

## Message from the Chair

### **"Excited and apprehensive".**

The words used by Jim Claydon after being elected as Junior Vice President for the RTPI – nationally. Congratulations Jim – the South West wishes you all the best.

I now know how he feels – as new Chair of RTPI(SW) I'm excited and apprehensive as well.

**Apprehensive.** Why? Previous Chairs have set very high standards and established a number of initiatives that need to be built on – workplace contacts; liaison with other professional bodies; task groups (e.g. for handling the many consultations the Branch receives) to name a few. Last year's Chair, David Twigg, did so well that an invite to join the RTPI's General Assembly has come his way – well done David. He joins Janthia Algate and Jim Claydon in helping to make a good case for those involved in planning in this region.

Which leads me on to another issue causing some apprehension: The potentially significant changes to the way in which RTPI(SW) organises itself,

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events, conferences etc in the region. Previous articles in Branchout have highlighted some of the possible changes and I don't intend to repeat those now - but watch this space . . .

Or perhaps you won't be watching this space because you're not too worried about RTPI(SW), or the RTPI for that matter? If there's something I can do in my short period in this role (12 months) it is to promote wider and better appreciation of the value of RTPI membership and the value you get from the (mostly voluntary) work RTPI(SW) does. Again, watch this space.

And here we get to the exciting bit – well, for me anyway. A twelve month tenure provides a simple choice:



**PAT STEWARD**  
Chair 2005

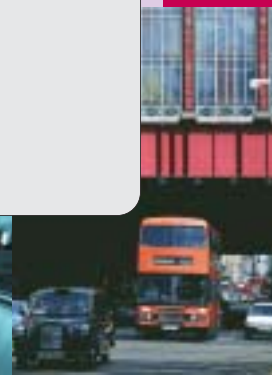
Champion or caretaker? It's a no brainer from my perspective – for two reasons. First, I'm extremely positive, optimistic and enthusiastic about planning – even at my age! Secondly, the changes to the planning system provide great opportunities for all of us/you to put the planning profession at the front of delivering sustainable development and sustainable communities.

The RTPI (SW) conference programme for 2005 has been designed to help us do just that and to encourage better understanding of some big issues in planning, more opportunity to share and shout about what we do well in the South West, to focus on strategic issues as well as the day to day ones.

The programme is also intended to be more inclusive, by encouraging a wide range of speakers and delegates from other professional and voluntary organisations – partnership is a key theme. The March conference, for example, on Planning for the Future will include a 17 year old presenter from the South West contingent of the National Youth Parliament, sharing the platform with a RIBA representative, an Association of British Insurer's rep and an advocate from RegenSW.

The first of the 2005 conferences, on Culture Change, provided some really inspiration messages: Shout about what's good and ensure the planning profession leads the way on changing

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perceptions on planning and development (Kelvin MacDonald); look beyond the problem, see the potential (John McBride); the opportunities we have today must not be missed, and, getting consensus at the right time saves time and money (Jeff Bishop); it's essential to have a really good understanding of delivery issues and partners in delivery – sustainable communities don't just happen because a Development Plan policy says so (Karime Hassan); developers want to see innovation, flexibility, pragmatism and strategic thinking (Andrew Beard). My thanks to those speakers and apologies for paraphrasing their words – but the messages are clear.

I've already quoted Jim Claydon, but it's now Bruce Forsythe's turn: *'Didn't they do well'*. No come back for the Generation Game – but a very healthy number of South West projects have received national and/or regional

planning achievement awards, in the face of stiff competition. Full reports can be found on the RTPI website ([www.rtpi.org.uk](http://www.rtpi.org.uk)) and in the pages of this magazine, but a few quotes from the national judging panel include: "This proposal (Portland Fuel Bunkering) presented a major planning challenge and the judges were impressed by the way this challenge was addressed"; "The Market and Coastal Towns Initiative for the South West is an outstanding example of community involvement and sustainability"; "It is tempting to say that Exeter was lucky to bring the Met Office's global headquarters to its city, but it was not luck. It was a thorough understanding of the way in which planning processes should work which paid off". "We believe that North Wiltshire District Council should be commended for their approach and success in "Changing the Culture".

