

BRANCHOUT

No. 149

Autumn 2011

<http://southwest.rtpi.org.uk>

Welcome from the Chair



Where is the year going? Already evenings are getting cooler and the weather even wetter (if that is possible) so plenty of time for everyone to snuggle up on the sofa, and read all the interesting literature published recently.

As many of you know, I have just been to Sweden for 3 weeks to take part in the World Scout Jamboree. I have been immersed in wall to wall Scouting, meeting people from diverse cultures and backgrounds, eaten far too much rice and had a whale of a time playing with wool for 10 days solid – what a change to the day job! But is it really?? To quote the chorus from the 2011 Jamboree Song, “I’m changing the World today, the World today, with a small step forward”; I’d like to think that planners seek to do this too in our own way, seeking to make our little bit of the world a better place - clearly planning and Scouting are not as far apart as you might think!

Feeling buoyed up and in good frame of mind, I return down to earth and back to the planning world and discover that whilst I was away the draft NPPF arrived..... was it worth waiting for? Well, I will leave you all to answer that for yourselves. I have to say I am quite disappointed that after all the hype and leaks and recommendations the document, from my perspective really doesn’t do the job it is needed to do and doesn’t set the clear strategy we need. It certainly isn’t going to “change the World today” nor is it a “small step forwards”, actually quite the opposite in many respects! There are still some very muddy waters, particularly regarding the role of local aspirations in the planning system. I had thought that the commitment to neighbourhood planning and wider engagement of the public in the planning process was part of the new structure for planning under the Coalition Government but the NPPF implies, in places, that the national economic agenda will take priority over local adopted policies. Hmmm, let’s see who is listening to whom in this ongoing debate. It will also be interesting to see if there will be any knock on changes to the Localism Bill as well as a result.

If you can stay awake, I really would urge all planners to read and make representations on the NPPF, both positive and negative if you feel strongly about this simply as this WILL be the future of planning for the foreseeable future and if you don’t shout now you really have no right to complain later!

For me, the other very news worthy matter of the summer has been the approval of the first CIL charging schedule. Newark and Sherwood Council is the first local authority to go through the independent examination and the inspectors report has concluded that the proposed CIL Charging Schedule “provides an appropriate basis for the collection of the levy in the district over the next three years”. I think many local authorities will be looking to see how Newark and Sherwood have approached this and to how the Inspector has considered the various elements especially viability. Well done to them for being the first!

On the lighter side, you will see from elsewhere in Branchout, that a good time was had by all at the Annual RTPI Dinner in July. Richard Summers, the RTPI President attended and addressed the dinner guests and Ian Dove QC made an excellent after dinner speaker. Richard will be visiting the Region later in the year and we will be arranging for him to meet as many planners from different areas as possible and showcase some of the work done within the Region.

The conference series is also back after the summer break with rural issues being the focus for September and housing for October. I can’t quite believe how quickly these conferences come round. These have certainly made the year go by quickly and I am now beginning to direct potential speakers to next year’s Chair – it’s all quite sad really. At least my role in Scouting will continue beyond 2011.....”with a small step forward; and it’s a simple way, we can start today, crossing lines and borders”.....go on, you know you want to hear the whole song on youtube!!

Jean Marshall

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Planning Aid England – Update

How the Advice Line is helping people with their planning problems!

The Advice Line is Planning Aid England's main point of contact with the general public. Through this service we provide 15 minutes of free and independent planning advice to anyone. If the issue cannot be dealt with over the phone then, if eligible, we seek to provide a PAE volunteer to assist with the matter (of which a recent case study is highlighted below).

The advice line covers the whole of England and can be accessed through a single national number: 0330 123 9244.

Since the service fully launched at the end of June, PAE has dealt with over 650 queries. Much of the focus has been on development control/enforcement matters but we have noticed a steady increase in advice sought over the new Localism Bill and in particular Neighbourhood Planning.

The number is promoted by some Councils on their neighbourhood notification letters, within their receptions and even on their websites. The hope is to promote and publicise the number as widely as possible and we would urge people to do so on our behalf. If you're in a position to be able to circulate some of our promotional cards, please email info@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk and we will arrange to have some cards delivered to you.

