

# london calling

RTPI London newsletter

Autumn 2010

[iceni projects]

Issue sponsor

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# The Localism Agenda

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James Bompas



Welcome to the Autumn 2010 edition of London Calling.

Whilst the localism agenda gathers pace it is still unclear how it will function and whether it will truly benefit local communities. With the hasty revocation

of the Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) it is essential that mechanisms are progressed to surmount stagnated housing delivery and deliver major infrastructure.

These anxieties are not just shared by the planning profession. In fact, 29 national bodies, including the British Property Federation, National Housing Federation and Campaign to Protect Rural England have all put their name to collective concerns raised by RTPI about statements of intent by the coalition Government.

In discussing and imparting these and other changes RTPI London will provide its members with access to free or affordable events. The first, to discuss the demise of the RSS, promises to be a success, with support from SJ Berwin (details to follow). And, for those seeking more active networking opportunities, then the annual 5-a-side football will not disappoint.

As the Region looks forward to promoting a more frequent and greater range of events, I would also like to express my gratitude to those volunteers that have supported RTPI London in recent months. For those wishing to get involved then please get in touch as the Region would welcome your support.

I hope you enjoy this edition of London Calling.

James Bompas is Chair of RTPI London



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*Want to get involved?*



RTPI London is looking for experienced planners, particularly those working for Local Planning Authorities to join its Regional Activities Committee (RAC). As an RAC Member you will be influential in shaping the way that RTPI London is run. It also presents a great opportunity for networking opportunities. For more information, please contact Lucy Barton on [london@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:london@rtpi.org.uk) or 0208 613 8357.

## RTPI London Annual General Meeting

The RTPI London AGM is scheduled for Tuesday 23rd November. If you wish to attend please email Lucy Barton -london@rtpi.org.uk

## Hampstead Garden Suburb Conservation Area Advisory Committee

Hampstead Garden Suburb CAAC have a vacancy for an RTPI nominated member. The CAAC considers and assesses planning applications within the Hampstead Garden Suburb Conservation Area. If you are interested in this role please contact Michael Balla-Goddard via the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust Office, 862 Finchley Road, London, NW11 6AB.

## RTPI London and AECOM launch resilient city series

The series to be held at AECOM's office in Hatton Garden will feature experts from AECOM and guest speakers who will set out a toolkit for planning for future city resilience. The lecture series is as follows::

12th October - Naturally Resilient Cities: An integrated approach to green infrastructure and climate change planning.

16th November - Watering It Down: Planning for sustainable water management

14th December - Low Carbon Planning: An update on planning for climate change and carbon reduction.

For more details contact london@rtpi.org.uk

RTPI LONDON & INDIGO ARE PROUD TO PRESENT

## THE RTPI LONDON 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT 2010

FRIDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2010  
STARTS AT 6PM  
KICK OFF AT 6.30PM

'Goals' Wimbledon, Beverley Way, New Malden,  
near Wimbledon, KT3 4PH

### ABOUT THE EVENT

- o The RTPI London Five-A-Side Football Tournament 2010 will be played at 'Goals' Wimbledon, one of London's premier five-a-side football venues
- o The tournament will bring together planners and other built environment professionals from across London

### WHO CAN ENTER THE TOURNAMENT?

- o To enter the tournament you'll need one squad of seven players per organisation, who work in or are seeking work in planning or a related built environment profession, such as architecture, surveying, GIS or development economics.
- o At least three players in each squad should be members of the RTPI London. Each squad should also include at least two female players and two male players.

### HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

- o This is a free event but a deposit of £70 will be payable by each squad in order to register. The deposit will be returned to participating teams on the evening of the tournament..