These projects are something to be proud of – we should shout about them

and the many other good things we do in the South West. I'm keen to hear more of the good things that are being done in the region and to help make more noise about them – nationally and regionally. Please e-mail me ([pat.steward@southwestrda.org.uk](mailto:pat.steward@southwestrda.org.uk)) if you've got some good planning to shout about. ■

## Ken Cox – a tribute

**As the RTPI in the South West approaches its 60th Anniversary, the key link with the early history was broken on 11th December 2004 with the death of Ken Cox. Today's various activities continue and build upon the early successful days in which Ken played such a pivotal role.**

Following the formation of the Branch in 1945 Ken became the Assistant Secretary/Treasurer for the year 1947/48. He then took on the roles of Hon. Secretary and Treasurer for the next 20 years from 1948/49 until 1967/68 and continued as Hon. Secretary for a further year until 8th May 1969. He remained on the Branch Executive for a further 13 years until the end of 1982, including being Chairman in 1972/73. The total of 35 years service was recognised by a presentation from the Branch at its Annual Dinner in 1983. The greatest recognition came when Ken was the first member from the South West and only the second nationally to be awarded the Institute's Outstanding Service Award.

For many, in particular those who worked with him in the Bristol Planning Department, Ken was one of the great gentlemen planners – nothing was too much trouble. Whenever an officer acquainted Ken with a problem and he responded "leave it with me" you knew it was in safe hands. He greatly encouraged staff to take an active role in RTPI affairs, in particular at Branch level. He was particularly pleased that a number of his then Bristol colleagues subsequently served the Branch in key officer posts including Lindsay Smith (Hon. Secretary 1977-1980 and Chair 1985), Vic Robinson (Chair 1976/77), Peter Floyd (Chair 1980/81), Jill Jameson (Chair 1991), Bryan Smith (Chair 1997), Frank Kelf (Treasurer 1968-1991) and Mike Oakley (Chair 1982, Hon. Secretary 1997 to date). The last two subsequently also received the Institute's Outstanding Service Award. Such a record only serves to emphasise the vital role played by Ken. On a personal note the current Hon. Secretary remembers with much gratitude the encouragement given by Ken, when in the mid 1960s, he struggled to pass the Institute's external exams!

■ Mike Oakley

## RTPI South West Branch Executive 2005



### Recent Activities

**Principal items on the agenda of the Executive and Sub-Committee meetings held in November 2004 and January 2005 included:**

- The final response of RTPI SW to the South West Regional Assembly's consultation document "Possible Development Strategies for the Region".
- An excellent comprehensive presentation on the newly established enhanced Planning Aid service for the South West by Mary-Jane Edwards, the S.W. Planning Aid Coordinator.
- Update reports on the Branches Review exercise from Mike Oakley, the RTPI SW Hon. Secretary who was on the national steering group for the Review.
- The programme for implementing the actions set out in the approved RTPI SW Business Plan, in particular those indicated for the year 2005.
- Report back from Don Alder, the RTPI S.W. representative on the Highways Agency S.W. Environmental Forum.
- The proposed new Institute 'Assessment of Professional Competence' prior to attendance by two delegates at a national RTPI Conference in March 2005.

# Planning for Regeneration:

## the kiss of life

25 November 2004,  
Weston-super-Mare

The focus of the day was on the regeneration of market and coastal towns, which many argue have been overlooked with the recent focus upon principal urban areas (PUAs).

Martin Willey, Convenor for the RTPI Regeneration Panel, and Managing Director of Yew Tree Projects, kicked off the proceedings with a wide ranging presentation providing practitioners with useful information on master planning checklists, the identification of delivery drivers of the master planning process, and using a master plan vision as means of engaging with local communities.

Martin posed the question – who should lead the master planning process? He argued that ultimately the market will deliver the process but in circumstances of market failure public intervention will be essential.

Planners with development control experience were highlighted as having the sufficient skills to lead a master plan through statutory procedures, applying appropriate project management and community engagement. However, on the latter point we were warned not to mislead communities by raising unrealistic aspirations, and to take account of consultation fatigue. Martin concluded his presentation with the following advice: think delivery and management, educate communities, and bring together the key stakeholders.

Gordon Morris, Senior Policy Advisor for Market Towns, at the Countryside Agency presented a comprehensive overview of the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative (MCTI). Settlements with a population of 2,000 to 20,000 were included in the MCTI scheme. The 1,000 or so settlements of this size in England are eligible to be included in the scheme that originated from the Year 2000 Rural White Paper, which provided £37m public funding.

The MCTI was described as a self help checklist partnership. The Countryside Agency developed a web based 'tool kit' providing practical advice. Two-hundred and forty towns have signed up so far, and eighteen have been given 'beacon' status. Those settlements with beacon status were focussing on promoting delivery excellence along a particular theme



such as: broadband access, affordable housing provision, eco-design, etc. Best practice established within the Beacon settlements is then fed back as information for the main group of towns who have signed up.

