

A quick update on Young Planners issues since the last edition.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

As ever, if you have any thoughts on potential events, or would like to get more involved with East of England Young Planners, please do not hesitate to contact me graham.bloomfield@bidwells.co.uk