### HOW TO ENTER

- o To enter, complete the booking form and post it along with the deposit cheque to:

Lucy Barton  
Regional Co-ordinator  
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# President's Visit



As part of the annual RTPI President's visit to London, Ann Skippers met with planners working on the Church Street and Paddington Green Master Plan in Westminster, writes Rebecca Beer

RTPI President, Ann Skippers, with Maria Boyce and Rebecca Beer from Urban Initiatives, the London Regional Activities Committee

**Church Street is a colourful and vibrant neighbourhood in the heart of London – with a bustling street market, a successful antiques trade and a wealth of different cultures. In the past, however, it has been a somewhat forgotten neighbourhood, with rising levels of deprivation, unemployment and long-term illness.**

Westminster City Council has just launched its Housing Renewal Strategy, which makes a pledge to invest in the Council's poorest neighbourhoods - the regeneration of Church Street is an absolute priority. Urban Initiatives were appointed to prepare the Futures Plan for Church Street and Paddington Green. The Futures Plan will set out a vision for the

future of the neighbourhood – a vision shared and endorsed by all those with a stake in the area, from local residents to business owners, school children, politicians and Council officers. Work on the Futures Plan has been progressing over the past few months - most recently a Charter for the future of the neighbourhood has been launched and more detailed options are currently being prepared and consulted on.

RTPI London spent a morning showing Ann Skippers the good work currently underway in Church Street. The event was kindly hosted by the Showroom Gallery, located right in the heart of Church Street. Maria Boyce, from Urban Initiatives, led the presentation, which gave a flavour of the issues and opportunities the project team has been grappling with in the



Urban Initiatives, the Futures Plan Young Ambassadors, and other members of

neighbourhood. Maria also outlined the ways in which the team have imaginatively engaged with the wider community, and particularly with young people. This includes the appointment of three young locals who are now working alongside Urban Initiatives to ensure that their work is reflective of the needs and aspirations of the younger population.

Following the presentation the President was taken on a walkabout of the area. This gave her an opportunity to see some of elements touched upon in the presentation, as well as the qualities that Church Street already has in abundance – the buzz of the market, the quirkiness of the antiques shops, and the friendliness of the locals amongst many other things.



# “With Great Power comes Great Responsibility” - Localism and Planning

## Daniel Olliffe of Icen Projects sets out his opinion on the emerging localism agenda.

Let's begin by facing facts. Localism is nothing but a NIMBY charter pandering to the whims of communities, it will not stimulate housebuilding nor will it create a more accountable system. It will simply put power in the hands of local communities who will resist development at all cost.

Regional Spatial Strategies have been scrapped, local authorities have dropped housebuilding figures with immediate effect. Developments will not be promoted and the economy will stagnate. Whichever way you look at it, Localism is not good and should not be welcomed.....

Now before you all call 118 118 and ask for the nearest careers advisory centre, or type 'What other jobs can I do with a degree in Town Planning?' into Google, I would urge you to read on.

## Localism in Theory

The Localism Agenda looks like being here to stay, and if the prophecies are true, will be unlike anything we've experienced before. Yet local empowerment is nothing new.

If, as a profession, we think back to the Garden City Movement, planning was about the building of communities through, put simply, the planning of towns. Engagement has been a key foundation upon which the profession has grown, and a reversion to the principle of this is to be welcomed. Whilst the localist agenda extends beyond planning to all aspects of communities and government, the planning system is an obvious vessel to carry this political message.

At its heart, Localism is about local empowerment and responsibility; giving a say back to those communities, who have felt neglected and helpless to deal with genuine local issues. And in this context it is difficult to argue that it is a bad thing for planning.

Localism could spell the end of the 'Blame Game', the buck will stop firmly with communities and their locally elected members. If people feel empowered, instead of consistently objecting to what they feel to be development that is imposed upon them, the prospects may increase of them being willing to contribute to positive planning within their community. Consultation should therefore become a fundamental tenet of planning, as opposed to a box to be ticked in the pursuit of a planning permission.



Consultation should therefore become a fundamental tenet of planning, as opposed to a box to be ticked in the pursuit of a planning permission.

In embracing this change, the role of planning and planning professionals will be key. Local communities may know what they want but not how to achieve them. Planners can guide the community through this process, taking a stewardship role and holding the hand of communities in respect of future development. This role equally applies to both professionals within the public and private sectors, who have responsibility to facilitate the process of engagement and development.

Equally, planners have a collective responsibility to advise communities on what is needed within an area. Far from stifling development, Localism may stimulate development in areas where there is an identified local need, empowering previously disempowered people to seize the opportunity to shape the places in which they live.