A volunteer's viewpoint

"Well now. What can I say? It's great to be back in the game with the all new Planning Aid England team! It only seems like yesterday (funny how the months fly by) that I was supporting the distressed of the South West Region with their planning woes and providing some very light touch mentoring to new Planning Aid recruits whilst advising all the new graduates who came my way hunting for jobs to sign up to Planning Aid and get their hands (and feet) as dirty as possible. Since then I've been made redundant, set up my own company and am exploring the joys of working from home. Planning Aid provides me with another valuable network of contacts and colleagues to add to my virtual office environment. The staff are brilliant and a real pleasure to work with.

I'm in the midst of my first enforcement case for Planning Aid. A tidy Listed Building with just one living room which the LPA have got extremely heated under the collar about. First Enforcement Notice quashed on Appeal due to fundamental errors in its drafting. Second Enforcement Notice now subject to second Appeal, for which I have prepared the Appellant's Statement of Case. Marital break-up, ill-health and a genuine need for support make for a heart-warming case when you get to meet the client in their own home and work with them to produce the best argument you can. Looking forward to reading the LPA Statement of Case and helping prepare some Final Comments. Then we're just awaiting confirmation of a date for the Appeal Site Inspection. An exercise in hand-holding and counselling from start to finish, with plenty of detail for the planning professional (experienced or otherwise) to get their teeth into. Little did I think when I was in local authority instructing enforcement officers and taking advice from conservation officers that I would be 'fighting the good fight' on behalf of the 'underdog'.

Well enough from me except to say ... Get your boots on and sign-up to Planning Aid (if you haven't already) ...Your Nation Needs You!"

Martin S Lee

For further information please contact the Planning Aid England's local community outreach co-ordinators **Joanna Wiiddecombe** (joanna.wiiddecombe@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk) and **Peter Whitehead** (peter.whitehead@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk)

DEATH OF FORMER BRANCH CHAIRMAN



TTW (Teg) Peregrine, the RTPI South West Branch Chairman in 1978/79, passed away in May.

When Chairman he was the Superintending Planner for the South West Region of the Department for Environment. For some years he played a significant role in Branch affairs and encouraged Civil Servants in the Government's regional office to support Branch events. During his year in office a number of interesting and well attended events were held including a weekend based in Plymouth 'The Future of our Coastline' which included the Branch Dinner at the Moorland Links Hotel at Yelverton and a boat trip on Plymouth Sound and the River Tamar. A joint meeting with the South Wales Branch 'The Planning Implications of the Severn Barrage' was attended by 190 delegates. Other well attended conferences included 'Micro-electronics – the impact on Planning' (170), one of the speakers being the Rt. Hon. Tony Benn (then the Secretary of State for Energy) and also 'Conservation in Practice' (100). Teg clearly planned and oversaw an interesting, well supported year for the Branch.

Mike Oakley, RTPI SW Assistant Hon. Secretary

Zero Carbon Development and Allowable Solutions – The Potential Value

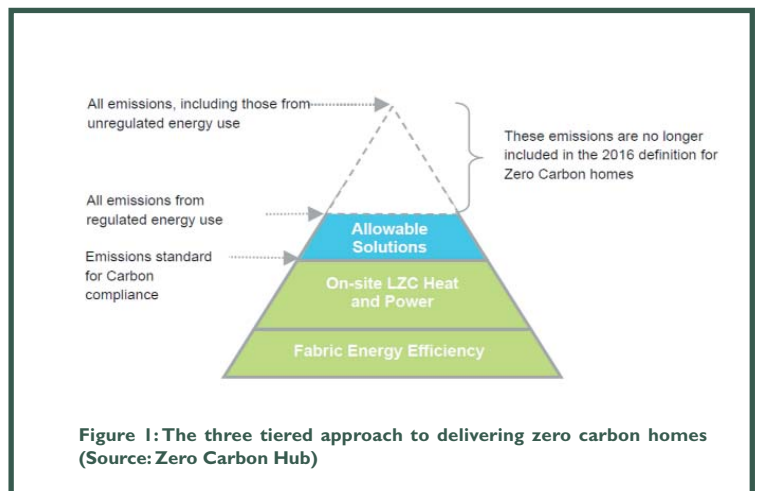
The previous government announced in 2008 that all new homes would be “zero-carbon” from 2016

