

**RTPI SCOTLAND**

**ANNUAL REPORT : 2011**



**RTPI**

mediation of space · making of place

# Creating great places for people



**DAVID SUTTIE**  
CONVENOR  
OF RTPi  
SCOTLAND  
2011



## INTRODUCTION BY DAVID SUTTIE, CONVENOR, RTPi SCOTLAND

This was a busy year for RTPi Scotland. A new office, a new Convenor, a new Scottish Director and new Chief Executive in London. And then a new Parliament, a new Government and a new Minister for Planning. However, rather than distract RTPi Scotland from its aim to support people and organisations to create great places for people across Scotland, it has galvanised us to develop our work in:

- leading thinking on approaches that support planning.
- developing skills and knowledge required to ensure planning delivers great places.
- brokering dialogue and action across the range of players involved in planning.

This Annual Report sets out what we have done in 2011. I trust that it will show the range and level of activity taken forward by RTPi members and staff and how we are promoting the art and science of town planning to policy makers and influencers; how we are supporting our members to keep up-to-date with, and respond to issues; and how we are working to develop the planning system so that it is seen and used as a tool to create great places for people.

We would welcome any feedback you have by emailing us on [scotland@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:scotland@rtpi.org.uk)

**David Suttie**  
Convenor, RTPi Scotland 2011

# LEADING

Throughout 2011 RTPi Scotland has attempted to lead thinking on planning issues through providing opinion, identifying and promoting innovation and by gathering and sharing information. In doing this we:



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# THINKING

- published our first ever Manifesto for the Scottish Parliament Elections in May called *Shaping the Future of Scotland: A planning system to support sustainable change*. This was sent to all MSPs and other key stakeholders and outlined the four cornerstones for good planning: to ensure that the planning system has a central role in providing visionary, integrated, cost saving and democratic approaches to shaping the future of Scotland; to support the planning system to play a key role in helping to deliver outcomes such as sustainable development, economic growth and successful places; to provide the right framework for planning at national, regional, local and community levels to help deliver sustainable change; and to provide adequate resources to deliver good planning and to ensure that we have an effective workforce now and in the future. Hustings were held in Aberdeen by our Grampian Chapter and in Edinburgh by our Edinburgh, Lothian, Borders and Fife Chapter and Scottish Young Planners Network, in conjunction with Built Environment Forum Scotland.
- organised three Convenor's Colloquium Discussion Dinners, thanks to sponsorship from Halcrow. These looked at *Creating Great Places in Difficult Times* focussing on vision and value; delivery and resources; and skills and knowledge. Three Briefing Papers have been published setting out the key ideas generated from these discussions.
- met and discussed planning issues with the following MSPs: Richard Baker, Marco Biagi, Rhoda Grant, Patrick Harvie, Alison Johnstone, Lewis Macdonald, David McLetchie, Michael McMahon and Drew Smith.
- responded to ten consultation exercises covering the *Scottish Social Housing Charter*; *Managing Change in Historic Environment Works on Scheduled Ancient Monuments*; *Inventory of Historic Battlefields*; *Draft National Strategy for Housing for Older People*; *Non-domestic Elements of the General Permitted Development Order*; *Historic Environment Amendment Scotland Act*; *National Marine Plan pre consultation draft*; *Building a Sustainable Future: Regeneration Discussion Paper*; *Compulsory Purchase*; and the *Land Use Strategy*.
- published ten Briefing Papers to provide information on key issues to RTPI members, MSPs, policy makers and others interested in planning. These have covered planning and enterprise areas; regeneration; the Scottish Government spending review; community engagement in planning; the political parties views on planning; the value of place making to the Scottish economy; the Audit Scotland Report on modernising the planning system; and how to create great places in difficult times.
- met with Aileen Campbell MSP, Minister for Local Government and Planning and with Fergus Ewing MSP, Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism.
- discussed planning issues with key organisations including Scottish Government, Department of Planning and Environmental Appeals, Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Scotland, Built Environment Forum Scotland, Architecture + Design Scotland, Homes for Scotland, Key Agencies Group, Scottish Property Federation, Improvement Service, RSPB Scotland, Scottish Renewables, Historic Scotland, COSLA, Planning Aid for Scotland, Age Concern Scotland and Scottish Enterprise.
- provided oral evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Local Government and Regeneration Committee on planning issues.
- Contributed to various working and advisory groups including Audit Scotland Review of the Planning System; The Scottish Biodiversity Forum; Scottish Government Compulsory Purchase; Scottish Government Local Review Bodies Forum; Heads of Planning Executive Committee and Management and Development Sub Group; Built Environment Forum Scotland Board of Directors; Planning Aid for Scotland Board of Directors; 2020 Climate Change Group Built Environment Sub Group; Construction Industry Council, and Asset Skills Scotland Further and Higher Education Group.

## RTPI FACT

PUBLISHED TEN BRIEFING PAPERS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON KEY ISSUES TO RTPI MEMBERS, MSPS, POLICY MAKERS AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN PLANNING.

