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The voice of RTPI Cymru

# CYNLLUNIO

Winter 2011 Edition

## Wales Planning Award 2011: Porth Teigr



### **INSIDE** this edition of Cynllunio:

RTPI Cymru Awards · Annual Review · Legal Updates  
Policy & Research News · Events · Cardiff Design Festival  
Local Development Plans · University News  
Young Planners · much, much more

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**Front Cover: Porth Teigr, Cardiff, Wales Planning Award Winner 2011**

*Printed by Icomworks on recycled silk paper*

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## Welcome to the winter edition

A year ago we reported that the profession in Wales had little appetite for major change to the planning system in Wales, other than for some touch-ups here and there through amendments and improvements. This was the view given at the two autumn debates we held in 2010. But this year we find ourselves promoting an invitation to submit evidence to improve the planning system with the potential for legislative changes as well.

This isn't necessarily a negative situation; sometimes it can be refreshing to have a wholesale look at what's going on. Details of this are on page 4, along with a series of events RTPI Cymru is holding to provide a conduit for the profession to come together to discuss the issues.

It's the end of year, almost, and a time of change. We welcome in a new Chair - Chris Potts of Savills - who I am looking forward to working with; Chris has already provided many new ideas and enthusiasm to RTPI Cymru.

Anna Prescott will stand down as Chair. Anna has been a fantastic Chair and has also brought a fresh view to the role. Anna has been a pleasure to work with and I wish her well in her new career. She will be a loss to planning (see page 3);

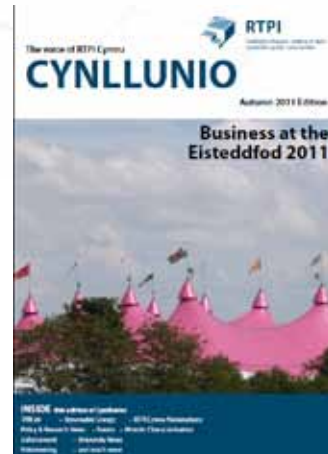
but it is good to know that there will be a planning mind working in the financial sector!

It is also Awards time. We had an excellent level and quality of entries to the Wales Planning Award this year. It is always good to see the judges challenged. Congratulations to the winner - Porth Teigr - and the Highly Commended and Commended Schemes, details of which are on pages 9 and 10. Congratulations also to all of the entries; there is a great deal of positive planning taking place in Wales and it is important that we shout about it.

Our report of the activities that have taken place during 2011 by RTPI Cymru are also contained in this edition. It's only when you compile this report that you realise how much goes on and how many of you are involved. A big thank you to everyone that volunteers for the RTPI, even in a small way.

I would also like to say thank you to the sponsors and supporters we have had during the year. This support enables us to reduce the costs of events and provide more.

A great deal of momentum is already building for 2012, and a number of events are already in the diary. The RTPI Cymru Policy and Research Forum has been



*Cynllunio, Autumn 2011*

proactive and is setting up a series of cross-border events, starting with one on water in February. The aim of this is to exchange experience with colleagues who work in neighbouring parts of England on common issues. Despite it being in Bristol, I hope that many of you will be able to support it and our other events. So it just leaves me to wish you a happy Christmas and a flourishing 2012.

Roisin Willmott  
Editor

## Contributing to Cynllunio

Contributions are welcome from RTPI members and others on a wide range of topics and in a variety of different forms:

- Conference announcements
- Reports on conferences
- Critical thought pieces
- Updates on policy in Wales
- Recent project successes
- Humorous items
- Images, photographs

### Croesawn erthyglau yn y Gymraeg.

The copy deadlines for the next 3 quarterly issues of Cynllunio are:

- Thursday 26th January 2012
- Thursday 18th May 2012
- Thursday 16th August 2012

If you want to make contributions to the newsletter then get in touch on 029 2047 3923 or email: [roisin.willmott@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:roisin.willmott@rtpi.org.uk).

## Advertising

Cynllunio is distributed to all RTPI members in Wales and also to Chairs of Planning Committees, Assembly Government Ministers with a relevant portfolio and other key organisations, and therefore provides an excellent way of reaching the wider planning community across Wales. Circulation is currently approximately 1,150 each quarter, plus editions are available more widely on our website.

Current advertising rates are (excl. VAT):

Back page: Full - £300; half - £250

Internal: Full - £250; half - £200; 1/4 - £125

Discounts are available for multiple editions.

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## Chris Potts - Incoming RTPI Cymru Chair

*Chris Potts takes up the Chair of RTPI Cymru in December and here he looks forward to the priorities for Wales and planning*

The macro issues of deficit reduction and economic growth will continue to drive the planning agenda throughout 2012.

The pressure on public sector finance is manifesting itself with cuts in resourcing at all levels of government (local, regional, national) and the need to identify additional ways of generating income (such as pre-application charges, CIL, S106). The full effects of the budget adjustments are yet to be felt fully but it is clear that the financial pressures on local authorities will be the norm for the next few years. We will also see greater collaboration across services by councils and an increase in the amount of out-sourcing.

In terms of driving economic growth then the planning system has

always played a key role through the management of development weighing carefully the pressures of encouraging sustainable development whilst protecting the environment. Within Wales these challenges have the further complexity of typically slow recovering land values (which is important to stimulate development), increased vacancy of buildings depressing rental and investment values and major local government elections in May 2012 creating uncertainty in some areas.

Wales has an advantage of a devolved administration which allows for innovative and speedier changes to be brought forward, and the additional law-making powers have now extended to planning and work is progressing on the new Planning Bill, for which we will see a White Paper in 2012. It must be hoped that progress

on the Bill is swift, as the history of planning legislation has often seemed glacial.

Planners have an important (if often undervalued) role in tackling the fallout of economic decline (such as the schemes emerging at Coed Darcy and Llanwern on former heavy industrial sites) and forward planning to create the framework for jobs and homes. It is important that the public and politicians recognise these achievements and the RTPI has a stronger focus on highlighting these strengths.

Finally, I would like to thank Anna Prescott for her contribution as Chair of RTPI Cymru in 2011. Many of you will recall that her theme for 2011 was 'Economic Renewal' and it is probably fair to say that this is likely to be the dominant topic for the next few years also.



*Above: Chris Potts, incoming RTPI Cymru Chair*

*Chris is Director at Savills and will become RTPI Cymru Chair at the AGM on 2nd December.*

## 2011 – My Year as Chair

*Anna Prescott reports back on the highlights of her year as Chair of RTPI Cymru*



*Above: Anna Prescott, outgoing RTPI Cymru Chair*

It's been quite a year for planning in Wales, with the formation of a new government and John Griffiths taking over as the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development. Against this background, the economy still remains disappointingly fragile and

so it is important as ever that planning can help deliver economic prosperity in Wales. This was very much the theme of the RTPI Cymru Spring Conference in Llandudno, which was a thoroughly interesting and thought-provoking event and included a wide range of speakers. It was also ably chaired by RTPI President Richard Summers, as part of his visit to Wales. The President's visit continued the next day with a trip to see the impressive results of the Dolgellau Townscape Heritage Initiative, where we were warmly welcomed by Snowdonia National Park planners.

A few months later, the Annual Conference in Cardiff was attended by the highest ever number of paying delegates. That was certainly no small feat in this economy and is testimony to Roisin's continuous hard work and

organisational skills! The day was a fantastic success and certainly, one of the highlights of my year was the new Minister's first official speech in his new role. It was heartening to hear John Griffiths's recognition of the importance of planning, which was reconfirmed when Roisin, Richard Summers and I held a meeting with him shortly after.

Turning to employment in the profession, it's clear that conditions are still challenging and I would like to express my thanks to Huw Thomas at Cardiff University and Roisin for setting up a short-term work placement scheme during the summer for planning graduates living in Wales. Whilst the pilot was small in size, the employees and employers who participated all found it a positive and very useful experience, and I am delighted that it will be rolled forward to next year.

Speaking of 2012, I wish all the best of luck to Chris Potts as he takes over as Chair – I'm sure he'll do a brilliant job. From a personal point of view, sadly, my involvement with RTPI Cymru will reduce as I have recently taken up an opportunity in the financial sector which I just couldn't refuse. I have greatly enjoyed the last few years as a member of the Planning Policy and Research Forum and then the Management Board and would like to thank you all for making the planning profession in Wales so welcoming.

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

# Towards a Welsh Planning Act: Ensuring the Planning System Delivers

## An independent review supported by the Welsh Government

The Welsh Government is in the process of reviewing its planning system to ensure it is much more focussed on delivery. As part of the evidence base for the Planning Bill, an Independent Advisory Group has been set up to review and consider the options around how best to deliver the planning system in the future.

The Environment Minister, John Griffiths announced the membership of this group in October.

The group, chaired by former Welsh Director of the Planning Inspectorate John Davies MBE, is made up from representatives covering a wide variety of planning backgrounds, including environmental groups, the construction industry, local government and planning law.

The group will look at, and make recommendations to the Welsh Government about options for future delivery of the planning system and will set out a preferred approach. This will include the legislation and policy guidance necessary to introduce the options and preferred approach, an assessment of the resources needed to deliver this and a focus on improvements that can be implemented quickly and easily.

A Call for Evidence was issued in November, inviting responses, suggestions and evidence related to specific questions on the planning system and its delivery in Wales. These include:

- The key policy objectives that the planning system should deliver;
- How to deliver the

planning system most effectively, and how to measure this;

- The current delivery mechanisms and institutional arrangements; and
- Any relevant evidence, good practice or other examples from Wales, the UK or abroad.

The Call for Evidence and information on the review can be found on the web site: [www.wales.gov.uk/planningreview](http://www.wales.gov.uk/planningreview)

## Discussion Workshops for RTPI Members

To develop RTPI Cymru's submission to the call for evidence for the White Paper, we are organising discussion workshops to gather views from members:

- Monday 12th December, Temple of Peace, **Cardiff**, 2pm to 4.30pm
- Tuesday 13th December, Carmarthen Leisure Centre, **Carmarthen**, 2pm to 4.30pm
- Wednesday 14th December, Glyndwr University, **Wrexham**, 2pm to 4.30pm

They are free for RTPI members to attend, but places must be booked in advance. Please e-mail: [wales@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:wales@rtpi.org.uk) to reserve a place.

RTPI Cymru is grateful to the North Wales Chapter for co-organising the north Wales event; & Carmarthenshire CC for co-organising the West Wales event.

