

EAST OF ENGLAND eXPRESS

Winter 2012

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Newsletter of the RTPI East of England

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Where are we now?

Can you recognise this place?

You could win a £25 Marks and Spencer voucher
(see QUIZ page for further details)



This edition of the
East of England Express is
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David Lock Associates
Town Planning and Urban Design





GUEST EDITORIAL from the one and only RICHARD SUMMERS

Riding the Storm

Well, here we are with Part 3 of the Government's "planning reforms" and still riding the storm. It has been a hectic couple of years. "Open Source" became the Localism Act in November 2011, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was eventually finalised in March 2012 and then came the new Growth & Infrastructure Bill in October 2012.

It is fascinating how we have erred and strayed from the way of "localism" with the nationalist tendencies of the NPPF and then the Growth & Infrastructure Bill with 300 plus mentions of the powers that are to be taken by the Secretary of State. We have seen the might of HM Treasury take on the right of Communities & Local Government or something like that.

The abolition of regional strategic planning is still held up at the behest of European based Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs). The East of England Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) came through unscathed but Yorkshire & Humber and the West of England will have to hang fire until Local Plans can sort out Green Belts and housing provision.

Then came the four rounds of the Cala Homes saga in Winchester where an urban extension was first premature, then it wasn't and now it's going forward ahead of the new Local Plan. RSSs shouldn't prescribe top down housing numbers and local communities should work out wider than local housing issues themselves. You couldn't make it up.

Yes, Linda Snell and her friends gathered round the table in her dining room at Ambridge Hall one Sunday afternoon and drew up their Neighbourhood Plan ... just like that. They knew all about the housing needs of the nearby West Midlands conurbation and factored them in behind Lakey Hill. Examination, Referendum and Bob's your Uncle.

It's the "enemies of enterprise" who obstruct national economic recovery ... "get the planners off our backs" and cut through that "suffocating bureaucracy"! But the planners are working hard to enable the development opportunities that will unleash economic growth as soon as changes of use from commercial to residential can go through "on the nod".



Funnily enough, the latest Permitted Development wheeze will have to await secondary legislation. But then you get automatic consent for rear extensions up to 8 metres and local builders, their suppliers and Britain's international trade will be re-energised at a stroke. And the neighbours of the new extensions will be up in arms as their outlooks are hemmed in.

Forget the "regional" but we still have "strategic planning". The "duty to cooperate" will magically bind Local Planning Authorities together over cross boundary issues. The housing and employment needs of the under-bounded and the transport provision to join them up will be led by Local Economic Partnerships (LEPs) who don't actually have to "cooperate".

But underneath all this change, the good old Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 is steering its way through the choppy waters of reform resplendent in its new livery ... Local Development Frameworks have been re-christened "Local Plans." Is it only me or does that ring a bell all the way back to 1974? Local communities know what they are.

Editorial continued on page 4

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(previously 4 Opus House, Elm Farm Park, Great
Green, Thurston, Bury St Edmunds, IP31 3SH)

RTPi East of England Regional Honorary Secretary:

As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, Richard Chillingford is standing down as Regional Honorary Secretary with effect from the end of 2012.

We are delighted that Jackie Ward has volunteered to take on this role from 2013.

Jackie can be contacted by email at

RTPIEESec@hotmail.co.uk

or via the Regional Office at

eastofengland@rtpi.org.uk,

and by phone on 01449 771388 or via the
Regional Office on 01359 250258

GUEST EDITORIAL

We know from experience that reconstructing planning systems slows down development and economic growth. It's "all change" in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales as well as England. But professional planners will continue to operate the planning systems that are reformed by our elected governments. Happy Christmas and Happy New Year!

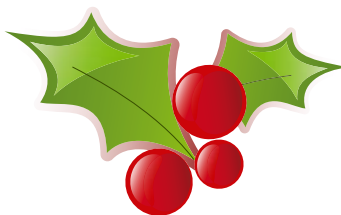
Thanks Richard (Immediate Past President of the RTPI, former Chairman of the RTPI East of England Branch and Head of Planning at The Landscape Partnership), very thought provoking.

And don't forget folks, if you would like to contribute to your newsletter all you have to do is jot something down (or draw us a pic, and scan it in) and press that send button...

So from all here at Orient Towers let me wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New year.

Peter Hakes

**"have a very
merry christmas!"**



Now, Master Heseltine are you
sure you want a magic key to
open a lot of filing cabinets?



Next Issue

The next issue should be published in Spring 2013. Deadline for copy is 15th February 2013 to:

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Follow us on:



@RTPIEastofEng

Notice to Readers: The RTPI East of England Regional Management Board wish to point out that the sponsors have had no editorial role in the production of this newsletter and the Board does not endorse the sponsors or have any view on any matter on which they are involved.

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This edition was sponsored by:

David Lock Associates
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OUR EVENTS PROGRAMME 2013

Theme: 'Support your RTPI - it is here for you and your professional development'.

Peter Warner, our new Chair for 2013 says:-

"The Region needs your support and involvement - not only in helping to organise events but in each and everyone participating. Events are put on for professional development, knowledge and learning - I will be out and about encouraging employers to enable planners at all levels of professional accomplishment to attend events and join in. It is your institute and we all need to put planning back on the map(!)".

"A very interesting conference with some very knowledgeable speakers - thank-you"

"A really informative and enjoyable conference"

"The whole programme was excellent. All of the speakers were interesting and entertaining and all of the content was very relevant"

Have you attended an RTPI East of England event recently? The above comments, received from delegates at recent events, confirm that we provide excellent quality seminars and conferences at an affordable price. As one delegate says: "you provide national quality speakers, without paying London prices".

Not only do our Regional events provide members with up-to-date and relevant information, but they also enable you to network with others in the area.

Why not try one yourself in 2013?

The following table gives an idea of the topics that we are hoping to cover during 2013. As you will see, many of the dates and venues have yet to be confirmed, but as the details emerge they will be posted on the Region's web site at:

<http://www.rtpi.org.uk/the-rtpi-near-you/rtpi-east-of-england/events/>

TITLE	DATE	LOCATION	COST+VAT	COMMENTS
MASTERCLASSES	Early February	Ipswich or Norwich	See typical charge below	Main themes for the day will include Sustainable Development, Consultation, CIL/Section 106, DC Surgery and Development Management for Large Scale Schemes
COMMUNITY/ NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING	Early March	tbc	See typical charge below	
MARINE PLANNING	March/April	tbc	See typical charge below	
DEMOGRAPHIC FORECASTING	2nd May (tbc)	Ely (tbc)	See typical charge below	Joint with the British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) and part of the RTPI President's visit to the East of England (tbc)
PLANNING LAW UPDATE (half-day)	May	tbc	£75+VAT	Due to popular demand, we will hold a mid-year update
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	May	Bury St Edmunds	Free	
CONFERENCE FOR COUNCILLORS	June	tbc	£100+VAT	Annual update event for Councillors in the East of England
NATURE CONSERVATION	June or July	tbc	See typical charge below	In association with the Environment Agency, the RSPB and the National Trust (tbc)
PLANNING AND DELIVERY/ VIABILITY	September	tbc	See typical charge below	
PLANNING FOR AN OLDER GENERATION	October (tbc)	tbc	See typical charge below	
TRANSPORT ISSUES IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND	October	tbc	See typical charge below	
ANNUAL PLANNING LAW UPDATE	8 November	Downing College, Cambridge	£150+VAT	
RETAIL	December	tbc	See typical charge below	

OUR EVENTS PROGRAMME 2013

Alternatively, email Tina Jessup at eastofengland@rtpi.org.uk asking to be included on the Region's email circulation list.

Please note: These details are subject to change and are provided as a guideline only.

