



Urban Governance, Stewardship and Model Industrial Settlements

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This paper uses a model of urban governance (Minnery 2007) to explore the history of three case study historical industrial company towns that were developed as model settlements. The model explores the changing roles of the private sector, the public sector and civil society in the management of the case studies.

Two of the case studies (New Lanark and Saltaire) are in the UK, the third (Pullman) is in the US. These case studies were selected for three main reasons. First each was constructed during the nineteenth century by private entrepreneurs to house their workers but they were also intended to express reforming or philanthropic ideals. Thus, they were intended to remain far beyond their founding dates. Second, all three of the towns have, in modern times, been seen as important enough to warrant some form of institutionalized protection (New Lanark and Saltaire as UNESCO World Heritage sites, Pullman as a recognized Historical District). But third, all three have suffered neglect and threats of demolition between when they were built and today and their governance arrangements have changed in ways that reflect their changing history (Editorial Note, 1988)

The paper concludes that urban governance is important. In all three cases, the towns were initiated by private entrepreneurs but they are no longer in the ownership of their companies. In all three, government action was, at some stage, necessary to retain their integrity. And in all three cases these actions by government required strong civic action. The interactions of private sector actors, the public sector and civil society in the establishment and continuing stewardship of these settlements provides useful lessons for long term sustainable urban governance in other urban planning arenas.

KEY WORDS: Urban governance, model settlements.