

THE ORIENT EXPRESS

Autumn 2010

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RTPI

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Where are we now?

Can you recognise this place?
You could win a £25 Marks and Spencer voucher
(see page 4 for further details)

INSIDE • Regional Events Programme 2010 • Your Committee • Planning Aid
• East to West on a Bike • Young Planners • Planning Aid • Award Evening / Quiz Night
• Localism and Community Engagement • Urban Design Group Study Tour
• More From Natasha

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Guest Editorial by our Chair



Rob Hobbs

Welcome to the autumn edition as we move into a period of change in the planning world. A new government has led to an air of uncertainty as we see development plan documents postponed, subject to further consultation and suspended following the revocation of regional strategies. Housing and Planning Delivery Grant has been scrapped resulting in planners facing an uncertain future, which has already been hampered by the recession. Those in employment may be facing cuts, while graduates are left wondering where and when their career will begin with very few jobs available. What a difference a few years makes and only recently there was acknowledgment of a shortage of people in the profession.

The RTPI East of England region continues to promote CPD events as it is important for members to continue their lifelong learning and acquire new knowledge and skills, although this is becoming ever more challenging in an era of austerity where training budgets are being slashed and employers are looking at alternative ways of providing training. Despite lower numbers at the region's conferences, they continue to provide an excellent standard of speakers and those who do attend have the opportunity to engage in discussion and get a lot out of them. The Regional Activities Committee puts a lot of effort into organising these conferences and it is important that members and others in the profession continue to support these events otherwise there is the risk of cancellation. It is the people that make our profession and the RTPI successful and so please take every opportunity to get involved.

Forthcoming regional conferences are on how to manage flood risk and surface water in Huntingdon on Tuesday 28th September, heritage assets and place making in Ely on Thursday 14th October, and the popular planning law update in Cambridge on Friday 12th November. The region maintains a policy of locating conferences across the region to enable as many members as possible to be able to attend events, and to offer the opportunity to visit the sites of case studies. In April of this year we organised a conference on the role of retail in town centres in Bury St Edmunds that included a walking tour of the new Arc development. In March the conference on minerals, waste and resource management was held at the Waterbeach Waste Management Park in Cambridgeshire. It is through looking at projects first hand that we as planners can share best practice and learn about what works well and what can be improved.

This brings me on to the RTPI East of England planning achievement awards for 2009, which were celebrated at a recent awards evening in Woodbridge. The winners, The Landscape Partnership kindly sponsored the event and took part in the quiz along with five other teams. Representatives

from Cambridgeshire County Council and Bidwells were also on hand to collect their awards for 2nd and 3rd places respectively. Judging for 2010 will shortly get underway for what is an important part of the region's activity.

The young planners' network in the region has had one event this year in Norwich in collaboration with East of England Planning Aid. Behind the scenes Graham Bloomfield of Bidwells who took over as Young Planner representative in January of this year has been busy planning for future activities. This includes the annual APC event held this year in Ipswich in August. We are fortunate to have a speaker from RTPI HQ attend each year to give a presentation and the session provides licentiates and mentors with the opportunity to seek clarification on their submission statements. We would like to promote more Young Planner and CPD events away from Norfolk and Suffolk but need volunteers to come forward with suggestions of speakers and venues. The events are free and last for an hour or two with an optional visit to the pub afterwards.

It is going to be an interesting few months to come with the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review, the selection of Local Economic Partnerships and further details around localism. It is important that as a profession we continue to remain positive, meet the challenges ahead and see future changes as opportunities to shape our profession for the better. I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Orient Express.

Rob Hobbs

RTPI East of England Chair

P.S. Congratulations to my wife Jo Hobbs, planner at Norwich City Council, who has just completed a cycle trip across the country for charity. You can read about this later in this edition.

Thanks Rob, very thought provoking - as our reader(s) may have realised, this is our annual sensible editorial!

Keep those articles and cartoons etc rolling in for the next issue,

Peter Hakes, Editor



Next Issue

The next issue should be published in Christmas 2010. Deadline for copy is 15 November 2010 to:
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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**
Town Planning and Urban Design



REGIONAL EVENTS PROGRAMME 2010

Theme for the Year: “How Planning Can Promote Behavioural Change”

The following is the programme of conferences for 2010.

Up-to-date information can be found on our web site at:

www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_east_of_england

TITLE	DATE	LOCATION	COST	COMMENTS
HOW TO MANAGE FLOOD RISK & SURFACE WATER	28 Sept	Huntingdonshire DC Offices	£95+VAT	Supported by Huntingdonshire DC
HERITAGE ASSETS & PLACE MAKING	14 Oct	Ely Maltings	£110+VAT	In association with IHBC
IS LOW CARBON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POSSIBLE?	21 Oct	Imperial War Museum, Duxford	£110+VAT	Organised by built environment professional organisations in the East of England, including the RTPi, RICS, RIBA, ICE and IMechE. Email: iceeastofengland@ice.org.uk
EAST OF ENGLAND PLANNING LAW UPDATE	12 Nov	Downing College, Cambridge	£130+VAT	Annual Law Update Conference
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	13 Dec	GO-East Office, Cambridge	£110+VAT	Supported by GO-East. With assistance from East of England Planning Aid
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE	Jan 2011 (date tbc)	tbc	tbc	Supported by The Landscape Partnership

Your support at these events is vital to ensure their success

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.

Do you have an expertise in one of the suggested topic areas and would like to share your knowledge with other members?

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 on Page 4.

REGIONAL EVENTS PROGRAMME 2011

We are currently in discussions with Anglia Ruskin University to provide co-ordinated delivery of CPD events and training for planners in the East of England from 2011.

An update will be reported in the next edition of this newsletter.

Are there topics which you think should be included in the Events Programme in 2011?

Let us know as soon as possible to ensure your views can be taken into account during forthcoming discussions.

Could you suggest a suitable venue for one of the Events?

