

**ROOMatRTPI Politicians in Planning Core Group
Meeting on 22nd March 2007**

	Action
Present:	
Cllr Mike Roberts (Chair)	
Ashis Choudhury	
Cllr Brian O'Hare	
Trevor Roberts	
Trish Cookson (Networks & Associations Developer)	
Andrew Matheson (Associations Manager)	
1. Minutes of the Meeting on 14th December 2006	
The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record.	
<p>Arising from the minuted record of the discussion with Rynd Smith, RTPI Head of Policy & Practice, members queried the RTPI policy position on the Barker Review and the potential for members to be involved as this was developed further in anticipation of the Planning White Paper. Andrew drew attention to the summary pages to which a link had been provided in the previous day's Bulletin.</p> <p>Members expressed a concern that the RTPI should have a robust policy position on opposing a wholesale extension of householder permitted development rights. The fear was of a new role for Councillors and planners arbitrating and enforcing compliance after construction had begun/been completed.</p>	AM
2. RTPI Strategy for Networks and Associations	
<p>Trish outlined the Strategy (as circulated) and summarised the implications for PIPA as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slightly amended title to fit with overall 'branding' as Networks: PIPA – the Politicians in Planning Network • Removal of charges for non-RTPI members, at least for 2007/8 (whereas for other Networks charges were being introduced) • Retention of the Core Group to continue to develop the Network – as distinct from the Steering Groups previously used for other Networks that had tended to become excluding of other inputs • Possible later development of the RTPI governance hierarchy to bring consistency between the Associations and Networks, but this may entail a bye-law change. 	
<p>Members discussed three aspects of the proposals:</p> <p>Governance – there was some concern that the position inherited from ROOMatRTPI should not automatically be regarded as the most appropriate for 14 Networks.</p>	
<p>Relationship with the Regions – particularly on training and development there was a concern that complementarity between the offerings from the two should be sought, with some free events always included.</p>	
<p>Publicity – it was felt that the adoption of the Strategy would be a good time to reawaken interest in what the Networks offer amongst RTPI members in particular. Trish noted that a new Rural Network will also be added, at the Planning Convention in June.</p>	

Trish thanked the members for their interest and confirmed that she had noted their points for continuing development.	TC
3. PIPA Conference & relaunch	
A revised draft programme for this event was tabled. It was agreed that this was an improvement on the first draft. There was some discussion about the proposed date, but Andrew explained that the interests of the funders had to be met and the timing could help the new appointees to Committees/Chairs after the May elections. There was also some discussion about whether or not a modest charge might be appropriate but it was concluded that the bureaucracy attached to reclaiming – and this might not always be possible anyway – should rule this out. Some content suggestions were made and Andrew was tasked with further progressing the content and speaker confirmations.	AM
4. Any Issues Arising from:	
MP's Guide to Planning	
It was noted that this had been deferred pending the new White Paper.	
Training for Councillors	
Differences of opinion emerged as to whether 'compulsory' training should be determined locally or centrally for all authorities. As it was probable that the issue might be picked up in the forthcoming White Paper it was agreed to revisit the topic in the light of the content of that.	
Householder Applications	
This had been addressed under 1 above.	
The remaining sub-headings had been addressed under 3 above.	
5. Any other Business	
RTPI Media Panel	
Andrew reminded members that he had circulated details of the Panel and how to apply.	ALL
6. Date of Next Meeting	
It was agreed that the next meeting will take place at RTPI Offices, London on Thursday 7 th June 2007 – agenda to include the PIPA Conference and, probably, a post White Paper discussion.	AM
There was some discussion about making Capturing Land Value a topic for this meeting. Ashis agreed to provide a copy of the recent paper from the PLRG for circulation to members.	AC
The programme of meetings for the remainder of 2007 is: Thursday 20 th September 2007 Thursday 29 th November 2007	