

EAST OF ENGLAND EXPRESS

Spring 2011

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(see page 4 for further details)



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Town Planning and Urban Design



EDITORIAL Newsletter of the Royal Town Planning Institute East of England

Our new chair

Welcome to the first issue of 2011.

Our eagle eyed reader may have noticed that the name of your newsletter has been subtly changed - for legal reasons!!

I do hope things are going relatively well for our readers, bearing in mind the current economic circumstances and the changes that are afoot!

So to cheer us up (?) with his 'address to the region' is our new Chair, Peter Geraghty - also now Junior Vice President of the RTPI (congratulations Peter).

Planning Enforcement the Forgotten Service?

The recent conference of the National Association for Planning Enforcement (NAPE) held on the 18th November 2010 has served to raise the profile of planning enforcement. NAPE is an important part of the RTPI family and its members undertake an invaluable role. It is very encouraging that Bob Neill MP who attended the conference recognised that enforcement officers were "the unsung heroes of planning". He acknowledged that it was a difficult job and he believed that "good enforcement is part of a strong and local planning process" however, despite these and similar comments from others over the years action to bolster the enforcement regime has been sadly lacking.

The forthcoming Guidance on Development Management is welcomed but it contains absolutely no reference to planning enforcement. It took four years following the consultation paper on planning enforcement in 2001/02, for the review to be published in November 2006. One of the recommendations of that review was that the government should work with local authorities to raise the profile of planning enforcement. However, nothing much happened subsequently until the recent publication of the Localism Bill. For development management to be taken seriously it must be under-pinned by a robust and responsive planning enforcement service. Without this there will be no encouragement to engage with authorities which will in turn affect public confidence in the planning process.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 18 (PPG18) was published as far back as December 1991 and Circular 10/97 appeared in July 1997, both of which are in need of an urgent overhaul. The new localism agenda also poses potential problems for the provision of adequate enforcement services. Consistency is vital to proper enforcement. The potential for inconsistency in the application of enforcement powers is magnified in a localism context which may undermine fairness and equitability of the planning process. There may be the temptation to reduce or diminish local authority planning enforcement functions particularly given the current deepening financial difficulties. This would be a retrograde step if it were to occur as experience has shown that during such difficult times the need for better and stronger enforcement is necessary as the temptation to breach planning control grows stronger. Cases such as Fidler v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and another [2010] demonstrates the importance of having a strong enforcement regime.

The forthcoming Development Management policy needs to apply to the whole development process including planning enforcement. Moreover, the provisions in Chapter 5 of the Localism Bill should not be diluted or diminished. It is hoped that in the age of development management that the role of NAPE is not undermined and that planning enforcement does not become the forgotten service.

Peter Geraghty, Chair of the Region and Member of the RTPI General Assembly and Development Management Network. The views expressed here are of course my own.

* * * * *

'Readers will find Peter's Biography on page 14.

Don't forget to send all your articles, cartoons pictures etc. for the next issue, to me at the address below.

Peter Hakes, Editor

Stop Press

Half-day seminar: "Making the Most Of Localism"

1.30pm to 4.30pm Monday 4 April 2011

In association with No 5 Chambers and Baker Associates

£35+VAT (no lunch provided)

Details: <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/ct/EVENT/1324/11/events/1324> or email Tina at eastofengland@rtpi.org.uk

Planning and Biodiversity Conference

Thursday 14 April 2011, 10 am – 4.15 pm,

Møller Centre, Storey's Way, Cambridge CB3 0DE

This conference is free and organised by the Local Environmental Record Centres in Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire.

Contact Fiona Hazelton at fiona.hazelton@cperc.org.uk or 01954 713571

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Next Issue

The next issue should be published in Summer 2011.

Deadline for copy is 16 May 2011 to:

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Acknowledgements

Editing: Peter Hakes/Tina Jessup

Design: David Lock Associates

Printing: New World Creative Print Ltd

Distribution: Jean Aldous

Thanks to all contributors

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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REGIONAL EVENTS PROGRAMME 2011

“Skilling for the New World of Planning”

The RTPI East of England organises an annual programme of affordable and accessible conferences to support the CPD requirements of its members.

Wherever possible, the conference fees for 2011 have been reduced from those charged in 2010 by using venues that provide excellent value for money and keeping lunch costs to a minimum.

We are able to offer a **discount** for any bookings received by **30 April 2011**. (Note: events are also open to non-members).

Download a full version of the Block Booking Form from the Region's web site at http://www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_east_of_england or email Tina Jessup at eastofengland@rtpi.org.uk for details.

SUGGESTED TITLE	DATE	LOCATION	COST
Environmental Assessment - Updates in Theory and Practice (in association with The Landscape Partnership and venue sponsored by Ipswich BC)	Thursday 17 March 2011	Ipswich BC Offices, Ipswich	£75.00+VAT (no discount available on this event)
Planning Law Skills Workshop (in association with Anglia Ruskin University)	Friday 15 April 2011	Hughes Hall, Cambridge (tbc)	£100.00+VAT (no discount available on this event)
Strategic Planning - What Next?	Wednesday 18 May 2011	Marston Vale Centre, Bedford	£85.00+VAT (£80.00+VAT if booked by 30.4.11)
Conference for Councillors	Wednesday 22 June 2011	Professional Development Centre, Trumpington, Cambridge	£100.00+VAT (£95.00+VAT if booked by 30.4.11)
Marine Planning The RTPI President will make a key note speech at this event.	Wednesday 29 June 2011 (tbc)	Great Yarmouth (venue tbc)	£85.00+VAT (£80.00+VAT if booked by 30.4.11)
The Role of Local Authorities in Supporting a New Economic Base (venue sponsored by Thurrock BC)	Wednesday 28 September 2011	Thameside Theatre, Grays	£85.00+VAT (£80.00+VAT if booked by 30.4.11)
Housing - Where Are We Now? (sponsored by David Lock Associates)	18, 19 or 20 October 2011 (tbc)	Peterborough (venue tbc)	£85.00+VAT (£80.00+VAT if booked by 30.4.11)
East of England Planning Law Update	Friday 11 November 2011	Downing College, Cambridge	£140.00+VAT (£130.00+VAT if booked by 30.4.11)
One Free Place for self funding delegate signing up before 30 April 2011. The winner will be picked at random and reimbursed by the Planning Legislation Update Service - Keeping you up-to-date all year round - www.planninglegislation.info			
Retail Planning	Thursday 15 December 2011	Norwich (venue tbc)	£85.00+VAT (£80.00+VAT if booked by 30.4.11)

Your support at these events is vital to ensure their success

Does your organisation have a suitable conference room that we could use?

Or would your organisation be willing and able to sponsor one of these events by making a contribution towards the cost of a venue or towards the cost of lunch?