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 233408; Fax: 01359 232176; Email: eastofengland@rtpi.org.uk

Web: www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_east_of_england

QUIZ - WHERE ARE WE NOW?



Lucky Winner

Derek Lawrence

Pictured at the entrance to Edinburgh Castle

Apparently not quite so difficult this time-though I had no idea where it was!

We had 17 attempts, two were wrong and **15** were more or less correct. The answer was (of course) **New Hall in Harlow.**

And the first name out of the RTPi Mug was **Derek Lawrence** of Bishop's Stortford, who has been sent a **£25.00 gift voucher.**

The runners up were:-

David Hughes, Matt Clarke, Colin Endean, Matt Winslow, Katie Rodgers, Laura Chase, Ron Madell, John Oldham, Ian Poole, Obafemi Okusipe, David Wallis, Steven Butler, Yee Cheung and Chris Purvis.

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

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

Letters, post cards and e-mails (to address on page 2) will be eligible.

These will be kept in a secure place until 4 weeks after central distribution from East of England RTPi HQ. The first entry taken (by someone independent of the RTPi) from this secure place will be the winner. Only those on the East of England RTPi register will be eligible, except the Editor and staff of David Lock and Associates.

Good luck!



Do you work in planning enforcement? Are you interested in how planning decisions are enforced?

Have you considered joining NAPE?

The purpose of the National Association for Planning Enforcement (NAPE) is to promote and enhance the role of planning enforcement within the planning profession. It works on a national, regional and local level to share good practice and encourage professional development.

Planning enforcement is an important and distinct function within the planning process. Planning enforcement officers work at the "sharp end" of planning and development management, ensuring that the consequences of decisions made as a result of planning applications being refused, or where applications haven't been made in the first place, are carried through on the ground.

NAPE membership provides:

- Free, monthly electronic newsletter, NAPE News, full of news, case studies, training information
- Free, one-day annual enforcement conference, exclusively for NAPE members
- Discount on the RTPi's annual enforcement conference, worth £100
- Access to the online Enforcement Handbook, only available to NAPE members
- Discussion forum where you can ask for advice on current cases and enforcement issues
- Opportunity to join a growing association of almost 600 members actively involved in enforcement
- Opportunity to influence enforcement policy by responding to consultations and contributing to the development of NAPE's views

NAPE is supported by the RTPi, and RTPi members can join NAPE for free. Further details can be found at www.rtpi.org.uk/nape.

The NAPE management committee member for your area is Steve Robshaw at stephen.robshaw@btopenworld.com, who will be happy to answer any questions you may have about NAPE.

EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

Would you rather receive information from the Region by email? The Region's e-mailing list is growing! We are keen to reduce the post coming through your letterbox or into your in-tray - would you rather receive your information by email?

There is the added advantage that you would receive the most up-to-date information at the earliest opportunity of events organised at short notice, or changes to published information about events.

Please contact the Regional Administrator Tina Jessup at eastofengland@rtpi.org.uk if you are keen to receive information electronically.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

All Members of the Regional Management Board and Regional Activity Committee Members can be contacted via the Regional Office at:

RTPi East of England, 4 Opus House, Elm Farm Park, Great Green, Thurston, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 3SH

Tel: 01359 233408 **Fax:** 01359 232176

email: eastofengland@rtpi.org.uk

REGIONAL CONFERENCE 11.02.10

Planning for demographic change

St Nicholas Centre, Ipswich

The conference began with a presentation welcoming delegates provided by **Chris Stratton**. Chris took us through some of the headlines and statistics from around the world, the region and asked what they mean for land use planning and infrastructure.

Andy Bates from the Office for National Statistics began with an outline of the role that ONS plays and took us through some of the ONS outputs relevant to population change and then covered some of the key uses for the ONS population stats. relevant to planning policy.

The challenges facing the UK include ageing, migration, living patterns and family formation and he explained the importance of having good statistics especially for use as an evidence base for planning policy work.

Andy took delegates through some historic population figures and then on to some population pyramids to explain current population trends which included an increase in births and total fertility rates (TFR), a rise in the number of women of childbearing age, that the fertility rate of the resident population has fallen below replacement level and immigration vs. emigration.

He explained how ONS produce their projections and was keen to point out that they are projections and not forecasts. Projections being based on existing data and recent predicted trends extended temporally whereas forecasts also use (where available) data on, for example, anticipated housing supply to understand how the projection interacts with it.

Andy then explained some of the assumptions within the projections and was keen that delegates use the online tools from the following locations: www.statistics.gov.uk/ageingintheuk/agemap and www.statistics.gov.uk/nationalprojections/flash_pyramid/projections. Andy finished off with some examples of how the media has used the ONS statistics to make headlines, sometimes rather inappropriately.

John Hammond from the Met Office sought to make the links between population change and climate change. He took delegates through some climate change facts; starting at the global level working down to the regional level and explained how climate models are used to make future climate projections which could be used in combination with the ONS population projections for a wider view.

He showed us some mapping that demonstrated the impact of a 40c temperature rise and discussed how this would affect population movements and finished by explaining how the Met Office works with the Highways Agency and network rail on transport and land policy, the NHS on health risks, the energy and water sectors, including producing the UK flood alerts used by the Environment Agency amongst others.

Roger Martin gave a humorous and animated presentation entitled 'Population – key factor – mad taboo'. He began by telling delegates that many of the speakers talking today are too calm, because the issue of population rise is very worrying indeed. Roger described the 'perfect storm' of population,

food, energy, climate change and as covered by some of his predecessors and peers. Roger stated he wanted to break the mad taboo of population growth being the centre of all environmental problems. Roger said the last time that link was made was in 1973 by the Government Panel on Population, however since then the taboo has taken a grip and the 'yuk factor' dominates. Roger stated that in his opinion population should be the responsibility of a Government minister. Roger explained that a YouGov poll undertaken for the Optimum Population Trust showed that many respondents wanted a smaller UK population with only 8% saying they wanted population growth.

