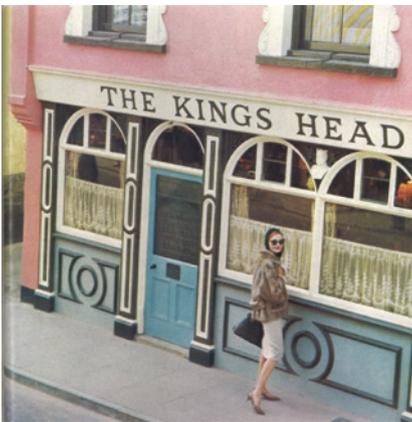




# VOGUE

After the 1959 refurbishment, Magdalen Street appeared in Vogue in July of the same year.

They called the area '*Gay, colourful and charming*'.



Vogue Magazine on display at the Museum of Norwich



# Voxpops

In February 2019 Common Lot researchers went into the square on a busy Saturday to record people's views on the area and the proposed development. There was range of opinion and people had plenty to say.

These and other more in-depth interviews with those who have lived and worked in the area, are being made available to the sound archive at Norfolk Record Office. They offer us a snapshot in time, before great change affects the area once again.

Love it or loathe it, everyone has a view on Anglia Square.

“ **It’s got a bad reputation but it’s a nice place.** It’s better for wheelchairs here than in the city centre. ***I don’t think it’s fair you can’t feed the pigeons.*** If you ramp the prices up like the city centre people round here will struggle. **I call it a concrete jungle. Never liked it since day one.** Love the culture, love the different types of stuff they have here, love the different people who come here. ***Anglia Square’s great. It means we don’t have to go all the way to Tesco.*** You get diversity round here that you don’t see in the rest of the city. **It’s a bloody desert here when it comes to sports!** It’s all gone downhill round here. It’s nothing like it was. ***Once you could do your weekly shop here. Now look at it.*** Old folks rely on places like this! **It’s easy to get around here because it’s flat.** It’s a little rough around the edges but I like it. ***It’s too much like Barnsley. I moved here to get away from Barnsley.*** Used to be the hub of Norwich - look at it now. It’s just getting worse and worse. **It’s a living space. People use it.** I call it Angry Square, because that’s how people feel these days. ***The people in the shops are all nice.*** I don’t come here if I can avoid it, but I was bursting for a wee. **It’s my favourite place in Norwich.** I love the glass roof, it’s very unusual. ***You can sit on one of the benches and just watch what’s going on. This area has an invisible magic.*** Got a Greggs, so it’s pretty sick! **I love how grimy it is, it’s nostalgic.** You can find most things you want around here. **It’s never been made the best of.** If they’d just pimp it up that would do lovely! ***I’m looking forward to it being knocked down and redone.*** The plans are an abomination! **The plans look brilliant!** There should be all tables and chairs in the centre. ***Everybody’s in a hurry, that’s the problem. It’s not nearly so friendly.*** We’re a very unique city, we don’t need to be like everywhere else. **This area is Norwich’s Brick Lane.** Why’s there a garage in here? How do they get the cars in? ***I like it here - it has lots of toys.*** Needs a Starbucks so I don’t have to walk up the city. **Sainsbury’s provided a service we don’t have anymore.** People can come here and be together without being together. ***It’s a great place for the kids to play.*** It’s got a bad reputation but it’s a nice place. **They need to knock it down and start again!** A new development might just reignite the whole area. ”

# VISION

**To some, Anglia Square is an ugly and unloved eyesore. For others it's seen as a symbol of a rapidly-disappearing and misunderstood era of culture and brutal architecture that should be celebrated.**

Due to flaws in its design, demolition is inevitable, but will we look back and rue the hastiness to sweep away the past's vision of the future?

During its construction in the 60s and 70s it must have seemed like a bold vision, but it was at least a courageous attempt by the City to crawl its way out from the gloom of post-war austerity, aiming for that glimmer of a brighter future seemingly just over the horizon.

With time the sparkle of the future soon faded to grey as Norwich North slowly took back control of the once-new structures that weren't built to last as well as the buildings they had uncompromisingly replaced.

It appears we have now come round full circle. Once again it's time for the architects and developers to pen their new visions for our area, but they need to be wary, for 'Norwich Over The Water' has proved time and again that it can't - and will not - be gentrified.

For centuries it has been the engine-room of the city to which it gave birth: home to the workers, the artists and dissenters. The architects scratching their heads at their desks would be foolish not to bear this in mind.

Their vision for our Anglia Square needs to be a completely different kind of bold and it needs to reflect upon and remember the fact that the area IS the 'real' Norwich, where the roots of our city and its important and diverse history run deep, drinking from the lifeblood of the Wensum (see Dalymond).

**I say to the developers and architects: We, the people of Norwich North are waiting with anticipation and trepidation and will be watching you closely. Don't screw it up this time or you'll be forced to watch Norwich North turn their backs on your seemingly bright ideas.**

Norwich Over The Water will not accept anything less than what it truly deserves. As it always has done. As it always will.

Be bold and be brave, and most importantly, have vision.

**Stuart McPherson, The Mile Cross Man**  
[themilecrossman.wordpress.com](http://themilecrossman.wordpress.com)

# WHAT NEXT?

How can we **avoid** new housing becoming  
**What percentage will be social housing?**  
be the **balance** between big national stores and  
**local businesses?** **Who will adjudicate**  
the needs of the **community** and the **city?**  
**big finance?** Should part of Anglia Square  
**preserved** as a **brutalist reminder**  
the times? **Is there any need** for more large  
**retail development** in Norwich? Will  
there be enough outdoor **play areas**  
for **children?** **How will traders on**  
**Magdalen Street** be affected?  
Will redevelopment brutally  
**impose** itself, or gently go  
with the **grain** of the **city?**  
**How much can old street**  
**patterns be restored?**  
**What** will happen  
to **all the artists?**  
**Where** will they  
**go** when you're  
here no more