But the Government must beware of creating Frankenstein's Monster through Localism. It is clear to see how Localism will allow local communities to object to development they do not like and feed positively into the development process, but what happens when a community comes out in force to demand the delivery of a development which has not fitted historically

with planning policy and the views of planning officers within an area?

Picture the scene; a local community have for a number of years wanted an Ikea in their Borough but policy precludes out-of-town retail developments. Under the new agenda, the community identify an area of underused recreational space and submit a petition for such a development to the local authority. If Localism is about empowering local communities, such favourable support could not be ignored. What happens in such a situation?

This example could apply widely and must be a key consideration for the future. The principle of Localism implies such a development would be allowed to proceed despite any perceived conflict with planning policy. After all, the people will have spoken, and localism cannot simply be a tool for locally elected members to say no.

The message is clear, Localism is an agenda to be welcomed, but only if central Government, local authorities and communities remember that with great power comes great responsibility. Planning remains fundamental to this process to guide communities in the right direction.

Daniel Olliffe is an Associate at Iceni Projects Ltd. The views expressed in this article are his own.

# news plan

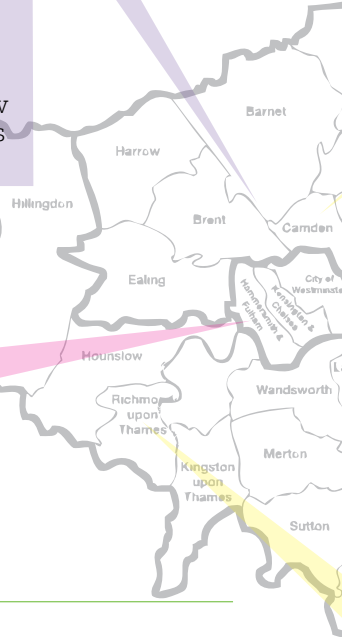
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## LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET

In the first test of the new Government's commitment to localism, Communities Secretary Eric Pickles decided not to 'call in' the application for redeveloping the Brent Cross shopping centre. The development, which was approved by LB Barnet's planning committee last year, will deliver 7,500 new homes and a new and extended shopping centre, along with new offices and new schools. Work is expected to commence in 2014.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

Capco's plans for redeveloping Earl's Court are progressing with the appointment of Terry Farrell and Associates as masterplanners for the site.



## Managing political and community relations for London's property industry

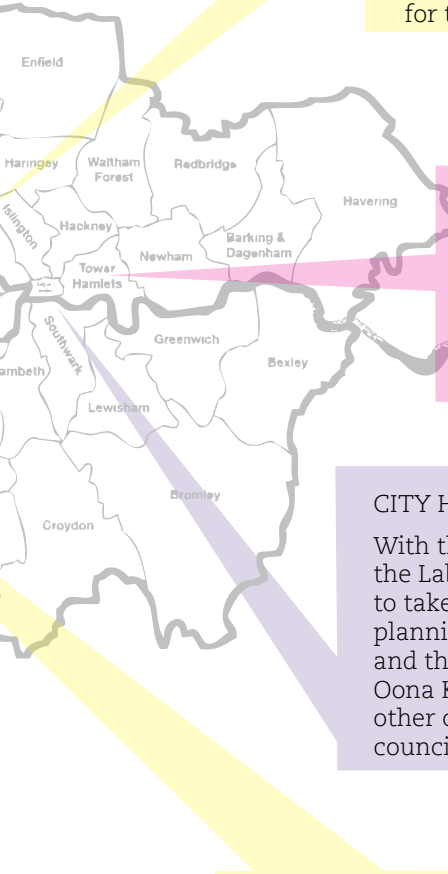
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## LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

The sale of High Speed 1, the rail link between St Pancras and the Folkestone Channel Tunnel, has begun with the government opening the bidding process for the asset..

## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

The London Thames Gateway Development Corporation approved Tesco plans for a major new mixed-use scheme in Bromley-by-Bow. The development will include more than 450 new homes, an expanded supermarket, a school, hotel and riverside park.


