



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.

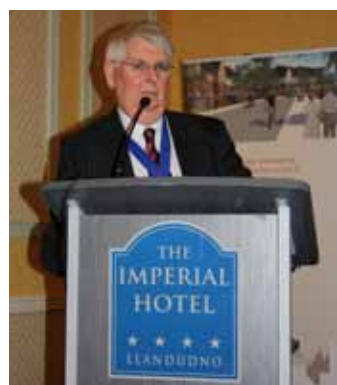
The Forum, under the chairmanship of Lesley Punter, and Deputy Chair, Karen Potter, has been proactive in its efforts and developing its own work programme.

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:

- NAW Enterprise and Business Committee Inquiry into town centre regeneration
- NAW Environment and Sustainability Committee Inquiry into energy policy and planning in Wales
- NAW 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.



Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners
Planning. Design. Economics.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