Roger moved on to make the link to planning and said that planning exists to protect the environment from the economy. Roger also set out three pillars and asked delegates to consider them:

1. we should shout "this region is full"
2. we should stand up to the internal forces that require constant growth
3. we should resist the economists in the region

Roger said we needed to go back to the spirit of 1973 and break the taboo and that population stabilisation was the key goal for sustainable development.

Iain Dunnett gave a presentation entitled 'Metaphor for Survival – a Review of the Creating the Greenest County Activities' and started by covering how Suffolk County Council is responding to the challenges mentioned by earlier speakers.

He discussed the challenge of carbon reduction and said that the East of England has the potential for exemplars of renewable energy developments and mentioned the transition towns principle. Iain said that joined up thinking was increasingly required to counter the issue of population growth and pondered on what Suffolk will look like in 20 years in population structure terms.

Simon Meecham from EERA then looked at the 'East of England Plan 2031 – Scenarios for Housing and Economic Growth' and explained that regional planning began after the 1960's and reminded delegates that the 1990 Act introduced the need for the two tier planning system to have regard to RPGs.

Simon said that the regional spatial strategy is vital to demography in the East of England as it sets targets relevant to population growth such as housing. Simon took us through the approach of the existing RSS and the Regional Economic Strategy and described a polycentric region with no core city. Simon explained how the RSS review tested several scenarios for growth and produced the sub area profiles to provide greater detail. The sub area profiles were based on functional units of research and appraisal and formed the basis for a narrative on strategic localism.

The RSS review included a new Spatial Strategy policy on environmental limits which again has a direct bearing on demography. Simon explained how EERA was shortly to become EELGA and said that whatever happens with regards to a change of Government that the best evidence base was within the new RSS review.

Nick Stripe followed with 'The Housing Challenge – Demographic, Social and Economic Change' and explained that the NHPAU was established in 2007 to advise local planning



authorities on housing policy. Nick then asked “where are we and where are we going?” and listed the following demographic, economic, social and environmental drivers to consider:

- increasing birth rates
- increasing average age
- immigration and London ‘outspill’
- falling average household sizes
- increase in single person households
- the ratio of working persons to retirees is predicted to be 2.8 in 2033 when nearly as many people will be retiring as are entering the workforce
- will the taps of consumerism need to be turned down?
- The need to nurture and reinvigorate industry
- Is it time for a National Plan?
- A largely socially unequal country
- Older populations most likely to vote and involve themselves in decision making
- Younger populations will experience increasing debt and will have to work longer
- Consider the continual use of virgin natural resources
- How much is population growth a major factor in environmental concerns?
- Does the containment of growth cause population movement?

Nick stated that this is the first time there has been an undersupply of housing in the market since WWII and he explained that this hits first buyers the hardest.

The last speaker **Rt Hon John Gummer MP** who said that it was his opinion that planning was “an unpleasant necessity”. He said we have created an unsustainable way of life and as planners we are now planning for it. Mr Gummer criticised population forecasting and related planning saying that the planning system consider that “where we are are is where we are going”.

He lamented that society has determined that multiple generations in a single house is unacceptable and stated that 58% of homes currently required come from marriage break ups and commented that in the past divorce didn’t tend to increase housing need but now it is common for divorcees to have a home each.

Mr Gummer then went on to describe what he termed ‘sequential polygamy’:

- Mr A and Mrs A get divorced
- Mrs A keeps the house
- Mr A buys a new home
- Mr B and Mrs B get divorced
- Mrs B keeps the house
- Mr B gets a new home
- Mr A gets together with Mrs B but they keep their independent homes
- Where previously there were two homes, four are now ‘needed’

He considered there should be a real effort put towards refurbishing existing homes and that new homes should not be built to existing levels to encourage people to stay put in their existing family situations. Mr Gummer stated that it is not first

time buyers that have been driving the market but second home buyers as well as modern forms of family relationships.

Mr Gummer asked if this new form of society is tolerable in the long term? He also asked whether the audience expected the public to revolt if there was an insufficient housing supply? Mr Gummer suggested that in reality what the public don’t like is the number of homes being planned, the building involved, where they will be built, and the infrastructure required to support them. Mr Gummer considered that the issue of sustainability has given credibility to this view and that the public feel empowered to say no to over supply of housing.

Mr Gummer stated that he didn’t believe population control worked but that justice does.

Mr Gummer concluded with the following key thoughts:

- We will need to build more cleverly
- The future world will be a more exciting place
- We will have to consider more the acceptability of our lifestyles
- We should allow a small amount of housing in villages for local people
- We don’t have the global footprint to keep building and growing
- There should be no more planning conferences based on an acceptance of the stats. – predict and provide is not as simple as we think
- If we choose to say “this can’t continue” we should choose not to provide for it

Mr Gummer also provided 4 mechanisms for planning for delegates to consider:

1. no more building on green field sites
2. no more predict and provide
3. use what we’ve got more effectively by reoccupying large areas of towns that are currently unoccupied
4. we should be better able to maximise the opportunities to think and work in a more sustainable way

Mr Gummer’s final thought was that to continue predicting and providing is yet more social engineering and that this has to stop so we can take stock.

This report was put together in the organisers own time and is intended to provide information to RTPI members who were unable to attend the conference but would like to know what was covered.

[RTPI East of England conferences are organised by volunteers and offer excellent value for money. Please support them as part of meeting your CPD requirements.](#)

[Steven Bainbridge Environmental Planner, The Landscape Partnership Ltd 1st place winners of the East of England Planning Achievement Awards.](#)

[\(This has been summarised slightly – a fuller version can be obtained from the Editor\)](#)

Your Committee

14.07.2010

A Very Brief summary

Held as always at West Suffolk House, Bury St. Edmunds

- One time home of Claudia Schiffer

The Regional Business Plan for the next three years has been agreed by the Regional Management Board, subject to confirmation that the Regional Grant from central funds will be as provisionally advised.