In return, the organisation's name would be included on the conference literature and promotional material could be displayed at the event.

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

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

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

Do you have an expertise in one of the suggested topic areas

and would like to share your knowledge with other members?

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.

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

Katie Rodgers



Now this time it was a lot easier - a traditional market town, typical of East Anglia - and all **34** of you got it right! And the answer was of course **Buntingford High Street** in Hertfordshire.

The first name out of the RTPI Mug, and pictured above, was **Katie Rodgers** of Rochford DC who has been sent a **£25.00 gift voucher**.

Runners up were, Richard Cooper, John Herson, Helen Ayers, Graham Gunby, John Careford, Terry Burns, Colin Endean, Bryan Thomsett, Emma Ousbey, Brian O'Donnell, Rowland Sillito, Francesca Hill, Ray Houghton, Simon Atha, David Hill, Richard Kelly, Claire Sime, Kay Mead, Darren Roberts, Steve Baker, Chris Butcher, Peter Watson, John Williamson, Caroline Danby, Sarah Williams, Peter Freer, Connie Frost-Bryant, Nicola Dilley, Katie Harley, Philip Wilson, Chris Loon, Simon Meecham and Jenny Pierce.

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 2 weeks before the closing date of the next issue. 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!

The Chief Comes Home



Ann Skippers

Our region welcomed RTPI President Ann Skippers to her 'home' region for the 2010 presidential visit on Thursday 11th and Friday 12th November. Ann, a former RTPI East of England chair, began the visit in Colchester with the Haven Gateway Partnership, which was created in 2001 to highlight the importance of the Haven Ports and awarded Growth Point status in 2006. George Kieffer, chairman and Steve Clarke, interim development director discussed the origins of the partnership and where they were now, with the partnership being a good example of the private and public sectors working together. Eight local authorities are involved in the Haven Gateway Partnership in Essex and Suffolk, and Ann was taken on a tour of key regeneration sites in Colchester where the partnership had been involved. These included the Weston Homes Community Stadium, home of Colchester United Football Club; the Cuckoo Farm junction on the A12, which was soon to be opened; a new visual arts centre; and student accommodation for the University of Essex.

In the afternoon Ann visited Dacorum Borough Council in Hemel Hempstead and was received by senior councillors and officers, including the leader of the council, the mayor and deputy mayor, the chair of the development control committee, and the portfolio holder for planning and regeneration. James Doe, assistant director of planning and regeneration was also there to welcome Ann and following lunch gave a presentation on development in the town over the years. Ann took the opportunity to speak with planners from the council before being taken to see a number of sites in the town. Key sites included the Image Development, the Snow Centre, and Buncefield Oil Terminal. The Image Development is a scheme by developers Dandara for over 400 residential flats occupying the former UK headquarters for Kodak, who now occupy smaller premises near the Buncefield Oil Terminal. Ann was taken to nearby the Buncefield redevelopment site, where oil storage facilities were destroyed by the explosion in 2005, and heard about plans for new oil storage facilities on the site. Ann also visited the Snow Centre that opened in 2009 where aspiring skiers and snowboarders alike can learn and practice their technique in an indoor environment.

In the evening Ann travelled to Cambridge where she met planners and members of the regional activities committee.

Day two of the visit began with an early morning meeting with David Potter of RICS East of England, and Ralph Carpenter and Paul Kievenaar of the Suffolk branch of RIBA East. Ann emphasised how the professions were working well together at a national level and it was agreed that more cross-profession engagement at a local level should be undertaken in 2011. Following the meeting Ann went to Downing College where she gave a presidential address to nearly 100 delegates at the RTPI East of England planning law update conference and met with delegates over the mid-morning break.

The final leg of the visit took place in Great Yarmouth where Ann met with the Norfolk Planning Officers Group. Ann listened to the concerns regarding the emerging changes to the planning system and what the role for strategic planning would be. Ann emphasised that the RTPI was meeting with ministers and contributing to the discussion surrounding the government's future intentions. A tour of Great Yarmouth followed to conclude the visit.

Rob Hobbs



The Image Development by Dandara in Hemel Hempstead



Planners meet Ann in Colchester - Article and photos by Rob Hobbs

REGIONAL CONFERENCE 13.12.10

Localism and Community Engagement - towards 2011

Eastbrook Government Offices, Cambridge

Eiluned Morgan organised and chaired this conference which for many, would be their last visit to the GO East offices as they will shortly be closed as the whole regionalism agenda is shut down by the coalition government. The conference couldn't have been more timely as later that day the coalition government published the new localism bill.

Jeff Bishop of BDOR, set the scene with a series of questions which needed to be addressed under **'From local to national and back again'**. For example, will the baby be lost with the bathwater? And even if saved, we won't know what the baby will look like in a few years time. Each political party promotes greater focus on and participation by/engagement with the local community. But did we achieve that with the DPD system when it replaced the old Local Plan/Structure Plan system? The LDF approach tended to be more about what the council considered the main issues and then consulted on them; but how much did councils involve and engage? Localism seems to stem from a rural idyll of Parish Plans (PPs), Village Design Statements (VDSs) and Parish Councils – where is the urban equivalent? However, many PPs and VDSs are poor quality and no substitute for proper spatial planning. Often they are more about what not to do than to sort out where it should go: NIMBYISM in other words. There are some good ones but they don't come cheap – an average of 4500 volunteer hours per PP and £70K worth of consultancy time. A real issue is who will oversee the work, undertake the preparation of the neighbourhood/parish plan and who will pay for it?

Second up was **Jonathan Price** from GO-East who described the emerging national picture. He took his starting point as **'Open Source Planning'**, the conservative pre-election green paper. With Regional Assemblies abolished, GOs being shut down on 31 March, RSSs set to be revoked when the localism bill becomes law and RDAs being wound down he claimed this was not an end to strategic planning only to regional planning. To demonstrate this commitment to strategic planning the coalition government was going to scrap most of the 7000 pages of central policy and guidance in favour of light touch national policy whilst devolving decision making to the lowest level appropriate. He postulated that sub-regional groups would fill the vacuum [as we now know this has been suggested as a role for LEPs]. Somehow the 'duty to cooperate' to be imposed by the new act will be 'the glue to make the process work'. Concurrently the end of CAAs, LAAs and Nis will remove government target setting [trouble is that every government – no matter what its colour – has within its DNA the need to micromanage and targets will creep back in again sometime if only for grant setting purposes]. He emphasised that although LDFs are likely to be abolished at sometime LPAs should not stop working on them. Meanwhile local authorities will be responsible for establishing the right level of housing provision in their area and the duty to maintain a 5 year land supply will remain. Lastly he touched on statutory neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood development orders, parish council/neighbourhood forums becoming the new LPAs.