## Peter Burley Appointed as Chief Inspector



Above: Peter Burley

Peter Burley, who took over as Planning Inspectorate Director for Wales in April has been named as the Chief Planning Inspector for England and Wales, as part of the impending merger of PINS and the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC).

Peter will take up his new post in April 2012 when PINS and the IPC are due to merge under the Localism Bill. He will report to PINS Chief Executive, Sir Michael Pitt.

As Chief Inspector, Peter's role will be to provide

professional leadership, direction and management of the integrated team of inspectors and commissioners, as well as serving on the PINS' Management Board.

Peter is a chartered planner and a landscape architect. He said that his key priority will be to ensure that inspectors are well equipped to meet the changing demands of the role while maintaining the highest standards in casework quality.

"We need to embrace innovative and value for money ways of improving the service we provide which both addresses the needs of our customers and enhances the reputation of the Inspectorate."

In the eight months that Peter has been at the helm of PINS in Wales he has been keen to get involved and has spoken for RTPI Cymru at a number

of events, including the Wales Planning Conference in June and also facilitating events for planning consultants in Cardiff and Llandudno Junction this autumn.

Whilst it will be a loss for Wales, it is still positive that Peter will have a continued role in Wales in his new position.

RTPI Cymru wishes Peter every success and looks forward to seeing him in Wales in the future.

At the time of going to print, no announcement had been made on Peter's successor in Wales. However, we understand the intention is to appoint someone in advance of Peter taking up his new role in April next year.

# Planning Inspectorate LDP Advisory Meetings

Progress by LPAs in the preparation of their LDPs continues to gather pace. Five LDPs have now been adopted across Wales; Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Caerphilly, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Snowdonia National Park and Merthyr Tydfil. Denbighshire and Wrexham have recently submitted their Plans for examination, whilst Brecon Beacons National Park and Ceredigion are expected to submit before the end of 2011. A further six LPAs are likely to submit their Plans in early 2012.

To build on experience gained from the examinations to date, the Planning Inspectorate has initiated a series of Advisory Meetings with LPAs nearing submission. The purpose of the Advisory Meeting is to review an Authority's progress in preparing to submit its Plan for independent examination and to advise on the procedural aspects of the examination. The meeting is not used to examine evidence or to comment on the detail of the Plan. Meetings and workshops have also been held with other participants in the process to discuss their engagement in the LDP examination.

The Key Messages to emerge from the Advisory Meetings to date are:

- The Consultation Report needs to analyse the main issues raised through the representations received. To assist the examination process the Report should be logically formatted to reflect the content of the Plan and should focus on the main issues raised concerning the Plan's soundness. Under each issue or matter considered the Report should identify the relevant representations and summarise the matters raised. The report should respond to the issues raised,
- referring to the relevant evidence which forms the basis of the LPA's position and concluding on whether a change to the Plan is necessary in order to make it sound. The Regulations also require the LPA's response to each individual representation; these should be included as an appendix to the Consultation Report. This represents a practical way of satisfying the Regulations whilst providing the information needed by the Inspector.
- Post-deposit Focused Changes (FCs) to the Plan should be kept to a minimum and should only be made where necessary in order to achieve a sound plan. They may arise either as a result of issues and evidence raised by representations to the Plan or as a response to a major change in circumstances, available evidence or policy. The process of introducing FCs to the Plan needs to be kept as simple and as clear as possible. An FC should also identify any consequential changes which flow from the FC itself. All FCs decided upon by the Authority should be advertised by the time of Plan submission. Any proposed change altering the substance of the Plan, including how its policies may be applied and interpreted, will require advertisement.
- The LDP evidence base should focus on the key material supporting the Plan's content. It is important that the submitted material is organised around the issues/topics/matters dealt with in the Plan and coherently structured and signposted; there should be a clear audit trail of how a particular area of the Plan's content has been

arrived at. Statements of common ground or agreed position statements can be a very useful part of the submitted evidence. Agreed statements concerning cross-border issues, issues involving statutory agencies, infrastructure funding/programming and delivery of key sites should be utilised where they would usefully form part of the evidence base. Such statements can reduce the range of matters needing to be explored and help to focus discussions at hearing sessions.

- Delivery of the Plan's strategy is a key element of Plan soundness. The LPA will need to demonstrate that the Plan can deliver on its aims and objectives. In terms of site allocations it will need to demonstrate that there are no obstacles to delivery or, if there are obstacles, that they can be overcome. Although not a requirement, housing trajectory analysis may be useful in demonstrating deliverability, particularly when delivering the strategy over time is linked to infrastructure issues.
- The main considerations in relation to housing Site Allocations will concern the soundness of the Plan strategy, whether the housing proposals reflect the strategy and whether the sites are likely to be delivered as required. Issues may include the level/mix of housing proposed, its spatial distribution, the site selection process and deliverability. If other sites are needed to make the Plan sound, submitted alternatives can only be considered if they have had appropriate sustainability appraisal.
- The Plan will have been submitted on the basis that the LPA considers it sound. Nonetheless,

LPAs should give advance thought to possible contingency measures, particularly in case the Inspector identifies a need for additional site allocations. In such cases the Inspector is likely to seek the LPA's view first on the best way to make the additional provision needed. Any such contingency sites should have gone through a proper process of consideration, including SA and the opportunity for people to have commented at an earlier stage as to their suitability for inclusion in the Plan.

- The Monitoring Framework should be 'SMART' with appropriate trigger levels to enable need for a full or partial Plan review to be considered. Dates set out in the framework will need to provide enough time to pass for the effectiveness of the Plan to be assessed, yet not left so late in the Plan period as to make any response too late to be effective. Monitoring should be kept manageable by using readily available data and should not be so prescriptive as to drive a review every time data is collected.

Notes of the individual Advisory Meetings are available at: [www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/planningsystem/localplans](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/planningsystem/localplans)

A meeting with statutory agencies took place on 23 September 2011 and workshops involving representatives of the private sector took place on 10 November 2011 in North Wales and 24 November 2011 in South Wales. Notes of these meetings are also available on the planning portal and an article about them will follow in the Spring 2012 edition of Cynllunio.

# Reviewing TAN 21 – An Opportunity not to be Wasted

Dr Hazel Nash discusses the review of TAN 21



Land use planning policy on waste in Wales is being reviewed. This has been brought about by recent and ongoing developments in waste management law and policy which seek to create a high level recycling society based upon best environmental options. Planning policy plays a key role in delivering sustainable waste management by providing guidance to Local Planning Authorities (LPA) on what they need to plan for in their overall strategies and how they can do this in a way that facilitates the right waste management infrastructure in the right place and at the right time.

The introduction in June 2010 of Wales' high level waste strategy document, entitled 'Towards Zero Waste - One Wales: One Planet' (TZW) sets out a long term framework for resource efficiency and waste management up until 2050. It is supported by a suite of sector plans which, taken as a whole, will provide the detailed delivery actions and implementation requirements<sup>1</sup> for the strategy. These new national policy measures, together with the consolidated and strengthened Revised Waste Framework Directive (Directive 2008/98/EC on waste) and the transposing Regulation for England and Wales (The Waste (England and Wales) Regulation 2011,

SI 2011/988) form the drivers for planning policy change in relation to waste.

Underpinning the spatial planning element of waste management is a long-standing EU level obligation to draw up waste management plans. These plans, under Article 28 RWFD, should provide information on waste arising and seek to map infrastructure to gauge the type, capacity and location of future waste infrastructure needs. The purpose of these plans is to facilitate the establishment of an 'integrated and adequate network' of waste disposal and recovery installations which is designed in such a way that (i) waste arising in Wales is treated and captured as a resource in Wales (supporting the drive towards self-sufficiency) and (ii) enables waste to be treated as close as possible to where it arises (realising the principle of proximity) (Article 16).

Waste management plans in Wales are currently comprised of: TZW, the suite of sector plans, Wise About Waste (in respect of policies, targets and actions that are still ongoing and have not been superseded by TZW), TAN 21 (Waste), the Regional Waste Plans (RWPs) for North, South East and South West Wales, and Unitary or Local Development Plans (LDP). Development plans have an important role in delivering the EU requirements in relation to waste management. They provide the spatial allocation for waste facilities within an area. This allocation relies upon regional apportionment currently contained in Regional Waste Plans which are then taken through by each LPA.

TAN 21 provides the guidance on how land use planning contributes to sustainable waste management, sets out the role of RWPs and must dovetail with other policies, including the evolving waste sector plans. The importance of setting out spatial specifications in

waste management plans has been confirmed by the Court of Justice of the European Union in the judgements of *Tillieut* and *Biffa* where the court determined that precise locations of future waste installations must be marked on a geographical map or determined by location criteria which is 'sufficiently precise' to enable competent authorities to decide whether the site or proposed installation falls within the management framework prescribed by the waste management plan.

TZW and, in particular, the Collection, Infrastructure and Market sector (CIMS) plan provide the strategic context for waste management and infrastructure. The CIMS plan contains the strategic assessment of infrastructure provision for priority materials as well as details on collection and market development mechanisms. The CIMS plan will guide the planning contribution to the overall waste management plan and enable LDPs to play their role as part of the waste management plan. The new priorities and targets for waste mean that we need to consider how planning policy can reflect and interact with these new policy drivers in a way that secures delivery of these objectives whilst ensuring compliance with our European obligations.

Building up a picture of what facilities are needed and where is crucial to allow policy to guide LPAs on what they need to plan for and how they factor waste into their overall planning strategies. Whilst land cannot be safeguarded, it is crucial that the need to accommodate waste is factored into planning strategies. The strategic assessment of need for infrastructure to cater for various materials will have to be capable of being translated into the planning process. Together, the CIMS plan and TAN 21 will need to provide a consistent approach and

be capable of fulfilling the obligations of the RWFD and the transposing national legislation.

Sector plans are still very much evolving<sup>2</sup> and the Welsh Government's Planning Policy Branch of the Planning Division has been working closely with a number of the Waste Sector Teams to ensure that in the preparation of plans and in individual planning decisions waste management priorities and needs are taken into account in ways which reflect the approaches taken in TZW and the CIMS plan whilst simultaneously ensuring compliance with EU obligations. Ultimately, the outcome of the CIMS plan will have an influence on the planning response.