John Forsyth, Partner at Roger Tym and Partners gave a wide ranging presentation John considers that the South West in particular needs a good Regional – Local planning approach.

A case study of recent work with Dorset County Council was highlighted to illustrate a number of the themes discussed. Dorset, like many South West counties has experienced a decline in traditional manufacturing industries and the utilities sector, but has seen growth services sector, tourism and public administration. The Dorset work focused on growth potential in large towns. In concluding his presentation John highlighted the need for strategic policy makers to be aware of local historical and geographic origins of settlements, and to make proper use of various market indicators including rents, commercial values and house prices.

David Slatter illuminated the graveyard slot with a fascinating overview of the work behind the Cambourne, Pull and Redruth (CPR) conurbation in Cornwall, which has a present population of 45,000.

The CPR area was at one time the world centre in tin mining and was extremely well known and prosperous during its heyday in the early 19th century. The existing problems in the area include low pay, local housing need, poor quality development, second homes, lack of development capacity and infrastructure, and contamination. However, the area has potential with

good links to the A30, the attention of public agencies, vacant brownfield land, and it can offer a high quality of life.

An urban regeneration company was set up as a focus for public funding and private sector investment. Baseline studies have been undertaken on transport, housing, retail, econ, and open space.

Thematic strategies and area based masterplans drawn up using the 'enquiry by design' consultation procedure have been produced to enhance certainty, and reduce planning risk. Design codes have also been developed to raise design aspirations and assist development control decision-making.

The final presentation of the day was by Alison Hatcher, SWRDA. The focus of this presentation was the host town, Western super Mare. WSM has PUA status and good transport links. However the town has been in decline since its Victorian heyday.

SWRDA's step change vision has two foci: the town centre; and a 250 ha area known as the Western Regeneration Area. There is currently an £11m programme of public realm enhancements underway in the town centre, and English Partnerships and the SWRDA acquired a key former RAF site and are now looking to promote employment led regeneration. The intention is to translate the vision into new system of development planning.

This stimulating presentation generated a lively debate with speakers commenting that WSM is illustrative of 20 years of unsustainable housing growth, with arguments for creative strategic thinking to promote indigenous business growth.

■ Chris Beaver

# RTPI South West Branch Planning Achievements Awards 2004

sponsored by White Young Green

The process of considering the nine South West region entries passed down from the RTPI National Planning Awards competition 2004 has now been completed. Judging has been carried out by Mike Oakley, Branch Hon Secretary, David Lowin, White Young Green, Bristol and Geoff Walker, University of the West of England. The panel has been chaired by David Twigg, Branch Chair 2004.

The six specific judging criteria for the national competition have been used as the main point of reference:

- Enhancement of the physical environment leading to recognisable social and economic benefit
- Originality of the achievement or approach
- Quality of the professional work involved
- Extent to which the achievement may serve as a model for elsewhere
- Role played by the planner as enabler and co-ordinator
- Extent to which planners have worked in partnership with others

In addition, the entries have been looked at in two distinct categories – 'schemes on the ground' and 'other planning work'. In each of these categories, the final judgement has been based on the extent to which the entry could be considered to represent a significant planning achievement in the South West region context.

## Schemes on the ground

### Exeter Met Office Relocation Project

Devon County Council and Exeter City Council

Winner and overall Winner of the Philip Barclay Cup (and National Award Winner for Planning Process)



Exeter Met Office

The 15 ha campus accommodates 36,000m<sup>2</sup> of floor-space, including an extensive computer suite, innovation centre, media centre, training college, library, conference facilities and restaurant. The building complex is set in the drainage basin of the site and is designed round a central internal "street". With set height limits to minimise visual impact, it includes a striking entrance design, an award winning green travel scheme and a sustainable drainage system. The awards, both at national and regional level, particularly recognise the exemplary manner in which the two planning authorities tackled the complex planning issues involved.