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Since the previous government announced in 2008 that all new homes would be “zero-carbon” from 2016, there have been significant efforts to further define what a “zero-carbon” building actually is, and how the supporting policy framework can be developed. Carbon emissions in new buildings are regulated in Part L of the Building Regulations. The national timetable towards “zero-carbon” buildings saw a tightening of Part L to the Code for Sustainable Homes level 3 equivalent in 2010. That is, a building in 2010 emits 25% less carbon in theory than one built to the 2006 regulations. This will be tightened again in 2013 to Code 4 (a 44% improvement), and to Code 5 in 2016 for homes – a 100% improvement. The original definition of “zero-carbon” envisaged homes in 2016 being built to the highest energy standards (Code 6), in other words, “zero-carbon” was originally intended to cover emissions from both regulated sources e.g. boilers and lighting as well as unregulated sources e.g. cooking and appliances. The downgrading of the “zero-carbon” standard in the March 2011 budget from Code 6 to Code 5 represented a significant watering-down, and resulted in the WWF leaving the Government’s Zero Carbon Hub (ZCH), the public/private partnership established to mainstream delivery of low and zero carbon homes. Non-domestic buildings are planned on being “zero-carbon” from 2019.

stated that the cost of “allowable solutions” would be £46 per tonne/year in present value terms and will be set as an upfront cost for the cumulative value of the carbon emitted from a house over 30 years. Based on analyses of projected development, the University of Exeter has estimated that the potential value of allowable solutions could be around £23 million in East Devon and £12.5 million in Exeter for the period between 2016 and 2026.

Whilst the policy surrounding allowable solutions is only in its infancy, the current proposals mean that it will be important for local authorities to develop allowable solutions policies through local plans. Failure to do so would potentially result in allowable solutions contributions being utilised on national



The ZCH has been developing the framework within which “zero-carbon” homes will be delivered with a three-tiered hierarchy being the approach taken (see Figure 1). Meeting both an “energy efficiency standard”ⁱ and a minimum level of “carbon compliance”ⁱⁱ, essentially requires some on-site renewable energy or connected heat. This will vary depending on the house type and ranges between 10kgCO₂/m²/year for a detached house to 14 kgCO₂/m²/year for an apartment. In the case of the latter this corresponds to only a Code 4 standard to be achieved on-site – significantly lower than in previous consultations. The remainder of emissions reduction may be met by “allowable solutions”. These comprise a potentially broad range of on-site, near-site and off-site measures which are still to be confirmed. The ZCH recently published a reportⁱⁱⁱ on how these might work in practice in which it was

projects through a Private Energy Fund i.e. the money would be lost to the locality. Developing a local policy would result in a list of projects that could deliver significant benefits and carbon reduction to a local area. Developers would have the option to contribute to the objectives of the local plan either through a Community Energy Fund or by private contract with a third party provider. A key stated benefit of the proposed framework is that by setting local plans, the policy aligns with the Government’s ideology on localism and the Big Society. The University of Exeter has undertaken studies for a number of local authorities to support the development of local energy policies.

References:

- ⁱ Defining a fabric efficiency standard for zero carbon homes, Zero Carbon Hub, 2009.
- ⁱⁱ Carbon compliance: What is the appropriate level for 2016? Interim report, Zero Carbon Hub, 2010.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Allowable solutions for tomorrow’s new homes, Zero Carbon Hub, 2011.

The RTPi SW Special Business General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 16th November 2011 at 12.45 pm at Burges Salmon Offices in Bristol. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/42m1tg> for a copy of the full agenda.

Annual Dinner



The 1st July saw the fourth annual RTPI SW dinner, held once more at the Rougemont (Thistle) Hotel in Exeter. Despite the increasingly gloomy economic times we seem to be in, the evening was a real success and there was a great buzz with over 130 planners and colleagues in attendance.