After the coffee break, **Jon Boswell**, Deputy Chief Executive of BRCC spoke about **'community led planning'**. What is



it? How does it fit with localism? How do you make it work? He cited Bedfordshire's 70 out of 125 parishes who were working on a PP and how they were adapting the model to urban areas as well. But participation rates are a direct reflection of the social capital in any area and hence the PP model does not adapt well to some urban areas. He made the telling point that in Bedfordshire PPs, whilst covering a wide range of issues, had no formal planning status and there was little evidence of significant influence on planning strategy. [Later, a Planning Aid member referred to the bottom up work done by them on PPs in Herefordshire as another example.] He asked whether community led plans (CLPs) would have any teeth. How will they avoid the 'sustainability trap' – too many small communities written off as unsustainable? What if an assessor decides a CLP is not sustainable? If communities cannot prevent large scale developments will they feel powerless? What status will a CLP have if it is prepared and adopted in advance of the new Local Plan? What will happen if the NO voters reject adoption of a CLP? Remember that NO voters are often better organised than YES voters. Who determines winners and losers?

Finally, **Rob Young** of North Norfolk DC spoke about the lessons they'd learnt from preparing their **coastal strategy**. What makes communities want to get involved, he asked? It's when the fear of not changing is greater than the natural aversion to change. Is the community an ostrich or a meercat? Is it visioning or scaring? What are they proud of? What do they dislike? What do they hope for? What do they fear? It's about understanding what people want. Work with the community. Understand their motivation. Go at a pace that suits those affected by the outcomes. Use examples. Keep the whole community informed. Visions have a place but actions speak louder than words.

The two **Q & A sessions** raised a whole host of questions but there was little additional light shed because despite the experiences and erudition of all the presenters there was no clear idea of how the new regime was going to operate. Interestingly no one really commented on the pending demise of much of Planning Aid outside of London or the additional officer time in fulfilling the duty to co-operate (or should it be engage with, assist, lead, advise, whatever the numerous community groups which the government envisages will spring up to prepare neighbourhood plans) or even whether Parish Councils would welcome their new role as LPAs as suggested by GO East.

In the afternoon three workshops were held with a feedback session - the notes from these should be on our web site.

Thanks to the speakers and to GO East for use of their facilities.

John Young

TWO CHAIRS LEAVING REGIONAL COMMITTEE (no it's not the Antiques Roadshow)



Richard Woolley

Many Members will know Richard Woolley as he has been involved in the world of planning in the East of England for many years.

Richard joined the "Branch Executive Committee" in the 1980's and became Chair in 1989. He worked with many planning students at Anglia Polytechnic in Chelmsford and was Dean of the

University when he retired last year.

Richard's common sense attitude and professionalism will be sorely missed by everyone on the Committee.

The RTPI is very grateful to Richard for all the time and effort he has spent on Institute affairs over the years.

Immediate past president Ann Skippers says

"Richard has been a constant source of inspiration to generations of students. His modest manner and quiet support of his students means that he is universally popular and a respected professional. His contribution to the profession and RTPI has been immense.

For me Richard has been a constant source of inspiration encouraging me to go along to my first regional committee and to become involved with the RTPI when I was one of his students at ARU. Without his support and guidance I would not have done half of the things I have or indeed have got involved with the RTPI in the first place."



Nigel McCurdy

In the words of Nigel:

"It seems, and probably is, a hugely long time since a much younger, fresh and keen Planner stood in a crowded room and was 'persuaded' to become a member of what I still think should be 'RTPI East'. One of the best decisions I ever made and hopefully those who have known me from that December morning at St John's College,

Cambridge in 1989 would agree - at least in part.

Life and career are in fact what you make of it for yourself, with the encouragement and support of others and there are indeed, many opportunities out there if you want to look. Twenty-one years on the 'Exec' have given me much opportunity to contribute to Planning, both nationally and locally, share many challenges and lots of laughs.

I was delighted to serve as Regional Chairman and share part of that illustrious green ribbon. Diversionary involvement in Planning Summer School - 'TCPSS' as was, for 10 years was equally pleasant and perhaps I burnt myself out doing too much too soon - the impetuosity of youth (ah, how I remember it!).

I am sure and indeed hope, there might be others that have the same zeal and appetite for Planning and the unknown that I had long ago (I still, have it, just not the professional/personal space or priority).

There is work to be done - which many of you do very well and the energies of Tina and Richard in particular over many more years than me are astronomical and commendable beyond eloquence. I shall continue to put Planning at the heart of my Council and communities in my wider work as Strategic Director (Services) at Forest Heath."

The RTPI would like to thank Nigel for the enthusiasm and energy which he brought to the Committee over many years, especially during his year as Regional Chairman.

The Royal Town Planning Institute & The Marine Management Organisation

MARINE PLANS WORKSHOP

Tuesday 29th March 2011

commencing at 5.00 pm

To be held in Norwich at the Mirage Suite, Oasis Sport and Leisure Centre

This workshop has been arranged by the Water and Marine Planning Sub-Group of the RTPI's EPP Network.. There is no cost to RTPI Members for entry or refreshments at this event. Attendance at the event will give eligibility for 4 hours of CPD.

Its purpose is to explain the principles of marine spatial planning, and give the MMO the opportunity to launch the first two in a series of Marine Plans for England. These will be for the Eastern Inshore and Eastern Offshore areas.

For further details contact JED GRIFFITHS, Telephone 01992 583003 or

jedplan@btopenworld.com

Why not Advertise in the East of England Express?

The newsletter is published quarterly. Eighteen hundred copies are distributed to planners throughout the six counties of the East of England and a copy is available from the RTPI East of England region web site.

It is therefore an ideal vehicle for your message!

YOUR COMMITTEE 28.01.11

A Very Brief Summary

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

The 'centre of eastern civilization', probably.

Our new Chair, **Peter Geraghty**, welcomed to the meeting fifteen members, including **Steve Wilson**, **Jo Hobbs** and **Matt Breeze**, and **Tina Jessup**, **Charles Veal** and **Sheena Terrace** who were also in attendance.

Outstanding Vacancies on the Committee: Proposed Co-options.

Matt Breeze and **Jo Hobbs** were co-opted to fill two of the three outstanding Student/Licentiate vacancies on the Committee

Planning Aid Progress Report.

Members will know that the Government has withdrawn funding for the Planning Aid Service in England from 31st March 2011.