- Are there topics which you think should be included in the Events Programme? Let us know as soon as possible to ensure your views can be taken into account during forthcoming discussions.
- Do you have an expertise in one of the suggested topic areas and would like to share your knowledge with other members?

Cost

From 2013, there will be a small additional charge for non-RTPI members to attend our Regional events.

For half-day events, the typical charge will be £50+VAT for RTPI members and £60+VAT for non-members (excluding lunch).

For full-day events, the typical charge will be £90+VAT for RTPI members and £105+VAT for non-members (including lunch).

Your support at these events is vital to ensure their success

Does your organisation have a suitable conference room that we could use? Or would your organisation be willing and able to sponsor one of these events by making a contribution towards the cost of a venue or towards the cost of lunch? In return, the organisation's name would be included on the conference literature and promotional material could be displayed at the event.

A "free" place or two would be available on the event for your employees.

* * * * *

Any offers of help or assistance from Regional members would be very gratefully received.

Please help us to provide the Regional events you need.

Up-to-date information can be obtained from:

Tina Jessup, Regional Co-ordinator,

RTPI East of England

Tel: 01359 250258; **Fax:** 01284 330225; **Email:** eastofengland@rtpi.org.uk

Web: www.rtpi.org.uk/the-rtpi-near-you/rtpi-east-of-england

Address:

RTPI East of England Regional Office

PO Box 708, Bury St Edmunds. IP31 2XP

Helping members to attend conferences

East of England semi-retired, fully-retired and full time student Members in full time education are able to attend conferences at a subsidised rate. A carer's allowance may also be available for those Members who have to make special care arrangements to attend a Regional event.

For further details contact Tina Jessup – details above.

NEWS OF THE PRESIDENT

The President is in the Region!

During his two-day visit on 27th & 28th September, Colin 'criss-crossed' our region meeting members in Ely, Rendlesham, Ipswich, Chelmsford, Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea and was ably escorted by our Chair, Phil Godwin.

On the first day.....

In Ely at the Maltings, Colin made a key note presentation to more than 50 members during an all day conference on "Coalition Government Planning in Practice". With so many changes to the planning system in recent months, this event aimed to find out how the reforms are 'working through' in practice. Organised by Eiluned Morgan of ELM Environment & Planning, the programme included speakers from the DCLG, the Planning Inspectorate, No 5 Chambers, and other private consultancies and organisations.

In Rendlesham, Colin was escorted by Steven Bainbridge of Evolution Town Planning to meet with Parish Councillors.

Steven had been asked by Rendlesham Parish Council to provide consultancy support in preparing their neighbourhood plan. Colin then joined a walking tour of Rendlesham and this was followed by a meeting in the village hall to view a display of their neighbourhood plan progress.

Next to Ipswich, where Colin met Russell Williams, Rob Hobbs and other planning staff of Ipswich Borough Council and Professor Mike Saks of University Campus Suffolk.

Russell showed Colin a new residential-led mixed use development that also included some retail and a hotel on the former manufacturing site across the river from the Council offices. A pedestrian and cycle bridge across the river was provided through the section 106 agreement for the development and was later named the Sir Bobby Robson bridge in honour of the former Ipswich Town and England football manager.

Colin met with planners at Ipswich Borough Council before going onto the Waterfront where he was shown the regeneration that has happened over the past two decades.

Mike Saks then showed Colin the University Campus Suffolk Hub building and explained the development of the university campus on the Waterfront and its relationship with Suffolk New College across the road. Colin was treated to a view across the Marina and Waterfront area from the UCS boardroom.

It was then onto the historic Issac Lord waterfront venue where he met planners from around the region for an evening social event.



Colin with our Chair, Phil Godwin

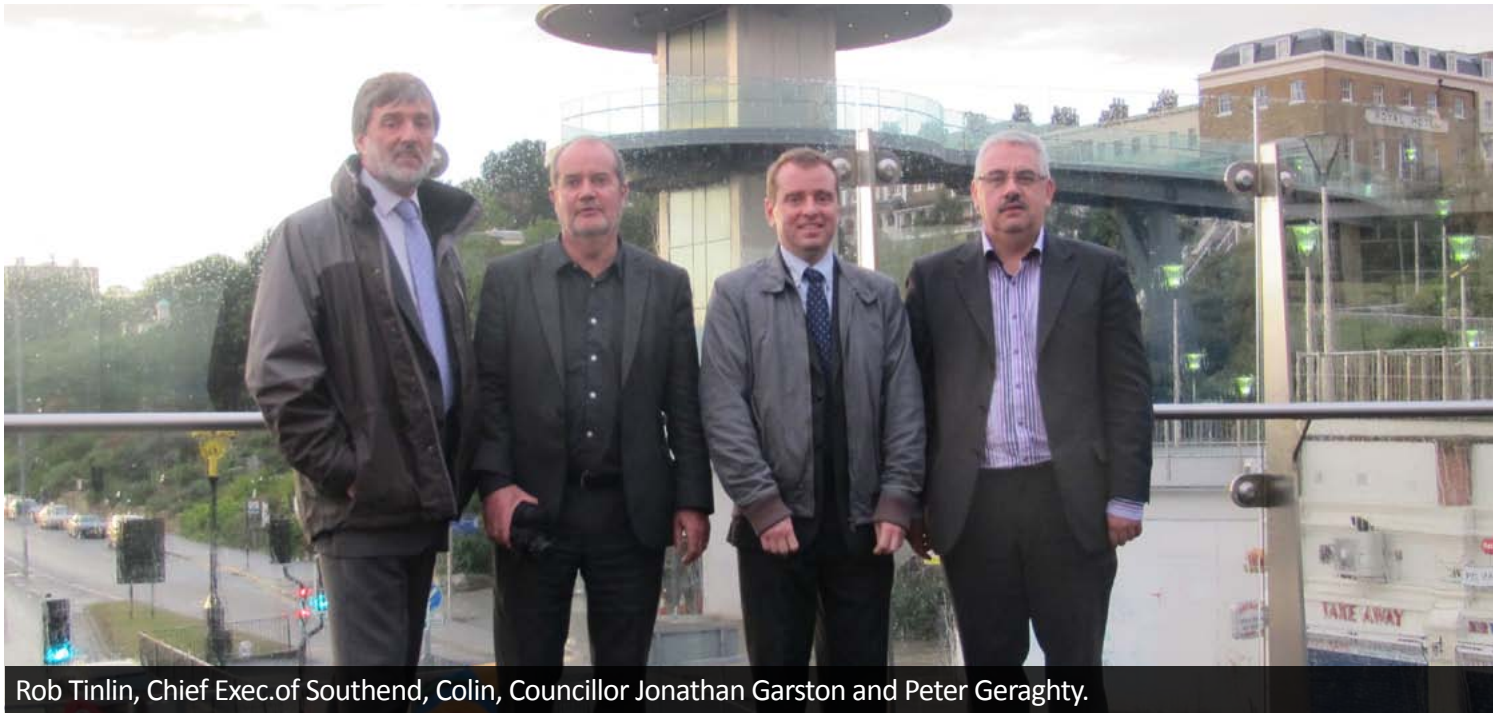


Dave Rushbrook, Kay Nash and Heather Heelis discuss the Rendlesham Neighbourhood Plan with Colin and Phil.



Ipswich Waterfront, Photo by Robert Hobbs

NEWS OF THE PRESIDENT



Rob Tinlin, Chief Exec.of Southend, Colin, Councillor Jonathan Garston and Peter Geraghty.

The second day....

In Chelmsford, Colin visited Anglia Ruskin University where he met senior lecturer Ann Hockey and other members of staff and students from the Department of Engineering and the Built Environment. A discussion about planning education, work-placed learning and careers in the current climate of change was followed by a 'meet the President' session which was attended by planning practitioners from the public and private sectors. The morning rounded up with a visit to the Department's Architecture studio, where Colin met students studying the module - 'Architecture & Planning Design'.