## CITY HALL

With the Mayoral election less than two years away, the Labour party began its search for a candidate to take on Boris Johnson for control of London's planning powers. Former Mayor, Ken Livingstone and the former MP for Bethnal Green and Bow, Oona King, are regarded as the frontrunners. The other candidates are Seton During, a former Enfield councillor, and party activist Emmanuel Okoro.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND

The Local Elections in the capital on 6th May saw one Borough substantially buck the London-wide trend. Despite a poor result for the Conservatives in general across the city – losing control of five councils in total, including all but one of those gained in 2006 – the Conservatives regained control of LB Richmond, presumably on the back of the Zac Goldsmith ticket. Richmond will be an interesting authority to watch over the next four years, particularly given that it receives the lowest Government grant of all the London boroughs.

# Environment Agency: A positive approach to planning in London



**In response to ongoing change in the planning system, Environment Agency's London planning teams have been changing the way they work for several years, writes Charlotte Amor**

The predicted impacts of climate change to London mean we need to find opportunities from the planning system to help our communities adapt. This has led to more innovative ways of working and we have produced guidance, toolkits and case studies. We'd like to share some of our initiatives with you. As the new Government have stated in their Programme for Government that climate change is 'one of the gravest threats we face', we call for closer collaboration on planning for climate change.

With economic recovery high on everyone's agenda, it is vital that regeneration of our communities takes place, with improving the environment and addressing the challenges of climate change being an integral part. We see regeneration as a key driver for improving London's environment.

Adopting a positive approach is one of the main ways we do this, focusing on shared outcomes and pragmatic approaches to problem-solving. We want to be viewed as helpful and positive, providing specialist advice on important environmental issues. We can share our skills and knowledge of environmental issues and climate change by working more closely with our stakeholders.

We are currently reviewing our 'Guide for Developers' which is on our website. This contains advice for developers on a variety of environmental issues and opportunities, bringing together links to guidance and case studies from across England and Wales. Meanwhile, our Green Roof Toolkit was commended at the RTPI awards, and the partnership project the London Rivers Action Plan won in the Adapting to Climate Change category.

These initiatives are driven by a need to find integrated solutions to challenges from climate change, including flood risk, rising temperatures, risks to water resources and water quality and biodiversity. It's really important that we celebrate good practice as a sector to show what can be achieved through positive planning. Last year we published good practice case studies of development in London, written in collaboration with developers.

Not that it's always that straightforward. With delays to the implementation of some approved schemes in London because of the economic climate, it's harder to negotiate environmental enhancements and actually see them delivered. We are striving to achieve a balance between economic constraints and environmental gains.

For those of you in London's local authorities, you may have noticed Environment Agency officers being more visible – in a literal sense. We are doing monthly surgeries at council offices (desk space depending!) and running regular technical seminars on environmental issues, flood risk being the main one. This will be increasingly important as the new Floods and Water Management Act comes into force and local authorities gain new responsibilities for managing local flood risk, a key recommendation of Sir Michael Pitt's review of the 2007 floods.

For the private sector, we have also been promoting our pre-application service to developers and our goal is to place our requirements and aspirations on the table as early as possible in the design process. We've very much embraced the pre-application approach and have integrated it into our working practices in London, seeing a huge increase in pre-application consultations in recent years. Strategic meetings and technical seminars with key London developers is also something we find is mutually beneficial. For us, it's about being more proactive and transparent about what we are seeking for the environment through redevelopment.

Our office serves all London's boroughs and developers. It enables us to meet regularly with our customers and ensures we can provide a localised and responsive planning service, responding to 3,200 consultations last year. We take a risk based and outcome focused approach to our work in strategic planning, with our flood risk standing advice allowing us to focus on the highest risk applications.

We have restructured our London planning teams and increased our focus on providing efficient customer service. By seeking feedback

we are able to target areas for improvement and pilot new ways of working, which are also identified by regular assessment of the environmental results being achieved. In this year's annual customer service survey found 85% of the councils we serve in London rated our planning service as either good or excellent.