Our after dinner speaker was Ian Dove QC from No. 5 Chambers, despite a last minute panic that he was still in court and that various RTPI SW committee members would be forced to entertain guests! I am not sure that we can repeat much of what Ian said but needless to say, he was topical, satirical and very funny.



Richard Summers, the RTPI President also spoke eloquently about how the RTPI has been responding to the government in what can only be described as "interesting times."

Special thanks should go to Helen Clarke for her sterling organisation, to Ian Dove our very entertaining after dinner speaker and to our sponsors who helped ensure that the evening was a resounding success. ARUP, Burges Salmon, Peter Evans Partnership, RPS Group, WYG Planning & Design, PCL Planning and Bryan Smith Associates.

A full set of photos from the annual dinner are available to view.

Contact Helen at southwest@rtpi.org.uk for the link and password.



with thanks to all our sponsors:



DRAFT NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK



The draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 25 July 2011 to much fanfare from the Government extolling the virtues of cancelling 47 pieces of national planning guidance and replacing them with one succinct

and more accessible national planning policy document. However, the draft NPPF has not had a universally positive reception, and may not be as effective in simplifying the planning system as the Government hopes.

Much of the general content is the same as current guidance, albeit in a dramatically streamlined format. However, the element of the draft NPPF that has attracted most comment is the introduction of a pervasive presumption in favour of "sustainable development". According to George Osborne in his 2010 Budget speech, this means that "the default answer to development is 'yes'". Other elements of the draft NPPF that have attracted particular attention include guidance in relation to drafting and implementing neighbourhood plans and the prospect that if Local Plans are not kept up to date and properly evidence-based, they will be deemed inapplicable.

Developers have reacted positively to the draft, which is unsurprising given the pro-growth message given by the presumption in favour of sustainable development. However, environmental interest groups have expressed concern that the draft NPPF prefers economic interests to the detriment of environmental considerations. Planning and legal professionals have expressed other concerns, including that its lack of detail may cause more problems than it solves.

Presumption in favour of sustainable development

The most widely publicised criticism of the draft NPPF is in relation to the potential impact of the presumption in favour of sustainable development on the countryside. The National Trust and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England have argued that the concept of "sustainable development", the cornerstone of the draft NPPF, is unjustly skewed in favour of economic development and house building. They contend that it does not adequately protect open countryside unless it is specifically designated as Green Belt or another protective classification. Greg Clark, Minister for Planning, has reacted to these accusations defensively, declaring the proponents of this position as "selfish nihilists".

But who is right?

"Sustainable development", is not actually defined in the NPPF. There is a very strong economic theme in the draft, and of the three core elements that make up sustainable development (planning for prosperity – economic; planning for people – social; and planning for places – environmental), it is the economic considerations that are addressed first, and that are referred to repeatedly throughout. Indeed, paragraph 13 states that "significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth".

The draft NPPF says that development should be permitted unless the adverse impacts would "significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this framework taken as a whole". Considering the strong economic focus of the NPPF, there is real concern that it is therefore possible that, following this guidance, a proposal might be granted planning permission on the basis that it provides some very minor economic benefit, despite the harm it will cause to, for example, to the open countryside.

In addition, the draft NPPF does not include targets for brownfield housing development, which is likely to encourage developers to favour greenfield sites which are generally easier to develop. Local Planning Authorities may want to place restrictions on development

in certain areas. However, they must be careful to ensure that Local Plans are aligned with the NPPF, which will give them limited options to be restrictive, particularly considering the requirements of the NPPF that development under the Local Plan must be economically viable.

Loss of detail

The Government has argued that the NPPF will provide more certainty to the planning process. This is doubtful as it is far less detailed than current guidance. Although the presumption in favour of sustainable development sounds simple, its meaning is highly debatable and will vary on a case by case basis.