The Committee received a report from the **Regional Planning Aid Service**. All volunteers now receive a newsletter to keep them informed and involved in the Service. Nationally, Planning Aid England has produced a new promotional leaflet and two research topics have been commissioned:- the first is a study by ARUP which has formulated a method of putting a monetary value on the work done by Planning Aid; the second has been undertaken by Sue Mann the Planning Aid National Planner, into ways the Service can diversify and find alternative sources of funding.

The Government is providing funds to assist with the **training of local government staff to deal with the increasing complexity of meeting climate change obligations**.

The Committee has investigated the potential for using some of this funding to enhance its CPD and Conference programmes and will be submitting bids in the near future.

The **2011 Conference Programme** was discussed- please wait with baited breath.

Discussions have been held with representatives of the **Anglia Ruskin University into the potential for joint working in the provision of CPD in the Region**. The Committee received a progress report and agreed that joint branding and promotion of all events would start in 2011, that we should consider "re-branding" our Regional events to avoid confusion with the events held nationally by RTPi Conferences Ltd (Planning East was suggested), the 2011 Conference programme must be produced – topic, date, venue, with named organiser(s) - and published before the end of December this year.

Arrangements for **Ann Skipper's President's Visit** in November were finalised and consideration given to the programme for the visit of **Richard Summers in 2012**.

The **Presentation Evening for the Regional 2009 Planning Achievement Award**, which was combined with the **Regional Quiz** in Woodbridge, (see separate items in this issue) was a great success and the Committee's thanks were recorded to Tina Jessup for her hard work arranging the event and to The Landscape Partnership for sponsoring the refreshments, to Jackie Sadler and Mandy Bainbridge for their help on the night and to our regular quiz master Paul Maison.

The entries for the **2010 Award** are with the Award panel for consideration. Arrangements for the presentation event will be discussed at the September Meeting.



This is only a very brief outline of the detailed and meaningful discussions that took place. The full minutes can be obtained from the Secretary **Richard Chillingford**. If any Member feels the urge to join the fray at these exciting meetings please contact Richard via Tina, for details of dates, times etc. (see address on page 4)

RTPI LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE

The library is a reference-only collection consisting mainly of post -1990 publications on planning-related topics, including a wide-ranging collection of current UK development plans and 100 current journals.

The online catalogue is available at www.rtpi.org.uk/library and includes details of library holdings (excluding current legislation), a comprehensive index to journal articles, and details of Institute publications and policy statements.

The reading room at Botolph Lane is open in office hours. To get the best out of your visit you are advised to contact the library staff in advance.

Internet search facilities are available free of charge, and there is a staff-operated photocopying service (subject to copyright restrictions). Copies of Institute policy statements can be supplied free of charge.

The library operates an enquiry service, including the compilation of subject reading lists, and can offer advice on alternative sources of information as required.

Contact: library@rtpi.org.uk or **telephone:** 020 7929 9452.

PLANNING AID



Places for faith groups



Planning Aid has been working with the East of England Faith Council to deliver a series of seminars for faith groups around planning issues like altering or moving premises. The seminars have provided the opportunity for planners and faith groups to explore shared objectives and also to identify barriers to good communications.

Without sympathetic understanding, it can be easy to overlook the individual requirements of specific faith groups, for example in the orientation of the building to face in correct direction for prayers, variable times of services at different stages in the year, security issues, or the influx of a larger congregation for religious celebrations. Feedback from planners who attended, reported an increased understanding of the importance of places and spaces for worship across all sectors of community to strengthen planning policies for places of worship. Faith groups were keen to learn directly from the expert planners. It was an excellent opportunity to learn about creating positive community relations.

Register an interest in a future event with:

Jillian.Luntz@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk

East to West on a bike

Jo Hobbs (nee Negus), a licentiate member and planner at Norwich City Council, recently rode from Ness Point in Lowestoft to White Sands Bay in Pembrokeshire over six days in August. Riding with two club mates from the Stowmarket and District cycling club, Jo covered 430 miles in aid of Brain Tumour UK and Meningioma UK.

The ride began in Lowestoft early on a Sunday morning. Despite a few problems with the sat nav that tried to send them off-route down small country roads, they arrived in Ely early in the evening. The next two days involved riding across to Sywell in Northamptonshire and then onto Upton-upon-Severn in Worcestershire to complete day three. Day four went through Ledbury, past the Big Chill festival and onto Brecon, which saw the arrival of the first hills. In the morning they pressed onto Lampeter. This day was the hardest of the six beginning with a trek across a military range with the road climbing up across a bleak wilderness. This was followed by a 14-mile cycle along a single-track road, which was constantly going up and down and which included a 25% climb called the Devil's Staircase.

The final day went from Lampeter to White Sands Bay just past St David's. A long steep climb in the Pembrokeshire Coast national park was negotiated in a strong headwind. They reached White Sands Bay to the welcome of two representatives from Brain Tumour UK. Touring by bicycle although difficult at times provided a great opportunity to appreciate what England and Wales has to offer and was a very satisfying reward.

The charity bike ride was in aid of supporting people with brain tumours, and donations will go to Brain Tumour UK and Meningioma UK. If anyone wants to donate to support this bike ride and these charities then please go to:

www.justgiving.com/Loose-wheels.

HQ CALLING

Presidential Award for RTPI Volunteers

At the recent RTPI Planning Awards the volunteers and active members of the RTPI were given the Presidential Special Award. I would like to extend a big congratulations and thank you to you all, without your ongoing hard work and support the RTPI would not be the successful organisation that it is, nor we would be able to offer the wide range of member services that you organise and provide.

