

Future Newsletters

Hoping that you found this edition of R&B useful and informative, 1 further edition will be published this year to go out in December. The articles you have read have been submitted by Members of the Branch. If you have information, views, reports, news etc which you feel will be of interest to other members then please forward items to Paula Nolan at branch office by **2nd December** for inclusion in the newsletter. Again the success of the newsletter relies on you producing the necessary copy. There must be things going on in your area that merit being communicated amongst a wider audience.

All enquiries to yorkshire@rtpi.org.uk

Useful links...

This edition and past copies of Root & Branch can be found on the Yorkshire Branch website at:

<http://yorkshire.rtpi.org.uk/newsletters/>

Keep up to date with the conference programme and evening seminars at:

<http://yorkshire.rtpi.org.uk/diary/>

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Judd Farris
property recruitment

Autumn 2005

*Royal Town Planning Institute
Yorkshire Branch Newsletter*

Message from The Chair

Where does time go? Now nine months into my year as Chair I'm starting to reflect on what I've achieved both personally, for the Institute and for you as Members. I'll reflect fully on that for the AGM which will take place on **Wednesday 7th December** at the **Blue Building in Doncaster**. I hope to see as many of you as possible at that event.

Three areas in which I have been involved in over the summer though are worth a mention at this stage in my year in office.

For those of you who haven't attended a low cost evening event you are missing a great opportunity to engage in robust debate on important planning issues, the event in Barnsley on the Future of the Green Belt being a great example. Three speakers all provided a particular stance in relation to its retention and extension, the opportunity to promote appropriate development and the pressures facing a Local Planning Authority. The quality of the speakers stimulated interesting and provocative discussion amongst the audience, myself included. Given the turn out of around twenty people, these are ideal events for you to engage in with colleagues. I would like you to get involved in these events and even provide help and assistance in organising or hosting events.

A number of Authorities across the region have been engaged with the Planning Authority Service over the summer to look at the improvement and change agendas affecting LPA's. I again have been personally involved in these workshops which has provided a useful focus of time on shared issues and problems. The underlying message I would share with you all is the need to communicate between authorities on good practice. From this base further engagement should be easier between both the public and private sector. A full report is to be provided on these workshops by the PAS and once available I would recommend that you all make time to look at it's findings.

Finally the end of the year is likely to be a period of significant change for the branch in that we are likely to be moving office. By the time of the AGM, I should be able to announce the details of this change which should provide a focus from improved cross-disciplinary working with RIBA and other building environment disciplines.

See you all at the AGM in Doncaster on 7th December.

Andy Gutherson
Branch Chairman

Message from Chair

Yorkshire Planning Aid – Volunteer Profiles

Quality and the Planning System

Y&H Assembly Workshop – SA & SEA

Movers & Shakers

Calling all mentors!

Yorkshire Conference Series 2005

Low Cost CPD Events

Sustainability – The Planning Agenda

OBITUARY – Ralph Gerald Hague

Yorkshire Gardens Trust Small Grants

Contacts & Future Newsletters

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Root & Branch

Need direction?

If you are a candidate looking for a new challenge or a client with a specific requirement, then please contact: Vicky Tipper or Georgina Jones on 0161 834 8666 or email: vicky.tipper@juddfarris.co.uk georgina.jones@juddfarris.co.uk

Judd Farris
property recruitment

for all our latest vacancies log onto: www.juddfarris.com

VOLUNTEER PROFILES

There are lots of reasons for signing up as a Planning Aid volunteer ... using your skills to make a difference to peoples' lives Viewing the planning system from another perspective finding new opportunities for CPD ... and so on. We asked a few of YPA's current volunteers to explain why they do it, and what they get out of their involvement:-

Julie Deptford is a recent recruit to the ranks of Planning Aid, having been introduced to the service by lecturer and fellow volunteer Harvey Pritchard.



Julie has an MA in Town and Regional Planning and is a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute. Julie has recently moved to work in the private sector from local government and has taken up the position of a planning consultant within a multi-disciplinary team for a firm of international property advisers. In her new role, Julie's clients include both public and private sector organisations for whom she conducts site appraisals and feasibility studies providing advice on re-development options and associated planning risk and submitting and project managing planning applications.

She previously worked as a planning officer in the development control section of a West Yorkshire Metropolitan District Council where she handled a diverse case load including processing applications for minor and major development proposals and prepared the Council's statement of case for appeals.