Jackie Ward reported on the efforts she has been making on behalf of the East of England PA Service, together with representatives from the other English Regions. East of England MP's have received letters explaining the vital role played by the PA Service and its future, crucial, contribution to planning in the Big Society. Jackie was pleased with the positive response from the Region's MP's. Meetings at national level have been held with the relevant government Ministers, pointing out the paradox of removing funding from Planning Aid whilst at the same time promoting localism for planning. Pressure is being applied for a solution to be found. The bad news is that because of the requirements of employment legislation all Planning Aid England staff have been issued with redundancy notices. Jackie was warmly thanked and congratulated for her efforts to help Planning Aid. The need to retain the Planning Aid database has been recognised by the RTPI, as is the value of the Planning Aid volunteers.

Sheena Terrace reported that the East of England Planning Aid Service had exceeded its targets during the first three quarters of 2010; winding down took precedence in the fourth quarter but it is almost certain that the performance in the first three quarters will have met the target for the whole year. It is a great disappointment that commitments entered into late in the year will have to be cancelled.

Conference Programme 2011

The Committee completed the arrangements for the 2011 Conference Programme. (Full details elsewhere in this newsletter and an Advanced Booking Form has been produced and distributed). Members produced a draft itinerary for the **2011 President's Visit to the Region** and it is being discussed with the President, Richard Summers and potential hosts.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that provisional figures indicated that the Region will end the year with a deficit of approximately £2,000. A precise figure will be available when all invoices and expenses have cleared. It is anticipated that the excellent programme of conferences in 2011 will enable the Region to clear this deficit by the end of the year.



Orient Express Possible Copyright Infringement

Staff at the RTPI have raised concerns that using the name Orient Express for our newsletter could leave us open to legal action for breach of copyright by the real Orient Express travel and hotel group. The Committee accepted the advice to change the name of the newsletter and decided upon East of England Express, identifying the region and the publication as a newsletter with a continuity from the old title.

Other matters discussed included:-

East of England Planning Achievement Award 2010

Consultations from RTPI

SmartLife Project

Young Planners Events-see separate report.

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 8)



The Phoenix of Planning are you part of it?



The dawn chorus of Radio 4 wakes me each morning. I am greeted with news of revolutions in far away places. The world economy is still in serious trouble. Our UK economy is a long way from recovery. Interest rates will go up this year. Thousands of jobs are to go from the public sector. The Big Society as a philosophy is starting to stumble. We are selling

then we are not selling off our forests. In the world of planning, construction workers and the members of the plethora of related trades and professions are joining ever growing queues at the Job Centre. Moral in the office is low as our job security vanishes before our eyes and the prospect of you or someone close to you going to a food bank becomes more of a reality than a third world nightmare.

Unsurprisingly, pessimism stalks a number of our thoughts, but why? We, and generations of planners before us have lived through challenging economic times: the end of Victorian and Edwardian philanthropy in 1914, the First World War rapidly followed by the Great Depression of the 1920's, the second World War, the dramatic changes of the 1947 Act, the free thinking of the 1960's, the oil crisis of the early 1970's and then the slump of the early 1990's. Though out these hard times and those of today everyone deserves to live in a decent home and it is the task of our profession with wider society to provide opportunities for them to be delivered.

Let's be honest for a moment. Planning in the 1990's became a little like an AAA battery. Allocate land, apply for permission and if you are unsuccessful appeal. This permitted the flare and vision of our forefathers to become a series of dogmatically applied tick boxes or as other commentators frequently explained 'planning by numbers'. Was this good for us as a profession or society as a whole? It delivered profits for some and losses for some. It kept up to half of our society directly or indirectly working for Government whilst the other half paid for it. This inequality of responsibility and power has, as is evidenced by the crash of the last three years, proved not to be sustainable – but then again we all really knew that the bubble would burst at sometime. It always has in the past and every 15-18 years of short term politics results in an almost inevitable cycle of boom and bust.

Macro economics aside, we can not alone change these. But, as before it is now time for us to be aware of our professional responsibilities and the talents we all have to one degree or another. Talents, not unique ones but perhaps a unique combination: no matter if you work in the public or private sector, are a graduate or are closer to retirement. Our profession is not about ticking boxes. It never should have been. Instead, I suggest it should be more about being able to: help your community (residents, occupiers, investors and the needy) create a vision of what they want and need for the future, transfer a vision into a sense of place by thinking in 2D and 3D, create and interpret complex legislation, negotiate, empower different people with different ideas to deliver something better, undertake a plethora of assessments, and develop and nurture a positive relationship with short term politicians and the wider members of our society. We are not better than other professions. We are not and should not be seen as Imperial all

knowing Emperors. We are however uniquely placed to use our transferable skills to move from the previously established AAA form of planning to a more creative and responsive way of planning. Thinking back for a moment, have we been here before? Yes, remember the old Town Plans of the early 1970's and before them the development that took place before the 1947 Act. These were eras of, dare I say it a different form of 'Big Society'. A new version is now growing whether we like it or not and if you can talk, draw and / or communicate with other people then planning is unlikely to be more of the same but it has a vibrant future.

I therefore view the challenges of the past and today as being momentous. However, more importantly they offer us all the chance to think what our individual talents are and how can we help society deliver the homes and places of employment it requires now and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. If you are looking for inspiration then look no further than 'The Spirit Level' a thought provoking book by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Picket. It is urgent, provocative and genuinely uplifting for our profession. Indeed, by some it has been heralded as providing a new way of thinking about ourselves and our communities and could change the way you see yourself in the world of tomorrow.

Here is to an improving future for all of us.



Robert M Purton

Partner on behalf of
David Lock Associates Limited The views
expressed are his own.

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

YOUNG PLANNERS

Young planners Update



An update on all things Young Planner related as 2011 gets underway.

A successful Xmas social took place on 8th December with a good turnout of Young Planners, plus one or two additions! We started with a few drinks in Franks Bar, Norwich before heading to the Nazma Curry House for a very nice alternative to the round of Turkey dinners in December. We then finished up in the Kings Head with a range of real ales. It was great to see a well-supported event including one or two new faces.

You will have seen e-mails from myself around Xmas with regard to the RTPI seeking views on the Localism Bill from YPs. Unfortunately the very short turn-around to fit into the House of Commons timetable, together with the timing over the Xmas period made it very difficult to get responses. Nonetheless, comments have been put forward from the region to inform the RTPI's response.

In terms of proposed events for this year, ideas are currently being considered and I would hope that those of you on the mailing list would have already received additional information by the time this article is published. As detailed last year, it is intended that an Ecology event will take place in the spring and we are also likely to have a more general social event at the Riverside Bowling Alley in Norwich. There will also be an APC event later in the year at an appropriate time to coincide with a submission deadline as well as the Xmas Social.