During the afternoon, the Colin was escorted by the Senior Vice President, Peter Geraghty, to South Essex where he visited the award-winning High House Production Park in Purfleet, Thurrock. This £60 million development, readers will recall, won our Regional Planning Achievement Award for 2011 and is home to the Royal Opera House's purpose-built scenery construction facilities. Whilst there Colin met planning staff from Thurrock and Southend.

At the end of the afternoon, the President was whisked off to Southend where he met Borough Council Chief Executive, Rob Tinlin, and other staff and had a bracing walk on the pier.

The President has left the region!

Special discounts for RTPI members at the University of Hertfordshire

Members of the RTPI benefit from 10% discounts on all of the planning and sustainability short courses offered at the University of Hertfordshire. The courses are practical and interactive, with exercises and workshops as well as lectures. You will have an opportunity to learn and share good practice with other professionals. They provide an excellent opportunity to update your existing skills or develop a specialism in a new area such as urban design or travel planning. The courses are based at our Hatfield campus – a convenient location for planners working in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Essex. Our courses for 2013 include:

February 2013 Planning law, policy and practice
February 2013 Transport policy and travel planning
March 2013 Urban design and conservation
April 2013 Transport data collection and analysis
May 2013 Placemaking and spatial mediation
May 2013 Spatial analysis for sustainable planning

To find out more and to book visit our website www.uh-sustainable.co.uk or email John Conlon at j.conlon@herts.ac.uk

NEWS FROM HQ

PERKINS SLADE

Planning for the Future

In 2014 the RTPI will be a hundred years old and looking to our future we have launched a schools project to get the next generation fired up about planning. The aim of the project is to educate and inspire pupils about planning. There are two key elements to this project; finding RTPI members to go into schools to promote planning and planning as a career with the title of Ambassadors for Planning. Secondly we will be producing learning resources for the schools to use.

Ambassadors for Planning

Through the RTPI Regions and Nations we will be supporting RTPI members in going into schools to educate and inspire students about the planning – the reasons why planning is so important and what planning has achieved. We will help find members with the right skills to relate to modern pupils and provide them with the materials and support to go into schools to do this.

Materials for teachers

We are also going to produce a series of planning resources for use by teachers and the Ambassadors for Planning. These resources will include a series of case-studies for both classroom and fieldwork activities that address a range of planning-related topics. The resources will be designed to fit into the current curriculum, for example geography and citizenship, and where possible will be available for download from the RTPI website.

This exciting project is being led by Dr Holly McLaren, the RTPI Education Officer. Further information about this initiative will be available soon with the key steps and timetable for the project being finalised this autumn. Watch this space!

Charles Veal

Member Services Manager

What do you think about the new all electronic newsletter?

If you have any views on the new format or anything else to do with the newsletter please contact:

peter@hakes3334.fsnet.co.uk

Perkins Slade: RTPI preferred Insurance Broker

The RTPI has appointed Perkins Slade, one of the UK's leading independent insurance brokers, as their preferred insurance broker.

Key initiatives for the new partnership include the development of new risk management services, competitively-priced online insurance products and bespoke policy wordings.

As part of the support available for RTPI members, an online insurance hub, www.ps-insurance-hub.com, has been created. Members can use the site to access policy wordings, summaries, risk management information and FAQs and to raise queries and request renewal reminders.

Founded in 1970, Perkins Slade is one of the UK's largest independent insurance brokers, providing expert, impartial insurance and risk management advice for UK and international businesses, sport and recreation organisations and high value homeowners.

Speaking about the benefit of the new arrangement, Chris Sheridan, RTPI Planners in the Workplace Manager, commented,

"As a professional Institute, we have worked alongside Perkins Slade for numerous years, receiving their help and guidance in developing and delivering specific insurance solutions for our members whilst maintaining a cost-effective offering.

It is important to us that RTPI members have access to expert knowledge and advice. Perkins Slade are the ideal company to advise our members on managing risk and protecting their businesses. The confidence that we have in their professionalism is demonstrated by our decision to appoint them as the RTPI's preferred insurance broker.

Nick Tamblyn, Managing Director, Perkins Slade, added, We have a longstanding relationship with the RTPI and their membership over which time we have developed a thorough understanding of their insurance needs. The new arrangement enables us to use this knowledge to enhance the products and service we provide to RTPI members.

Please visit the Perkins Slade website (www.ps-insurance-hub.com/) for insurance advice, information and online quotations. RTPI consultancy information and support can be found at www.rtpi.org.uk/membership/member-benefits-and-support/consultancy-information-and-support/

PLANNING SUMMER SCHOOL

Launching the Friends of Planning Summer School

At the Annual General Meeting of its Members the Planning Summer School introduced a new structure placing the future of the charity on a firm foundation. The structure provides a more efficient and streamlined structure for the Summer School with a new board of trustees charged with developing and managing the annual event. In addition, the structure introduces a new way for all those interested in 'advancing education in town and country planning' (the charitable object) to become more involved in shaping the event through becoming a 'Friend of the Summer School'.

Outgoing Summer School president Leonora Rozee, who stepped down at the AGM after a three year term of office, said "I am delighted that the Summer School is moving forward with a confidence and vigour through adopting the new trustee structure. The Friends of Summer School is also an excellent opportunity for becoming involved and keeping up with developments throughout the year in addition to the annual School itself."

Speaking at the launch of the Friends, new Summer School President Roger Pidgeon said "The Summer School looks forward to welcoming new friends to contribute to its ongoing success under our 2013 theme of 'Planning for Prosperity'."

Many delegates from the 2012 Weekender in Liverpool expressed an interest in becoming a Friend of Summer School, and further information on the benefits and opportunities will be available on the Summer School website in the next few weeks.

Feedback from the 2012 Weekender has been overwhelmingly positive, with the new combined School for practitioners and elected members, the packed programme, and the professional but laid back atmosphere of the School attracting particular comment and praise. The Weekender Format will be rolled forward for 2013, and an announcement on the venue will be made shortly.

Notes:

The Planning Summer School is an independent charity with the aim of advancing education in town and country planning. The School is held annually and will celebrate its 80th Anniversary in 2013.

Roger Pidgeon is a planning consultant and former deputy director of English Partnerships. Leonora Rozee OBE is former deputy chief executive of the Planning Inspectorate and previously a planner at Castle Point DC..

www.planningsummerschool.org Twitter @planningschool



QUIZ – WHERE ARE WE NOW?

SO WHERE WAS IT?

It would seem that the last picture was very difficult to identify (or that no one actually reads the newsletter any more), and we received only 7 responses and one of those was wrong!

The answer, of course, was the Forest Centre at Marston Vale Millennium Country Park, Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire.



Lucky Winner
Neil McKillen

.... And the first name out of the RTPi Mug and pictured here was Neil McKillen who has been sent a £25.00 M&S Gift Voucher.

Runners-up were:-

Dee Walker, Sarah Churchard, Ian Slater, Richard Koller and Christine Koller

Well now, dear reader, it's your chance to win that valuable voucher.

All you have to do is decipher the photo on the front page and tell me where it is!

Send your answers by Email to me at peter@hakes3334.fsnet.co.uk

These will be kept in a secure place until 31st January 2013. The first entry taken from this secure place will be the winner. Only those on the East of England RTPi register will be eligible and specifically excluded are myself and staff of David Lock and Associates.

Good luck!

JOTTINGS



The Return of the Jottings -

A one-off Christmas Special mixing the old and the new - all borrowed but nothing blue.

Don't be afraid of diseased Elm trees, their bark is worse than their blight.

Is it better to have loved a short girl than never to have loved a tall?