Julie says she was interested in becoming a Planning Aid volunteer as she considered that it is important to raise the profile of the planning profession to assist in educating members of the public to help them understand how their individual views and opinions could shape the environment in which they lived in; be it at the stage of preparing a development plan or in terms of submitting a letter of representation on a particular proposal. *"I also wanted to establish a network of colleagues and friends outside of Local Government to help me think outside of the 'public planning' box and understand the viewpoints of others on how development proposals affected different interest groups in different ways"* says Julie.

Edward Wills is currently Vice-Chair of the Yorkshire Planning Aid Steering Group, and has been involved as a Volunteer Caseworker for the Service for several years.



In addition to handling casework enquiries from groups and individuals, Edward has also assisted at many community planning events over the years.

Edward is Development Control Manager at Kirklees Council, and he explains what he gets out of his work with YPA:

"Although it sounds like a Busman's Holiday it is really a change in that I am

- :
 - *Dealing with a different geographical area*
 - *Not in my usual position as a Local Government Planner*
 - *Often dealing with different aspects of planning than my normal role*
 - *Helping people understand the planning system.*

It is has been particularly enjoyable and interesting to visit places such as Otley Cattle Auction to advise farmers, and Yorkshire Dales villages to help with Hands-on-Planning exercises."

Joyce Zhu works as a planning officer (policy) in the Development Plans team in North Lincolnshire Council. Her main work responsibilities are drafting local planning policy documents such as development briefs and recently the Statement of Community Involvement, dealing with public enquiries, giving policy comments on planning applications, etc.



Joyce first heard about the work of YPA in the Yorkshire RTPI branch newsletter, and subsequently rang Jacqui in the Regional Office to find out more about the role of a volunteer.

She felt she would enjoy sharing her knowledge within the community, and knew from previous experience as a volunteer that this would generate mutual benefits. Joyce hopes to get to know more people from different backgrounds, and as community planning is relevant to her work, she feels that participation in real projects could help her fulfill her understanding of community involvement in local planning policy.

Since being involved with YPA Joyce has given a presentation on Planning Aid services at Tongji University in Shanghai along with fellow volunteer Harvey Pritchard, and has also written a chapter for a book about Planning Aid.

Harvey Pritchard has devoted many hours of his time to Yorkshire Planning Aid, both as a volunteer caseworker and between 1996 and 2004 as Regional Co-ordinator, also in a voluntary capacity. During this time Harvey helped to set up a number of innovative Planning Aid services, including a Rural Outreach project, and a programme of farm diversification seminars and training events in North and West Yorkshire, most of which Harvey delivered himself.



A chartered member of the Royal Town Planning Institute and a Member of the Energy Institute, Harvey has worked in both the public sector and private practice, and currently runs his own town planning and development consultancy.

authorities are required to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement in which they will set out their policy on involving their community in preparing Local Development Documents and on consulting and planning applications.

As such, sustainable development needs the community to be involved with developing the vision for their areas. WYG Planning can provide and be responsible for key stakeholder consultation and community planning exercises.

In addition, WYG Planning increasingly becomes involved in the production of sustainability statements to accompany significant planning applications and works with the wider disciplines within the Company and beyond to produce such documents. The range of sustainability services offered by the White Young Green includes:

- Sustainable development review and appraisal, including formal SEA's.
- Advice on sustainable development and design (e.g. SUDS drainage design, sustainable construction).
- Social and economic inputs into development (e.g. use of local resources, creation of balanced communities).
- Specific design tools and monitoring (BREEAM and Eco Homes Assessment)

Sue Ansbro MRTPI, Director, White Young Green Planning, Leeds - Email: sue.ansbro@wyg.com

OBITUARY

RALPH GERALD HAGUE 1937 – 2005

Born in Barnsley on 13 October 1937, Ralph's career in town and country planning was started soon after he left school, when he joined the Doncaster Area Planning Office of the old West Riding County Council. Initially engaged on a range of minor tasks, he gradually became involved in the development control process, while studying part-time for the Town Planning Institute's external examinations. The County Planning Officer, Arthur Bates, secured his deferment from National Service to enable him to complete those exams and, shortly after he did so, in 1959, conscription was abolished, so Ralph was able to continue his planning education by taking the Diploma Course at the Leeds School of Town Planning, where the Principal was the renowned Konrad Smigielski. From 1959 to 1962 Ralph and I travelled to Leeds, two or three evenings a week, and after many trials and tribulations we secured our diplomas in November 1962, gaining Associate Membership of the Institute at about the same time.