Charles Veal
Member Services Manager



Jo Hobbs

YOUNG PLANNERS

Young planners Update



I attended the RTPI's National Young Planners Steering Group Meeting on 19th May. This was a great opportunity to meet with my regional counterparts and to share ideas on events, training and assistance for Young Planners and more general thoughts on boosting the profile and influence of Young Planners within the institute. This led to some fierce debate at times with the outcome of a Young Planners Delivery Plan. This focussed on 5 key areas as follows:-

- Support for Young Planners during the economic downturn;
- Support for events that are specifically for Young Planners;
- Support for Young Planners undertaking their APC;
- A strategic assessment of the influence Young Planners are able to exert;
- Encouragement for Young Planners to be involved in the institute;

RTPI Senior Vice President Richard Summers was in attendance providing useful input throughout the meeting. We were also joined by Chris Sheridan, Planners in the Workplace Manager to discuss training and assistance during the economic downturn. Tracey Lloyd, Head of Membership and Careers attended for a lively discussion on the APC process, always a key topic for Young Planners.

Tracey advised that the "blue book" guidance for the APC is being revised and subsequent to the meeting, the members of the steering group have been invited to comment on drafts of the updated guidance being prepared by Philip Woodward. We are fortunate to have secured Philip to speak to East of England Young Planners on the APC process. At the time of writing this article, the event is just over a week away and a good attendance is anticipated.

I would also like to take the opportunity to once again plug the RTPI National Young Planners Conference in Cardiff on the 15-16th October organised by RTPI Cymru. Further details and booking can be found at www.rtpi.org.uk/ypconference

Young Planners enjoyed a successful CPD event in Norwich on Thursday 27th May with an enthusiastic and entertaining presentation by Jillian Luntz of Planning Aid. As seen in the accompanying "planning pumpkin" photo there were some "interesting" photographs and slides to accompany the presentation, in particular I think this will be the first and last time I see Serena Williams in a planning presentation!. The event was also successful for Jillian as I understand she gained a couple of new recruits for Planning Aid. Indeed if anyone else is interested in getting involved with Planning Aid then further details can be found at <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/planningaid/volunteer/> or the Community Planners can be contacted directly on 01223 351 597.

Finally further to the Steering Group meeting, Young Planners information can now be seen on both Facebook and Twitter. The Facebook group is RTPI Young Planners Network and we can be followed on twitter – RTPIYPs

As ever, if you have any thoughts on potential events, or would like to get more involved with East of England Young Planners, please do not hesitate to contact me :

graham.bloomfield@bidwells.co.uk

Graham Bloomfield



Jillian Luntz of Planning Aid

Reader's letter:

Dear Editor

For whatever reason I did not see the Winter 2009 edition of Orient Express until yesterday. I was shocked and saddened to read the obituary to my former Chief Planning Officer at Mid Suffolk, the incomparable BKH, Bernard Horstead. Reading Jackie Ward's words stirred many memories of my three years at Mid Suffolk from well over thirty years ago.

Bernard was very supportive of, and human with, all his officers; from Team Leaders to the humblest junior clerk. I do not recall much in the way of rhetoric or cliché as far as staff were concerned. We were given the opportunity to see for ourselves where we fitted into the department, where and by whom our work was used and why it was important. That meant an awful lot, we never felt like parts of a machine. There was always time for an exchange with his spotty, hairy, naive (some may say stupid) Junior Technician who later reaped the reward of attending Mid Essex Technical College at Chelmsford on day release (like so many others working in the profession in Suffolk.)

It was a delight to see Alan Airey's name mentioned. In my subsequent career I never came across another Enforcement Officer who matched Alan's tact and diplomacy in achieving his objectives. No hiding behind titles or 'authority'; Alan used his vast experience in the police force to judge how to approach, talk and listen to site owners and seek the pragmatic solution if at all possible. That said, neither have I ever experienced such a well of dubious jokes quite like Mizzerrary's.

In music circles the definition of The Truly Great Band is one where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. This was true to the nth degree with the pairing of Bernard and Stuart Brookes. Individually they were way more than competent, but together they were unbelievably potent. The mix and balance of skills, talents, knowledge, tact, charm, humour and commitment has remained a yardstick ever since.

Jackie Ward described Bernard as an old-style chief planning officer. Indeed he was. And I was fortunate - make that blessed - to have him as my first. He set the standard, but then he always did.

Richard Underwood

AWARD EVENING



Award Presentation Evening 9th July 2010

To celebrate planning in the East of England and the achievements of the 2009 Regional Planning Achievement Award winners, an event was held on a very hot and sticky Friday evening in July 2010 in the Shire Hall in Woodbridge.

RTPI Senior Vice President, Richard Summers, joined us for the event.

The Regional Judging Panel said of the scheme: "This is an exemplar scheme demonstrating how full public engagement can result in an iconic structure. The striking, innovative design, ensuring the safety of cyclists and pedestrians, was matched by an innovative approach to provision, not just through the design competition but through the publicity given and involvement of the local paper".



Extract from 3d model of plant used to support planning application. Credits: Google Earth base



Richard Summers presents the Regional Award trophy and certificate to Steven Bainbridge of The Landscape Partnership (Photo courtesy of Richard Chillingford)



Riverside Bridge, Cambridge



Richard Summers presents the runners-up certificate to Philip Crack of Cambridgeshire County Council (Photo courtesy of Richard Chillingford)

As reported on page 10 of the Spring edition, the winners of the award were The Landscape Partnership for the "Green Energy Biogas Plant Supporting Sustainable Agricultural Model".

The Award was given because of the exemplary level of consultation, community involvement and negotiation carried out in the process of securing permission for the new plant. The biogas plant will be built on part of the former Bentwaters Airbase at Rendlesham and energy will be produced from 'green' crops grown in rotation on local farmers' land.

The Regional Judging Panel commented: "A truly innovative scheme with a commendably thorough preparation process. The planner's role shines through".

Richard Summers presented the Regional Planning Achievement Award trophy and certificate to Steven Bainbridge of The Landscape Partnership, Woodbridge.

Our thanks to The Landscape Partnership, who sponsored the Pimms and canapés reception at the Award Presentation evening.