The forthcoming revision of TAN21 will consider the implications of the transition towards the new waste management goals and the relationships between the CIMS plan, RWPs and the development plan process. It must (i) dovetail with waste policies, (ii) reflect the high level objectives in TZW, (iii) comply with EU obligations including Articles 1, 4, 16 and 28 of the RWFD and (iv) provide detailed information for day-to-day decision-making both on preferred waste management infrastructure and technologies and their likely appropriate sites. There are a number of possible options available in terms of providing a sufficient steer to the planning system on apportionment and type of need. It appears from the consultation of the CIMS Plan that any regional apportionment of need is likely to be addressed in the review of TAN 21, whether RWPs and sub-regional apportionment led by LPAs will be taken forward remains to be seen. What is clear however is that the Welsh Government is keen to ensure that LPAs engage

## Access Required Site Visit (ARSV) pilot in Wales

in the process in a way similar to that afforded by the present system.

Until the sector plans are finalised, the current planning policy framework remains the relevant guidance to be considered in the preparation of local development and in the determination of planning applications.

<sup>1</sup>These sector plans include the collection, infrastructure and markets sector plan, the municipal waste sector plan, the commercial and industrial sector plan, the construction and demolition sector plan, the wholesale and retail sector plan and the public sector plan.

<sup>2</sup> Consultation on the Draft Collections, Infrastructure and Markets sector plan closed in June 2011

Introduced as part of the Householder Appeals Service (HAS) pilot, an ARSV is a site visit where the Inspector needs to view a potential development from private land, but only requires someone to be present in order to give them access to the site. In such cases the Inspector is met at the appeal site solely by the appellant (or their representative). The appellant is only present to allow the Inspector access to the site. The Local Planning Authority (LPA) does not send a representative to an ARSV. The appellant is given a two hour timeslot during which the Inspector will arrive to perform the site inspection.

If an interested party has asked that the Inspector view the appeal site from their

property, the Inspector will be made aware of their request. The interested party will be informed of the time slot for the ARSV and the Inspector will normally view the site from their land solely in the company of the interested party. An interested party would not attend the site visit to the appeal property itself. If on the day of the visit an Inspector determines that it is not necessary to enter the property of an interested party, the Inspector will knock on their door and inform the interested party of this fact.

Following the success of the ARSV procedure for HAS cases, and in line with the Planning Inspectorate's ongoing commitment to help deliver a more efficient appeals service, it has been

decided to trial extending the ARSV to all other Section 78 Planning Appeals. The pilot scheme will involve five LPAs in Wales (County and City of Swansea, Caerphilly County Borough, Newport City Council, Rhondda Cynon Taff and the Vale of Glamorgan) and will run for a period of three months. The Planning Inspectorate intends to start the trial for all S78 planning appeals started from 31st October 2011 in the relevant LPAs. If the pilot is successful we would hope to roll out the ARSV approach for planning appeals being determined by written representations to all authorities across Wales by April 2012.

## Raising the Profile of Planning with AMs

*Hazel is Research Associate at the Centre for Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society (BRASS.)*

*Since August 2010, Hazel has been seconded to the Planning Policy Branch of the Welsh Government where she has been examining the implications for the existing planning policy framework of the new waste policy drivers, and how this needs to be taken forward in policy to ensure the new objectives and priorities are achieved through the landuse planning system.*

**Towards Zero Waste - One Wales: One Planet, Welsh Assembly Government (June 2010)**, available from: [wales.gov.uk/docs/desh/publications/100621wastetowardszeroen.pdf](http://wales.gov.uk/docs/desh/publications/100621wastetowardszeroen.pdf) correct 12/10/2011.



*Above: John Griffiths AM speaks at the Planning Reception*

Planning is an important tool of the Welsh Government's in delivering many of its corporate aims, as is the case in local authorities. RTPI Cymru and Planning Aid Wales teamed up together to hold a reception for Assembly Members to raise the profile of the two organisations and the role that planning plays.

John Griffiths AM, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development sponsored the event held in Crickhowell House on 1 November and addressed the audience of AMs, their advisers and invited guests from across the planning community.

The Minister reinforced the importance of planning in

Wales and welcomed the opportunity to engage with organisations such as the RTPI and Planning Aid Wales.

Elwyn Thomas from Planning Aid Wales spoke about the role of communities and the need for engaging properly with groups across Wales.

John Maitland Evans spoke on behalf of RTPI Cymru, as a member of its Policy and Research Forum. He highlighted the importance of good design and quality projects - the buildings will be still standing, long after the cost has been forgotten.

As part of the Reception we invited attendees to respond to a series of questions on what planning is or isn't about. The exercise was about testing perceptions of planning. The 14 statements included whether planning forces house prices up, whether it helps reduce carbon emissions, achieves Welsh Government objectives, gives objectors too much power to stop needed development, damages Welsh competitiveness etc. - There was a mixture of positive and

negative statements.

The responses (agree or disagree to the statements) generally came out very positively in support of planning. Perhaps we were asking the converted?

Whilst this was not a significant statistical sample, the results were encouraging. At the very least it does demonstrate that there are supporters and individuals who appreciate the role and parameters of planning in the Assembly.

RTPI Cymru and Planning Aid Wales are very grateful to the Minister for supporting the reception and to the AMs and guests that attended and participated in the exercise!



*Above: Assembly members discuss the role of planning*

# The Wales Planning Award 2011

The Award Judging Panel were impressed with the significant number, range and quality of submissions received for this year's awards. We would like to pass on our thanks to everyone who supported the awards and took the time and effort to prepare a submission.

RTPI Cymru is grateful to Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners for sponsoring the Award scheme this year.

The purpose of the Wales Planning Award scheme is to recognise, applaud and publicise examples of good planning practice in Wales. Entries can be physical projects, strategies, policies, processes etc. and they can be large or small. The following published criteria were used to assess the entries:

- **Physical environment:** Enhancement of the physical environment leading to recognisable social and economic benefit in terms of human happiness, greater safety and greater efficiency;
- **Climate Change:** All projects must demonstrate how the submission adapts to, or mitigates against the threats posed by climate change as raised in the RTPI's seven commitments on climate change;
- **Sustainable Development:** How the submission has addressed all aspects of sustainable development;
- **Originality:** Originality of the achievement or approach;
- **Problems overcome:** The key issues and problems that needed to be overcome;
- **Quality:** Quality of the professional work involved in project design, the development of planning concepts and the application of planning techniques;
- **Precedent:** Extent to which the achievement may serve as a model for work elsewhere or as a basis for the development of further related schemes; and
- **Planner's role:** The role played by the planner working in partnership with other agencies.

The shortlisting of the large number of entries took place in late July. The shortlisted schemes were then reviewed and decisions made on which needed a site visit by the judges, based on existing information already submitted, and whether or not there was a physical element to actually visit. Site visit took place across south and north Wales in late September, luckily during the brief Indian summer and the two days of discussions and travelling ensured that the judges had ample opportunity to consider the merits of the submissions.

Decision making can be tough sometimes and with judging panels agreement is not always guaranteed, however when the panel reviewed the shortlisted submissions we were unanimous on the result. To reflect the diversity and quality of the submissions this year the judges have decided to award two Commendations, one Highly Commended and one overall Winner.



Nathaniel Lichfield  
& Partners

Planning. Design. Economics.

## The Judging Panel

RTPI Cymru is very grateful for the efforts and personal time that the Wales Planning Award judges have put into considering this year's Award entries and to Nick Mills for project managing the judging process.

The judging Panel this year has been ably chaired by Jon Fox, with the support of Mike Cuddy and Chris Fray.

If you would like to put your name forward for consideration as a judge for 2012 please contact RTPI Cymru's National Director Roisin Willmott on Tel. 029 2047 3923 or e-mail: [roisin.willmott@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:roisin.willmott@rtpi.org.uk).

## A reminder of the Shortlist ....

The shortlist of projects was published in the Autumn edition of Cynllunio, but here's a reminder:

- **16-18 Edward Henry Street, Rhyl** - Denbighshire County Council
- **Gurnos Town Centre Regeneration** - Merthyr Tydfil Council
- **Llantwit Major Town Centre Regeneration** - Vale of Glamorgan Council
- **Mariners Quay** - Newport City Council
- **North Wales Minerals & Waste Planning Shared Service** - Flintshire County Council
- **Open Spaces** - RCT Homes and Hyder Consulting
- **Pont y Werin** - Cardiff Council
- **Porth Teigr** - igloo Regeneration
- **Public Realm in the Heads of the Valleys** - Powell Dobson Urbanists
- **Trident Park** - SLR Consulting / Viridor Waste Management Limited
- **City Centre University Campus** - Newport City Council
- **Mynydd Awel** - West Coast Group

## Porth Teigr, Igloo Regeneration

**WINNER**

### What the Judges said ...

The judges are very pleased to announce this Igloo development at Porth Teigr is the winner of the 2011 Wales Planning Award.

The igloo project, entered by WYG Planning & Design, demonstrated a commitment to excellence at all stages and forms a model for future similar developments across Wales. The effort required from supporting partners is acknowledged however the role of Igloo in maintaining a consistently high standard for stakeholder engagement, masterplanning, architectural quality, urban design and sustainability requires recognition.

The range of nationally important uses and local facilities on the site together with the use of international and local expertise mark this scheme out as special.

Well done, we look forward to watching how the site continues to develop and the maintenance of high standards in future delivery phases.

### The Project

Porth Teigr is extending the Cardiff Bay redevelopment to create a sustainable mixed-use community, providing significant jobs, new homes, a range of commercial, leisure and community facilities.



Above: Part of the Porth Teigr area in Cardiff Bay

## Gurnos Town Centre Regeneration Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

**HIGHLY  
COMMENDED**

### The Project

The Gurnos Town Centre Regeneration, built in the 1960s, has been in urgent need of refurbishment. Work has been undertaken to turn the existing structure and fabric of the building from an eyesore into a modest but colourful focal point to raise the aspirations of the town centre.



### What the Judges said ...

The judges site visit to this project revealed the true importance of this project not just as an example of physical regeneration but also as a vehicle for improved community cohesion and capacity building by facilitating the work of the 3Gs Development Trust.

The opportunities provided by this scheme for 3Gs are truly impressive and therefore warrant acknowledgement in these awards.



Above and Above Right: Gurnos Town Centre

**Open Space  
RCT Homes & Hyder Consulting**

**COMMENDED**

***The Project***

The project developed a neighbourhood renewal 'toolkit' that took a fresh look at communities to understand how the quality of open spaces influence or are influenced by the community. The objective of the project was to identify where RCT Homes should commit investment to help improve the environments of its tenants and generate sustainable neighbourhood renewal.

***What the Judges said ...***

The judges acknowledged the significant effort made during this project to engage with local residents using language, images and techniques aimed at maximising responses and generating community ownership of the projects.

The toolkit provides an approach which is now tried and tested and can act as a template for future similar projects.