I am conscious that aside from the APC event, which is done on a more regional basis as it is guaranteed to have significant

interest, YP events in the Region do have something of a Norwich focus. This is somewhat inevitable given that this is where YP events in the region began to be held from late 2006 when Rob Hobbs took over as young planner representative and is a location where we can guarantee a good level of attendance. Events have been held in Cambridge, Hertford and Ipswich in recent years but the dispersed nature of the region and its towns and cities, together with the less than wonderful transport links does make it more difficult for events to take place on a regional level. It also requires young planners to come forward and volunteer to organise events. Therefore if you have an idea for an event in your part of the region, I would be more than happy to promote it through this newsletter, e-mails, the RTPI website and Facebook

The RTPI should also shortly be publishing a toolkit for setting up YP events. It may also be easier for some YPs to attend events in London and if you would like to be included in the mailing list from the London Network, please let me know and I can provide further information.

My last article in December last year, advised on updates to the APC "Blue Book" Guidance. This is still a work in progress and unfortunately I am unable to provide any further updates. However on the APC, I have been advised that the most recent deadline at the end of January was the busiest since the process began.

One more general matter, the Young Planners Steering Group will be taking place in London on Thursday 12th May. If you have any particular issues you would like to raise, please contact me at graham.bloomfield@bidwells.co.uk

Graham Bloomfield

Planning Matters

PLANNINGMATTERS UPDATE - INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR CPD LOG

Dear Planning Matters Customer ,

As you are aware 'PlanningMatters', the online learning tool for planners, will unfortunately no longer be available after 28 February 2011. This will include the online CPD log which some users use to record their CPD. The RTPI is developing a new online CPD Portal which promotes innovative learning and is aimed at planners. This will include a new user friendly facility for members to keep their CPD records and the Professional Development Plans online and will be available later this year.

In order to minimise disruption and retain their records, users are advised to store their records on an alternative system until the new portal has launched. The easiest way to do this is:

- Log onto PlanningMatters and open your CPD log
- Copy and paste your CPD log into a word or excel document. The new portal will allow you to keep records in the standard RTPI format so you may wish to start using these now. The templates are available online now at <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/item/3939&ap=1>
- Keep updating your records

- The RTPI will write to you with information about how to create your new online log

If you have any questions about how to copy your records please contact us at cpd@rtpi.org.uk

We will need some members to be part of a pilot group to test the new CPD log facilities. If you are interested in being part of this group please send your contact details to cpd@rtpi.org.uk

I would like to apologise for any inconvenience this change may cause.

Kind regards

Cat Shepherd

Lifelong Learning Officer

The Royal Town Planning Institute

PLANNING AID



Update



Since the last edition of the newsletter, the picture has completely changed for Planning Aid. CLG has decided to cease funding for the service from the 1st April. However, the Localism Bill includes provision for neighbourhood/community planning, and a Prospectus for the Supporting Communities & Neighbourhoods in Planning (SC&NiP) fund was published on Friday 7th January. Bids for funding have to be submitted by 21st February and it has been indicated that successful bidders who get through to stage two of the process will be notified by mid-March. Planning Aid is submitting a bid for this funding. There will inevitably be other bidders and the fund itself is considerably smaller than the current funding for Planning Aid. Therefore Planning Aid England will be changing in the future.

The East of England team has, though, continued to provide a service for clients and recent cases include helping a Gypsy and Traveller family submit a planning application for a site, assisting a charity with their plans to create a home and employment opportunity for homeless people and a community group is being helped to undertake a housing needs assessment for its area.

In addition to this, staff attended the preliminary meeting for the examination of energy from waste generating plant at Rookery South in Bedfordshire. This was the first of its kind and seemed to attract a lot of interest from fellow professionals. There were representations made by the local councils, local community groups and other interested parties as to what were the principal issues identified and whether or not there should be issue specific hearings. Two open hearings were proposed and Planning Aid was pleased to see that one of these was in the evening making it more accessible to local residents.

Unfortunately other community planning activities have had to be curtailed.

Hopefully by the time this article is published there will be a clearer idea of the new shape of Planning Aid - so watch this space!

Sheena Terrace

Interim Regional Manager EEPA

Jackie Ward, the EEPA Regional Advisory Panel Chair, adds "I would like to express our thanks (on behalf of the RTPI East of England) to Sheena, Jillian, Rozina, Christine and Helen for their continued hard work delivered in their usual thoroughly professional and cheerful way at this very difficult time. Helen (the EEPA Administrator) has already left for pastures new, and at this stage we just don't know how many PA staff will remain to deliver planning aid after the end of March. I am very sad to see the end of EEPA in its current form, and I'm working hard with the RTPI and other Regional RAP Chairs to make the most of the service in the interim with the resources available, and in working towards a new model for the future. I think it is important to celebrate the work of EEPA and to build on this body of work and experience, and to retain a regional identity. I will try to keep volunteers and other RTPI members up to date through this newsletter."

WHY NOT ENTER FOR THE RTPI EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL PLANNING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2011 ? YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE

All projects nominated for the RTPI National Awards will automatically be entered into the appropriate Regional Award. (For more information on the National Awards, see http://www.rtpi.org.uk/events_awards_and_networking/awards)

However, if you wish to nominate a scheme for the Regional Award only, please use the form available from the Regional Administrator, Tina Jessup –address on page 8.

There is no fee payable to enter the Regional Award only.

Tina can also provide details of the assessment criteria, the rules, what needs to be submitted and who to send it all to.

Information is also available on the web site http://www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_east_of_england.

Closing Date: 13 May 2011

The entries are judged by an Award Panel, nominated by the Regional Activities Committee and of course the decision of those esteemed judges will be final.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

At the time of going to press we were waiting with baited breath for news of who had won the 2010 award. But in 2009, the winning entry, was "Green Energy Biogas Plant Supporting Sustainable Agricultural Model", submitted to the Regional Award only by The Landscape Partnership. In second place was "The Riverside Bridge, Cambridge" submitted by Cambridgeshire County Council and in third place was the "BeWILDerwood Education Project" by Bidwells.

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 7.

Planning Law Update

At Downing College, Cambridge

John Dagg gave a review of the year – a year of changes - starting with the “on-off” abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies and the Cala Homes challenge. He summed up the view of many - whilst the regions were somewhat arbitrary ‘something was better than nothing’ and it seems unlikely that LEPs will be an adequate replacement at the strategic level. John acknowledged that we are in a period of transition – a difficult period for us all. He reflected on an apparent antipathy to planning from above the local level and the relevant parts of the Coalition Programme and their roots in the Conservative Party’s “Open Source Planning Green Paper”.

At the time of the conference the Localism Bill was looming large, but yet to be published so John concentrated on a round-up of very important Statutory Instrument changes that came into force last year ranging from the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 and the giving of statutory force to Circular 05/2005 policy tests for Planning Obligations, to changes to the Use Classes Order and GPDO and the Development Management Procedure Order 2010 and the “Dear Chief Planning Officer” letter of 9 September with its helpful Q&As.