The NPPF will require Local Planning Authorities to prepare and adopt compliant local plans, which will, no doubt, take a significant period of time. In the mean time, the cancellation of more detailed national planning policy will leave policy vacuums. Councils may try to retain their current approach to applications for this interim period, but they may find that their decisions are appealed or judicially reviewed much more frequently by unsuccessful applicants. Local Planning Authorities are required to maintain an evidence base for the policies in their local plans, and must keep local plans up to date and flexible to changing economic conditions. If this is not done or if policies are silent or indeterminate, then the NPPF will override local plan policies and permission must be granted unless the adverse impact of the development would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits. This is likely to be much more favourable to developers than current detailed local plans.

The NPPF anticipates that additional policy guidance may be required, and before long the Government may find that this is necessary to fill the holes in national policy and in order to minimise the number of appeals that may lead from the uncertainty created by the slimmed down policy guidance in the NPPF.

Neighbourhood Plans

The introduction of Neighbourhood Plans is clearly linked to the coalition's localism agenda. However, on reading the draft NPPF there is an internal conflict in the wording relating to how neighbourhood plans will be used; they must conform with the strategic goals of the local plan, but in the event of a conflict, neighbourhood plans will take precedence. Local communities will have a limited ability to approve more development in their area than the local plan envisages (which is unlikely to happen), but they will not be able to resist levels of strategic development that the local plan has assigned to their area. This is unlikely to be popular with communities, and it will be interesting to see what level of uptake there is for the development of neighbourhood plans.

The future of the NPPF

In light of the strong criticism of the NPPF, stakeholders in the planning process will be keen to see whether significant revisions are made to it before its final version is published, or whether what has been seen to date will remain on the whole unaltered. If unaltered, the NPPF would lead to a significantly different approach being taken to the consideration of development proposals by local authorities and may lead to a more bullish approach by developers while there remains a policy gap between local plans and core strategies, and national planning policy guidance.

Authors:

Christian Silk, Associate at TLT and Kate Langton, Clerk Awaiting Admission to the Roll

For more information please contact Christian Silk on 01 17 917 7580. Visit www.TLTsolicitors.com

The Jurassic Coast Pathfinder Project: Planning for Coastal Change

The Jurassic Coast Pathfinder Project recently published a report examining how local and national planning policy can support communities in adapting to coastal change building on adaptive solutions identified by communities on the Jurassic Coast themselves.



During a workshop held by the Jurassic Coast Pathfinder Project in late 2010 one local resident remarked to the project team that *'the sea has more time and energy than any government has money'* summing up in twelve words what had taken 35 minutes and several dozen PowerPoint slides for the project team to articulate earlier that evening. As that resident pointed out, coastal processes have shaped our coast and the communities that live on it and will continue to do so in the future regardless of man's intervention – change is inevitable.

Charmouth Heritage Coast
Centre



**The willingness
communities showed
to engage in discussion
about a highly emotive
issue like coastal
change**

If we accept change as inevitable, we must also accept that we can't defend everywhere from change through engineering and some communities will have to adapt to coastal change. We face increasingly tight constraints on public spending, a changing climate and realisation of the advantages of working with nature rather than against. It was growing recognition of these factors that prompted DEFRA to launch the Coastal Change Pathfinder project in 2009, awarding funding to fifteen local authorities in England to improve community engagement in planning for adaptation to coastal change.

As one of the fifteen Pathfinders the Jurassic Coast project focussed on six communities in Dorset and East Devon. All are currently defended from erosion in some way, but face a change in how their particular stretch of coast will be managed in future (North Swanage, Ringstead, Preston Beach Road in Weymouth, Seatown, Charmouth and Sidmouth). All of the communities, while very different in scale and the challenges coastal change poses to them, have one thing in common. If Shoreline Management Plan policy is implemented in the future coastal change will have significant impact on their physical, economic and social fabric.