After his time in Doncaster, Ralph then gained valuable experience of planning in major cities with the Leeds and York authorities, before returning to the West Riding County Council in Wakefield, where he was employed on the preparation of detailed plans for town centres in the eastern part of the administrative county. After the creation of the Institute's Yorkshire Branch in 1966 he became a member of the Branch Executive Committee, on which he remained for about 20 years, serving a term as Branch Chairman in

1978/79. In readiness for the reorganisation of local government in April 1974 Ralph was appointed as an Assistant Chief Planner with the South Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council in Barnsley, where the Planning Department was headed by a former West Riding colleague, Mike Thompson. Over a period of years Ralph and Mike became firm friends, often sharing fell-walking weekends in the Lake District with other planning colleagues. Ralph's primary role in South Yorkshire was in development control, dealing mainly with County Matters in the Borough of Rotherham, but he also had a significant liaison role with the NCB's Opencast Executive prior to the creation of the Rother Valley Country Park.

When the Metropolitan Counties were abolished in 1986 Ralph was retained for a time by the Residuary Body dealing with the winding-up of the County Council's affairs but, when that exercise was completed, he obtained a post with the Department of the Environment's Planning Inspectorate, which was and is based in Bristol. As a 'Field' Inspector, however, he was based at home, travelling the length and breadth of the country taking planning appeal and other inquiries/hearings, and making site inspections whenever necessary. His accumulated knowledge and experience, coupled with the manner and bearing required of an Inspector, soon commanded respect and he was able to continue his career with the Inspectorate into the 21st century, latterly in a part-time capacity which allowed him to spend many weeks each year in semi-retirement. He retired completely in March 2001 but just over two years later he was overtaken by serious illness: he died suddenly in Huddersfield Royal Infirmary on 14 September 2005, at the age of 67, and was cremated at Fixby crematorium, Huddersfield. He is survived by his widow, Eve, and by his two sons from his first marriage.

Ken Whincup

Yorkshire Gardens Trust Small Grants Scheme 2005-6

The Trust can distribute up to £500 to help projects concerning important parks and gardens in the County, both large and small. The grant could be for a survey, management or conservation plan, restoration or conservation works, creation of a new garden, preservation of important documents, public interpretation, or for education purposes. The closing date for applications is 31 December 2005. Further details and forms can be obtained from the Yorkshire Gardens Trust - Val Hepworth, 01748 822617 or from Paula Nolan at RTPI.

Sustainability : The Planning Agenda

A view from White Young Green

An evening RTPI seminar presented and sponsored by White Young Green on 'Planning for Sustainable Development' was held on 7th April 2005 at Leeds Metropolitan University. The seminar examined how the concept of sustainable development is actually being implemented in planning practice through Development Control and the arena of Planning Application (presented by Sue Ansbro, Director WYG Planning), through Strategic Environmental Assessment (presented by Emma Leacroft, Senior Environmental Scientist, WYGE) and via Sustainable Building Design and Construction (presented by Clare Shuttleworth, Principal Sustainability Consultant, WYGE). The free evening seminar was well attended by local authority planning officers, planning consultants, architects and academics.



Pictured from left to right
Emma Leacroft, Sue Ansbro,
Clare Shuttleworth

The Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

Planning influences the way people live and work and the environment created as a result.

The Government is committed to a planning system which creates

sustainable communities and delivers sustainable development. The planning process has a critical role to play in supporting the Government's wider role in addressing the four key aims of sustainable development set out in its strategy "a Better Quality of Life, a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK". These four key aims are:

- Economic development,
- Social inclusion,
- Environmental protection and
- Prudent use of natural resources.

Legislation set out within the planning and compulsory purchase act contains a statutory requirement for those producing development plan documents to carry out "sustainability appraisal" of their strategies and policies. Planning applications will be required to be compliant with these policies in order to achieve sustainable development and communities.

PPS1 supports the reform programme and, in particular, the Government's objectives for planning culture change, by setting out the Government's vision for planning and the key policies and principles which should underpin the planning system. These are built around three themes:

- Sustainable development – the purpose of the planning system.
- The Spatial planning approach.
- Community involvement in planning.

The key policy messages set out in the guidance relate to:

- The need for planning authorities to take an approach based on integrating four aims of sustainable development.