The Pope is an animal lover - he is a cat-a-holic.

Halfway between murder and suicide is a dark place - Merseyside.

Why aren't the signs "To the Eye Clinic" in large type?

Bigamist - a man who marries a beautiful woman and a good cook.

National Savings have been abandoned due to lack of interest.

I never take credit for my achievements, only cash.

We didn't need to say a prayer before dinner in our house, my Mum was a good cook.

No matter what goes wrong there is always someone who knew it would.

The MP's expenses scandal makes you wonder if Guy Fawkes might have been right after all.

Politicians are like nappies. They should be changed frequently - and for the same reason.

My new association for the not-so-bright - DENSA.

Farewell to my reader in Burnham-on-Crouch and to Natasha the Heart Stealer - will we ever meet again?

Richard Chillingford

ROBERTS BIT

What will you do when the Christmas lights go out?

After a decade of Chinese whispers about the fact that we are closing down coal fired power stations quicker than we are replacing the generating capacity, Matt Ridley the author of the thought provoking book 'The Rational Optimist: How Prosperity Evolves' provides us with new light on an old debate.



Despite the large amount of noise in the national and local press relating to the need to reduce our carbon footprint with alternative forms of energy creation last year, in a quietly published report, the Department of Energy disclosed how we currently generate our electricity. This provided the following figures:

- fossil fuels and nuclear 96.8%;
- bio-energy 2.6%; and
- wind, hydro, tidal, solar and geothermal 0.6%.

Wind turbines are a bit like 'Marmite' you love them as a positive interpretation of old Constable windmills or you hate them as visual clutter in the landscape. In reality they are an irrelevance in the big picture of how we generate sufficient power as even if we had thousands of them we would still need back up power stations to satisfy our needs for energy when the wind blows too much or too little. At best therefore, in terms of providing power and reducing our carbon footprint they are a small part of the solution.

Bio fuels do nothing to help reduce carbon as they take carbon rich wood and burn it instead of less carbon rich coal. And yet encouraged by self interest, subsidies and politics we are currently rushing to replace coal fired power generation with biofuel / wood fired generation. Our rush for this 'trendy solution' means that if perpetuated by 2030 the UK will burn five times as much timber that Britain could ever produce. So whilst Britain now has three times as much forest as it did in 1800 our future hunger for fuel is only likely to be satisfied by container ships travelling the world delivering pellets.

The current fashion for a reduction in carbon emissions is driven by politicians. Champions of this fashion argue that trees are a crop and they are replaced often by more trees and so the move towards bio fuel is carbon neutral at worst. However, my 'O' level chemistry taught me, over 25 years ago, that carbon was carbon - in whatever its form. Indeed, as recently explained by Professor Helmut Haberl land grows plants if they are used for fuel or not; chopping down a / plant / tree and then burning it releases carbon atoms today that would normally be held in the living tree for decades if not centuries before it would otherwise naturally die and then decompose. (That is not to mention the loss to our ecosystems which rely on rotting branches and leaves to provide homes for invertebrates and the rest of the food chain we rely on). Consequently, biomass speeds up the release of carbon instead of slowing it down; even if more trees are planted we are chopping them down too fast for the damage to be made good.

In some places, politically manipulated financial incentives means that we are now sacrificing land previously used to retain carbon (rainforests) or grow edible crops (fields) to feed the population of the world into bio fuel. This artificially encourages the change of use of land, which in turn increases the uptake of land for biomass production, which reduces the land available for other purposes and thereby increases prices for fuel and food. Research undertaken by Leicester University has assessed that if the current rates of change continue then the carbon debt, the rush for bio fuels, is creating may take up to half a century to rebalance. Furthermore, some farmers have recently been encouraged to grow crops for and construct anaerobic digesters. However, in the main these digest raw crops instead of unwanted bi-products of other activities. So who is paying for these incentives which manipulate our power generation market and increase the price of fuel and food? The answer is simple it is you and me the ones who pay the energy and food bills.

ROBERTS BIT

You are probably eating your lunch reading this in the office I know, but really this issue has a direct impact on you and your disposable income. It is important. Indeed, if we all merely turn the page and start tapping away on our keyboards our actions today may also turn our computer, lights, and our fridges off in 2014. Rightly or wrongly modern day society has developed an insatiable hunger for energy. We are also increasingly aware that increasing the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is causing changes to the way we live and animals survive on this the planet we all share. What have we done? Over the last two decades we have allowed the politicians we sometimes vote for to pay big businesses elements of our taxes to create an energy market which is complicated to understand, opaque and expensive for its users.

So however you power your Christmas lights, cook your turkey, keep the Boxing Day trifle cool in the fridge perhaps the festive break allows us all time to consider the question I posed at the beginning of this piece. Alternatively, you may wish to just snuggle up next to an crackling open fire, a slowly warming glass of brandy and read Matt Ridley's book and then consider your New Year's resolution.



Robert M Purton

Partner on behalf of David Lock Associates Limited

The views expressed are those of the author and are not necessarily shared by DLA, the East of England Region of the RTPi or the RTPi.



CONQUISTADOR TOWNS

URBAN DESIGN GROUP STUDY TOUR 11th-19th MAY 2013

The likes of Trujillo, Cáceres and Jerez de los Caballeros in Extremadura were the birthplaces of Pizarro, Cortes, Balboa and their henchmen. They deployed the wealth of the Indies in gracing their home towns with many fine mansions, but since their heyday these towns have reverted to the obscurity from whence they came. We shall also be visiting the dramatic cliff-edge town of Cuenca and Toledo, capital of medieval Castile.

The price of £900 (£860 for UDG members) includes rail travel from London, travel around the towns by coach and train, and eight nights' accommodation in tourist class hotels.

Further information can be obtained from Alan Stones, Fullerthorne, Church Street, Kelvedon, Essex CO5 9AH, email a.stones907@btinternet.com, or phone 01376 571351. The last booking date is Friday 15th February 2013.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP 11.09.12

Aylsham Regeneration and Delivery Strategy

Blickling Hall, Aylsham, Norfolk

INGHAM
PINNOCK
ASSOCIATES



Chaired by **Phil Godwin**, this afternoon workshop was a joint event with **Ingham Pinnock Associates** and was attended by a mix of delegates from the public and private sector.

The initial session was delivered by **Kate Pinnock** and **Ross Ingham**. Firstly, Kate acknowledged the beautiful venue and thanked The National Trust for allowing the use of their facilities. We were effectively behind the scenes at beautiful Blickling Hall, a 16th Century property owned by the National Trust, and located just outside of Aylsham. Although the property attracts around 150,000 visitors a year a very small proportion of these visitors actually visit nearby Aylsham.

Aylsham is a market town which sits between Norwich and the north Norfolk coast and has a population of around 6000 people. It is also a Cittaslow Town and one of the **Neighbourhood Plan Front Runners**.

The background to the Aylsham Regeneration & Delivery Strategy was set out by Ross, explaining that in mid 2011 Broadland District Council local members had expressed concerns that although Aylsham has a good secondary school which produces good exam results, it was thought that there were no local job prospects pushing young people into the city of Norwich and beyond.

As a result the Aylsham Regeneration & Delivery Strategy was commissioned as part of a recession mitigation programme agreed by Broadland District Council to assist the Broadland Community, with the emphasis on bids which would deliver practical projects. This followed on from previous initiatives supporting market towns and with the help of consultants a 'Town Team' steering group was formed. This identified key issues and challenges that the town faced, and based on baseline research and consultation on the ground bespoke projects were identified to address the issues raised.

Hamish Melville, at Broadland District Council then set out the brief of what the Council was looking for. Namely a strategy which would support and enhance the local economy and promote economic growth through the identification of a range of interventions which could be easily delivered in a climate where little monies are available. The result was an economic development lead, master plan set up to tackle eight key issues identified by Ingham Pinnock Associates.

