

I would firstly like to say hello to you all, (Planners Young and not so Young) and also like to thank my predecessor Rob Hobbs for all his hard work in getting Young Planners events organised in the region over the last few years, together with a dedicated group of helpers. I am particularly looking forward to the challenges and opportunities provided by this new role in addition to those already provided by my work at Bidwells.

A date for the diary is the RTPI National Young Planners Conference which this year will be taking place in Cardiff on the 15-16th October organised by RTPI Cymru. There was also a Young Planners presence at the National Planning Convention in June with a presentation to the conference by Nick Pleasant who is my regional counterpart in the North East and Tom Venables who is the current Young Planner of the Year. In addition there will also be a Young Planners Stall at the event.

On a more local theme, a number of regional Young Planners events are currently being organised for the rest of the year and email circulars will be sent out in due course. In particular, current opportunities being explored across the region include events in Suffolk and Bedfordshire.

An event was held in Norwich on Thursday 27th May with a presentation by Jillian Luntz of Planning Aid on the work they do and opportunities for Young Planners to get involved.

Later in the year, an event is being organised with The Ecology Consultancy based in Norwich. This will be an excellent CPD opportunity to gain an understanding of ecology issues including the legislation, survey methods and timing for this work to be undertaken. With ecology surveys and reports no longer a matter that is simply left to condition, together with the new consultation procedure from Natural England, this is a good time to get up to speed on these issues.

Finally a matter that is always close to the hearts of Young Planners – the APC process! Following last Autumn's successful regional event with Tracey Lloyd of the RTPI at Ipswich, which I certainly found very helpful, we are proposing a similar event this year. This will be on 19th August in Ipswich.

Through the rest of the year and into 2011, we are also looking at the potential for additional APC social events to ensure that there will be at least one event in each quarter ahead of upcoming deadlines. The idea is that if there is a quarter where there is not a formal event as discussed above, an informal event can take place where Licentiates can discuss their work over a pint with those who are going through, or have already been through the process. It is intended that this will provide additional support to Licentiates and at the very least will be an opportunity to get away from log books etc for an evening!