We also focus on positive input to plan making, using flood risk and environmental evidence to help councils address these issues at a strategic level. We want to increase partnership working with the boroughs and developers to ensure the environment is improved through redevelopment and help our communities adapt to a changing climate.

Planners have a central role in responding to climate change and finding solutions to mitigate and adapt to its effects. While climate change and the environment have an increasingly high profile within the planning sector, we need to continue to embed climate change adaptation into spatial planning. To do this we need to work together to develop effective policies and share good practice. As planners in London we have a responsibility to shape the future of the environment. We need to build strong partnerships, and as a leading environmental body the Environment Agency has an important role to play. We want to be part of a positive planning system where development can be seen as helping to deliver environmental improvement.

The EA guide for developers can be found at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/developers](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/developers)

Charlotte Amor is a major projects officer with the Environment Agency in London

# interview/Ian Charie

## Ian Charie reflects on a varied career that has taken him from the Docklands to New Orleans and provides tips on planning overseas

Ian Charie started his career with Stoke-on-Trent Council, where he worked for a year before moving to London. After a year with LB Wandsworth, he spent the next decade working for the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC), a period which was to become a career highlight - major regeneration on a massive scale with unprecedented public funding and delivering massive change. But new challenges beckoned and he assumed a range of other consultancy roles at Barton Willmore, Atkins, URS and BDP. This resulted in further Docklands work and working closely with housing developers, successfully representing them at public inquiries.

Being married to an American, it's hardly surprising that he looked over the pond for his next challenges and he moved to Boston in 2006. Despite no-one being brave enough to offer him a job before he moved, he quickly landed on his feet, working for a leading Boston based firm called Goody Clancy. This led to seven months as Senior Project Manager on a series of Planning and Infrastructure studies undertaken in New Orleans, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. He is now working to build a new planning-based business within the multi-disciplinary consulting firm Jacobs (who are also active in many parts of the UK).

### What drew you to work in New Orleans/America?

Quality of life and cost of living are both much better, although there are, of course, lots of differences. I miss decent newspapers, news reporting, the British sense of 'nationalism' and,

of course, being at Premiership football games (and the pub! Working in New Orleans was really a case of 'right place, right time.

### What have been the key challenges working in New Orleans/America?

I was at the recent National American Planning Association (APA) Conference in New Orleans. RTPI President Anne Skippers gave a presentation along with her US and Canadian counterparts which left me feeling proud to be a British planner!

The reality is that the US hardly believes in proactive urban planning: most is merely reactive and takes the form of specific infrastructural work: environmental, transport, airport, military planning, etc. Rounded, comprehensive urban planning does exist, but on a much smaller scale and often without the force of law. Integrated land use and transport/infrastructure planning is the exception rather than the norm.

The challenges in New Orleans were many: the sheer scale of the challenge, the 'raw' emotional context for trying to rebuild communities (some neighbourhoods almost from scratch), the fractured bureaucracy and inadequacy of public agency resources for moving things forward and an impossible 6 month timetable.

### What lessons have you learnt?

Always to be open minded and flexible about what life may throw at you and stick to key planning basics (people, place, process) in whatever planning challenges you face.

### **Are there any lessons from the US that could be applied to London and UK planning practice in general?**

Sadly, not really. They can learn a lot from us. Not least that the public interest has to sit firmly at the centre of good decision making – rather than the interests of a certain minority or sector.

### **How difficult is it to get a job as a planner outside the UK?**

It's all about the networking. UK planners are hugely respected, and have a great deal to offer. The US has been a tough market for getting work. But for anyone who wants a change it is a rewarding, enjoyable and fun experience.

### **What advice would you give to any London planners who would like to work abroad?**

There are plenty of opportunities where the development market is more active: the Middle East, China, India. As global market conditions improve, further development opportunities will arise needing Planning inputs at every level and scale. Do your homework, think about what you want, find a good headhunter... or, like me, just go and trust things will work out!

### **What skills did you bring to your work in the US?**

A good, solid base of understanding the importance of an integrated approach to physical, environmental, economic and social planning being vital – combined with always thinking of people and community first and that you have to find a way round bureaucracy or 'process' road blocks.