Graham Wright of Birketts, had the unenviable task of speaking about Localism weeks before the Bill was published. He felt that imminent changes would be the most radical since 1947. He evidenced this with quotes from the Queen’s speech (May 2010), the Local Growth white paper, the Coalition’s Programme for Change, and extensively (under numerous sub-headings) from the Open Source Planning green paper. This was an effective way of ‘tracking’ the words and phrases that point to the changes we can expect, particularly from the Localism Bill. Looking on the more positive side, perhaps it is up to all of us to get involved in our local neighbourhoods as if we don’t Graham warned that the “chronically articulate” will take over.

Linda Russell of Linda Russell Solicitors & Planning Consultants delivered an extremely interesting and energetic update on a wide range of enforcement issues and legislation. She gave a useful introduction to some of the common terminology and definitions and touched on the relationship between planning and the criminal courts, highlighting the fact that Crown Prosecution tests must be applied to prosecute successfully i.e.: (1) is there sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction? and (2) is it in the public interest to prosecute?

Linda emphasised the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) which allows for the proceeds of crime, in certain circumstances, to be recovered from a convicted criminal. Two cases which may be of particular interest to enforcement officers are, R v Dell Basso & Another [2010] (the airport parking case) and R v Goodwin & Del Basso [2010] (unauthorised change of use to flats)

Linda pointed out, that if local authorities seek to recover the proceeds of crime from an enforcement case, their officers must become accredited with the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), unless they work with an accredited officer from a different agency e.g. Police. If they work with a different agency, they must share the proceeds.

Lastly, Linda covered examples of circumstances where a local authority can take direct action. Where the LPA has served a planning or listed building enforcement notice, or an untidy land

notice and any of the stated steps for compliance have not been met, the LPA can:

- **Enter the land**
- **Take those steps**
- **Recover from the owner the reasonable expense of doing so.**

Bernadette Hillman, a Partner at Debenhams-Ottaway, gave a speedy Planning Case Law Update and covered: planning permissions, compulsory purchase, planning enforcement, village greens, judicial review on time limits, and funding litigation. There is insufficient space here to do justice to Bernadette’s presentation, and I am sure that delegates were grateful for the notes to supplement the power-point slides. The section on enforcement included photographs of the Beesley hay barn case (R (Welwyn Hatfield Council) v SSCLG), and the Fidler case (Fidler v SSCLG & Reigate & Banstead BC) with the ‘before’ hay bales and tarpaulin and the ‘after’ castellated grand country house. These cases, at the time, illustrated opposite consequences of hiding breaches of planning control. The airport parking case, R v Del Basso & Goodwin was fascinating and resulted in a conviction and confiscation of assets under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

The last speaker was **Stephen Tromans QC**. He gave a very thoughtful report on Biodiversity, Habitats and Species and noted the increasing importance of this area because of European Directives and the Habitat Regulations. Very good guidance is provided by the web site ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/. The tests set for development are hard-edged and require a high standard of proof that has proved fertile ground for legal challenge. Key cases are R (Bruton) v A-G to the Prince of Wales 2009, R (Akester) v Defra and Wightlink Limited (2010) and R (Boggis) v Natural England (2010) that have further defined scope of the Directive and Regulations. Another significant decision is in R (Lewis) v Redcar & Cleveland (2007) that established that there is nothing wrong with a Committee taking a decision provided that its is based on expert advice. The case of R (Woolley) v. Cheshire East BC 2009 established that in relation to a planning application which may affect a protected species, it is necessary to engage with the requirements of Article 12 and not merely to note the need for a licence, as this is not sufficient. In the event that a licence is unlikely or uncertain to be issued then planning permission should be refused. A final useful read in relation to Article 12 is R (Hulne) v. SSCLG (2010) EWHC 2386 which, among other issues, addressed the matter of alternative options.

A big “thank you” to **John Dagg** for organising the conference

Jillian Luntz, Jackie Ward & Eiluned Morgan



NEWS FROM HQ

An Eastern Takeover at HQ?

No, not quite, but the Past President, **Ann Skippers** worked tirelessly for our Branch and was previously Chair, the new Junior Vice President is currently the East of England Chair (young **Peter Geraghty**) and **Richard Summers**, again another stalwart of the region and past chair, is the new RTPI President.

Richard's inauguration took place on 19th January 2011.

His theme for the year will be **Promoting Planning and Planners in Challenging Times**.



The President having his chain adjusted

He said:

"The recession, deep spending cuts, the introduction of the Localism Bill, changes to the planning system in Northern Ireland and coming elections in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Eire all represent a huge challenge to the profession through 2011. That's why I am determined to work tirelessly over the next twelve months to fulfil my Presidential theme to promote planners and planning at every possible opportunity".

One of Richard's key aims is to work with the Government to make the Localism Bill work effectively for local communities through spatial planning:

He is 64 and is currently Head of Planning at The Landscape Partnership and has over 40 years professional experience specialising in spatial planning and economic development in this country and also abroad. Away from work, Richard is a keen motorcyclist. He has recently restored a Listed Building in Bury St Edmunds and through a deep interest in the "spirit of place" he also teaches meditation and the art of dowsing.

A date for your Diary?

Yes...this year's Planning Convention, is...:

Planning in the Big Society? on 14-15 June 2011 at Grand Connaught Rooms, London

Prices are reduced from last year, offering even better value. There is a discount of over £100 for members on the non-member price, and low rates of just £99 for student members and £140 for Licentiates (all prices exclude VAT). Delegates can book through the following web site:- <http://www.theplanningconvention.co.uk/> which will be updated with full programme details as soon as these are confirmed.

The Great Fen- Region Wins Top Prize

A visionary master plan which will transform arable farmland into a nationally important site linking two nature reserves has been awarded the Silver Jubilee Cup - the UK's top planning prize.

At the RTPI 2010 Planning Awards, held in association with Planning Magazine, The Rt. Hon. Caroline Flint MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, presented the cup to **The Great Fen Partnership**.

Malcolm Sharp, of Huntingdonshire District Council, accepting the cup on behalf of the six organisations involved - **Huntingdonshire DC, LDA Design, the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough, The Environment Agency, Natural England** and the **Middle Level Commissioners**, said:

"To be honoured in this way is a fantastic reward for all those involved as this really was a partnership in the truest sense of the word. The realisation of this plan will see green infrastructure plugged into the planning process and the public benefiting from large scale landscape creation for decades to come."

When complete the multi-agency project will also see a wetland area created which will link two national nature reserves and provide for wildlife and wetland conservation and incorporate a major new area for floodwater retention.