Ross then went on to explain in more detail each of the issues that the strategy aimed to tackle and reported on projects that have been delivered to date. The more practical planning related issues included areas such as looking at the main gateway to the town when approaching from the south. Currently an unassuming and perhaps confusing exit of off a roundabout on the A140 which fails to capture tourists on their way to the coast which might otherwise visit the town if they knew what it had to offer. The same situation exists with attractions associated with the town, such as Blickling Hall and the Bure Valley Railway, which all operate independently and are not well connected through operation or physical linkage. The strategy identified that the town and each of the attractions would benefit from improved gateways and signage, including simple things such as brown tourist signs. It also suggests ways of creating better linkages between Blickling Hall, the town centre and the Bure Valley Railway through a combination of upgraded green linkages, linked cycle hire and an electric shuttle bus. A Hopper bus was introduced during the summer of 2012 on a trial basis and a new signed cycle route has been introduced between Aylsham, Blickling Hall and beyond. Joint ticketing of such attractions was another suggestion of the strategy.

Moving on to the issue of parking there are a number of car parks which serve the town which are free to use with several on an unlimited stay basis. However, as a result there is limited turnover of those spaces as many staff working at businesses in the

REGIONAL WORKSHOP 11.09.12



Blickling Hall taken by Kate Pinnock

town occupy a large number of spaces all day, reducing the number of spaces available for visitors to the town meaning on certain days and at certain times it is difficult to find a parking space and as a consequence discouraging people from visiting the town. Potential solutions were highlighted to increase the capacity of some of the existing car parks, including resurfacing and rearrangement of parking on the Market Place central to the town, together with better enforcement of parking restrictions and promotion of an 'adopt a driveway' scheme for use by staff of local businesses freeing up spaces for use by visitors.

Within the town centre itself there are two discrete areas that form the main shopping focus, the Market Place and Red Lion Street, which would benefit from better linkages, again through improved signage to individual business premises while at the same time decluttering and consolidating any unnecessary signage and street furniture. A signage audit has been undertaken and discussions have taken place with Conservation and Planning Officers at Broadland District Council to identify options for appropriate improved signage, given the sensitive location of the town centre within a Conservation Area and with many listed buildings. At the same time the presence of the Town Hall could be enhanced proving a focus for activity on the Market Place and again the profile of the National Trust could be improved helping the linkage between visitors to Blickling Hall and visitors to the town itself.

Additional measures to support the local economy were identified as another key issue. The industrial area towards the edge of town houses large areas of commercial space but is an area which could be better linked to the town centre. Within the town centre the temporary use of vacant premises is an idea to explore, together with bringing vacant space above shops back in to use as commercial/office space and a market pitch start up scheme was also suggested.

Other issues included the need to roll out a business charter for the Business and Enterprise Forum; the need to coordinate events and activities better, extending the programme of major events throughout the year and alleviating the congested summer calendar of events. The need to improve the national and international profile of the town was another issue identified, as the profile of the town beyond the local media is limited and gives the impression of a sleepy market town, requiring something as simple perhaps as consolidation of internet presence.

The strategy and its delivery have moved forward quickly with realistic and achievable projects identified by an enthusiastic and positive Town Team. Projects have been supported by the local community and based on good will and multi agency working has seen many projects implemented as soon as possible.

Mo Anderson-Dungar from Aylsham Town Council finished off the session with a brief overview of how the town is also working up a Neighbourhood Plan and in doing so is getting young High School students involved in the process to help to shape Aylsham's future.

Opening questions up to the audience it was asked if the strategy had found an answer to whether young people are leaving the town because of the lack of local job prospects? The response was that it has not been found to be the case that graduates are not coming back to the town. It was stated that Aylsham has a balanced local economy consisting of retail, service, manufacturing and industry with a large percentage of small family businesses with less than five employees. Even more reason to get behind the strategy identified for the town and the projects highlighted to ensure the local economy is supported and growth promoted.

Finally a walking tour took place around the town to observe for ourselves the issues highlighted with **Eileen Springall**, Chair of Aylsham Town Council giving her thoughts of the strategy and identifying the issues at first hand.

Sarah Hinchcliffe

REGIONAL CONFERENCE 27.09.12

Coalition Government: Planning in Practice

The Maltings, Ely

In the Spring 2013 Edition we will be reporting on this watershed Conference organised by Eiluned Morgan.

As a taster, this popular event included a range of speakers including Colin Haylock's 'Fascinating Times' forming part of his visit to our Region.

The full list of speakers:

- Phil Godwin, Regional Chair, Welcome and Introduction,
- Michael Bingham, Planning –Development Management, DCLG Planning Delivering Reform and Supporting Growth : Overview of the Reforms,
- David Vickery, Planning Inspectorate :Key Issues for the Successful Delivery of Local Plans
- Colin Haylock, RTPI President :Keynote Presentation: Fascinating Times,
- John Baker, Peter Brett Associates: Where Are We Going? ; A Reflection on Current Issues in Plan Making,
- Kathleen Dunmore, Three Dragons: The Housing Consultant's Perspective: Research on section 106, Viability & Identifying Housing requirements for the Elderly,Jenny Wigley, No 5 Chambers: The Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development,
- Nick Fenwick, Assistant Director for Planning, Milton Keynes Council: Neighbourhood Planning - The Milton Keynes Experience,
- Franny Ritchie, Head of Design Support & Design Review, Shape East: The Role of Design - Implications of Section 7 of the NPPF,
- Steve Ingram, Huntingdonshire District Council: CIL in Practice – A Local Authority Perspective, and
- Duncan Chadwick, David Lock Associates: Community Engagement - Colourful Times at the Pointy End of Public Consultation - A Consultant's View.

Summary by **Nigel Gibbs**

Post Script from Eiluned

At the event someone left a lovely bunch of flowers for Tina. The flowers went with her outfit that day - how did they do it!

I believe that the note that went with it said:-

'To Tina from all your friends and colleagues at Cambridgeshire with thanks for all your hard work, Wendy Hague.'



RICHARD IS LEAVING

Shock and Horror as we reveal that our Richard is leaving...

GOODBYE RICHARD, AND THANK-YOU

At the end of 2012, we will be losing a friend and colleague from our Management Board and our Committee.

At the end of 2012, we will be losing a friend and colleague from our Management Board and our Committee.

Richard Chillingford has been Hon. Sec. of the Region, and previously the Branch, for more than twenty years but has decided that it is now time to retire from his RTPI duties.

Richard has seen the RTPI East of England change dramatically over the years:

- The change from a Branch of the RTPI to the RTPI East of England Region in January 2006 brought with it new responsibilities for the Regional Management Board, having executive responsibility for the finance and operation of the Region. Richard was key in ensuring a smooth transition from Branch to Region.
- Another major change which Richard remembers very well was when the decision was made to employ staff to carry out day-to-day administrative duties rather than relying on volunteer members of the Committee. Richard was on the interviewing panel, together with Richard Woolley (as Branch Chair) and Michael Napier (RTPI).

Richard has worked closely with many key planners in the East of England who have taken on the role of Regional (Branch) Chair, including several who have gone on to bigger and better things and become President of the RTPI, including Jed Griffiths, Richard Summers and Ann Skippers.

Richard has a unique sense of humour, which will be sorely missed by everyone that has worked with him. Peter Hakes, as editor of the newsletter, always looked forward to receiving Richard's latest jottings – some of which were deemed to be a bit risqué!

Everyone can rest assured that Richard will not be sitting at home twiddling his thumbs – his involvement with community issues, in particular his enthusiasm for coaching youngsters in various badminton clubs, will ensure that he is kept very busy.

He has been not only a work colleague but a friend to many of us – life on the Committee will not be the same without him.