### **What do you think are the challenges facing planners, both at home and on an international stage?**



It is stating the obvious, but planning is central to making politicians, decision makers, developers and all other stakeholders realise that with climate change, environmental consequences of man's action and a scarcity of all resources that our decisions regarding land use, infrastructure and transport are critical to achieving future success.

### **What are your future career plans?**

With poor employment prospects in the US, I am taking up a 12 month role with my previous employer Atkins in Bahrain, leading a team implementing a National 30 year plan.

### **Do you have any views you would like to share with London planners?**

London is a great city, with much best practice for other urban areas to learn and gain from. Go spread the word! But don't all leave: London still needs the carefully, crafted hand of continuing good urban planning!

# Opinion: The Trouble with Students Today

Ask the average person on the street to describe what they most associate with “students” and you’ll most likely go away with reinforced stereotypes involving daytime TV and copious amounts of alcohol consumption. Yet in London these popularist images are being challenged by the increasing number of international students who are attracted to study in London due to its Sassen inspired Global City status and aim of becoming a Global Knowledge Capital. The international appeal of London is clearly reflected in the 40% increase in students from abroad enrolling at London based universities since 2001 contributing to the 260,000 full-time university students that now study in the Capital.

The 2008 version of the London Plan clearly recognises the strong social, cultural and emotional ties that form between a student and the particular city within which they study. This relationship puts universities in a privileged position of playing a direct role in attracting and retaining those students - and future employees - with the skill sets necessary to ensure that London remains a globally competitive city. The planning system in London has an important role to play in ensuring that universities are provided with flexible and proactive policies which allow them to continue to offer internationally competitive educational facilities.

There are a myriad of factors that cumulatively contribute to the attractiveness of a particular university to both domestic and international prospective students. The availability, quality and cost of student accommodation is one of the key factors that determines the competitiveness of a particular university – and university city – against its rivals. A research paper published by Knight Frank and entitled “London Student

Living” paints a challenging picture where London suffers from a chronic undersupply of student housing to the extent that only 20% of students can be offered university accommodation. In real terms this has resulted in 200,000 students in London being unable to access purpose-built accommodation. With the international university sector being so competitive, will London be in a position to compete with comparable cities such as New York and Sydney when attracting the highest quality academic students?

The 2008 London Plan – and whisper this – appears to take a fairly pragmatic and flexible approach to student housing delivery recognising not only that there is a severe accommodation shortfall which requires addressing with a supportive planning policy context but also that if this shortage of purpose-built student accommodation continues, it will place greater pressure on the private housing sector, with students increasing their occupancy of HMOs and private rental properties. Given that there is little debate regarding the severe lack of affordable housing (in the broadest sense of the word) in London it follows that the planning system should be doing all it practically can to address the clear correlation between the lack of bespoke student housing and the occupation of HMOs and private rental properties by students.

Again the 2008 London Plan appears to recognise the link between student housing and the occupation of private rental properties by not requiring affordable housing in association with student housing schemes. The rationale is clear – student housing schemes do contribute to the availability of affordable housing by freeing up private rental properties previously occupied by students due to lack of available



Provision of student housing will assist in plugging London's affordable housing shortage..

bespoke accommodation. On the surface, the 2009 consultation draft of the replacement London Plan appears to reiterate this approach with new student housing provision being seen as key to reducing pressure on other parts of the housing stock currently occupied by students.

However, tucked away in the supporting text is the assumption that unless a proposal for student accommodation is secured through a legal agreement for occupation by members of specified educational institutions for a predominant part of the year, then the development will normally be subject to the requirements of affordable housing. This requirement for affordable housing risks making any proposal for student accommodation that is not associated with a particular university unviable thus potentially further exacerbating the supply of student accommodation. What the replacement London Plan fails to recognise is that the shortage of student accommodation is most acute for international, postgraduate and research students who often study independently from the institution with which they are enrolled. The type of accommodation sought by such students is commonly not campus based or tied to a particular institution where rooms are provided cheek-by-jowl

alongside more enthusiastic first year students, but is rather higher quality, independent living accommodation which prioritises the quality of the living and studying environment.