The Great Fen Partnership Team picking up the prize from Caroline Flint MP and RTPI President Richard Summers. Also in the picture are Chris Gerrard (Wildlife Trust) on the far left, then Malcolm Sharp (Huntingdonshire DC) and Robert Trgary (LDA Design).

Photos courtesy of Haymarket.

WHO'S WHO IN THE EASTERN REGION

REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

Regional Chair:	Peter Geraghty, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
Regional Senior Vice Chair:	Erica Whettingsteel, Private Practice
Regional Junior Vice Chair:	Phil Godwin, North Norfolk District Council
Regional Immediate Past Chair:	Rob Hobbs, Ipswich Borough Council
Regional Hon. Secretary:	Richard Chillingford, Retired
Regional Hon. Treasurer:	Steve Bateman, Private Practice
Regional Rep. on General Assembly:	Ann Hockey, Anglia Ruskin University

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE (RAC)

(includes Members of the Regional Management Board – see above)

CORPORATE MEMBERS OF THE RAC:

Tony Barker, Retired
Steve Bateman, Private Practice (member of RMB)
Richard Chillingford, Retired (member of RMB)
John Dagg, Barrister
Jonathan Dixon, RPS Planning & Development
Peter Geraghty, Southend-on-Sea BC (member of RMB)
Nigel Gibbs, Dacorum BC
Phil Godwin, North Norfolk DC (member of RMB)
Peter Hakes, Private Practice
Robert Hobbs, Ipswich BC (member of RMB)
Ann Hockey, Anglia Ruskin University (member of RMB)
Philip Isbell, Mid Suffolk DC
Paul Maison, British Waterways
Andrew Meddle, Southend-on-Sea BC
Eiluned Morgan, Private Practice
Gemma Pannell, St Edmundsbury BC
Robert Purton, David Lock Associates (co-opted on to RMB)
Shaun Scrutton, Rochford DC
Jackie Ward, Private Practice (co-opted on to RMB)
Peter Warner, Great Yarmouth BC
Erica Whettingsteel, Private Practice (member of RMB)
Richard Whittaker, Environment Agency
Steve Wilson, Turley Associates
John Young, Private Practice

TECHNICAL MEMBERS OF THE RAC:

There is currently one vacancy for a Technical Member.

LICENTIATE/STUDENT MEMBERS OF THE RAC:

Steven Bainbridge, The Landscape Partnership
Matt Breeze, Cambridgeshire CC
Jo Hobbs, Norwich City Council
Jillian Luntz, East of England Planning Aid
 There is currently one vacancy for a Licentiate/Student Member.

OTHER REGIONAL POSTS:

Regional Co-ordinator: Tina Jessup
Regional Clerical Assistant: Jean Aldous
Deputy Rep. on Gen. Assembly: Peter Warner
Regional Consultation Secretary: Peter Warner, pcw@great-yarmouth.gov.uk
Regional CPD Convenor: Peter Geraghty and Tina Jessup
Regional Env. Education Convenor: Vacant
Regional Contact on Localism Bill: Steve Wilson, swilson@turleyassociates.co.uk
Regional Membership Secretary: Tina Jessup
Regional Newsletter Editor: Peter Hakes, email: peter@hakes3334.fsnet.co.uk
Planning Aid Manager (acting): Sheena Terrace
Planning Aid Caseworker: Christine Flittner
Planning Aid Community Planner: Jillian Luntz and Rozina Vrlc
Regional Media Co-ordinator: Phil Godwin
Programme Secretary: Tina Jessup
Young Planners Liaison Officer: Graham Bloomfield, Bidwells, Norwich, Graham.Bloomfield@bidwells.co.uk

Please contact any of the above via the Regional Office,
 tel: 01359 252366; fax: 01359 252364;
 email: eastofengland@rtpi.org.uk

2010 REGIONAL PLANNING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

– Who will win this year's Regional Award?

As we go to press, the announcement is just about to be made. Will it be:

- **"Green Infrastructure by design; adding value to development"** submitted by Bedfordshire & Luton GI Consortium
- **"Design in Central Bedfordshire – A Guide for Development"** submitted by Central Bedfordshire Council
- **"Soham Masterplan Vision – Reshaping Soham"** submitted by Entec UK Ltd
- **"Brentwood Renaissance"** submitted by Essex County Council
- **"The Great Fen, Huntingdonshire"** submitted by the Great Fen Project Partners
- **"The Nude Ewe"** submitted by Central Bedfordshire Council
- **"Tackling Climate Change through the Hertfordshire Planning System"** submitted by Hertfordshire County Council
- **"Imaginative ways of collecting and collating consultation responses"** submitted by Central Bedfordshire Council
- **"The Essex Design Legacy"** submitted by Essex County Council
- **"Harford Gypsy and Traveller Site"** submitted by South Norfolk Council/Broadland Housing Association

See the web site at: www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_east_of_england
 to find out who has won!

A good read for Spring

An anonymous group of academics from the world of books and planning has compiled the following as a 'good read for spring'... on the list is:-

MANWEB – Its theory and practice?

This huge tome traces the origins of MANWEB Phase II from its inception in the 60's in the back streets of Chelmsford to today where it is virtually unknown.

Manice Jawfit being intimately involved in its early years writes with great insight and some would say, passion about what was then ground breaking polemic-only equalled, probably by the 'black box theories' emanating from mainland Greece.

The next, on a lighter note, is:-

Recipes for Disaster – B-B-Q's for Summer Planning Inquiries

This much loved book has been fully updated by the **Almost Hairy Planners** –those cheeky chapies – **Chris Bell and Graham Shepley**. Not to be missed is a very practical introduction to oriental dishes by freelance **Phonee Ti-son**.

Last but not least –no it's not our very own Marcia Wolspittle, it is in fact the much acclaimed two volume autobiography of **Clee Vague**.



The first volume, cleverly entitled **The Not Quite Level, Rather Humpy Playing Fields**, covers the period from his time at Midbedsex Tech. to when it became Wat Tyler Institute Polytechnic and the second volume – **Up the Campus**, describes his latter days when this institution became the

Eastern Counties Boadecia University.

So what did happen on that sultry June evening between Prof. Kurt Manifold and Admin Supremo Julienne Ostrogoth? Well, we will never know because that bit had to be removed for legal reasons.

But there are plenty of other fruity goings-on, between the covers. ('book' covers-Editor).

So have a good read!

All these books and many more are available from **Oossedam Enterprises** - address etc. on page 23.

So who is our new chair?



He is Peter Geraghty

Currently Group Manager Development Control and Building Control, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, he was previously Chief Planning Officer at Brentwood Borough Council (2007-2009). Before that he held posts at Broadland

District Council, Epping Forest District Council, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and has held various posts in the development sector since 1988.