Here are a few thoughts from some of the members of the Committee:

"That is a bit of a shock! It's the end of civilisation as we know it!" (Peter Hakes)

"I have known Richard a relatively short period since being appointed to the Committee. However, from the outset I quickly realised how important both Richard and Tina are to the E of E's organisation. I recall how Richard enthusiastically welcomed me to the Committee in a phone conversation before my first meeting and since then have enjoyed his company". (Nigel Gibbs)

"Richard has been such a massive part of my RTPI 'life', it seems impossible to imagine how we might manage without his good humour, patience, knowledge and all round general niceness!" (Ann Skippers)

"OMG! What are we going to do without Richard? Things just won't be the same! " (Jackie Ward)

"I am still aghast - Richard's act as Honorary Secretary will be impossible to follow ! - he will be sorely missed" (Richard Summers)

"Richard and I have worked together for many years. I am finding it very difficult to imagine life in the RTPI without Richard's support both as a colleague and a friend" (Tina Jessup – Regional Co-ordinator)

Phil Godwin, our Chair for 2012, paid tribute to Richard's contribution to the work of the RTPI in the East of England since taking up the position as Regional Secretary in 1988:

"Richard's devotion to Planning and the Planning Profession and the interest he has shown in the Institute's affairs went beyond his full-time career as a planner. Like others of his generation, his commitment to the 'art and science of town planning' transcended the 'here and now' and the narrow professionalism we sometimes encounter in and outside the profession today. Without doubt he is an example to all planners, at whatever stage they have reached in their careers, of how to retain your enthusiasm".

RTPI President Elect for 2013, Peter Geraghty, remarked:

"I would like to thank you personally for your hard work and efforts over the years without which we just couldn't have gone on. I would also like to thank you for your support and words of wisdom during my year as chair. You've been a credit to the Branch and Region and should be proud of your contribution to the Institute. It is members such as yourself that are the bedrock of the RTPI".

Phil had the pleasure of presenting Richard with gifts from members of our Committee and our Management Board in recognition of his service at his last Committee meeting in November.



Richards retirement, photo by Peter Warner. Showing Richard's last Committee Meeting with Phil Godwin and Tina Jessup (and sitting Steve Bateman)

OUR COMMITTEE 17.09.12 AND 07.11.12

A Very Brief Summary

Held as always at West Suffolk House in Bury St. Edmunds -

Home to the 1st Bury St Edmunds (Mayors) Scout Group - the oldest in England.



FINANCE

In September our **Treasurer** reported that at the half-way stage of the financial year the income from the Conference programme, at £10,500, was below half of the budget target of £26,800. He was confident that the four remaining conferences,

which include the well-supported Coalition Government Planning in Practice conference on 26 September and the much respected Planning Law Conference in November, would make up the remainder of the income required. .

At the November meeting The Treasurer reported that the Region's expenditure was as expected at this stage of the financial year but income was below the target figure. However, the Planning Law conference on 9 November had 90 delegates booked to attend and this income would enable the Region to come close to meeting its target.

PLANNING AID SERVICE

A request from the **RTPI Planning Aid Service** for financial assistance to travel expenses for six volunteer members to attend a training session in Leeds in December was discussed. However no provision had been made in the budget for this expenditure and, given the Region's financial position, the Committee agreed to fund the travel costs of one volunteer only.

CONFERENCE UPDATE

Chair, **Phil Godwin**, thanked **Elizabeth Mugova** for organising the very successful Water Framework Directive ½ day conference in Peterborough and Elizabeth thanked Peterborough City Council for the venue and the Environment Agency for providing speakers. Phil Godwin was surprised that relatively few planners from the Region attended the conference as the topic was of great importance. He was concerned that many planners would remain unaware of the implications of the Directive.

The conference in Aylsham under the auspices of the Regeneration Network had a high level of delegate satisfaction and thanks were due to **Ingham Pinnock** for the tour of the town centre, which explained the innovative approach to regeneration in the town. (See write-up in this newsletter)

The Coalition Government Planning in Practice conference: **Eiluned Morgan** was thanked and congratulated for putting together such a high quality group of speakers. (See write –up in this newsletter)

The Planning Law conference in November would be in the new theatre of Downing College which would provide better facilities than previously, especially for the lunch break.

The final details were confirmed for the **President's visit to the Region** on 26 and 27 September - see details of what actually happened, elsewhere in this newsletter.

SURVEY OF MEMBERS' NEEDS

Tina Jessup gave the Committee an update on the responses to the survey, as replies are still coming in. The full day conference format is still the most popular, with breakfast meetings having virtually no support at all. Travel time and distance is a problem for many members and finding enough time to be out of the office all day on a training course was also difficult. The respondents provided almost 20 suggestions for topics for the 2013 Conference Programme, some of which were highly specialised and more suited to ½ day or short CPD events.

2013 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

The 2013 Programme of Events was almost completed, with a few volunteers to organise conferences still required. Next year's President will visit us in May and will present our Planning Award.

MAP FOR ENGLAND PROJECT

The Committee received a report on the progress of the Project from **Richard Summers**.

OUR COMMITTEE 17.09.12 AND 07.11.12

RTPI CENTENARY IN 2014

Peter Warner is leading a small group of members to promote and celebrate the RTPI Centenary in 2014 and he would welcome any suggestions for events, and offers of help to organise them, which can be sent to the Regional Co-ordinator Tina Jessup.

STRATEGIC REVIEW OF THE REGIONS

HQ has been examining the purpose, priorities and activities of the Regions including the Regions implementation of the RTPI's Corporate Strategy, understanding members' needs, the One Institute concept, effective Business Plans, thriving Regional Committees and finance. A comprehensive report has been sent to Botolph Lane in response.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

This HQ initiative, (see item in this newsletter) aims to alert schoolchildren to the possibilities of a career in planning by each Region appointing an Advocate to co-ordinate visits to schools by RTPI members to promote the profession. The Committee strongly supported the principle but felt that a more defined objective was required and that the subject of environmental awareness needed to have a higher prominence on the curriculum if the initiative was to have any chance of success.

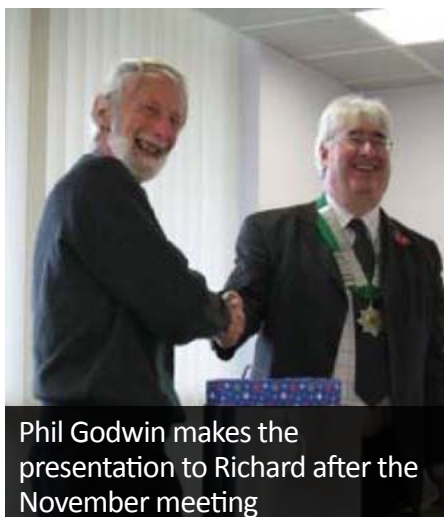
YOUNG PLANNERS NETWORK

HQ wishes this to become more integrated into Regions and their Activities Committees and has asked that specific places be allocated for Young Planners representatives on the Committees.

ELECTIONS

Not enough nominations had come forward to fill all the places available on the Committee, indeed not one Student or Licentiate member had been nominated, so all those nominated had been Deemed Elected and a second round of nominations will be invited during November.

THE HON SEC. LEAVES THE COMMITTEE...