Cambridgeshire County Council scooped second place for the "Riverside Bridge", a 200 metre unique landmark structure spanning the River Cam to provide a safe, segregated link into Cambridge. It features a low level walkway, a separate cycleway and seating areas for people to relax and enjoy views of the river.

Third place was awarded to Bidwells of Norwich for "BeWILDerwood". The planning application at Kingswood, Hoveton was for a 23-hectare outdoor adventure and education facility. It was strongly based on principles of sustainability and aimed to achieve sensitive management of public access to a special and inaccessible landscape within the Broads. The founders were keen not to damage the natural area and habitat and focussed on a system of aerial woodland walkways, joining a series of tree houses, within a woodland experience incorporating some aspects of environmental and conservation concerns. The principal design concept was that all the structures throughout the site, including the visitor centre, tree houses, boardwalks etc, would be of timber.

The park opened in May 2007 and has achieved both national and international awards, including Worldwide Award for Excellence and Best UK Tourism Project.

The Regional Judging Panel said of the scheme: "A well thought out and well planned project resulting in a brilliant educational, imaginative and exciting activity for kids and families. The planning process was well managed resulting in an outcome that all parties are happy with" and "A fine example of rural diversification which maximised its natural benefits whilst minimising the proposal's impact upon them".

Tina Jessup

QUIZ NIGHT

East of England Quiz

The RTPI East of England Regional Award presentations were followed by the ever popular East of England Quiz.

This year, six teams of planners, friends and family members battled it out:

- RAC Recovery (members of the RTPI Regional Activities Committee)
- St Eds Heads (from St Edmundsbury BC)
- Norfolk Turkey (from Bidwells Norwich)
- Biogas (from The Landscape Partnership)
- Mixed Up (a team from Suffolk local authorities)
- Muppets (a second team from Suffolk local authorities)



Paul Maison (Quizmaster) and Tina Jessup (Referee & Scorer) Photo courtesy of Richard Chillingford

Thanks to our Quizmaster, Paul Maison, who did a fantastic job and asked such questions as:

- Which London football ground had the tube station Gillespie Road named after it?
- The leaves of the Camellia Sinensis plant are used to make what?
- In September 1893, New Zealand was the first country to do what?
- Which English king tried to loose weight on an alcohol only diet and died quite quickly in 1087?
- What extraordinary event happened on the Hudson River in January 2009?
- After which sportsman is Belfast City Airport named after?
- Whose first name was Endeavour?

At the halfway mark, St Eds Heads and Norfolk Turkey were neck and neck (excuse the pun!!).

However, St Eds Heads were determined to hold on to their title from 2009 and finished in first place, with 210 points.



Stephen Burgess of St Eds Heads collected the winning prize from Paul Maison (photo courtesy of Richard Chillingford)



The winning team - St Eds Heads (photo courtesy of Richard Chillingford)

In second place, with 192 points, was Norfolk Turkey, the team from Bidwells and in third place was Mixed Up.



Norfolk Turkey team (photo courtesy of Richard Chillingford)



Mixed Up team (photo courtesy of Richard Chillingford)

The team representing the RTPI East of England RAC missed out on the wooden spoon this year, finishing joint 4th!



Biogas team, from TLP (photo courtesy of Richard Chillingford)



The Muppets team (photo courtesy of Richard Chillingford)

Localism and Community Engagement Conference: Towards 2011

Monday 13th December 2010, Government Office, Cambridge

The last conference of the year will look at what the government's Localism agenda means for the work of planners. It will hopefully provide some nourishing food for thought at a time many will be looking forward to the end of a difficult and challenging year. The idea of working with local people is not a new one, planners have been doing this for years, but the context now is very different to anything that has gone before. So the challenge for the conference organisers' is to organise an event that aims to provide both clarity on what is expected of us and the confidence to move forward.

In Planning Lord Deben, you know him as John Gummer, recently summarised the challenge to the planning system as needing 'to find ways of influencing communities to change in a way which chimes with their aspirations'. His use of the word 'influencing' is significant. I fear that in a country where short-term aspirations are generally paramount it will be difficult for planners to influence local communities so that they think to the future and 'equip Britain for long-term success' and yet this is the expressed driving purpose of the coalition .

However despite any reservations we may have as planners we now need to work within the new parameters and influence where we can. Hopefully by December the way forward will be clearer. The Coalition Party conferences will shed some light and the outcome of the Spending Review in late October followed by a consultation paper on the New Homes Bonus will provide further clarification. In addition the content should be known of the Local Government Bill and the Localism Bill, which will include the Community Right to Build and more on making collaborative design with neighbours a material consideration.

The format for the day's event will give participants: an overview of the current state of the government's localism agenda and what that means for community engagement, some recent examples of successful working with communities and finally provide the opportunity to work with colleagues on current issues where shared experience and specialist input would be useful. We are fortunate to have for this event the assistance of Jeff Bishop a highly experienced facilitator and consensus building agent. A short look at his company's website, www.BDOR.co.uk will show the vast range of projects both national and doorstep level that he has been involved in. By the end of the day we hope that you will go home encouraged by what you have heard, looking forward to Christmas and with more confidence about the way forward.



Jeff keeps a watchful eye over team working

The programme for the day will be put on the East of England RTPI's website in September and if nearer the time of the event there are particular topics that you would like addressed in the afternoon session I would be pleased to hear from you. In the mean time if you would like to look at a current paper by Jeff Bishop there is one in the September issue of the TCPA Journal.

Eiluned Morgan

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URBAN DESIGN GROUP STUDY TOUR

Urban Design Group Study Tour of Venetian Towns on the Dalmatian Coast 15th - 23rd May 2010



Korcula - walled town

Thirty two Urban Design Group members and friends set off on the 15th May from Gatwick to Dubrovnik, where we were joined by five more who had travelled out earlier. We were to spend a week looking at the best examples of mediaeval Venetian colonial towns on the Dalmatian coast and assessing whether there was anything generic about their form, or whether they were diverse responses to their topography.