- The need for positive planning to achieve sustainable development objectives and proactive management of development, rather than simply regulation and control.
- The need for plans to set clear visions for communities and help integrate the wide range of activities relating to development and regeneration.
- The need for the planning system to be transparent, accessible and accountable, and to actively promote participation and involvement.

The guidance sets out the Government's policy objectives for planning for sustainable communities and sets a framework for specific policies which are increasingly becoming reflected through the themes set out in the more detailed planning policy statements. PPS1 is guidance to support the duty set out within clause 39 of the planning and compulsory purchase act 2004, which requires any person or body to "... exercise the function with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development".

Some of the key requirements for sustainable communities include:

- A flourishing local economy to provide jobs and wealth.
- Strong leadership to respond positively to change.
- Effective community engagement by key stakeholder groups.
- A safe and healthy local environment.
- A sufficient size, scale and density and the right layout to support basic amenities.
- Good public transport and other transport infrastructure, with linkages for the local community.
- Buildings that over time minimise the use of resources, a well designed mix of homes and tenure.
- Good quality local services, training and community facilities.
- A diverse, vibrant and creative local culture.
- A "sense of place".
- The right links with the wider regional, national and international community.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Under the new 'Environmental Assessment of Plans Programmes Regulations 2004', it is now mandatory for all plans and programmes, setting a framework for future development consent and likely to have significant effects on the environment, to be subject to environmental assessment. For Local Authorities, the Regulations require them to carry out an environmental assessment of their Local Development Framework, Local Transport Plan, Waste Management Plan and other mandatory plans. SEA is a means of evaluating the environmental impact of plans and programmes in the formalised and systematic manner by identifying the strategic level issues (environmental, social and economic that can be carried through to implementation of development). SEA is intended to play a part in meeting the Government's commitment to sustainable development.

Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Development Documents have to be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal which will incorporate the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

Planning & Community Involvement

PPS1 and the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 recognise the importance for planning to work as a partnership and involve communities to deliver sustainable development in the right place at the right time. Under the Act, local planning

His work ranges from involvement in strategic issues such as development plan representations through to major planning applications; site finding and disposal; enforcement cases; urban and rural matters; appeals and public inquiries.

Harvey is a great advocate for Yorkshire Planning Aid amongst students at Leeds Metropolitan University where he is a part-time lecturer in planning law and practice at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and he has successfully recruited several new volunteers for the service from amongst his students.

Harvey says that his initial motivation for becoming a Planning Aid volunteer back in 1995 was to be able to make a contribution to helping people understand and use a system which was, in his view, often unfairly criticised for being unfriendly.

With over ten years' of involvement in Planning Aid, we guess that Harvey's expectations of his work as a volunteer must have been met!

You can give as much or as little time as you like to your role as a volunteer with YPA – even if you feel you could only spare a couple of days per year, we do want to hear from you.

For further information contact YPA Caseworker Alyson Linnegar:

Tel: 01427 754981,

email: alyson.linnegar@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk

QUALITY AND THE PLANNING SYSTEM

**Yorkshire Conference Series
event - Sheffield Hallam
University,
Wednesday 15 June 2005**

The purpose of this event was to explore what we mean by "quality" in relation to the operation of the planning system, given the importance the present Government attaches to improving the performance of that system not just in a numeric sense but also in terms of what it offers to its end-users. Thus the focus was not specifically on urban design, which is what some people seem to think that the quality agenda is all about, but was on trying to understand and to exemplify what quality planning services might be.

Ted Kitchen opened proceedings by distinguishing between two perspectives on quality; quality of outcome and quality of process. Under the first of these, he looked at outcomes in terms of the quality of the built product that emerges from the planning process, at the achievement of key strategic objectives (so, for example, is planning actually helping places to become more sustainable?), and at whether participants in the process achieve the outcomes from it that they are seeking (which for a developer would be the granting of planning permission, and for an

objector might be its refusal). Under the second of these perspectives he looked at the quality of the process of public engagement, at what we might mean by a plan which was widely seen to be a document of good quality, at the efficiency of the planning processes that produce plans or control development, and at what processes that the professionals who operate them might feel justifiably proud of would be like. His conclusion was that attempts to deconstruct "quality" like this demonstrated how far we still have to go to achieve it against all seven of these dimensions, but that it wasn't a question of just picking out one or two of these and focusing on them; we need both quality outputs and quality processes. He felt that the key to the former was about trying to achieve strategic rather than detailed agreement, because detail would always be contested territory, and that the key to the latter was to recognise the importance of process to key stakeholders and to think about what they would regard as successful planning processes.