The project set out to engage with stakeholders in those communities to identify how coastal change might impact on them in the future and how they could adapt to that change. The foundation of this engagement was a series of two scenario planning workshops held between Autumn 2010 and Spring 2011 in each of the six communities. These brought together a diverse group of stakeholders including local residents, elected members, spatial planners, statutory agencies and many others. Using a scenario describing a fictional catastrophic storm in the year 2038, workshop participants first identified how coastal change might impact on their community (positively as well as negatively) and options that could be pursued to minimise the negative impacts of change and maximise the opportunities. In a subsequent round of workshops participants prioritised the adaptation options and agreed actions for carrying them forward within their community. Adaptation options prioritised by the community included creating a coastal change forum for Swanage, relocating or replacing private and public buildings threatened by erosion and creating community resilience plans for dealing with the aftermath of severe storms and associated coastal change.

As well as generating a wealth of options for communities to adapt to coastal change the benefits of taking a collaborative approach to planning for the future through meaningful dialogue with communities was also brought home to the team. Throughout the process, both residents and statutory organisations were quick to comment on how positive they had found the experience of discussing issues face to face in the same room. Importantly, Pathfinder workshops provided a neutral setting where all stakeholders contributed to discussions on an equal footing so that all ideas could be aired and developed creatively. The willingness communities showed to engage in discussion about a highly emotive issue like coastal change illustrated an important wider lesson for policy makers and decision takers: *engage communities early on in planning and decision making without imposing pre-determined solutions and the chances of identifying options which communities feel they can support and own are greatly improved, even on contentious and challenging issues.*



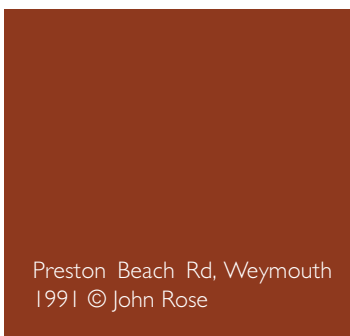
Pathfinder Project Workshop, Weymouth



So what about planning? The engagement carried out by the Pathfinder project has highlighted the key role the planning system has to play in supporting adaptation to coastal change and avoiding development in areas which will be at risk from change in the future. A considerable portion of the discussions held in each community focussed on replacement or relocation of dwellings and infrastructure to areas at less risk. In Dorset, this would often mean 'rolling back' into areas covered by protective designations. Questions cropped up time and again on the likelihood of securing planning permission to pursue such options and the importance of avoiding building new development in areas which will be at risk from erosion in the future was also widely recognised.

As that resident pointed out, coastal processes have shaped our coast and the communities that live on it and will continue to do so in the future regardless of man's intervention – change is inevitable.

However, research carried out by the Pathfinder project indicates that while there are some examples of good practice, coastal local authorities do not necessarily address coastal change as a key issue within local planning policy. The project commissioned Land Use Consultants to carry out an analysis of how and where coastal change can be addressed through planning policy at a national and local level. In North Norfolk, policies allowing for the replacement of development at risk from coastal change (including residential dwellings at risk within 20 years) with new buildings elsewhere in the district have been adopted. While the adoption of such a policy is by no means a 'cure all' for the challenges faced by coastal communities it is an example of how spatial planning can support communities in planning for change. The report includes some interesting recommendations on how central and local government can support communities in adapting to coastal change through planning policy.



Preston Beach Rd, Weymouth 1991 © John Rose



Planners have lots on their plates – even in coastal areas other issues can squeeze adaptation to coastal change off the agenda. Uncertainty over the national planning policy framework and neighbourhood planning leaves plenty of questions over how coastal change will be managed in the future. What is clear is that by recognising the challenges and opportunities coastal change will present to some communities now (even though they may seem remote) we can put in place policies which offer communities the chance to adapt and prevent us creating problems for the future by allowing development in areas at risk from change.

Land Use Consultants report is available to download from the Jurassic Coast Pathfinder Project website at www.jurassiccoast.com/pathfinder or by contacting the project team at r.lloyd@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Rupert Lloyd, Jurassic Coast Pathfinder Project Coordinator r.lloyd@dorsetcc.gov.uk
www.jurassiccoast.com/pathfinder

Celebrating student achievement at UWE



Photo: David and Nick (back row) present prizes to Julian, Karen, Giuseppe and Hesham (front row, left to right).