It is precisely this type of private, independent student accommodation that meets an identified need that may be discouraged from being brought forward on viability grounds due to the requirement for affordable housing. There is a real risk that this approach will exacerbate the lack of accommodation available to those students, who are internationally based or at an advanced stage of study, who are forced into the private rental sector. The London Plan must recognise that independent student housing for which there is a clear demonstrable need – especially if brought forward on commercial sites – will contribute to affordable housing by reducing pressure on the private rented stock by those students who can not access bespoke student accommodation. The requirement for on-site affordable housing risks placing additional cost burdens on such schemes that ultimately cater for a type of housing need that, if left unaddressed, will continue to impact upon the availability of affordable housing in the capital.

John Richards is an Associate with Knight Frank, The views expressed in this article are not necessarily the views of the RTPI.

# Young Planners

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## Young Planners Summer Social Events

The RTPI London Young Planners Group hosted a pub quiz on the 3rd June. "Harry's Hat", from the consultancy Roger Tym & Partners won the quiz. Second place was "Eric Pickles", a team from Westminster City Council, and in third place was "In a Pickle", a team from Colin Buchanan. This was followed up by a world cup themed drinks reception for delegates at this years Planning Convention. Further events are planned for the Autumn. To join the mailing list email [robyn.blackburn@planningpotential.co.uk](mailto:robyn.blackburn@planningpotential.co.uk)

## London Young Planners launch their Facebook site

The RTPI London Young Planners Group have recently launched their own Facebook site, the site will provide an excellent opportunity for on-line networking, details of forthcoming Young Planners events, news items and an ideal forum for discussion. There are plans to launch a weblog which will be incorporated into the Facebook site facilitating discussion around major planning issues at a local, regional and national level.

To join the Group, please search for 'London Young Planners' on Facebook.

## Logo competition

The RTPI is delighted to announce the launch of the London Young Planners logo competition. We are looking for a distinctive design to represent the London branch of the RTPI Young Planners network to a national audience of planners, policy makers and built environment professionals. The winning design will be used in printed and on-line promotional material, on the RTPI website and on our new Facebook page.

We are inviting all planning students, all RTPI student and licentiate members, and RTPI corporate members under the age of 35 to enter.

The winning logo design will be revealed when the website re-launches at the end of 2010. Entries are welcomed from individuals as well as teams of up to four people.

Designs should comprise of a logo (including the words London Young Planners), a colour scheme, and a written description of the thinking behind the design. They should be submitted in high resolution pdf or JPEG format.

The deadline for entries is 15th October. For further information, please contact the London Young Planners Representative, Robyn Blackburn: [robyn.blackburn@planningpotential.co.uk](mailto:robyn.blackburn@planningpotential.co.uk)

## Young Planners' Conference 2010, 15th and 16th October, Cardiff

Young Planners Cymru have brought together a range of exciting speakers, workshops and study tours to give delegates a whole range of opportunities to learn, experience and debate the role of localism in the planning system.

Visit: [www.rtpi.org.uk/ypconference](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/ypconference) for more information, for a brochure and to download a booking form

## Young Planners' Conference 2011 London Bid

The London Young Planners' Steering Group is pleased and excited to announce that it is compiling a bid for submission to the RTPI to host the Young Planners' Conference 2011. We believe that London is the most appropriate venue for the 2011 conference in advance of the 2012 Olympics. We are currently looking for volunteers to assist with the bid and conference organisation if we are successful. Please contact [sara.parkinson@cbre.com](mailto:sara.parkinson@cbre.com) or [robyn.blackburn@planningpotential.co.uk](mailto:robyn.blackburn@planningpotential.co.uk) for more details.

# Wine Tasting with the President



## 13/05/08 Vivat Bacchus

As part of the Ann Skippers visit to London, RTPI London organised a wine tasting event at Vivat Bacchus in London Bridge. Many thanks to the venue and our sponsors the Oyster Partnership. Here are some photos for those who can't remember the evening.