John Rigby (Exeter City Council), Malcolm Baker (Devon County Council) receive their awards from David Lowin of White Young Green

### Portland fuel bunkering facility

Terence O'Rourke plc



Marine fuel bunker facility at Portland

## Commended

(also received a Commendation for Planning for Business in the National Awards)

A brownfield site at Portland, Dorset, turned out to be ideal for creating and servicing a marine fuel bunkering facility. The site, formerly used by the Royal Navy, offered major fuel storage potential, a deep-water berth with a small tidal range and shelter. To bring it into use involved restoring

four 300 m long disused underground storage tanks and building a fuelling jetty and pipelines. Sea-going tankers deliver the fuel, which is transferred to visiting ships from the jetty by inshore tankers. Environmental threats to important marine and terrestrial sites arising from possible oil spills had to be tackled, and planning consultancy, Terence O'Rourke was appointed to oversee the process; the manner in which this role was exercised particularly impressed the national and regional judges.

### Teignhaven site redevelopment project, Shaldon

Teignbridge District Council

A long process, including the rejection of two earlier schemes led to the successful redevelopment of this sensitive site on the southern bank of the River Teign. The process included an urban form study and a statement of Design intentions. The Teignhaven Working Group, that included members of the local community, was closely involved in the design development process. The Commendation recognises both the design that harmonises the development with the existing village and also the close involvement with the local community.



Teignbridge Housing, Shaldon – Devon

## Other planning work

### The Market and Coastal Towns Initiative for the South West (MCTi)

Bodmin & Surrounding Area Forum and Langport Area Forum

(also Winner of the National Award for Sustainable Communities)



David Lowin presents a certificate to Ann Kerridge, Chair of the Bodmin and Surrounding Area Forum and Alan Berry, SWRDA

The Market and Coastal Towns Initiative is a groundbreaking community-led regeneration initiative for market towns and coastal settlements and their surrounding parishes across the South West of England. Skills-based strategic planning for a sustainable future is the end result.

The towns involved have populations of between 2,000 and 20,000 and are important service and employment centres for their rural hinterlands. Most are witnessing a change in their role as a result of decline in agriculture and fishing, shortages of affordable housing and shifts in tourist activity. The initiative aims to ensure that each town has the tools it needs to play an active part in planning its own future.

## Commended

### Supplementary Planning Guidance – Waste Audits and Provision for Recycling: Wiltshire and Swindon

Wiltshire County Council

The production of waste by major development is an important issue for the planning profession and planning authorities. The concept of Waste Audits submitted by developers with planning applications setting out the various processes by which the resulting waste is to be dealt with is growing. In preparing this Supplementary Planning Guidance, Wiltshire and Swindon have set a commendable example which other planning authorities could well follow. The Commendation recognises the merit of this initiative.

The presentations to the award winners – in the form of framed certificates and in addition, for the overall winner, the Silver Cup and a Plaque for permanent display on site, were made at the RTPI South West Conference at the Rougemont Hotel in Exeter on Friday 11 February 2005. Many thanks to Geoff Walker (UWE) for co-ordinating the judging process and ensuring fair play throughout.

# Planning for Housing

17 December 2004 –  
Salisbury

**The focus of the day was primarily affordable housing in rural areas, with particular attention being paid to rural exemption policies, the work of rural housing enablers and how affordable rural housing should be paid for.**

The opening speaker was Simon Jenkins, a director of Adams Integra Ltd. Simon sought to identify the main issues involved in affordable housing provision from the perspectives of the different parties involved – local authorities, developers and housing associations – drawing out conclusions about how each group needs to prioritise.

Simon was followed by John Golding, head of Housing & Social Inclusion at East Devon D.C. The main thrust of John's presentation was that, although the search for 'new solutions' is important, and that ongoing lobbying for governmental prioritisation of affordable housing is vital, it is essential for planners to use the tools and resources already available as effectively as possible, to ensure that what is currently achievable is achieved.

The morning's final speaker was Graham Hogg, the Housing Services Manager for West Wiltshire D.C. He introduced a topic many were unfamiliar with, namely the use of Private Finance Initiatives (PFIs) to provide affordable housing. Graham's authority is in something of a pioneering position as far as the use of PFI to provide affordable homes in rural areas is concerned. The minimum bid size of £10m for Round 4 PFI projects means they have been a largely urban phenomenon, but West Wilts have put together a district wide strategy for 500 homes that will be available to the authority's housing register for at least 30 years, and cross authority bids are encouraged.

The traditional means of provision centred on negotiation and s106 agreements have not in any sense been abandoned, but their ability to



yield homes in sufficient quantity to meet identified needs has led to the search for a more pro-active strategy, and PFI has been identified as having a role to play. Lunch was accompanied by the now traditional end of year glass of wine and provided the opportunity for the assembled company to discuss the morning's issues. The view that the only real way to address the shortage of affordable housing was to go back to the old system of council housing was widespread, but nobody seemed to think that any political party was likely to include it in their next manifesto.