Phil Godwin makes the presentation to Richard after the November meeting

The November meeting was the last for our Honorary Secretary, Richard Chillingford, who stood down after 23 years in the post. Members of the Committee past and present had subscribed to a whole bagful of farewell gifts which were presented to him by the Regional Chair, Phil Godwin and the Regional Co-ordinator, Tina Jessup. The Secretary thanked everyone for their kindness and generosity with the gifts and for all the help and support he had received from members over the years. He paid special tribute to the hard work and enthusiasm of Tina Jessup, without whom the Region would just not operate. (See separate item in the newsletter)

This is only a very brief outline of the detailed and meaningful discussions that took place. The full minutes can be obtained from Tina Jessup. If any Member feels the urge to join the fray at these exciting meetings please contact Tina, for details of dates, times etc. (see address on page 3)

TOWN PLANNING AND POPULATION

Town Planning and Population

An article by Ludi Simpson

Looking only a decade ahead, we know that there will be more elderly needing care and more children in secondary schools. These children have already been born, and we know where they are because they registered with local doctors. There will be more elderly people, partly because 70-80 years ago the birth rate was also rising and partly because the expectation of life has continued to increase despite the dampening effects of obesity and smoking. A rise in numbers of residents aged over 65 and of the very elderly, aged over 85, is expected in almost every part of the UK.

The biggest unknown when it comes to the demographic future is migration. Will families with babies continue to move from the local flats as their children become mobile? Will the high income families that have established gentrified inner-town enclaves remain there as they age? Will the next group of immigrants swept to Britain by war or economic competition settle in the same urban places or feed agricultural labour needs? Will the tightened housing market not just restrict movement but change its patterns? Will benefit cuts reduce or impel movement? Will student fees depress the housing market by keeping young people at home for longer? Will the cost of adult care force more older people to rely on their children for longer before moving to a residential home? Will new housing lie empty or attract new residents?

The trick for local planners is to distinguish how much of future demographic change is predetermined, how much is effectively uncertain and unpredictable, and how much can be seriously influenced – and then to plan accordingly. The mantra should be: predict what is not under your control, plan what is under your control.

Official demographic projections for local authorities are traditionally trend-based; they continue into the future the patterns of recent demographic change. They are said to be free of assumptions about policy, but on the contrary they assume that any impact which policy has had on the recent past will continue into the future.

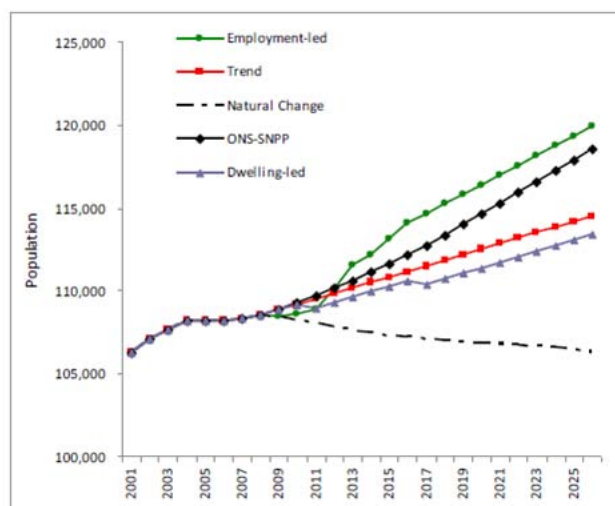
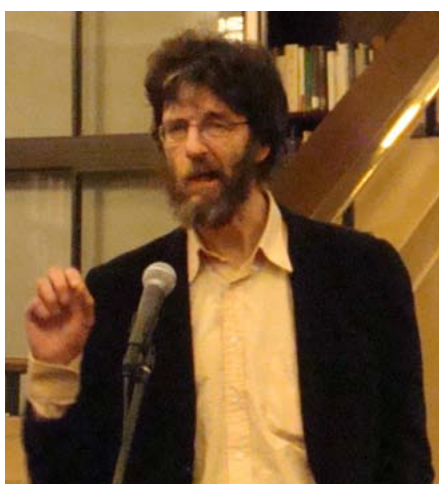
When it comes to land, the dictum 'plan what you can control' has long been at the forefront of planning policy. It is standard practice to plan the future number of housing units and where they will be built – and to calculate the impact this will have on population change. Developers are involved in attempts to have them contribute to the education and transport infrastructure that new housing implies.

The tools for this job are already available. The question mark is whether the local authorities and planners more generally have the skills and the confidence to state local priorities, and to translate these priorities into plans for housing and jobs. Inevitably this involves choosing between a series of scenarios, and their implications for population and services, which the demographic tools can describe well.

These tensions have been exacerbated by cuts to local research staff, while localism has thrown inexperienced district councils at the feet of developers' lobbying presentations. Who is actively promoting quality in local public planning and demographic forecasting?

Next year (2013), The British Society for Population Studies and the East of England RTPI intend to provide a day meeting on the potential and principles of demographic modelling for planners.

Ludi Simpson is professor of population studies at the University of Manchester, and current president of the British Society of Population Studies.



YOUNG PLANNERS



Young planners Update

The Final Young Planners update for 2012.

In my last article I advised of the initiative that was being undertaken with Greg Clark, then Minister for Decentralisation and Planning, to demonstrate positive planning solutions as best practise amongst Young Planners. The Government reshuffle meant that Greg Clark was no longer available to attend the Young Planners Conference but the Positive Planning Solutions document was still successfully launched on the eve of the Conference.



Young Planners Conference -photo by RTPI London

The Young Planners Conference took place on Friday 26th and Saturday 27th October in London and was a very successful and popular event with a range of positive feedback received. The event included a range of high profile speakers starting with the launch event on Thursday evening. The main conference began on Friday with an APC workshop and included 3 main plenary sessions with speakers on particular themes. The Friday events also included a choice from 7 smaller workshop events, again on specific themes.

Following the 'evening soiree', the Saturday session began with a further plenary session: good design = good planning, before Young Planners embarked on a choice of 10 study tours. Further information, photographs and reviews of the event can be found from the following link <http://rtpilondoncalling.wordpress.com/2012-young-planners-conference/>

With regard to regional events, at the time of writing this article we are currently finalising the details for the annual APC training event and the Xmas Curry and Beer and information will have been circulated by email by the time you read this. The APC event has been put back to early 2013 with a date currently being finalised with the RTPI. However the intention is that this will be in advance of the end of January deadline to allow those currently preparing their submissions to get advice on particular aspects, prior to submission. It will be an essential event for anyone looking to submit their APC in 2013. In addition, a recurring theme that has arisen in Young Planner and APC discussions is the differing quality of advice from Mentors and the RTPI have looked at targeted Mentor training. We would, therefore, welcome attendance at the event from Mentors and Line Managers as well as Young Planners.

Moving into 2013...

There will be a bit of a change to the Young Planners set-up. Currently the Young Planners activities report centrally to the RTPI. However changes to governance will see the administration of Young Planner activities now fall to the regions. As a result, there will now be a closer relationship with the Regional Committee.

I hope that this closer alignment will see a greater input of ideas and suggestions for Young Planner events. Currently it is something of a one person operation with input from other Young Planners to events on an ad-hoc basis. This is in contrast to other regions, which have a far more formalised Young Planners Committee and with various inputs and funding. I would hope that direct involvement within the Committee will allow us to replicate these arrangements and see a greater range of events put forward for 2013 and beyond.

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact me graham.bloomfield@bidwells.co.uk should you have any events you would like to promote to Young Planners, ideas for events or wish to discuss any YP issues. This is also the contact should you wish to be added to the mailing list for YP events. The newly revamped RTPI website, as well as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn all remain good sources of information and discussion for Young Planners.

Graham Bloomfield

Email: graham.bloomfield@bidwells.co.uk

PLANNING AID

UPDATE



Planning Aid update – news from the Front(runners)!

The Planning Aid section of the RTPi website has been revamped and now has a specific section on Neighbourhood Planning and provides advice, FAQs and detailed case studies of various groups we have been working with on neighbourhood planning. This can be found at <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/planning-aid/neighbourhood-planning/>. New short briefing notes give an overview of key aspects of Neighbourhood Planning:

- What is Neighbourhood Planning? (pdf, 306 kb)
- What is a Neighbourhood Development Plan? (pdf, 262 kb)
- What is a Neighbourhood Development Order? (pdf, 264 kb)

October's edition of Up Front, our monthly neighbourhood planning e-bulletin, is now available. If you'd like to receive Up Front directly in future, sign up for your own copy here.