*Above and Left: Open Space Audits involving the local community*

**Llantwit Major Town Centre Regeneration  
The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

**COMMENDED**

***The Project***

The project was to create a new look for Llantwit Major town centre, which had deteriorated over many years and had become a rather dilapidated shopping area. The project aimed to significantly improve the environment, landscaping, lighting, signage, in the area but bringing together the landowners, the community and the funding partners.

*Right and Below Left: Improvements to Llantwit Major Town Centre*



***What the Judges said ...***

The judges commented on the strength of the role played by Llantwit Major Town Council in delivering this project. The co-ordination of effort across the town council, the Vale of Glamorgan Council and local stakeholders was impressive. The scheme provides an excellent example of how a modest intervention can act as a catalyst for further improvement and a platform for continued revitalisation of local shopping facilities that are vital to the local community.

**A final word from the Judges**

The judges would like to highlight how impressed we were by the role planners played across the range of projects and plans submitted for this year's awards. Even in the current uncertain economic times it is pleasing to note how planners continue to act as catalysts for successful change in communities, facilitating technical solutions, driving projects forward, and ensuring that quality is to the fore in Wales.

# Andrew Dakin

*Andrew Dakin reflects on being a regeneration practitioner in Wales*



## How did you come into planning in the first place?

When I was 17 years old I had an aspiration to pursue four potential careers. A steam engine driver (I've done that, and I'm a part owner in a steam engine—a very small part!), a bricklayer (I did eventually become a property developer i.e. 'one step removed from being a bricklayer'), a teacher (I started to train as one in Bangor in North Wales, but then I left the course), and a Chartered Town Planner. I applied to do the degree in planning at the then Oxford Polytechnic (now Oxford Brookes University) but I was turned down because of a lack of academic ability. However, at the age of 19 I did find myself at Oxford Polytechnic. By that time with my being destined to become a Chartered Surveyor.

Many years later I wrote an M Phil in urban regeneration at the School of City and Regional Planning at Cardiff University. Following its completion, I accepted an invitation to join the teaching staff in C Plan, and subsequently I became a member of the RTPI via the direct entry route. So my earliest four ambitions have all been realized in substantial part, but it just took 30 years or so. Dreams and aspirations are like that. And so maybe is destiny.

## What has been your career path to date?

A development surveyor with British Rail for six years, a private sector property developer for ten years (predominantly undertaking retail and office development schemes in historic towns and cities across the South West of the UK, and including the restoration for office use of possibly the only listed building in Slough!), an urban regeneration project director for the WDA for 15 years (Cynon Valley, Porthcawl, Pontypridd and Barry projects) Director of Regeneration at Newport Unlimited for four years, and since 2010, Deputy Chief Executive at CREW (Centre for Regeneration Excellence Wales). And I am forgetting something, working in the voluntary sector for 12 months.

## What does your job involve?

Fundamentally, it's all about 'collecting' regeneration best practice and then disseminating that knowledge to regeneration practitioners, organisations, and anyone who is interested in delivering, 'The good society—The humane agenda' (J K Galbraith - the eminent American economist) in Wales. And that means promoting regeneration which delivers economic development with social inclusion.

## What do you like about it – anything you dislike?

It's a really interesting job, and after 35 years in the regeneration business it's good to be a reflective practitioner and to be in a position to share the 'accumulated knowledge'. However I do occasionally miss the cut and thrust of the 'at the coal face' project delivery of my earlier life. Any

deal is always a good deal....

And the other aspect which is difficult to have to manage is the scenario that most people who are in the regeneration business are also in the 're-invention of the wheel business'. So at times, it's hard to convince people that history and experience have a significant role to play in delivering current best practice. As the Poet, Turner has said, "History repeats itself; it has to no one listens". And as my C Plan colleague, Professor Kevin Morgan has said, "good practice is a bad traveller". And that applies across both 'time and space'.

And the old adage of how one 'manages beneficial change' also comes to mind i.e. via 'regulation, persuasion and conversion'. As a Planner I appreciate the value of regulation via planning, as a means of controlling change, and as a Surveyor I appreciate how 'throwing some money' at people may persuade them to change things for the better. The 'real deal' is of course achieving 'conversion'. That's a hearts and minds issue and where education comes in. That is the real challenge of the CREW job. A real tough call.....lots of cultural barriers. Remember that old Eagles song, 'Hotel California' (well before my time-of course!) "You can check out any time but you can never leave".

## How does devolution of planning & regeneration influence your work?

I will try and answer the question about the devolution of regeneration, but not the question about the devolution of planning, as I am a regeneration person first and a planning person second. I wonder whether Wales should enjoy

hypothecated financial support derived directly from Whitehall budgets to facilitate regeneration? In other words regeneration could be seen as so strategic to the UK national interest that it should be the subject of ring fenced budgets but devolved to Wales to facilitate local control. But to answer the question directly, it is a devolved Welsh Government which set up CREW and provides it with funding, so it clearly is influential. Notwithstanding, CREW being set up to provide an independent view with regard to the pursuit of regeneration best practice in Wales.

## Are you involved with the RTPI?

I have helped with a couple of planning events this year including Planning Summer School, and the Wales Planning Conference in Cardiff. I am also a Board Member of the Cynon Taff Community Housing Group, I have an involvement with the London based UDG (Urban Design Group), I am an advisor on Planning to RICS South Wales, and I have my teaching commitments at Cardiff University.

## Finally, how optimistic or pessimistic are you about the future of regeneration in Wales?

I was very optimistic, until Wales lost the Rugby World Cup semi final in October.

## A last word

In 2006, Jon Ladd, then Chief Executive of BURA said (R&R Magazine, 27th October), "If you start working in regeneration at a young age you will get to change, if not the world, then at least the community you live in. In plenty of jobs you don't get to change much more than the photocopier's toner".

# Legal developments in terms of Court of Appeal Decisions

Graham Walters outlines recent legal developments in terms of Court of Appeal Decisions.



Above: Graham Walters

Important announcements of changes in planning policy and legislation occur with increasing frequency. Accordingly it is appropriate to start with *R oao Cala Homes (South) Ltd v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government [2011] EWCA Civ 639*.

The principal issue was whether those responsible for making decisions under the Planning Acts are entitled to have regard to the proposal to abolish regional strategies, (clause 89 of the Localism Bill), as a material consideration for the purposes of section 70(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

It was argued that prior to the necessary legislation being passed, the proposal was not capable of being a material consideration. The Court of Appeal rejected this. Although the specific proposal is not relevant to Wales the principle is of general application and should be noted against the background of changes announced for Wales.

Turning to the case in more detail, the submission was that the Government's intention to abolish the regional strategies was not, as a matter of law, capable of

being a material consideration because that would subvert or thwart the legislative purpose set out in section 70(1) of the 2009 Act that "there is to be a regional strategy for each region."

The court said that *Edinburgh City Council v Secretary of State for Scotland [1997] 1 W.L.R. 1447* makes clear that this is not the combined effect of sections 70(2) of the 1990 Act and 38(6) of the 2004 Act, and that the legislation must be construed as a whole. The decision-maker must consider not only the development plan, but also other material considerations. Those considerations may include the fact that the policies in the development plan have become outdated, or are no longer relevant because of a change of circumstances and those considerations may indicate that the decision should not be in accord with the development plan.

The argument that this would enable decision makers to sideline the development plan was said to be "overstated": although the weight to be given to any particular material consideration is a matter for the decision-maker, the decision-maker must not "lapse into Wednesbury irrationality." It was accepted that in this respect very wide latitude is given to planners' judgments as to the weight to be given to planning considerations but said that there might be finely balanced cases where the very slight prospect of a very substantial policy change might just tip the balance.

The court added "any decision-maker who does think it appropriate to give some weight to the Government's proposal when determining an application or an appeal would be well-advised to give very clear and cogent reasons for reaching that conclusion..."

This therefore leads on to a trio of recent decisions, decided within approximately one month of each other, on the adequacy of reasons.

The first in time was *R (oao Garner) v Elmbridge BC [2011] EWCA Civ 891*. This was a challenge concerning the grant of planning permission for comprehensive redevelopment of land on the opposite bank of the river to Hampton Court Palace, a scheduled ancient monument of international significance and a grade I listed building.

The submission was that the reasons were inadequate because it was incumbent upon the local planning authority, in granting permission, to say in the summary reasons a) whether there was no harm, or b) if there was harm what the extent of that harm was and what the considerations were that were thought to outweigh it.

The court did not accept that in order to show that it had complied with the duty under section 66(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 "the decision maker had to pass through a particular series of legal hoops first to decide a) and then if not a) to decide b) et cetera." The need to comply did not place the authority in such a legal straitjacket.

The court stressed that the summary reasons should not be construed in isolation. They summarise the outcome of what in the present case was a lengthy planning process. The context in which the summary reasons are prepared is important and an important part of the context in the present case was that the members were accepting a planning officer's recommendation to grant planning permission.

In summary the court found

no ambiguity and concluded that the reasons made it clear to any reader familiar with the surrounding context, including the report, that planning permission was granted because the respondent considered that the classical scheme would not harm the setting of the Palace.

*Georgiou v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government [2011] EWCA 775* also concerned the adequacy of reasons for the grant of permission, this time in a report by an inspector. The complaints about the inspector's decision included that he did not explain why he rejected the report of the appellant's acoustics expert which had been put forward in support of the claim that a particular condition was not justified.

The court said that, in one sense, it was perfectly clear from the decision letter why the inspector rejected the appeal as he thought that a condition would be required to ensure that there was no noise nuisance. Further it held it was not for the inspector to require further representations in order to place himself in a position in which he could modify the condition in a way which had never been requested.

Nevertheless the judge continued "That does not, however, exonerate the inspector for failing to give any reasons for rejecting the analysis and conclusions in the report. His failure to do so left the appellant in doubt as to the potential for a future application..." It was not clear whether the inspector rejected the report in its entirety or whether he rejected part only which would have left open the possibility of a fresh application with a more restricted condition than in the grant.

Finally in *R (oao Telford Trustee No.1 Ltd) v Telford*

# LDP Process Refinement Exercise

The Welsh Government has launched the Local Development Plan (LDP) Process Refinement Exercise (PRE). It is felt that the PRE will benefit from the experience of a wealth of stakeholders who have been involved in the preparation of a significant number of LDPs since October 2005 when the LDP provisions of Part 6 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 were fully commenced.

Five LDPs have now been found sound at examination and a further ten have been prepared and considered sound by the respective LPAs for the deposit stage and beyond.