David Edmondson, senior vice chair, recently celebrated the success of UWE's undergraduate planning students at a ceremony held at Bristol Cathedral. In addition to meeting students, he also awarded prizes on behalf of the RTPI South West to the following students:

- **Karen van den Berg**, who was awarded for her outstanding performance on the Master of Planning programme;
- **Kevin Woodward**, who was awarded for his performance on the BA(Hons) Architecture and Planning programme, and;
- **Hesham Fekry and Giuseppe Cifaldi**, who were jointly awarded for their contribution to the planning profession based on the department's 'Agency Project'.

Julian Lowther received national commendation from the RTPI for being UWE's best undergraduate planning student.

Congratulations to all of our prize winners.

Nick Smith, Department of Planning and Architecture

All contributions for Branchout to:

Kath Haddrell or Helen Clarke, RTPI SW Co-ordinator

Contact details:

Email: Kath.Haddrell@infrastructure.gsi.gov.uk Tel (day): 07976 898360
Address for correspondence: Ground Floor, East Reach House, East Reach, Taunton.TA1 3EN.

Deadline for contributions will be 4th November 2011. The Royal Town Planning Institute is a registered charity in England and Wales
No 262865 Registered Office: 41 Botolph Lane, London EC3R 8DL.

DIARY DATES 2011-2012

Friday 14th October 2011 – RTPI SW Conference – **Housing in Areas of Constraint** - Venue: RNLI College, Poole. Cost £75+VAT for RTPI members, £85+VAT for non members. Special rates for full time students/retired/unwaged members.

Regen SW's Annual Conference and Trade Show - 9 November, Bath - Renewable Futures is established as one of the leading national sustainable energy events attended by more than 300 leading renewable energy businesses and organisations providing a key opportunity to gain market insights and do business.

Go to: <http://www.regen.co.uk/events/regen-sw-events-/renewable-futures->

PLEASE NOTE - FOR RTPI MEMBERS WISHING TO ATTEND, REGEN SW ARE OFFERING A 10% DISCOUNT. PLEASE USE THE CODE 'PARTNER' TO QUALIFY FOR THIS DISCOUNT

Friday 9th December 2011 – RTPI SW Conference – **Raising Design Standards** - Venue: The Guildhall, Bath Cost £75+VAT for RTPI members, £85+VAT for non members. Special rates for full time students/retired/unwaged members.

Friday 27th January 2012 – **Localism and Neighbourhood Planning** – Venue: The Watershed, Bristol. Cost £75+VAT for RTPI members, £85+VAT for non members. Special rates for full time students/retired/unwaged members.

Further details available from Helen Clarke, RTPI SW Coordinator; Tel 01823 250822 or email southwest@rtpi.org.uk

LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS - HELP PLEASE!!

Do you work for a local authority? If so, how did you receive this newsletter? Hopefully it was delivered to your office via the internal postal system. If this is not the case and it was delivered to your home, please contact me so I can arrange for future copies to be sent to your place of work. Just being able to distribute via our County Contacts saves the Region hundreds of pounds in postage each year!

Alternatively, why not sign up to only receive the newsletter electronically.

For either option, please contact me at southwest@rtpi.org.uk.

The RTPI SW wants to give its members the choice on how they receive this newsletter, but any assistance in tightening up costs and also my time in posting would be much appreciated.

Helen Clarke Regional Coordinator

RTPI SW present cheque to Cruse Bereavement – Exeter Branch



£802 was raised for the local branch of Cruse



David Haddrell

At the Annual Dinner on the 1st July, a tremendous £802 was raised for the local branch of Cruse. The charity was chosen by me, in memory of my brother, David, who died five years ago, aged 27, in an accident on the A38 in Devon.

Cruse is not one of the big or "popular" charities, and they struggle to raise funds in the branches, yet bereavement is something that we all have to deal with at some point and it can be devastating and debilitating. David's fiancée has now trained as a Cruse counsellor and it shocked me at least that she had to pay £350 for her own training. I know that she gets so much from helping other people, as she was helped after David died, and that the money we have raised will help people in the Exeter area through some of the darkest days of their lives.

On behalf of Cruse, thank you very much. Kath Haddrell Editor