The Dalmatian coast is arid and backed by mountainous terrain. However, it is highly indented and protected by many islands which afford good harbours and anchorages. From the 11th century the Venetians, Croats and Byzantines were competing for influence in this area, with the Venetians seeking to establish ports for trading and tapping the resources of the Balkan interior. They suffered a reverse when they were ejected from the region by the Hungarian monarchy in 1358, but a dynastic crisis in 1409 resulted in the Kingdom of Hungary-Croatia selling its rights in Dalmatia to Venice. For four centuries the Dalmatian coast was ruled from Venice, with each town presided over by a Rector answerable to the Doge. The towns prospered thanks to trade with the eastern Mediterranean, particularly with the Turks, and the population was swollen by Croatian immigrants fleeing Balkan conflicts during the 15th to 17th centuries. However, decline set in with the reduction in Mediterranean trade following the discovery of America, and the Venetian Republic finally fell to Napoleon in 1797. Italian culture continued to dominate thereafter, as Dalmatia became an Italian speaking province of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until joining the new state of Yugoslavia in 1918.

Korcula (formerly Curzola), the first of our Venetian towns, is walled and sits on a promontory facing the sheltered straits between Korcula island and the Pelješac peninsula. It has a main street, about 3m wide, running along the spine of the promontory with narrow streets off downhill at right angles. The centrally placed cathedral, with stone lions supporting its porch, faces a diminutive square with the Rector's palace, now a museum, opposite. Throughout the town, Venetian gothic windows and doorcases appear on substantial grey stone houses, a number of which are derelict and roofless. The Venetians arrived at Korcula as early as the 10th century, but

most of the town's buildings date from the period of prosperity between the 13th and 15th centuries.

Hvar (formerly Lesina), is also protected by islands from the open sea. The Venetians arrived here in 1240, drove out local pirates, built the Romanesque cathedral, and encouraged the residents of nearby Stari Grad (old town) to move to their new settlement. The town was self-governing until the Venetians returned to stay in 1420. The cathedral is linked to the harbour front by a generous square fronted by aristocratic mansions and flanked by the 17th century arsenal. A grid of narrow streets ascends the slopes either side of the square, within which can be seen characteristic Venetian gothic doors and windows adorning palaces and merchants' houses. The town has a Dominican and a Franciscan monastery at opposite ends, but was never fortified by walls. Its waterfront is attractive and has made it a stopover for smart yachts.

Trogir (formerly Trago) by contrast, retains its walls, even along its waterfront, although its position on its own little island between the mainland and a large offshore island would make it seem impregnable. At its heart is a comfortably-sized square fronted by a Romanesque cathedral with an astonishingly intricately carved portal. A 15th century town loggia with clocktower, a Venetian gothic mansion of similar date and a bishop's palace complete the enclosure. A grid of narrow streets fills the rest of the walled town.

Zadar (formerly Zara) was long held by the Venetians and enjoyed the security of being located on a promontory. It remained Italian and did not join Yugoslavia until 1947, being heavily bombed by the Allies during the Second World War. As a result only part of the original walls and network of narrow streets survive. The huge 9th century St. Donat's church was turned into a shell by Napoleon, but there is a Romanesque cathedral, a typically Venetian 16th century guard house with clocktower and a town loggia. Interestingly, the repaved seafront of 2005 incorporates a 'sea organ' which produces musical notes powered by wave action. Designed by a local architect, it is a great attraction, and the idea could be applicable in British seaside towns.

URBAN DESIGN GROUP STUDY TOUR

Rab (formerly Arbe), is perhaps the most atmospheric of the towns. Perched on a promontory and surrounded by walls (until the section along the harbourfront was demolished in the early twentieth century) it is laid out along three parallel streets on ascending contours. The lower two are fronted by the Rector's Palace and patrician houses, whilst the uppermost one links no fewer than four Romanesque campaniles. A terrace affords spectacular views out towards other nearby islands. Originally self-governing, Rab was incorporated into the Venetian state in 1409, but prosperity ebbed away after the 15th century.

Šibenik (formerly Sebenico) straggles along a hillside above the present-day port, and focuses on a 15th century cathedral, in which Venetian gothic and Florentine Renaissance decorative elements compete, and the town loggia. A strongpoint in the Venetian struggles with the Turks, Šibenik was more recently an industrial port.

Our conclusion about the Venetian towns is that they are not laid out to a generic plan, but respond to the defensible topography. This is not surprising, as they were mostly thriving, self-governing towns before the Venetians absorbed them in the 15th century. However, there was certainly a Venetian cultural influence in the region at the time these towns were founded, and there are many buildings in Venetian style erected during the later centuries when the Venetians were in control. Fortunately the obscurity of these towns from the 18th century onward secured their preservation. The Yugoslav state also played its part by locating hotels and tourist facilities outside the historic cores.

In addition we visited two important and unique cities that, though having been under Venetian control, do not fit into the Venetian colonial category. Dubrovnik was populated mainly by Slavs and came under Venetian control in 1204. The Venetians were ousted in 1358 and, under the name of Ragusa, the city became an independent republic with favoured trading status with the Turkish-controlled Balkan hinterland. The city was laid out with a main street ('Stradun') along the line of the watercourse which originally separated the mainland from an island. It was fronted by merchants' houses of regular frontage width, each separated by secondary streets at right-angles running uphill on both the former island the mainland sides. During the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, great prosperity resulted in the construction of a splendid Rector's Palace and custom house, fountains, monuments and squares, and a complete circuit of walls, still intact from which there are superb views down into the centre of the town. However, a disastrous earthquake in 1667 left the city in ruins. Though rebuilt with elegant Baroque town houses along the Stradun frontages, the economy never recovered, and the city passed under Austro-Hungarian control in 1815. The 1992 siege by the Serbs, though damaging, seems to have made no lasting impact, and the city thrives today from cruise passengers and other tourists.