The PRE is partially in response to the Sustainability Committee's Report on Planning in March 2011, and the Welsh Government committed actions relating to the development plan system.

The Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, John Griffiths



AM, at the Wales Planning Conference in June clarified that this refinement exercise is not about a whole-scale change of the system, rather one of building on good practice, experience, and lessons learnt to ensure the process is as efficient and effective as possible. He made it clear that LPAs should not delay progress on LDPs in the meantime.

The Welsh Government do not intend to make any changes to the process that would increase plan preparation complexity or

the length of time required for plan preparation, with a focus on ensuring an efficient and positive approach to accommodating change. It is anticipated that, guided by contributions from stakeholders, some changes will be needed to published guidance on LDPs based on experience to date and with a focus too on post adoption procedures.

The Welsh Government will be considering guidance in 'Local Development Plans Wales' (including the subsequent relevant Clarification Letters), the LDP Manual and the Public Guide 'Planning Your Community', as well as any possible resultant changes to the Regulations.

The PRE involves a number of stages including: the compilation by the Planning Division of a schedule of matters for consideration from their experience and records; questionnaires completed by stakeholders

to raise any matters they would like to be considered during the PRE; a series of focussed stakeholder group workshops in December; and the establishment of a Stakeholder Sounding Board to work with the Development Plans Team in finalising any proposals for changes to the LDP guidance. A draft Report will be discussed with selected stakeholders before being finalised for the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development. The report will identify any required revisions to published LDP guidance.

It is anticipated that revisions to the published LDP guidance will be finalised next spring / summer. It is intended that the resultant revised editions of LDP Wales and the Manual will be published in electronic form only.

and Wrekin Council [2011] EWCA 896 the principles were explored at some length. Here it was argued that the grant of permission for retail development raised fundamental policy issues concerning the "sequential approach" and "impact assessment" and detailed representations had been advanced that the requirements of the relevant policies were not met. Accordingly it was submitted that in the circumstances it was necessary for the reasons to explain why the proposal was considered to be in accordance with those policies.

In rejecting the submission the court said that the duty to give reasons for the grant of planning permission subject to conditions (article 22(1) (b) (i) GDPO 1995), pointed to an obvious contrast between the duty to give a summary of the reasons for the grant

of permission and the duty to give full reasons for each condition imposed and, in the case of a refusal, for the refusal.

When considering the adequacy of summary reasons, it is necessary to have regard to the surrounding circumstances. For example, a fuller summary of the reasons for granting planning permission may well be necessary where the members have granted planning permission contrary to an officer's recommendation. In those circumstances, a member of the public with an interest will not necessarily be able to ascertain from the officer's report whether, in granting planning permission, the members correctly interpreted the local policies and took all relevant matters into account and disregarded irrelevant matters.

Where on the other hand the

members have followed their officers' recommendation, and there is no indication that they have disagreed with the reasoning in the report which lead to that recommendation, then a relatively brief summary of reasons for the grant of planning permission may well be adequate.

The court then listed four factors relevant to reasons where permission is granted.

The first was the difference in the language of the statutory requirement relating to reasons for the grant of planning permission compared to that relating to the reasons for refusal of planning permission. In the case of a refusal, the notice has to state clearly and precisely the full reasons for the refusal, whereas in the case of a grant the notice only has to include a summary of the reasons for the grant. "The difference is stark and significant."

Secondly, the statutory language requires a summary of the reasons for the grant of permission. It does not require a summary of the reasons for rejecting objections to the grant of permission.

Thirdly, a summary of reasons does not require a summary of reasons for reasons. In other words, it can be shortly stated in appropriate cases.

Fourthly, the adequacy of reasons for the grant of permission will depend on the circumstances of each case.

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# Cardiff Design Festival 2011

Carole-Anne Davies reflects of this year's Design Festival which has demonstrated energy and vibrancy in our design community



Above: Winner - Splottments, Leanne Russ and Phil Henshaw

Autumn is upon us, the days are shortening and the frenzy of activity emanating from Cardiff Design Festival 2011 has calmed. This year the Senedd was bathed in the warmth of a blazing sun on an unseasonably balmy evening, when the festival opened on 30 September, launching over 70 events in the programme.

Every year events engaging with matters of our built environment have increased in number and the Design Commission for Wales is pleased to be able to support some of them in the programme. An energetic and audacious Design Circle jumped the gun by a day, opening the Building Wales exhibition that highlighted more than 25 practices, shortlisted for or presented with the RIBA Award for Architecture, for projects in Wales since 2008.

The exhibition encapsulated the wide range and varying scale of projects in Wales, reflecting DCW's own experience that this small nation increasingly demands a larger stage on which to spotlight its growing reputation for excellence in design. Too many projects are still the exception rather than the rule and in too many cases the benefits of good design and the profile it can bring are still overlooked. Nevertheless, we should remember that, as

reflected in this year's National Eisteddfod Gold Medal for Architecture, supported by the Design Commission, the winning project, Mostyn at Llandudno, was recognised as of 'national significance'. In its quality, ambition and execution the EWA project for Mostyn was justifiably credited for design that takes Wales a good leap further toward securing a reputation for outstanding architecture.

Back in the capital city, in the midst of the design festival a different approach to our buildings and places was being explored in Remnants, an exhibition inviting practices to identify and propose fresh uses for leftover, forgotten or neglected spaces. The exhibition was accompanied by a cycle ride to each of the sites, prizes were awarded to winning entries and a planning debate was hosted bringing together RTPI Young Planners, RSAW, Design Circle, Design Commission for Wales Advocates in Practice, and a host of other interested contributors. The project was also linked with Come to your Senses, a public engagement project led by Laura Sorvala and Em Wilkinson that invited people to contribute to an examination of the physical and cultural barriers in the city, use of green space and where stronger links or key areas may be enhanced, better

connected, made safer and more pleasant.

It is both easy and lazy to consider these creative approaches to the challenges of the built environment as being somehow on the fringes, or as utopian dreams with no place in the real world of development and urbanism. It's easy to right them off as having been done before, in many festivals in many places – there is perhaps little that is new under the sun but then such issues are perennially relevant and continually require fresh minds to shed light upon them. It is much more useful to recognise their value as tangible elements of research and critique that can inform the way we plan and make decisions about urban spaces upon which there is increasing pressure.

More and more of us live and will come to live in urban areas, requiring more living space, homes, amenities goods and services. Patterns of work and economies are in the process not only of recession or stagnation, but of a fundamental shift in the balance of economic power and capacity. We should be

drawing more eagerly on the best of the creative acumen available and bringing it to bear on the difficult decisions we face. More than one delegate at the Remnants planning debate highlighted the gap that exists between the formal and regulatory processes of planning and architecture and the rich material unearthed through the insightful critique of these probing explorations.

Many successful European cities to which we may point as exemplars in design, cultural richness and vibrancy can be shown to have harnessed their creative thinkers in the task – their artists, designers and architects. Freiburg, Helsinki, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Amsterdam and many others have prioritised good urban design and architecture as economic drivers and have worked closely with creative thinkers, bringing their talents to bear on the shaping of their future cities. Collaboration was a key theme that emerged in this year's design festival and there is a welcome, fresh buzz about the possibilities and potential for shaping the capital. Engaging these fresh and creative minds in



Above: Winner - Uplift by Neil Farquhar

## Peak Oil and Spatial Planning

*Rhian Brimble highlights a new discussion paper 'Peak Oil: the Implications for Planning Policy' produced by RTPI network members*

such a partnership would be advantageous to the growing capital and the hinterland to which it is inextricably linked and nation it serves.

The energy and insight evident in this year's festival and the possibilities of the ongoing engagement sparked by Remnants and its partner projects, is hugely encouraging. There is much to capture with several proposals being both possible and practical. What can sometimes be seen as a perfunctory process could be transformed into a creative and fruitful one. The comments of the judges for the Remnants project reflected that 'The winning entries address the whole community, are engaging, unexpected and could be started right away with modest investment. They appeal to a wide range of age groups and have the advantage of being able to start small. Furthermore the concepts are replicable elsewhere.'

The young designers, artists and planners bringing these projects forward will continue their work. They will keep turning up, taking part and therefore getting things done. They have a great deal to offer decisions makers and to contribute, and they represent a light worth shining on a crucial debate. It's high time they got a hearing.

*Carole-Anne is Chief Executive, Comisiwn Dylunio Cymru Design Commission for Wales*

Remnants is part of the Design Circle RSAW South, Reflecting Wales programme and was sponsored by Marshalls and Gwrhyd Specialist Stone. The exhibition was organised by Victoria Coombs and Matthew Jones. Judges were Andre Viljoen, Bohn & Viljoen Architects, James Davies Planning Aid Wales, Matthew Jones Design Research Unit Welsh School of Architecture. DCfW is pleased to support and promote Building Wales and Remnants and is a long term partner of Cardiff Design Festival.

Peak oil is set to become one of the most important influences on land use and transport planning, yet few planners know much about the topic.

Peak oil is the point of maximum oil production, after which production declines. This point usually occurs when around half the oil in an oilfield has been extracted, with half remaining. However, it is the timing of the global peak that is a key issue. Opinions on this range from the view that the peak has already been reached to that the peak is decades away. What is more certain is that peak oil will affect everyone unless appropriate steps are taken.

Spatial policy concerns that may arise from peak oil will include food production, housing, waste management and recycling, economic development and the whole basis of spatial planning. However, peak oil is not generally recognized in spatial planning and it remains to be seen if and how current changes to the planning system take this into account.

The RTPI Development Planning Network and RTPI-TPS Transport Planning Network are due to launch a discussion document on the issue of peak oil and the implications for planning policy. The purpose of the discussion document is to promote discussion, raise awareness among transport and spatial planners of the issues around peak oil and suggest an agenda for discussion and future action by professionals. While the issue of peak oil impacts on all aspect of spatial planning, the discussion document will have a strong focus on transport, however it is intended as an introduction and primer to the issues, so we would welcome feedback and

discussion on other areas that are impacted upon.

Peak oil will affect everyone unless appropriate steps are taken soon. Possible responses by the planning profession could include an emergency energy supply plan; coordinated policies on peak oil and climate change, and raising public energy awareness. Adoption of the Oil Depletion Protocol, joint peak oil task forces, and partnerships with community-led initiatives are among the options open to organisations.

There are examples of existing initiatives, often not necessarily focused on the peak oil issue, but nevertheless provide pointers as to the way forward for planners. These include approaches developed by the Design Council Cabe, the Independent Commission on Transport, the Low Carbon Communities Network, the Low Emissions Strategies Partnership, the Centre for Alternative Technology and the Transition Towns Network among others. There are also examples of peak oil being considered in policy development, including research and publications by the Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association.