John East, who is Head of Planning and Transport at the London Borough of Southwark, followed on with a presentation about the Planning Officers Society's "excellence" project. He described an excellent planning service as being one with four dimensions to it. The first is that it sets out and achieves national objectives and also identifies and tackles regional and local issues and needs. The second is that it relates clearly to the Community Strategy, to the achievement of sustainable development, and to other major broadly-based initiatives. The third dimension of an excellent planning service is that it has a central role in the delivery of local objectives and corporate initiatives. Finally, it should also have a high profile, and be recognised as providing a positive service which thereby secures adequate funding and support. In looking at the key components of these dimensions, he asked participants to reflect on how well they felt that the services of which they were part performed in the light of these tests. There were five critical factors involved in moving towards providing quality planning services: a sense of direction; a focus on outcomes; a focus on engaging with the users of the system (and also the non-users who were to be encouraged to engage) and on providing them with adequate information; a recognition of the fact that planning does not exist in isolation but needs to work with lots of other people and organisations; and, effective management processes including in particular in terms of the use of resources.

The third speaker was Eamon Mythen from the ODPM, who has been a leading player in its "Changing the Culture of Planning" initiative. His starting point was that the present Government wanted the planning system to be successful, as was clearly demonstrated by the range of things it had been doing and not just by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004. The Government recognised that if this was to happen a process of culture change in planning was necessary. This wasn't just (or in some senses even mainly) about planners, but was about all of the participants in the planning process. He said that the key culture change messages are of four broad kinds. First, planning is an exciting, creative and positive activity, which should act to promote a shared vision for the future development of our communities. Second, the planning process can currently be seen to be at a major turning point, with the desire in the new emphasis on spatial planning to move from words like "reactive", "regulatory" and "rigid" to words like "proactive", "positive" and "flexible". Third, there should be no doubt about the Government's commitment to changing both the way we plan and how planning is perceived. And finally, planning should be both people-focused and able to articulate and to deliver the sustainable communities agenda. To these ends, action on achieving culture change was being concentrated in three broad areas; mainstreaming planning, delivering capacity through education and training, and creating a shared sense of place through empowering and inclusive participation.

The first afternoon speaker was Graeme Law, who is Head of Planning Services at Peterborough City Council. He opened his presentation with a dvd recently produced by Peterborough which tries to explain to the public in straightforward ways what the planning process is all about and how it works, and he achieved a first at YCS events by giving all delegates a copy of that dvd. The broad thrust of his presentation was around what we might actually need to do in order to achieve processes of public engagement with planning which could be seen to be of good quality in their own right. His starting point was that it was incumbent upon us to try to explain planning in simple terms (hence the dvd), rather than to make it as confusing as it often appears to be, especially to those people who come into the process because they are against a specific development proposal rather than as participants in the whole panoply of plan-making activities. His other main message was that we needed to look at our planning systems and processes from the perspectives of how they are experienced by these end-users, and ask basic questions in this light - why? who? what? where? when? how much? His stance was that of an optimist. He did believe that it was possible for planning to engage much more effectively with a wide range of citizens than it had managed to do in the past, and he did believe that this would raise the public profile and acceptability of planning even though it would have to recognise that it would always be dealing with issues that were seen as being controversial in some quarters.

The final speaker was Janet O'Neill, the Director of O'Neill Associates, who looked at the issue of quality in the planning system from the perspective of someone whose business is to represent clients who have to deal with it, usually as part of the development process. She saw her role as a consultant not just in terms of understanding her clients wishes and representing them as well as she could (although this was clearly an important part of her business), but also as explaining to clients what the planning process is trying to achieve and how to work with the grain of it. She was very aware of, and sympathetic towards, the expectations that were being placed upon local planning authorities by the Government in these terms and the constraints (for example, in terms of staff resources) that local planning authorities were often experiencing, but at the same time felt that it was important that local planning authorities were aware of the impact of their actions upon end-users such as the clients she represents. Her focus was essentially on outcomes, because her experience was that what clients wanted more than anything else was satisfactory outcomes. Her plea as a consequence was for local planning authorities to work together with development interests towards the achievement of mutually-agreed outcomes, because in these terms they both need each other. She illustrated this approach with some case examples from her practice.