### Notice of annual general meeting of the London region of the Royal Town Planning Institute

To be held on Tuesday 23rd November 2010 at from 6.30pm at the Savoy Tup, 2, Savoy St (off the Strand), London, WC2R 0BA (nearest Tube: Temple/Embankment/Covent Garden)

#### Agenda

1. Welcome from the Chair
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2010
4. Presentation of Annual Report for 2010
5. Treasurer's Report for 2009
6. Election of Principal Officers (Regional Management Board members)
7. Election of Regional Activities Committee members

#### 8. Chair's Closing Remarks

All RTPI London members are welcome to attend and participate in the AGM. At the discretion of the Chair, members of other RTPI regions and other planners are welcome to attend the AGM as observers.

Nomination forms for the election of Principal Officers and Regional Activities Committee members are available from the Honorary Secretary who can be contacted at london@rtpi.org.uk The AGM will be followed by some social drinks from around 7.30pm. All planners and planning students are very welcome.

# past events

## 14/05/10 Kings Cross Tour

As part of the RTPI President's time in the region, the branch organised a visit to the King's Cross regeneration area. The masterplan area comprises 67 acres of land, defined by St Pancras and King's Cross railway stations and the land enclosed by the lines which sweep out from them. The meeting point was the Grade 2 listed German Gymnasium on Pancras Road, and a representative from the developers, Argent, gave a full background to the site history and the proposed future.

The development is the most significant development in central London, comprising nearly 8 million sqft of mixed use development, 20 new streets and 10 new public spaces and the refurbishment of 20 historic buildings and structures. Argent described the long and protracted process of assembling the site, overcoming political and community reservations through the planning process, the ever-present and ongoing issue of meeting planning conditions and obligations amongst a host of many other planning and land related issues not uncommon with major site development. Members present challenged, amongst other things, the engagement with the community and the range of uses proposed on the finished area.

The walking tour took in the Pancras Road and, over the Regent's Canal, onto a circular route around the Western and Eastern transit sheds and into the Coal Drops. The former is at an advanced stage of construction and refurbishment, with the University of the Arts London scheduled to take it over in due course. The latter is envisaged as a primarily retail space along the lines of Covent Garden.



During the walk around, the scale and complexity of the regeneration really began to become apparent. Amongst the huge tasks ahead include the dismantling, restoration and erection of the iconic gas holders, which are to contain both residential development and public realm, and the completion of the huge public square between the new Arts building and the Regent's Canal.

But what also became apparent were the small scale interventions going on to maintain interest in the community locally and to attempt to demonstrate a continuing dynamic in what is, at the strategic view, a slow moving process. This included the 'skip gardens' outside the gymnasium which involve local schoolchildren, and have started to distribute produce to some of the local contractors on the site.

The tour was an enlightening visit to a key site in which the region's planners are actively engaged at many spatial levels. The informal event, as well as focusing on the development itself, also reflected on the changing political context for planning and speculated on what the future might hold with the many changed mooted. What is clear is that Ann Skippers has a very busy time ahead, not only promoting the role of planning in major investment such as King's Cross, but also in promoting, from the core of the Institute, the significant role and specialist skills that planners hold.

Richard Crutchley



specialist town planning recruitment in London

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# Events

## **24/09/2010 – RTPI London 5-Aside Football Tournament 2010, Goals, Wimbledon**

This event is now sold out.

## **11/10/2010 – RTPI London Young Planners APC Seminar, DTZ, 125 Old Broad Street. (nearest station – Bank)**

Representatives from the RTPI will outline in a presentation, guidance on the APC process including, the log book, submission document and PDP. This will include dos and don'ts and helpful hints and tips. There will be ample opportunity for questions and answers. The meeting will also be attended by APC assessors.

## **Resilient Cities Series, AECOM, 77 Hatton Garden, London (nearest tube Farringdon/Chancery Lane)**

12th October - Naturally Resilient Cities: An integrated approach to green infrastructure and climate change planning.

16th November - Watering It Down: Planning for sustainable water management/

14th December - Low Carbon Planning: An update on planning for climate change and carbon reduction.

**To attend any of the above events, or to join our mailing list email [london@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:london@rtpi.org.uk)**



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For more information on Iceni Communications, please contact James Waterhouse on 0203 008 5042.