Specifically in relation to transport policies, there are also a range of current responses that could be better coordinated and harnessed to address issues relating to the implications of peak oil, such as energy efficiency, use of alternative fuels, pro-active management of fuel prices, smarter car use, encouraging modal shift and other changes in travel behaviour, and speed management.

The potential impact of peak oil is profound. Frequency and patterns of travel will change, and current patterns

and trends in land use will become ever less sustainable than at present. The concept of peak oil must be better integrated into policy making, as climate change currently is becoming, and the synergies between them recognised. One means of achieving this is to better integrate peak oil considerations into existing appraisal techniques for spatial planning and transport policies.

The RTPI Networks are urging spatial planners, transport planners and other built-environment professionals to discuss and develop an understanding of the issues and develop actions for the future.

If you are interested in finding out more about the discussion document or would like to send us your views on peak oil then please contact Rhian Brimble, RTPI Network Manager: [rhian.brimble@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:rhian.brimble@rtpi.org.uk)

*The information in this article is derived from the Peak Oil Discussion Document 'Peak Oil: The Implications for Planning Policy'. We would like to thank RTPI network members for contributing to this document and the editor, Chris Ferrary in particular.*

### Do you receive a twice monthly bulletin by e-mail from RTPI Cymru?

If you don't it probably means that we don't have your up to date e-mail address, or you haven't registered with us. You might be surprised to know that only half of our members have given us their address to keep in contact with them.

**Please e-mail** [wales@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:wales@rtpi.org.uk) with your current e-mail address and we will be able to keep you in touch with up to date information.

We do not pass your details on to anyone else.



# RTPI

mediation of space · making of place  
cyd drefnu gofod · creu cynefin

## RTPI Cymru Annual Review 2011

2011 is the fourth year of RTPI Cymru in its revised form as an RTPI Nation, and its activities are now bedding down and have continued to be developed during the year. The circumstances in which we all now operate have changed and RTPI Cymru is very conscious of this when planning our activities in Wales. Despite the more challenging climate that we find ourselves in, there has continued to be demand and support for events and activities throughout the year.

Looking towards 2012 we must reflect on our activities and ensure they remain relevant for the Institute and members in Wales.

### CPD Events & Training

Opportunities for CPD and support for keeping planners up to date in policy and practice is probably the principal activity which our members look to us for. It is not only members that expect this, we hear from stakeholders and others reflecting on the need for training for planners in Wales and for the RTPI to lead on this; it has even been referred to in Assembly Plenary Debates. Ensuring we are able to deliver subjects of interest and relevance across Wales, at a cost which enables people to attend, but also covers the cost, is a challenge and one we are continually working to meet.

During 2011, we have held a range of low cost CPD events, and increasingly we are delivering these with partners. Below is a run through of the events held during 2011.



Project Argus, run in conjunction with South Wales Police. In January we held the events with the Regeneration Skills Collective in Cardiff and Swansea and in September we followed it up with another event in Cardiff with the Design Commission for Wales. These were interesting interactive events discussing how to design 'crowded places' to mitigate the effects of a terrorist attack.

The North Wales Chapter has continued to be active, organising an LDP Workshop in Denbighshire and a Planning Law Update with Morag Ellis QC in Caernarfon in June. The Chapter, at its December meeting, will host the discussion workshop to contribute towards RTPI Cymru's evidence development for the Planning White Paper.

The Wales Planning for Housing Network (which complements the UK Network) jointly run by RTPI Cymru and CIH Cymru, have now established a programme of four events each year - two in the south, two in the north. Each event is run in accordance with the requests of delegates and on subjects highlighted to be of interest. Consequently the south Wales events, held in Swansea are very different to those held in north Wales (Old Colwyn). This year the events have covered viability, housing design standards, developing the LDP evidence base, and empty homes strategies. The clear benefit from these events is that it draws planners and housing professionals together to discuss issues of common interest.

To support the National Eisteddfod this year in Wrexham, we held a seminar to discuss Planning and the Welsh Language. There were an excellent line up of speakers discussing the policy context, past experiences of applying the policy, a legal perspective, current practice in developing local policies and developing Language Impact Assessments. This event also led delegates to support RTPI Cymru with the Welsh Language Board to raise the problem of the draft TAN 20, issued for consultation early in 2011, with relevant Ministers.



*Above: Project Argus Training, Cardiff*

*Right: Eisteddfod Seminar 2012, Wrexham*

In September, RTPI Cymru joined forces with the Planning Officers Society Wales (POSW) to organise what has now become the annual Wales Planning Enforcement Conference, supported by the RTPI's NAPE. Over 80 delegates attended the event which heard from PINS, Morag Ellis QC and a number of interesting case studies from Welsh LPAs.

The RTPI's Independent Consultants Network (ICN) organised two roundtable workshops for independent consultants (and extended to other consultants) and Peter Burley, PINS Director for Wales in Cardiff and Llandudno Junction in October. Whilst they were not well attended, they were valuable events and attending delegates felt they were very worthwhile.

RTPI Cymru also supported events organised by other organisations, including the Royal Society of Architects Wales (RSAW) Spring School, 'Planning Ahead: Joined up Thinking in Planning and Architecture', in Llandudno in May, which RTPI Cymru's National Director chaired and spoke at, along with a number of other planners.

## Spring Conference

The 2011 Spring Conference was held in Llandudno in March. The theme this year was Planning for Economic Renewal. The event was sponsored by DPP and was Chaired by Richard Summers, RTPI President. There was a strong line up of speakers to discuss the important issues related to this pertinent subject, including Gareth Hooper from DPP, Neil Ashbridge from the Bank of England, Bryn Richards and Neil Hemington from the Welsh Government, Nicola Gulley from Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC on the LDP evidence base, Owain Wyn from Burum on using LandMap as a tool to support economic regeneration in rural areas, Shelagh McNerney of DPP Shape to discuss her experience of the north Wales economy and Jonathan Cawley discussing the opportunities offered by green jobs. The Conference was well supported with over 40 delegates attending.



## Wales Planning Conference 2011

The Wales Planning Conference 2011: *New Beginnings?*, held on Tuesday 7 June 2011 at City Hall, Cardiff, saw a record number of delegates.

The Conference discussed planning for Wales in the context of changing circumstances, including primary legislative powers for town and country planning, a new Session of the National Assembly for Wales and a new Minister in the Welsh Government, as well as new personnel and structures affecting the Planning Inspectorate and the Infrastructure Planning Commission.

The Conference, chaired by Malcolm Hockaday of Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners, was addressed by the new Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development in the Welsh Government, John Griffiths AM.

The Conference heard from speakers on a "kaleidoscope" of topics including new Wales Director for PINS, Peter Burley, Andrew Farrow, Flintshire County Council and Vice Chair of POSW, Professor Terry Marsden from the Sustainable Places Research Institute, and Sir Michael Pitt from the IPC. The final plenary speaker of the day took us to Ireland; Des Cox, Chair of RTPI Ireland, provided a view on the celtic tiger from a planning perspective.

The plenary debate challenged the role of statutory planning, asking whether it was the problem or the answer. Debate facilitator, Kevin Murray, was joined by panelists Rosemary Thomas, Chief Planner in the Welsh Government, Peter Geraghty, RTPI Junior Vice President, Alun Francis, Chair of the Design Commission for Wales and Gareth Williams, Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners. Statutory planning won the audience's support!

RTPI Cymru would like to thank the 2011 Conference sponsors and supporters: Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners, JBP Associates Ltd, Civitas Law, and the Design Commission for Wales.

## Engaging with the Assembly

National Assembly for Wales elections took place in May 2011, and for the first time RTPI Cymru launched its own Manifesto, setting out what it wanted to see from the next Government in Wales.

RTPI Cymru joined with the Regeneration Skills Collective to hold a hustings before the elections with the regeneration spokespeople of the four main Parties.

Following the result of the elections, and the formation of the Labour Government, RTPI Cymru engaged with John Griffiths AM, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development. The Minister spoke at the Wales Planning Conference, only a short time after his appointment, and also met with RTPI Cymru Chair, Anna Prescott, RTPI President Richard Summers and National Director, Roisin Willmott.

In November, RTPI Cymru with Planning Aid Wales, held a joint Planning Reception, hosted by the Minister, to engage with AMs and raise the profile of planning.



Above: Richard Summers, RTPI President, John Griffiths AM, Minister and Anna Prescott, RTPI Cymru Chair

## Policy

In 2011, the newly formed Policy and Research Forum took shape, with representatives from across the planning profession and Wales.

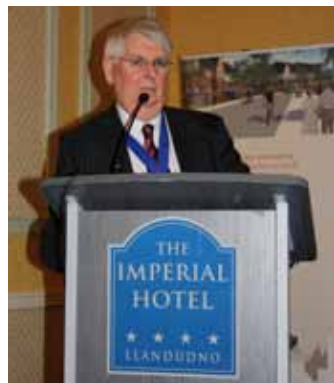
The Forum, under the chairmanship of Lesley Punter, and Deputy Chair, Karen Potter, has been proactive in its efforts and developing its own work programme.

Consultation responses in 2011 include:

- Proposed Changes to Householder Permitted Development Rights
- Sustainable development for Welsh seas: Our approach to marine planning in Wales
- Review of Directions Requiring Planning Applications to be Referred to the Welsh Ministers
- Draft Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh language
- Realising the potential of pre-application discussions
- Improving the planning appeals process

RTPI Cymru has also responded to National Assembly for Wales Committees:

- NAFW Enterprise and Business Committee Inquiry into town centre regeneration
- NAFW Environment and Sustainability Committee Inquiry into energy policy and planning in Wales
- NAFW Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee Inquiry into the provision of affordable housing



Top Left: Richard Summers at Mynydd Awel

Above: Tour of Dolgellau with Snowdonia NPA officers

Top Right: Richard Summers at the Spring Conference

Right: Elliw Owen of Snowdonia NPA and Richard Summers

## RTPI President's Visit

Richard Summers' RTPI Presidential visit took place in north Wales in March.

Richard's visit started with a visit to the impressive Mynydd Awel, BRREAM Excellent HQ of West Coast Energy, followed by an interesting meeting with planners and Members in Flintshire, highlighting the issues they face.

The Spring Conference occupied Richard on the second day of his visit, and again he had opportunities to meet planners over lunch.