Aileen Campbell MSP, Minister for Local Government and Planning with David Suttie, Convenor, RTPI Scotland.

# DEVELOPING SKILLS A

In 2011 RTPI Scotland aimed to develop skills and knowledge by increasing CPD for members and by developing and sharing learning resources.

This led to:

• our Chapter network organising over thirty free or low cost events for members across Scotland:

- > **Grampian Chapter** organised a seminar on Timber in Construction; an Election Hustings; a seminar on Marine Planning (in conjunction with Scottish Natural Heritage); a study visit to see Fraserburgh's regeneration; a seminar on Development Economics; an Audience with the Chief Planner; a seminar on the Right Tree in the Right Place; a networking event; and an AGM/Quiz Night.
- > **West of Scotland Chapter** organised seminars on "Is there a Housing Crisis?"; the Zero Waste Strategy; Charrettes and Place Making; the Glasgow School of Art Redevelopment; Local Development Plans – a spotlight on engagement; and "A Tale of Two Charters – Neilston and Freiburg". It also organised visits to Glasgow Airport to discuss its new masterplan and to Whitelee Wind Farm as well as a walking tour as part of Doors Open Day and an AGM and networking event.

## RTPI FACT

THROUGH RTPI SCOTLAND, OUR CHAPTERS AND THE SCOTTISH YOUNG PLANNERS NETWORK, OVER 50 EVENTS HAVE BEEN ORGANISED FOR MEMBERS ACROSS SCOTLAND. THE LARGE MAJORITY OF THESE WERE FREE TO ATTEND.

> **Edinburgh, Lothian, Borders and Fife Chapter** organised events including an Election Hustings; a seminar on the Leadership Role of Planning (in conjunction with Architecture + Design Scotland); a seminar on Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing Contributions (with DLA Piper); a seminar on the Edinburgh Main Issues Report; a seminar on Heritage and Planning; a networking event; and an AGM.

> **Dumfries and Galloway Chapter** organised events on the Technical and Landscape Issues on Small Wind Turbines; an Update on the Small Communities Housing Trust; a seminar on Prestwick Airport and Implications for Radar and Safety of Wind Turbines; a seminar on Making Planning Local and Distinctive – Effective Community Consultation; a visit to Stevenscroft Biomass Power Station at Lockerbie; a seminar on Masterplanning – How to Assess the Quality; a seminar on Creating Public Places to Enjoy – using examples including Stranraer Waterfront; and a seminar on Canonbie passive solar housing scheme; and an AGM and Networking event.

> **East of Scotland Chapter** organised events including a Local Development Plan Update in Perth; a visit to Seabraes Yards in Dundee; three member workshops in Perth, Dundee and Forfar; a seminar on the Forth Road Bridge Act in Dundee; a visit to Binn Farm Recycling Centre in Perthshire; and an AGM.

• the Scottish Young Planners Network supporting young planners to learn more about planning issues through organising a series of CPD events. These included Planning Law Question Time with Brodies in Edinburgh; a Parliamentary Hustings in Edinburgh; a seminar on Legislation and Planning Obligations with Morton Fraser in Edinburgh; a Summer Networking event in Edinburgh; Question Time with the Chief Planner in Glasgow; a Network Event with Young Lawyers and RICS in Glasgow; a seminar on Huntly Flood Alleviation Scheme with Institute of Civil Engineering in Glasgow; and a seminar on Compulsory Purchase and legal challenges with Sheppard and Wedderburn in Edinburgh.

• the Scottish Young Planners Network organising their Annual Conference *Scotland's Coastline – A New Beginning?* This was attended by around 100 people and held in Edinburgh. This was sponsored by Scottish Government and supported by Halcrow, Irvine Bay Urban Regeneration Company, the Crown Estate and the Improvement Service.

• the Scottish Young Planners Network supporting their peers to advance their careers and promoting issues facing young planners through organising APC workshops in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen; giving presentations to all planning schools; discussing issues

# ND KNOWLEDGE

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**RTPi Scotland's Annual Conference on Planning Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth.**

with Heads of Planning Scotland; and meeting with the Planning Minister.

- organising the RTPi Scotland Annual Conference which looked at *Planning – Supporting Sustainable Change* and featured presentations from Aileen Campbell, Minister for Local Government and Planning and Alex Linkston of the Commission on the Future of Public Services. The conference was held in Glasgow and was attended by around 120 people. It was sponsored by Barton Willmore, Brodies LLP and Scottish Government.
- holding the Annual Sir Patrick Geddes Commemorative Lecture in Edinburgh on *Food and Cities*. This was given by Carolyn Steel, author of the book *Hungry Cities* and was attended by around 120 people. This was sponsored by Architecture + Design Scotland, Scottish Government and Scottish Natural Heritage.
- supporting Planning Aid for Scotland through grant funding to help them undertake their important work supporting communities to engage with the planning system.
- supporting Built Environment Forum Scotland through grant funding to enable them to bring together the key interest from across the sector to exchange ideas, discuss issues and promote the importance and value of the built environment.