In the afternoon the conference heard from 2 rural housing enablers: Andy Lloyd, from Dorset Community Action and Jonathan Layzell, from the Community Council for Somerset examined the obstacles and opportunities confronting rural enablers and also looked at some examples of good practice. They both talked of the unceasing effort that is needed to achieve comparatively modest results, but left no doubt that all that effort is worth it. The rural affordable housing shortage is huge, and it is easy to be daunted by it, but Andy and Jonathan showed how working to exploit residual goodwill amongst local communities, pushing for more proactive policies in Local Development Documents and never missing an opportunity to raise the profile of affordable housing can offer hope.

One of the primary considerations when looking at housing in rural areas

is its sustainability in terms of energy consumption and emission control. The Zero Energy Development concept focuses on this concern and offers possible solutions through orientation, massing, insulation and layout. The accommodation tends to be flexible, fitting in with the 'homes for life' concept and usefully, given the growing need for smaller housing units, works most efficiently when houses are built in terraces or blocks.

A Personal Observation on the Day Overall this was a varied and interesting day giving much food for thought. What emerged was the need to operate in this field on two distinct but inter-related fronts. There are ways of providing affordable housing now. They do yield results, albeit modest ones in the main, and they are worth pursuing. Initiatives like PFI may enable the scope of the present system to be extended to yield greater numbers.

The real challenge however lies in future policies, both planning and financial. Linking rural exemption policies to specifically affordable housing allocations offers perhaps the best way forward in the short term. Long term however, local authorities need to be allowed a more pro-active role in driving forward the provision of affordable housing, with the establishment of long term funding lines and a clearly defined, robust role for the use of compulsory purchase powers.

Right to Buy was a short term electoral bribe which has had long term disastrous consequences for the availability of affordable housing in Britain. It was in itself a move to intervene in the market to achieve a socio-political end. A similarly bold interventionary move is needed to achieve a rather more pressing need – that of ensuring future generations can afford a roof over their head.

■ **Graham Townsend**

# RTPI Student Prizes 2003/2004

Awards Ceremony November 2004

## RTPI National Prizes

Joint Distance learning MA/PG Diploma Town & Country Planning  
*Best Performance on the MA*

**Tiernan Humphreys**

MA Town & Country Planning

*Best performance*

**Jointly awarded to Victoria Longdon and Kathryn Perry**

MTP

*Best performance*

**Ryland Llewellyn**

BA(Hons) Architecture & Planning

*Best performance*

**Matthew Hynam**

## RTPI South West Branch Prizes

PG Diploma Urban Design

*Best performance*

**Awarded to Kevin Parker**

MA Town & County Planning

*For postgraduate work making the best contribution to planning practice (based on the Masters Dissertation)*

**Charlotte Rae**

MTP

*For the best contribution to the planning profession (based on the Agency Project)*

**Awarded jointly to Jemma Boustead (TCP) and Matthew Hynam (A&P)**

### NB

Also School of Planning & Architecture Prize BA(Hons) Town & Country Planning

**Best Performance Helen Garnett**

The Building Prize For an outstanding Dissertation (BA(Hons) Town & Country Planning)

**Zoe Wilkinson**

Sport England Prize – BA (Hons) Planning with Leisure

**Robert Allen** (new from 2003)

■ Geoff Walker

## UWE Awarded Contract to Deliver New Course in Spatial Planning

The Faculty of the Built Environment at UWE has been awarded a contract to devise and deliver a new course in Spatial Planning. As part of the culture change initiative, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) wants all new and existing planners to change their way of thinking about planning, moving away from an entirely land-use based system to create a more inclusive and integrative activity to deliver the policies contained in the new planning policy statement, "Delivering Sustainable Development".

The most exciting part of the contract is that UWE will be helping to define new concepts in planning for implementation by practitioners who need to "re-adjust their thinking and ways of working" (ODPM, 2005). Furthermore, the new inter-disciplinary approach will involve staff from faculties other than Built Environment, many of whom have already shown an interest in the project.

The aim is to deliver a flexible, web-based, distance learning course in a format which allows for continuous professional development through to a master's qualification or even professional doctorate via the accumulation of credit. The ODPM was impressed with the team effort, which brought together suggestions for academic content alongside a track record of providing web-based learning packages.

