz Hearnshaw at Zenith Public Relations on 01284 760025.