It is also a way for us to consider encounters with things that don't exist yet. So, if you think that you may have an expertise in rambling, parenting, research, art, retail, teaching or activism by 2031, particularly in Cranbrook, then we invite you to speak from this position. If you want to assume another name, that's fine too.

After we introduce each risk, we will invite the Convention to analyse it further through discussion among its future experts. We hope that we can begin to approach a different way of thinking about everyday life in a future Cranbrook that's of use to us all.

The event will be audio recorded. The transcription of the recording may be edited and published later. We are also planning to develop a radio play from our research after this event, and it may include the performance of parts of the transcription. In any case, no one involved in the research or this event will be identified by name without their prior, express permission.

For further information, or to stay in touch, please contact us on hoskinskern@gmail.com

Budget breakdown >> Labour: 62 days or 31 days each (including visits to Cranbrook; research and project development at other locations) // Artists Fees: £4300 (£2150 each including Kickstarter campaign 2015. // Sound recording at symposium: £300 // Flyer printing: £44 // Childcare for Cranbrook residents who attend the Living Together event: £66 per day per person.


Text, design and printing by Hoskins & Kern, 2016

Cranbrook Must Not Fail: A Convention of ‘Future Experts’

led by
Margareta Kern and Jonathan Hoskins

Top Studio 2.30-4pm
Phoenix Exeter
28th June 2016

Part of Living Together
Organised by SpaceX and Claire Louise Staunton
Cranbrook is a new town that is currently under construction in East Devon, close to Exeter. It is the first “free standing new settlement” in Devon since the Middle Ages.

Construction began in 2011 and now 1,300 houses have been completed and are home to 3,000 people. By 2031, Cranbrook will comprise 8,000 homes and 20,000 people, making it the second largest town in East Devon.

It is part of the Exeter and East Devon Growth Point, a public-private sector partnership delivering a series of large developments in the region. Its staff are part of East Devon District Council, but it involves central government, nearby local governments and the New Community Partners Consortium of property developers and Hallam Land Management, a land developer that acquired the site of Cranbrook before the development began, when the land was still agricultural.

The town’s physical and social infrastructure is being put in place at different moments between 2011 and its completion. The timing of each is determined by the ‘Section 106’ agreement drawn up between local and regional government and the members of the Consortium. As new homes are completed and sold, ‘trigger points’ are met, requiring specific physical and social infrastructure to be built.

In the past five years several local government documents have been produced to determine, or at least influence, the future direction of the construction of Cranbrook. The latest is the new Development Plan, and it is now the mid-point in the council’s public consultation period. Later, the final draft of this document will determine the final stages in the completion of Cranbrook.