A full time researcher will be appointed to work alongside the project leader, Janet Askew, Senior Lecturer in the School of Planning and Architecture. If anyone is interested in doing this job perhaps on a short-time basis, or as a secondment, they should contact Janet.askew@uwe.ac.uk as soon as possible. The course is due to commence in October 2005, and will be advertised during the summer. Any enquiries about the course itself, or if you think you might want to study on it, please contact the project leader. Updates on the progress of it will appear in "Branchout".

■ Janet Askew  
0117 32 83204

## ESRC launches new website for Social Sciences

The UK's largest funding agency for research and postgraduate training on social and economic issues – the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) – is soon to launch a brand new online initiative for social sciences research.

ESRC Society Today will offer academics, students and researchers unrivalled, free access to high quality social and economic research available, planned and in progress.

As well as bringing together all ESRC-funded research, the website will provide a gateway to other key online resources from the UK such as Social Science Information Gateway (SOSIG), the UK Data Archive and the Office

of National Statistics – as well as international coverage from services such as Europa and Social Science Research Network (SSRN).

It will include early findings, full texts and original data sets and allow users establish online discussion fora, track down researchers in their key subject fields or find details on ESRC funding and training opportunities. There will also be the facility to register for regular news bulletins and email alerts on areas of interest and stay abreast of the latest research efficiently and effectively.

ESRC Society Today – [www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk](http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk) – is scheduled to go live for a test period in March 2005 before being publicly launched in April 2005, replacing the current [www.esrc.ac.uk](http://www.esrc.ac.uk) and [www.regard.co.uk](http://www.regard.co.uk) sites.

You can register for further information by emailing [societytoday@esrc.ac.uk](mailto:societytoday@esrc.ac.uk)

# DIARY

## RTPI South West Conference Programme

**15 April 2005**

**Development Control Workshop – Focus on the New Planning System**  
**Burgess Salmon Officer, Bristol**

**24 June 2005**

**Development Control Workshop – Focus on the New Planning System**  
**Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton**

**22 July 2005**

**Big it up for planning – Walking the Talk**  
**University of Gloucester**

**15 September 2005**

**Planning and the Historic Environment**  
**Dartington Hall, Totnes**

**Contact:**

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Telephone **01823 665532** or e-mail [southwest@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:southwest@rtpi.org.uk)

## WHAT A GUMMER!!

I am pleased to be able to report that the caption competition attracted entries reaching well into double figures – the bottle of wine obviously proved more of an incentive than the soap-on-a-rope the previous year! Many thanks to all who took the time to submit entries.

The judging panel has been poring over the assorted entries, most of which were actually printable, and reached it's conclusion. As with the Planning Achievement Awards, several entries were highly commended, such as 'By burning all the advice on the new development plans I can keep my hands warm until Christmas' and 'Calm down dear, it's a planning conference, nothing here will affect real life'.

But the overall winner is:

**'Big house in the countryside . . . just like that!'**

Congratulations to **Meyrick Brentall** of Gloucester City Council, and we will try and arrange a formal presentation of the prize at a South West Conference event in the near future.



## PAT STEWARD – All you need to know (a.k.a. all you're going to get!)

**Born:** Friday 13th **Lived:** Norwich, London, Exeter.

**Qualifications:** BA Honours Degree in Urban Planning – University of Westminster (PCL); Diploma in Urban Planning – University of Westminster (PCL); Diploma in Urban Design – University of West of England

**Jobs:** LB Ealing ('87/88), Planning Assistant; LB Haringey ('88/89), Senior DC Officer; West Devon BC ('90/93), Senior Planning Officer; Exeter City Council ('93/98), Area Planner; Environment Agency (SW) ('98/02), Regional Development Planner; South West RDA ('02/present), Planning Manager

**Voluntary work:** Planning Aid for London, RTPI(SW); cricket coach; local school building project

**Married:** Happily, with 3 kids (all boys)

**Sport:** Wall to wall cricket (Capt. Exeter Cricket Club); hockey (goalie – safest place); talking about going to the gym!

**Anything else:** Give me a break – where's the time!? Frustrated architect; taxi driver

**Heroes:** Heath Robinson, Jack Russell.

All contributions for Branchout to:

Branchout Editor: DAVID WALSH, 16 Earl Close, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1DY E-mail: [d.walsh@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:d.walsh@dorsetcc.gov.uk) or at Environmental Services, Dorset County Council, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ (please mark the envelope RTPI Personal).

The deadline for the next edition is **6th May 2005**. The Royal Town Planning Institute is a registered charity in England and Wales No 262865.