

PIPA the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network Core Group Meeting on 5th June 2007	
	Action
Present:	
Cllr Mike Roberts (Chair)	
Ashis Choudhury	
Cllr Maryse Iles	
Cllr Brian O'Hare	
Trevor Roberts	
Andrew Matheson (Network Manager)	
Mike welcomed Maryse to her first meeting, with apologies that her surname had been misspelt on the Agenda.	
1. Minutes of the Meeting on 22nd March 2007	
The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record.	
Action points from the Minutes: 1. RTPI policy on extension of householder permitted development rights: The RTPI has collected together all the policy issues relating to the now published Planning White Paper at: http://www.rtpi.org.uk/item/606 3. PIPA Conference: on agenda item 5 5. Media Panel: Andrew noted that Mike had applied to join the Panel 6. Capturing Land Value: on agenda item 4	
2. Planning & Energy White Papers	
A couple of aspects of the Planning paper were discussed: ▪ A general concern that the "impact" approach to permitted development definition was an unnecessary intrusion by central government into the judgement normally exercised by local authorities; with a specific concern about the consultative suggestion of a neighbour agreement, which clearly confuses the land-use basis of development control decision making. ▪ Some differences of views on the lack of any proposal for the Government to make training of councillors on planning committees compulsory, something which however desirable it may be might arguably be left for local decision. It was felt that the RTPI's response on this point ought to be opened to member comment.	
It was felt that it was difficult to do justice to the many issues raised by current consultations and that the membership ought also to be given a chance to consider these – as might be evident at the PIPA Conference.	
It was therefore agreed that, in the light of interest and discussion at the forthcoming Conference, a 'task-and-finish' meeting might be convened solely for the purpose of contributing to the RTPI responses to current Government consultations.	AM
3. Capturing Land Value	
The Land Reform Group was widely interested in the economic aspects of planning rather than, narrowly, any specific proposals for a Planning Gain Supplement (PGS). It was felt that the Group:	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> needs to be more aware of the next moves envisaged by the RTPI in relation to the PGS proposals (<i>subsequently this was clarified when the RTPI issued a press release: 'Coalition calls for speedy resolution to land tax uncertainty' http://www.rtpi.org.uk/item/959/23/5/3)</i>) might consider an event on this and/or related topics, perhaps as the PIPA Conference 2008. 	
4. PIPA Conference and Relaunch	
The event was now proving to be very popular with around 100 delegates expected. A number of enforced programme changes had been made to accommodate speaker changes, but the programme remained strong.	
It was noted that the event had not been successful in attracting any significant number of participants from outside England. Whilst it was agreed that this may be reasonable reaction to devolution, it was also noted that a separate event in Scotland might be justified and Trevor suggested a link-up with Jim McKinnon.	AM/TR
It was agreed that there should be a 'review of the Conference' item on the next Agenda at which feedback would be examined prior to any planning for 2008.	AM/MR
5. Any Issues Arising from:	
RTPI Report: Shaping & Delivering Tomorrow's Places	
Trevor urged Group members to read this new RTPI report on 'Effective Practice in Spatial Planning' (EPiSP) (http://www.rtpi.org.uk/item/281/) and it was agreed that any issues arising from this would be sent to Andrew to allow for the next Agenda to included time for such issues.	ALL
Adoption of RTPI Network's Strategy	
Andrew noted that the application of the Strategy to the Bulletins and references to it there had not prompted and responses to him, and no other queries arose.	
CLG Guidance on the Design of Sites for Gypsies and Travellers	
Noted	
6. Progress with Network Business Plan Q1	
The format for this new, regular report was noted. It was agreed that the quarterly 'updates' should be circulated as they become available allowing for queries to be raised at the time and more general discussion at the subsequent Core Group meeting.	
The Group noted that Network Marketing Strategies were in hand and asked to be kept abreast of this development.	AM
7. Alternatives to round-the-table meetings	
Particularly whilst the group is relatively new, quarterly meetings were felt to be valuable, and the amount of suitable business did not seem to abate. Opportunities for alternative styles of meeting would be considered as appropriate for the 2008 programme.	
8. Any other Business	
Attention was drawn to the circulation by Trish Cookson, RTPI Networks Developer of a final consultation paper on the working relationship between the RTPI teams for Policy & Networks. Responses were requested by	

Friday 29 th June.	
9. Date of Next Meeting	
It was agreed that the next meeting will take place at RTPI Offices, London on Thursday 20 th September 2007	