The final day of Richard's visit was in Dolgellau - specifically requested by Richard. Richard was joined by Anna Prescott, RTPI Cymru Chair, on a tour of the Townscape Heritage Initiative by officers from Snowdonia National Park Authority. After the tour, we were joined by the Authority's Chief Executive, Aneurin Philips, and other planning officers for lunch and again a discussion on the issues facing the Park.

Richard was genuinely interested to hear about the issues being faced by planners on the ground, to build up a picture across the UK and Ireland, and was grateful to all those he met during his visit to Wales.

## Celebrating High Standards in Planning

The judging Panel of the Wales Planning Award were once again challenged to select a winner out of the entries submitted in 2011. Igloo Regeneration's Porth Teigr was recognised as the overall Winner, closely followed by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's Gurnos Town Centre Regeneration, which was Highly Commended. Also Commended by the Judges were Open Space by Hyder Consulting and RCT Homes and the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Llantwit Major Town Centre Regeneration.

## Working in Partnership

RTPI Cymru places high value on partnership working with fellow professional bodies and other organisations across Wales.

The Regeneration Skills Collective Wales (RSCW) is a key initiative with which RTPI Cymru is involved. RTPI Cymru's National Director is the representative for the RSCW on the Board of the Centre Regeneration Excellence Wales (CREW). We also collaboratively with individual professional bodies, for example the joint Housing Network with CIH Cymru and developing events with RSAW for planners and architects.

RTPI Cymru seeks to provide support to Planning Aid Wales wherever possible, including promotion of its activities through Cynllunio. RTPI Cymru is conscious of the important contribution that planning aid services provide to communities and reflects this in its responses to policy and practice consultations and discussions, to support the profile of Planning Aid Wales.

The Planning Officers Society for Wales (POSW) provides an excellent conduit to communicating with the Local Authority Planners and Members across Wales. RTPI Cymru works in partnership with POSW on initiatives, including joint CPD events.



Above: The coveted Wales Planning Award Rosebowl



## Social Events

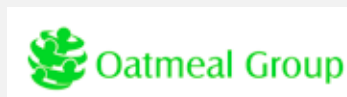
Opportunities for us to socialise together are also important. A pre-Conference networking event was held in Cardiff on 6th June, with a wine tasting.

The Annual Dinner was held on 18 November at the Hilton Hotel in Cardiff.

Left: wine tasting before the Wales Planning Conference 2011

## and finally ... thanks to our Supporters

Many of our activities would not be viable without the valuable support we receive from companies and organisations - whether this be in cash or in-kind. LPAs across Wales have also provided us with venues to hold events. We would like to give thanks to the following for their support of RTPI Cymru during 2011, in addition to all those who have provided speakers and other support during the year. This support is of increasing importance to RTPI Cymru activities and we are very grateful for this continued support.



# Towards a spatial strategy for the Cardiff city-region?

Neil Harris explains a new project being developed by final year undergraduates in Cardiff's School of City and Regional Planning



Above: Neil Harris

The south-east Wales area is one that exhibits a whole range of connections and interdependencies, yet for many years it has lacked a robust framework for dealing with cross-boundary and strategic planning issues. There have been various efforts to try and develop such a framework, although with

varying degrees of success. There is now a growing interest in exploring how to fill the 'strategic planning gap' in the area, and a growing consensus on the need to properly address this 'interdependent and unplanned' city-region.

These issues have been the inspiration for a new, project-based module in the final year of the RTPI-accredited BSc City and Regional Planning at Cardiff University. The module is one in which students get to practice selected plan-making skills – from working through a range of different stakeholders' perspectives, to producing a spatial audit of the region, constructing scenarios and devising a spatial strategy. The students work in groups to respond to a fictional research brief issued by the Welsh

Government and a consortia of local planning authorities – with the aim of setting a strategic context for planning in the region.

The students will be presenting their work at an event and public exhibition early in the New Year. The event, scheduled for the evening of Thursday 12th January 2012, will be an opportunity for the public and practitioners to discover how students have responded to their brief and explore their proposed strategy for the region.

*'Interdependent and unplanned? A spatial strategy for the Cardiff city-region' is a free public event taking place on Thursday 12th January 2012 as part of Cardiff School of City and Regional Planning's Innovation and Engagement*

*series. The event is scheduled from 5.30pm for 6.00pm with a wine reception in the Committee Rooms of the Glamorgan Building, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff, CF10 3WA.*

Further information and booking details can be found under the news and events pages at [www.cardiff.ac.uk/cplan](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/cplan).

Further details about the project can be obtained from [HarrisNR@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:HarrisNR@cardiff.ac.uk)

# Professional doctorates for senior planners

Jon Talbot provides more information and encouragement on professional doctorates

In the Summer edition of Cynllunio I explained what a Professional Doctorate (DProf) is. In summary while a traditional Doctorate (PhD) is in some way concerned with generating original, theory relevant knowledge which is universally applicable a DProf aims to generate practice relevant knowledge within a particular context. That context can be individual practice but is more likely to relate to a broader body of professional or organisational knowledge. DProfs are undertaken by senior practitioners, drawing upon and extending their professional knowledge. DProfs are well established in areas such as Engineering and Education but less so in other professions like Planning. UWE is the only institution to offer a specific 'Doctor in Spatial Planning'. The RTPI has no official policy on professional doctorates although there is an awareness of their potential.

Most DProfs offered at UK

universities are tied to a specific discipline and where there is no tradition within an allied profession there is low visibility and hence low demand. There is a great deal of variety in terms of content but most offer a combination of Level 7 (Masters) study and Level 8 (Doctoral). Unlike PhDs they are credit rated and modular. In most universities several awards and models (in different departments) co-exist but at some, like Portsmouth, there is a single model used throughout.

There are also differences between universities in the extent to which an award can be obtained using prior learning. For example exemptions for holding a Masters degree. Practices also vary in the extent to which universities are able to give credit exemption for experiential learning - i.e. learning generated as part of professional practice, generated in the workplace or from external publishing.

The Chester DProf is open to practitioners in all fields, constrained only by our ability to provide underpinning subject knowledge. The only other comparable programme is at Middlesex, operating for almost a decade (abroad as well as the UK), and with over 300 registered students is by far the largest DProf programme in the UK. Chester's programme is smaller and newer but from a planning point of view has one great advantage - I am both a planner and programme leader and would dearly love to enable one or two planners to become the first in the UK to hold a professional doctorate!

Most people entering the programme already have a Masters although this is not essential. All students begin with a Personal and Professional Review, requiring reflection and contextualisation of career and personal development as the basis for consideration of further study

at Doctoral level.

Undertaking a DProf is a considerable undertaking but there are great intrinsic rewards. It enables high achievers to deepen their practice knowledge as well as become familiar with leading thinking. It facilitates self knowledge and inner direction and lays the foundation for future development. I am confident in years to come we will see many planners who achieve it. In the longer term the carrying out of practice relevant research should considerably enhance the knowledge base of the profession. Practitioners have long complained that traditional university research often fails to generate useful knowledge. Research by practitioners should address that issue.

*Jon is Programme Leader at the University of Chester, & Chair of the North Wales Chapter.*  
[j.talbot@chester.ac.uk](mailto:j.talbot@chester.ac.uk)

# RTPI Cymru Policy & Research Forum Update

*A new Forum was established in 2011 and Lesley Punter summarises its work so far*

The new members met for the first time in March and had a wide-ranging discussion on the purpose and role of the group. The main discussion was on the priorities for our work programme this year. The main aim of the group as agreed is to be more PROACTIVE. However, how to be proactive in policy and research was quite difficult to define and we left the first meeting realising we needed to do more work!

By the June meeting we had some basic actions to discuss including the need to:

- review the 2011 Manifesto for May 2012 local elections,
- develop better relations with Ministers, the WLGA and advisors,

- learn from other UK nations, including new English priorities,
- establish better links with CBI and other business groups,
- agree priorities (economic renewal, Wales Planning Bill, TAN 20, strategic planning, CIL, the link between housing and employment land),
- influence the policy and research programmes of others, and
- set up cross boundary CPD events.

The most recent meeting of the group in September discussed what the Forum considers to be priority research in Wales.

The group also discussed an article by J Sturzaker in

Planning Theory and Practice on culture change in England.

The Forum realised the work that would need to be done related to the flurry of government activity, including a number of Committee topics related to planning and the new Planning Bill.

To meet one of our priorities, AMs were invited to a planning reception with RTPI Cymru and PAW on 1 November and were 'tested' on their understanding of Planning.

*Lesley is Chair of the RTPI Cymru Policy and Research Forum*

*The Forum welcomes any comments from RTPI members. Please email Roisin Willmott with suggestions [roisin.willmott@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:roisin.willmott@rtpi.org.uk)*

## RTPI Cymru Event Survey

RTPI Cymru runs a number of events across the year and we would like to get feedback from members on the events.

We are interested to know how you think the events ran and also whether they are meeting your needs in terms of topics and content.

The results of this survey will then help us plan future events, so we would value your input.

The survey is available on line - just go to the RTPI Cymru webpages - [www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi\\_cymru](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_cymru) - and follow the links.

*Thank you!*

# Shaping the future of Cardiff: are we on the right track?

*Jessica Richmond reflects on the event held in Cardiff Bay to celebrate ten years of WYG Planning & Design*

The WYG Cardiff office hosted a breakfast event in October where over a breakfast of bacon and sausage baguettes, Office director, Neil Denison gave a warm welcome to the attendees and reflected on the success of WYG Planning & Design's Cardiff office. Attention then moved to the morning's main event where a debate took place on the topic 'Shaping the future of Cardiff: are we on the right track?' Chaired by Paul Vining (WYG), who introduced a panel of six speakers including: Mark Hallett (Igloo Regeneration), Richard Thomas (Cardiff & Co), Sue Essex (ex Minister in the Welsh Government), Roger Tanner (Caerphilly CBC, but speaking in a personal capacity), Stuart Cole (Professor of Transport, University of Glamorgan) and Cllr Neil McEvoy (Plaid Cymru Deputy Leader of Cardiff Council).

The panel was invited to

respond to the topic expressing their opinions on the future of Cardiff before opening to the floor for questions. The discussion raised a number of valuable points highlighting the need for a development system based on city regions, rather than the city in isolation, and questioned 'what track are we on?' with no Local Development Plan (LDP) and no UDP. The LDP system was considered not fit for purpose, which then prompted the need to undertake a review of the Wales Spatial Plan and the need to recognise cross flows in the region as well as the villages in and around Cardiff, which should be celebrated.