- organising, in partnership with Biggart Baillie LLP and Halcrow, two breakfast masterclasses in Glasgow and Edinburgh looking at delivering development.
- working in partnership with a range of organisations to hold events. Including the Annual Holyrood Planning Conference in Edinburgh; the Academy of Urbanism Annual Congress in Glasgow; the Scottish Renewables Annual Planning conference in Edinburgh; and the Architecture + Design Scotland Skills Design Symposium in Stirling.
- organising - in partnership with Homes for Scotland, the Improvement Service and DLA Piper - a new event called Planning Interchange which brought together housebuilders, developers and local authorities to look at development economics. This was held in Edinburgh.
- supporting the Scottish Government to organise the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning.
- supporting RSPB Scotland to launch and organise the new Nature of Scotland awards, including an award on sustainable development.
- working with the Improvement Service to develop sustainable approaches to future CPD provision in Scotland.

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**Sandy Telfer of DLA Piper speaks at the first Planning Interchange event.**

# BROKERING DIALOGUE AND ACTION

In 2011 RTPI Scotland aimed to **broker dialogue and action** across the range of players involved in planning. We have done this through:

- bringing together training providers, academia, employers and practitioners to identify approaches to education and skills development through convening the Scottish Planning Education Forum
- drawing up proposals for a new Scottish Forum for Planning to bring together key national bodies to provide an ongoing vision and direction for planning in Scotland through identifying, constructively responding to, and exploring new ways of tackling, emerging issues in planning.
- supporting (along with the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland) the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Architecture and the Built Environment. Three meetings were held in the year including an AGM and events on Delivering Better Places and on Community Engagement in Planning – Is it working? These are an opportunity for practitioners to discuss issues with MSPs.
- supporting the Scottish Planning Consultants Forum which held three meetings in 2011.
- holding four Scottish Executive Committee Meetings and five meetings of its two sub committees on planning policy and communications.
- working with RTPI's General Assembly to agree that Scotland is now to have a designated representative on the RTPI's Board of Trustees.
- working with RTPI colleagues in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to improve approaches to comparing and contrasting approaches to planning across the four nations.

© Image courtesy RTPI Scotland



The launch of the RTPI Scotland manifesto for the Scottish Election.

© Image courtesy RTPI Scotland



Scottish Young Planners Network Group.

## RTPI FACT

RTPI SCOTLAND SUPPORTS THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT CROSS PARTY GROUP ON ARCHITECTURE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT TO BRING TOGETHER PRACTITIONERS AND MSPS TO DISCUSS ISSUES.

# COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA



Underpinning RTPI Scotland's work in 2011 has been a drive to improve our communications. Given this we have:

- published 6 editions of Scottishplanner. This year issues focussed on regeneration, housing, environment, sustainable economic growth; place making and design and climate change. Scottishplanner is sponsored by Biggart Baillie LLP and Halcrow. This is sent to all RTPI members in Scotland as well as key stakeholders including MSPs and Planning Committee Convenors.
- developed our website to provide more up-to-date information on our work, events and publications.
- established a new Twitter account @RTPIScotland, which has now has over 430 followers.
- set up RTPI Scotland and Scottish Young Planners Network pages on Linked In to allow members to discuss issues, promote events and share ideas. Over 220 people have joined these.
- issued seven press releases and obtained media coverage in the Scotsman, The Herald, Holyrood magazine, Edinburgh Evening News and other local newspapers.

## THE TEAM

The RTPI Scotland is run by the Scottish Executive Committee, who are:

David Suttie, **Convenor**  
Bob Reid, **Senior Vice Convenor**  
Julia Frost, **Junior Vice Convenor**  
Ian Angus, **Immediate Past Convenor**  
Rick Finc  
Allan Garvie  
Sue Hudson  
Iain Hynd  
Roger Kelly  
Jim Kirkwood  
Alistair MacDonald  
Malcolm Macleod  
Zoe McClelland  
Nikola Miller

Peter Noad  
Alan Seath  
Alistair Stark  
Andrew Trigger  
Charles Tibbles



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They are supported by RTPI Scotland staff:

Craig McLaren, **National Director**  
Annette O'Donnell, **Office Manager**  
Joanna Stewart (**until March**), **Information Coordinator**  
Charles Strang, **Scottish Planning Policy Officer**



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## RTPI SCOTLAND

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## Royal Town Planning Institute

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) is the champion of planning and the planning profession. We work to promote the art and science of planning for the public benefit. We have around 2,200 members in Scotland and a worldwide membership of nearly 23,000.

### We:

- support policy development to improve approaches to planning for the benefit of the public
- maintain the professional standards of our members
- support our members, and therefore the majority of the planning workforce, to have the skills and knowledge they need to deliver planning effectively
- maintain high standards of planning education
- develop and promote new thinking, ideas and approaches which can improve planning
- support our membership to work with others who have a role in developing places in Scotland
- improve the understanding of planning and the planning system to policy makers, politicians, practitioners and the general public.

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