

# Promoting Planning and Planners in Challenging Times

*Inaugural Address by the  
in-coming President of the  
Royal Town Planning Institute  
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## **Presidential themes**

- *Promoting planning and planners in challenging times*
- *Supporting local communities through spatial planning*

## **Route map from here**

- *Introduction*
- *Inaugural Address*
- *Drinks Reception*

*President's Blog : [www.presidentsblog.rtpi.org](http://www.presidentsblog.rtpi.org)*

# *Introduction*

## *the warm-up*

- *The President*
- *The Executive*
- *The Presidential Chain*
- *The Challenges We Face*
- *Localism and Planning Aid*

## Introduction

*“Now for something a bit different - not the usual Presidential Address”*

*A stream of ideas ...*

- *Some straight bat ... some quips*
- *Some in blue and some in grey*
- *No happy snaps !*

# *The President*

*“He or she who sits in leadership”*

*(from Latin pre “before” and sedere “to sit”)*

*Congratulations to Ann on a very  
successful Presidential Year !*

*... and ...*

# *The Executive*

*Welcome to Trudi our new Chief Executive to lead us into a new era*

*Thank you to Sara our Managing Director and all her colleagues for keeping us going !*

# *The Presidential Chain*

*... a symbol for all or just the “gong” ?*

*Perhaps the President is the chain and  
the chain is the President*

*It is an honour to serve the planning  
profession as your President*

## The Presidential Chain

“Don’t think you’re worth your weight in gold and don’t lean forward !”

“The chain is heavily insured but don’t go leaving it behind on a train !”

Who said that ? ...  
answers on a post card please

# *The Challenges*

- *Economic recession*
- *Public spending cuts*
  - *The Localism Bill*
- *Support for planners*
- *Support for Neighbourhoods*

*and one or two more !*

## The challenges we face

“This will be another challenging year for planning and for planners”

“Planning can help lead us out of recession into recovery and growth”

“Localism will be the making of planning if we can make it work”

**And we will !**

## *Localism and Planning Aid*

- *The Localism Bill needs amendment*
- *What about the NPPF, sustainable development and climate change ?*
- *How will neighbourhood plans fit into local and wider-than-local strategies ?*
- *Planning Aid is vital to localism and will adapt to the new challenges*

## Localism and Planning Aid

“Localism will add a neighbourhood level and subtract a regional level”

“We don’t know how it will work til we see the National Framework”

**An opportunity for Planning Aid**

# *Inaugural Address*

- *Themes and objectives*
- *A Presidential “progress”*
- *Presidential business*
- *Credo and credentials*
- *Presidential profile*
- *President in transit*

## Inaugural address

“This won’t take long – the drinks reception is following right behind”

“But seriously, this is a long journey for us all – I will help lead the way”

**That’s the President’s job !**

# *Presidential Themes*

*Promoting planning and  
planners in challenging times*  
(member services overview card)

*Supporting local communities  
through spatial planning*  
(making localism work in England)

## Presidential themes

“Planners look to their professional institute to promote planning”

“Scotland, Ireland and Wales can teach England a thing or two”

**One Institute !**

# *Presidential Objectives*

*Making localism work*

*Demonstrating best practice*

*Celebrating leadership*

*Influencing government*

*Joining up the Institute*

*Supporting planners*

## Presidential objectives

“The test of a Presidential year will be how the profession has progressed”

“Planners must work together with others to make localism work”

From Neighbourhood Fora through to Ministers

## *A Presidential “Progress”*

*Regions, Nations and Foreign visits*  
*Local community planning “colloquia”*  
*Feed back the debate and best practice*  
*Leaders in local planning awards*  
*Engaging members with government*

## A Presidential “progress”

“Queen Elizabeth I, Daniel Defoe and John Betjeman did it ... so will I !”

“Presidential visits can help engage members with the whole Institute”

**Let's talk about planning !**

# *Presidential Business*

*Representing planners  
Leading the General Assembly  
Linking into the Board  
Meet the President*

*President's Blog : [www.presidentsblog.rtpi.org](http://www.presidentsblog.rtpi.org)*

## Presidential business

“We must persuade government to revise localism to make it work”

“Members influence ideas through the General Assembly and the Board”

**Let's tell government about planning !**

# *Presidential Credo*

*Planning is for people, places and prosperity ... strategy and delivery*

*Sustainable development ... social, economic and environmental interests*

*Planning to live with climate change is integral to the New Vision for Planning*

## Presidential Credo

“I believe that spatial planning can deliver sustainable development”

“Local plans in a strategic framework can create attractive environments”

**Make localism work through planning !**

# *Presidential Credentials*

*Planning consultant, London & USA*  
*Local government, Hertfordshire & South East*  
*Chairman RTPI East of England*  
*Economic development, EU & English Regions*  
*Chairman RTPI Board of Trustees*  
*Head of Planning TLP, London & Suffolk*

## Presidential credentials

“I’ve seen planning mix with social, economic and environmental issues”

“Planning is at its most challenging where it meets other professions”

**Sustainable development is the key !**

# *Presidential Profile*

*Born in London, studied in Manchester  
Travelled the world, twice lived abroad  
One-time cyclist and ocean racer  
Lapsed motorcyclist and choral singer  
Two married children and a grandson  
Elderly mother “still going strong”  
Restored a Listed Building in Bury St Eds  
Now teaches dowsing and meditation*

## Presidential profile

“Well it takes all sorts and we need a  
President who has seen the world”

“From ocean racing to Zen and the art of  
motorcycle maintenance”

**Spirit of place is the heart of planning**

# *President in Transit*

*We are just passing through in the Presidential  
succession to help things along*

*I'm moving on from my start in planning with  
Lewis Keeble, Walter Bor, Francis Tibbalds  
and, a bit after that, Jed Griffiths*

*Good luck to Colin Haylock, Peter Geraghty,  
Trustees, GA members and all of you !*

## President in transit

“One year from now, I shall be joining the  
Past Presidents’ dinners !”

“Ladies and gentlemen ... thank you ...  
drinks are now served next door”

**2011 will be a great year !**