Cardiff was praised for being placed 6 in the top 10 cities in the world to visit, its strong university sector, historic legacy and Wales's statutory duty to develop sustainably. The St David's Centre is the third most visited shopping centre in UK highlighting the impact that the recent

redevelopment has had on the economy. Proposals for the 'Cardiff Central Business District' were considered key to the future of the region along with development reasons to invest in the area. However, there was a difference of opinion on Enterprise Zones and whether these were a good/bad idea? The location of enterprise zones was considered critical to their success, along with the location of the new transport hub for Cardiff, which hopes to bring an integrated approach to transport. Aspirations included the electrification of the Cardiff to London railway and Valleys' railways and an increase in the number of flight destinations from Cardiff International Airport.

Despite the recent successes caution was raised about the global economy and the need to be realistic about what can be achieved. The challenges for growth and the balance between developer-led versus



*Above: The Panel discussing Cardiff's development*

transport-led development, along with the question 'is Cardiff too small?' were concluded with the need for a clear vision for the region, a knowledge based economy and better leadership.

The morning was a great success, raising a number of insightful and thought provoking points about current and future developments in the Cardiff region, which we hope to be able to reflect upon again in the near future.

*Jessica is Principal Urban Designer at WYG's Cardiff Office [www.wyg.com](http://www.wyg.com)*

# Pentrefi yn y Ddinas

Ni ddylwn anghofio'r pethau craidd sy'n rhan o fywyd gwerth ei byw, medd Huw Thomas

Am ran fwyaf ohonom, mis Ionawr sy'n dechrau'r flwyddyn. Ond mae'n fis Hydref cyn i ddarlithwyr deimlo'r wefr o ddechreuad newydd. Am wythnosau rydym wedi bod yn rhoi croeso i fyfyrwyr o bedwar ban y byd i Gaerdydd. Mae eu presenoldeb yn y ddinas yn esiampl fach o'r cysylltiadau cymhleth rhyngwladol sy'n parhau i dyfu yn llawer agwedd o'n bywydau, cysylltiadau a elwir 'globaleiddio' gan rai.

Gall neb wadu effaith y we ar gyfathrebu; neu bwysigrwydd twf economaidd gwledydd fel Tseina ac India. Mae'n amhosib deall ein problemau economaidd heb fapio rhwydweithiau cyllidol sy'n cysylltu Cymru fach a gweddill y byd. Serch hynny, yn ddiweddar nid newidiadau byd-eang sydd ar fy meddwl, ond y pethau sy'n parhau i fod yn bwysig i bobl gyffredin (fel nynt) dros y canrifoedd.

Newydd symud tŷ ydw i. Bellach, mae gen i dŷ cownsil (wedi ei phrynu degawdau yn ôl gan ryw denant ffodus) ar stad o ryw bum cant o dai. Adeiladwyd rhan fwyaf o'r tai yn y pumdegau, ar ôl arddull 'Garden Village'. Mae rhan fwyaf o'r trigolion wedi bod yma am gryn amser; fi ydy un o'r lleiafrif o 'gentrifiers'. Rwy'n dechrau deall pam maent am aros.

Y peth cyntaf i fy nharo oedd maint y plotiau - digon o le am arddio, neu chwarae, neu drwsio ceir heb fod yn boendod am eich cymdogion. Mae'r siopau lleol rhyw hanner milltir i ffwrdd, a dyna ble allwn dal y trê neu'r bws i'r ddinas. Ar y dechrau meddyliais fod y tai yn unffurf, ond nid ydynt o gwbl. Mae 'na thai gyda thair ystafell gwely, tai un llawr gydag un ystafell gwely, sy'n addas am hen bobl, a flatiau. Felly cewch sawl enghraifft o

deuluoedd yn byw yn agos at ei gilydd, ac yn symud tŷ (ond aros yn yr ardal) fel mae eu hanghenion yn newid.

Rwy'n byw mewn pentre' yng nghanol y ddinas. Sgrifennodd Jane Jacobs am bentrefi yn y ddinas, ond dadleuodd hi fod y pentref yn naturiol a'r cynllunwyr oedd am ei ddinistrio. Ond dyma brawf gall gynllunwyr creu'r sail am baradwys fach yn ein dinasoedd: dim ond y sail cofiwch chi - yn y pendraw pobl sy'n penderfynu os ydynt am fyw fel cymdogion da â theuluoedd hapus, neu beidio. Ond gall cynllunwyr creu posibiliadau.

Efallai dyna beth mae'r RTPI yn meddwl pan mae'n dweud mai gwaith cynllunwyr ydy 'making of place'. Os ydym am greu llyfydd dymunol rhaid i ni gofio beth sy'n bwysig i bobl - cyfleusterau, wrth gwrs, ond teulu, ffrindiau, cymdogion,



Uwch: Huw Thomas

awyr iach, a diogelwch. Ni all cynllunio sicrhau'r rhain bob amser, neu ar ei phen ei hun. Ond os anghofiwn mai dyma sylfaen bywydau llawer ohonom, hyd yn oed yng nghyfnod globaleiddio, ni fydd cynllunio hyd yn oed yn rhan o'r broses o greu llyfydd sy'n bwydo'r ysbryd yn ogystal â'r corff.

*Darllenwyd ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd ydy Huw.*

## Place based workshops begin



Sustainable Places Research Institute

Cardiff University's Sustainable Places Research Institute (PLACE) and the University Graduate College have been running a series of workshops to form the basis of a new approach to the development of academic research. The aim is to gather knowledge and views on issues of concern to people in their local area and help to guide the future direction of a research agenda linked to that place.

Dr Leanne Cullen-Unsworth, chair of the first workshop in the series, said: "We believe that involving people in what really matters to them in the development of their local area is key to ensuring that places will be sustainable in the future. We are really

excited about bringing people together with policy makers and academics in a new network that can form the basis for action, and to gather knowledge about how participants view possible future developments."

Commenting on how the series has been running, Dr Alex Franklin said: "We are interested in how scientists and communities can work together effectively to address issues of concern to communities. Alex continued: "The four workshop style meetings ran in close succession from September to November 2011. We hope this is just the start and will encourage on-going discussion and the

development of ideas amongst participants."

The workshops involved a mixture of short presentations from invited speakers and extended round table discussions. Drawing from the discussions, and on information collected on the research interests, a preliminary ideas paper will be developed. It is hoped that the workshops will be a starting point for focusing future work, and will help build collaborative research relationships on sustainable place making in Wales.

*For more information about the Sustainable Places Research Institute please contact: Ruth Lovell, Communications Officer, Sustainable Places Research Institute, Cardiff University. Tel: 029 2087 0535 e-mail: LovellRE@cf.ac.uk*

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/research/sustainableplaces/](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/research/sustainableplaces/)

## Award for Top Student



Above (left to right): Anna Prescott, RTPI Cymru Chair and Emma Thorpe, winner the Bill Unsworth Memorial Prize

Congratulations to Emma Thorpe of Cardiff University, who was awarded the Bill Unsworth Memorial Prize at the RTPI Cymru Annual Dinner in November. The prize is awarded each year to the student who achieves the highest levels in their examinations and coursework in their first year of the BSc in City and Regional Planning at Cardiff University.

# Events Corner

## Planning Bill Discussion Workshops

RTPI Cymru is organising a series of workshops to enable RTPI members to feed in their views to RTPI Cymru for the Planning White Paper.

Monday 12th December, Temple of Peace, Cardiff, 2 - 4.30pm

Tuesday 13th December, Carmarthen Leisure Centre, Carmarthen, 2 - 4.30pm

Wednesday 14th December, Glyndwr University, Wrexham, 2 - 4.30pm

Price: Free to RTPI Members

Further information and to book a place, e-mail: [wales@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:wales@rtpi.org.uk)

Website: [www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi\\_cymru](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_cymru)

## North Wales Chapter AGM

Wednesday 14th December 2011

Location: Glyndwr University, Wrexham

Price: Free

The North Wales Chapter AGM will be held, providing members with the opportunity to discuss what they would like to see from the Chapter in 2012. Nominations for positions on the Committee are also welcomed.

Further details available from: [www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi\\_cymru](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_cymru)

## Interdependent and unplanned? A spatial strategy for the Cardiff city-region

Tuesday 12th January 2012, 17:30 for 18:00

Location: Cardiff University, Glamorgan Building, Cardiff

Price: Free

Further information and to book a place please see: [www.cardiff.ac.uk/cplan](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/cplan)

## Water and Planning: Crossing Boundaries and Bridging Gaps

Friday 24th February 2012

Location: University of West of England, Bristol

Joint RTPI Cymru event with the CIWEM South Western Branch.

Further information and to book a place please see: [www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi\\_cymru](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_cymru)

## RTPI Cymru Spring Conference: Historic Planning

March 2012

Location: Llandudno

The Spring Conference will consider the planning issues around the historic environment.

Further details will be available from: [www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi\\_cymru](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_cymru)

## Diary Marker: Wales Planning Conference 2012: Delivering Locally

Following the local government elections in May the Conference will focus on local delivery through planning in Wales.

Please note the changed date: 30th May 2012, City Hall, Cardiff

Further details to be made available via: [www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi\\_cymru](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_cymru)

## What do you get if you cross a bunch of young planners and Halloween?



It was the second Young Planners Cymru / Planning Aid Wales Pub Quiz of 2011, and what a quiz it was. After five intense rounds including a picture round, movie anagram round and a Halloween round, "MC Planners" from Morgan Cole came out eventual winners with 67 points. Billed as a Halloween Pub Quiz, it sure was a frightening night for 'Llaween ha' from Planning Aid Wales who won the wooden spoon prize coming last with just 37 points.

The best Halloween themed team name went to the brilliantly named 'Plananormal Activity' from Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners.

With over 50 in attendance the Pub Quiz remains a key event in the social calendar for Young Planners Cymru who organised the quiz. Thanks go to Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners, ATKINS, the Welsh Government and Fusion Café Bar and ViVino Wine Limited for providing prize donations.

Big thanks go to James Davies (Planning Aid Wales) as the quizmaster and the YPC Steering Group for organising the quiz.

### Did you know?

To keep up date on events and activities from Young Planners Cymru please sign up to the YPC newsletter by emailing [info@youngplannerscymru.org.uk](mailto:info@youngplannerscymru.org.uk) or visit [www.rtpi.org.uk/wales\\_young\\_planners/](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/wales_young_planners/).

### Steering Group

YPC recently invited nominations for the Steering Group in 2012, full details of the group for 2012 will be announced in December.

Andrew Charles,  
Communications Manager,  
Young Planners Cymru



Above: Quiz Winners - MC Planners



Above: 2nd Place Winner



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