Split (formerly Spalato) is unique as being a city founded within a Roman emperor's palace. The emperor Diocletian planned a palace for his retirement in his native Illyria. It is a big complex measuring 200m x 240m, with a cardo, decumanus and perimeter wall. Disused by the 7th century, it was squatted by refugees from barbarian attacks and turned into a town. By the 14th century it had expanded to about twice the extent of the palace and acquired its own defensive walls. Venetian rule, from 1420, caused an upsurge in trade with the Turks, and the locational advantage of the port led to further expansions under the Austro-Hungarians and the Yugoslavs. Visiting the city today, it is remarkable how much of Diocletian's palace is still intact

1,700 years later. The vaulted basement can be visited and demonstrates the full extent of the palace. One is bizarrely aware of the city streets above. Peristyles at the carfax are still in place, the emperor's octagonal mausoleum is the cathedral, and the temple of Jupiter the baptistery. The visitors' vestibule, with its huge brick dome reminiscent of the Pantheon in Rome, sits over a street, whilst the emperor's private apartments have become a slum that was until recently the red-light district. Walking around the perimeter it is fascinating to observe how some of the palace's windows have been blocked in, some reused for houses, and some open on to terraces or gardens. The Riva, or waterfront, in front of the palace has recently been repaved in polished concrete and furnished with sunshades, benches and greenery by designers 3IHD. Fronted by stylish cafés, this impressive new place is an antidote to the industrial decline of other parts of the city. The sweeping view from the nearby Marjan Hill of the city and port in its bay against a mountainous backdrop made a memorable end of our tour.

Alan Stones



Rab - Romanesque campaniles



Rab - waterfront

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 'Joanna le Carrier-bag of the Marshes' - Marcia Worlspittle.

Moving the goal posts on a sinking ship

The rattle of tea cups could be heard in the corridor as the tea-trolley was pushed from office to office on that damp Tuesday afternoon in August, by the happily singing, Doris.

"'Moonlight Bay' isn't it? - must be a red alert! I suppose it's to do with 'Riesling's' accident in Romania!"

"Do you think they've 'turned him?'" asked Major Willerby as he looked down on to Cambridge Circus through his very dusty window.

"Don't know- three weeks, you say, in a Romanian State Hospital? – could have done –I suppose; they've got some new fangled drugs over there, which they bought from us, I believe" mused Captain Rainworthy-Sykes.

"'Black Lace' says the State TV out there had a small item last night about an 'Australian business man' having been released from hospital after suffering from concussion following an accident when stumbling from a tram"

"Was it bad luck, was he careless or ...was he pushed? – shouldn't have happened you know." [1]

"But we can't take any chances; he'll have to be kept under surveillance."

"Who do you suggest?" asked the Captain.

"Well I had in mind activating that Phillip chap – local government man –from the same 'neck of the woods' that 'Riesling' comes from- but according to our sources they don't actually know each other, though their paths have crossed, I believe. Anyway following that nasty business in Skegness [2] a couple of years ago he's had a fair bit of plastic surgery, so I hardly think he'd recognise him."

"OK, sounds good, but what's his background?"

"Well as matter of fact I knew his mother what was I saying? Oh yes - he was recruited at that East Midlands 'red brick' and we got him a job as Head of Development Control in a small council in Norfolk. Funnily enough 'Riesling' happened to be there at the time and both had a bit of a fling with the Town Clerk's Secretary!"

"And you're sure he won't recognise him?"

"Well, we'll test him of course and then 'suck it an' see"

"Well let's get this 'Scale Rule' posted out there ASAP."

"But what about our lovely "Black Lace" - she's obviously in great danger, if our suspicions are correct."

"I think we should pull her out pronto. Send her back to her library in North Wales – just for the time-being, of course."



Photo: Matthew Lappin

The Captain turned way from the map on the wall, next to the portrait of a very young Queen, and grunted "By the way 'Willow', I'm really lookin' forward to that long weekend down at your place- bit of shootin' and fishin' eh? Mavis! love it –she's got a new set of 'wellies' t' commission"....

To be continued...

Notes:-

[1] It is understood that several western agents had been involved in similar accidents and it is believed that the 'Securitate' had used the opportunity to question them and possibly convert them to become double agents.

[2] The so-called 'Skegness Incident' was re-told in Marcia Worlspittle's book, 'Matters of fact and degree', but the place name was changed to Scunthorpe to protect those involved.

What do you think of the new look Orient Express?

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

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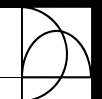


2000 HOMES 5350 RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS
 1 SECONDARY HOMES 60,000m² NEW JOBS
 1 SCHOOL HOTEL 3000 EMPLOYMENT
 PRIMARY SCHOOLS NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
 PUBLIC OPEN SPACE 65ha MIXED USE
 13,640m² SECONDARY SCHOOLS EMPLOYMENT LOCAL CENTRE
 THREE SCHOOLS 2000 NEW EMPLOYMENT PROVISION
 PRIMARY PUBLIC PARK 2000 NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES
 SCHOOLS MIXED USE LOCAL JOBS A DISTRICT
 ENERGY SPORTS CENTRE VILLAGE CENTRE
 CENTRE GROUND PUBLIC PARK FACILITIES
 IMPROVEMENTS PARK TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE
 HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING PRIMARY 1 PRIMARY SCHOOL
 PUBLIC PARK CENTRE SECONDARY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
 STRATEGIC EDUCATION PUBLIC OPEN SPACE
 OPEN SPACES PROVISION RENEWABLE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

For many years DLA have been at the forefront of innovative planning, working with clients, local authorities and an array of diverse stakeholders to create new sustainable communities and developments that will reinforce the Eastern region's economy and create a stable future.

If you're motivated by creating sustainable developments that make a real difference, DLA are always on the look out for talented planners and urban designers. If you think you have the right skills and work approach to make a genuine contribution to our projects and how we work, please send your CV to Jo Cave: jcave@davidlock.com.

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