If you'd like to write something for Up Front, please get in touch as we welcome contributions; news items, event reports, Frontrunner and other neighbourhood planning stories are all welcome. Please contact catherine.middleton@rtpi.org.uk who edits the e-bulletin.

Volunteers from the East of England were invited to attend a training session on our new and revised product Are You Fit? Neighbourhood Plan Preparation in London on 20th September. The session was well received by the 20 delegates attending. One volunteer said ***"I really enjoyed the session. It was great to be in a room with planners talking about neighbourhood plans and the way they work"***

Working with Central Bedfordshire we piloted the new product Are You Fit? Neighbourhood Plan Preparation on the 15th September with volunteers Martin Harradine and Ellie Gingell helping to deliver the presentations for the session. Attendees enjoyed - ***"...the whole day. Very well presented and it provided an abundance of information... Enjoyed the interactive discussion...Exchanging experiences with other parishes was particularly useful"*** The feedback from this and other pilot sessions was used to revise the materials before rolling the product out nationally which we are in the process of.

We are also looking for volunteers from the East of England to support a number of the Frontrunners in Broadland district who are now at the policy development stage of the Neighbourhood Planning process and are keen for some impartial advice from Planning Aid volunteers. To find out more, contact Becky – rebecca.elson@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk

If you would like to volunteer for Planning Aid England please register on our website:

<http://www.rtpi.org.uk/planning-aid/volunteering/>

Or, if you'd like further information about how you might get involved, email Stella or Rebecca – stella.scrivener@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk rebecca.elson@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk



The session in Bedfordshire



The session in Bedfordshire

INSIDE THE BACK WITH *Natasha x*

Natasha Oosedam, Editor of 'Planners Up Front and On Top', brings you 'love, intrigue and town planning' from the 'Barbara Cartlodge of the Marshes' - Marcia Worlspittle.



A Package Holiday!

Philip, new head of DC in a Norfolk planning authority, had just begun his week's annual leave. He slumped into his seat as the 'United' coach began its ponderous journey through the sultry summer evening London suburbs. He patted his pocket – yes, he had his Rail Rover Ticket and two items vouchsafed to him by Lieutenant Willerby before being sent on the operation to

bring two packages back to Cambridge Circus HQ. His heart was still beating hard - had he managed to give his pursuers the slip in the narrow streets of Pimlico before doubling-back to Victoria Coach Station?

At last, at 6.00 am the coach stopped in a cool, gray, deserted, Middlesbrough town centre. As he alighted alone, he felt very conspicuous. "I must get off this street," he thought and just then noticed the middle-aged woman sweeping the steps of the Liberal Club. She invited him in for a 'cuppa', but Philip felt uneasy – he had 'bad vibes' and declining her offer he set off for the railway station and after a brief snooze on a platform seat, boarded the first train out - a pity he thought – he had so wanted to see the Transporter Bridge!

By buses and trains, via Darlington, Barnard Castle, Newton Aycliffe New Town and Bishop Auckland he finally arrived at Durham, that majestic stone city commanding the winding tranquil River Wear. After finding suitable accommodation, our hero set out to explore. He liked some of the new college buildings but in the quiet of the cathedral he thought he heard a strange noise and a shadowy movement from behind one of the huge Norman columns- was he being watched?

He decided to set off at once for Newcastle where he was to collect further instructions. A rather tortuous route was called for and he set out for Consett, that iron making town in the heart of the County Durham countryside. The red dust clung to everything and Philip was fascinated by all he saw and heard. Next a maroon and yellow 'Venture' single decker brought him to the Haymarket in the centre of Newcastle and that night he slept peacefully in a small private hotel in a Georgian terrace behind the football ground.

Waking early, he studied the two documents given to him by his part-time boss: a betting slip for The Ponteland Point-to-Point – 'The Sweet Life' at 10-1, and a membership card to the 'Bailey Organisation' which ran a number of night clubs in the north of England.

What did it all mean? Then – yes he'd got it! 'The Sweet Life' must mean 'La Dolce Vita Club' and 10-1 must mean ten minus 1 – yes, of course 9 pm!

And so it proved, because after several 'Exhibition' Bitters, in the glittering bar of the club, at about nine o'clock he fell into conversation with a dark haired lass, who it emerged was a nurse with the North East Blood Transfusion Unit.

It was arranged that they would meet the next morning after Philip had given blood. As he emerged, rather unsteadily from the mobile unit located outside St. Nicholas Cathedral and following the obligatory cup of tea, he looked at his brand new Donor Card. Inside was a slip of paper on which was written:- 'Top Hat, Manchester – ask for Jock'

So, he must now travel south to Manchester's club-land, but before doing so he decided that he needed a justification for this to satisfy his followers, so he telephoned an old chum from college, Lance Perry, now an architect at Skelmersdale New Town. It was quickly arranged that he would spend a few days in south-west Lancashire, sight-seeing.

The following day Philip set off on the epic four hour train journey across the gray misty Pennines and after a further hour of travelling across the flat landscape of south-west Lancs. was met by Lance and they immediately repaired to 'The Hare and Hounds'.

The two chums had a great time visiting such places as 'The Phil' in Liverpool, the sad derelict Albert Docks, Lord Street in Southport, the site for the Leyland-Chorley Central Lancashire New Town, Preston Bus Station, resplendent in white ceramic tiles, with the scrawl on the wall saying 'cheer up!' – and all culminating in a Mystery Coach Tour with the 'Tawd Vale Wine Circle' where Phil entertained the members with his Liverpool and Irish folksongs on his trusty harmonica.

But his stay was soon over and he made his way to Manchester's Club Land where 'the collection of the package' went like clockwork and later that night he boarded a train from Manchester Exchange on the first leg of his return journey to Newcastle, across the dark windswept moors of the Pennines via Huddersfield and Leeds.

Will our hero collect the next package and deliver them both to his employers in the heart of London's theatre land?

To find out, follow Philips adventures as a 'Young planner in the 60's', on the back page of Planners up Front and on Top.

David Lock Associates are always on the look out for talented planners and urban designers.

Growing Peterborough City Centre ▶

Our Services

- Communication and consultation skills to engage effectively with local communities, business groups, local stakeholders, political leaders, young people and all hard to reach groups in society. We can build the capacity required to ensure effective participation in debate, discussion and planning for growth and change.
- A long track record in the master planning and regeneration of towns, cities and regions, through robust spatial plans and urban design frameworks that guide investment in infrastructure.
- Ambition for places - their potential and opportunity - to make 'big plans' which have the ability to galvanise consensus around a vision for the future.
- Capacity to make good places through urban design and the implementation of complex plans at the local level to bring the vision to fruition.
- A trusted multi-discipline practice of consultants and our sister companies; Integrated Transport Planning and DLA Architects Practice all of which encourage equal opportunities, to draw together the complementary skills required in any project.
- A broad appreciation of the complexities faced by public sector clients to deliver regeneration and change, reconciling differing requirements through planning and engagement.

If you're motivated by creating sustainable developments that make a real difference to the quality of people's lives, DLA are looking for talented planners and urban designers. If you think you have the right creative skills to make a genuine contribution to our projects in Colchester, Felixstowe, Ipswich, Luton and Peterborough then please send your CV to Jo Cave: jcave@davidlock.com.

© 2012 David Lock Associates. Photograph taken at Hampton, where DLA continue the planning, master planning, design and implementation of development at Peterborough's southern township

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David Lock Associates
Town Planning and Urban Design



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