He is also currently Junior Vice President Royal Town Planning Institute 2011 and lists also the following positions:-

Trustee and member of the Executive Board 2007-2009, 2011

Member of the Council 2000-2004

Member of the General Assembly 2004-2011

Professional Qualifications Committee 2000-04

Planning Policy and Practice Committee 2005-06, (Vice Chair) 2009

Membership & Ethics Committee (Chair 2007-2008) 2007-2010

Membership Panel (Chair) 1999-2011

Equal Opportunities (Race) Panel 1997-2009

Member of the Northwest Branch Executive

Member of the London Branch Executive

(Branch Representative for Planning Aid for London)

Member of the Regional Activities Committee for the Eastern Region

Chair of the Regional Management Board Eastern Region 2011

Senior Vice Chair of the Regional Management Board Eastern Region 2010

Member of the Development Management Network

CPN – What is it?

Well it used to be the SSP!

- Planners are everywhere...
- Are you a planner in a non-planning environment? e.g. Chief Execs Dept., Highways, Environmental Health, Tesco etc.?
- Do you feel isolated from your planning colleagues?
- And do people smirk when you reveal your true identity?

Then the CPN is for you – it's the Covert Planners Network – previously the Society of Secret Planners.

When you become a Covert Planner you can stay in your closet but be part of a larger secret organisation knowing that you are all sharing similar hopes and fears.

You can join CPN by sending just £25.45 to the Secretary (no names, no pack drill) at Lean-Too Studios, East Oozefleet, Saltwick Marshes.

We will send you, in a plain brown envelope, a form for direct debit for future subscriptions, a secret badge to pin behind your lapel or some other secure place, the secret code book and invisible writing pen and instructions on how to do the secret handshake and wink and other signs so that other covert planners will recognise you.

So Join Now!

For existing SSP Members - don't forget to slip the piece of card out of your secret badge holder, turn it over and write CPN on it, then replace it in the holder.

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 'Linda La Plant-pot' of the Marshes' - Marcia Worlspittle.

East of Felixstowe

Digby Deeply-Smythe felt good. It was a crisp spring day, the evening low sun glowing blood red on The Dambovita and Bucharest looked at its best as he made his leisurely way to the weekly rendezvous with the lovely raven haired, Nadia – a woman who spoke, English, French, Spanish, Romanian, Bulgarian, Gaelic and Welsh!

He had done well: the wine export business was flourishing or so the outward signs indicated - a seemingly busy warehouse, based on the outskirts of the Black Sea port of Constanta, with lots of comings and goings. Yes, he was a well respected business man helping in the 'people's economic struggle'.

As he stepped down carefully from the clanking tram and strolled down the tree lined boulevard, he recalled that this was once known as the Paris of Eastern Europe. Ambling towards his destination he reflected on earlier successes - the setting up of the network; the collecting and dispatching of vital information and even as a foreigner (although, actually British, his bosses required him to use an Australian passport) infiltrating 'The Party'. But he also remembered a few failures (perhaps better forgotten): the network had had to be painstakingly reconstructed, but it was now stronger than ever!

He stopped and bought a newspaper full of local news: of 'Party' matters - new chairmen and secretaries, rallies, awards for good work etc. The only 'outside' news concerned the National Gymnastics Team – which was apparently doing very well.

He crossed the road and sauntered on his way. Stopping on the far side of the Square he looked up at the imposing edifice. It had once been a magnificent hotel with its gilt edged mirrors, chandeliers and marble columns. Now it was workers flats. Only the 'Kellar Bar' remained, recalling those far-off days of opulence.

Abutting the 'Grand' and contrasting starkly with it, was the brutal concrete and steel 'Workers Clinic'. Even now a small group of men and women were waiting by the grimy glass doors for evening surgery.

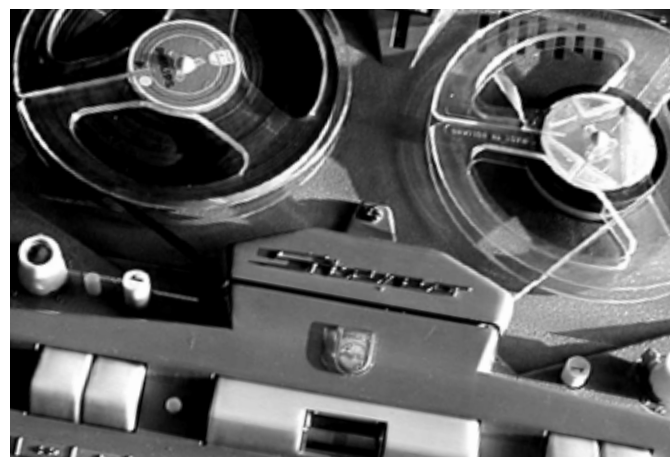
He carefully negotiated the steep narrow steps down to the small open doorway of the Kellar Bar, gave his hat and coat to Michael (known also as Vlad) and stepped into the gloom.

She was already there and his heart missed a beat with anticipation of her smile.

She was studying the menu. He sat down, they flirted mildly and he ran his eye down the menu.

To help the waiters in this more cosmopolitan part of town, the meals were numbered.

And, cleverly, using those numbers, as they discussed the various dishes, he was in-fact telling her which bottle of wine in the next consignment, contained the microfilm.



The soft light from the table candles were reflected in the gilt edged mirrors as they whispered to each other - in the way lovers do.

In the adjoining room, beyond the gilt edged mirrors and beneath the Workers Clinic, sat two men. One was of East European appearance and wore a shapeless black leather cap and an old burgundy coloured velvet jacket as he scribbled quickly in his note book - somewhat unnecessarily as a large Grundig tape-recorder silently captured the conversation. The other man, a westerner (known in the Department's files as 'scale rule', having apparently once been Head of Development Control in a small rural district council in Norfolk), sat perfectly still staring at the special one-way glass screen and smiled sardonically...

To be continued?...sort of

This book was runner up in the 1999 prestigious 'Upton – Shepley Awards for Love, Planning and Intrigue in Literature'.



What do you think of the new look East of England Express?

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

Peter Hakes, 30 Viking Way,
Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9HX
Tel: 01277 220043
email: peter@hakes3334.fsnet.co.uk

David Lock Associates is a leading town planning and urban design consultancy. We have been delivering value to our clients in the East of England for over 20 years by responding to changing circumstances to bring forward and implement development at all scales.



Our skills include:

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

If you're motivated by creating sustainable developments that make a real difference, 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.

www.davidlock.com

David Lock Associates
Town Planning and Urban Design



© 2010 David Lock Associates. Photograph taken at Hampton, where DLA continue the planning, master planning, design and implementation of development at Peterborough's southern township.

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Regional Activities Committee or Management Board, the Institute or author's employer's.

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