Taken in the round, it was clear from the feedback forms that delegates found this a thought-provoking day, which wasn't so much about the provision of "how-to-do-it" answers but was essentially about facing up to both the challenges and the opportunities inherent in the current situation. It probably isn't going too far to say that planning at the moment has an historic opportunity to do much better than it has been doing, but how well it grasps that opportunity will depend to a considerable extent upon whether planners approach it with a positive mindset and a can-do mentality rather than by immediately identifying difficulties. The discussion during the day reflected these kinds of concerns, and hopefully the audience went away with a determination to think harder not only about what quality means in terms of the planning processes in which they are involved but also to do something positive themselves about moving in these directions.

Prof. Ted Kitchen, Sheffield Hallam University

A summary report on the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly workshop on Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

Queens Hotel, Leeds 27 June 2005

The event was well attended with eighty-two delegates representing 19 Local Authorities from the region. The day consisted of a morning session involving a series of presentations from SA/SEA practitioners, and an afternoon session involving two workshops in which participants could discuss issues of concern and interest.

Dr Ross Marshall from the National Environment Assessment Service (part of Environment Agency) introduced the day which was facilitated by Riki Therivel of Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants with talks from Chris Fry, Centre for Sustainability consultants, Martin Slater from the Environment Agency, Sarah Tyler & Will Kemp from Y&H Assembly and a Case Study from Doreen Watkinson of Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council.

The Doncaster Case Study gave attendees the opportunity to see how Doncaster LA has approached and implemented SA/SEA. Copies of documents developed were made available. All documents available on website www.doncaster.gov.uk.

Two sets of workshops were run in the afternoon. Workshops A and B focused on the early and later stages of SEA, and were oriented towards participants with no previous experience with SA/SEA. The remaining workshops dealt with:

- Information management, monitoring, indicators
- Appraisal: level of detail, mitigation etc.
- SA/SEA in decision-making and consultation
- Inter-authority working
- Alternatives
- Renewable energy

Amongst the feedback messages from delegates were requests for another such event as today and requests for a regional / sub regional informal forum to share good practice / mentor other authorities.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Mick Britton

Mick Britton, after many years at York City Council, is moving to Scarborough BC in the autumn.

Calling all mentors!

A mentor is an essential component of the increased level of support offered to graduates as they undertake the practical experience requirement of the APC. Mentors will be Corporate Members who are committed to the mentoring process, with a strong belief in its benefits to the Planners of the future. Mentors will receive free training and have access to central and regional training and networking opportunities. Mentoring is also an excellent opportunity to contribute to your Continuing Professional Development.

Interested? For further information on this rewarding role, please contact Jacqui Ward, apc@rtpi.org.uk.

YORKSHIRE CONFERENCE SERIES 2005 PROGRAMME

Please note that the Sustainable Communities event to be held in Leeds has been moved from 27th April to 14th December

Wednesday, 26th October, SHEFFIELD
IMPROVING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN PLANNING
Consideration of the best ways of achieving effective public engagement.

Thursday, 17th November, LEEDS
PLANNING LAW UPDATE – IN ASSOCIATION WITH HAMMONDS
Topical issues from the planning law casebook.

Wednesday, 14th December, LEEDS
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
Examines what constitutes sustainable communities and how to achieve them via planning.

All enquiries to yorkshire@rtpi.org.uk

Low Cost CPD Events - Update Report

So far this year there have been three events, the first in Leeds in April on Sustainable Development sponsored by WYG, the second in Barnsley in July on Green Belts with CPRE and the third in York in September on Planning for Wind Energy sponsored by RPS. All have been well-attended and received.

Looking forward there are 3 other events for your CPD calendar;

- *"Planning for Housing Provision – What will it Mean Exactly?"* A free Evening Seminar sponsored by Spawforth Associates in York on Wednesday 26th October 2005. This seminar will look at what the Government's recent post-Barker Consultation Paper 'Planning for Housing Provision' means for planning practice. Speakers from Spawforths, Eversheds Solicitors and the House Builder's Federation will provide a variety of viewpoints.
- *"Planning and the Water Environment"*. A free Afternoon Seminar sponsored by Yorkshire Water in Bradford on Friday 11th November 2005 and organised with the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management. These are exciting times for all professionals involving in dealing with the interface between the planning and management of landuse, development and water:

- a new draft of Planning Policy Statement 25 on Development & Flood Risk is expected in November this year;
- the EU Water Framework Directive is now being implemented to protect and enhance the water environment and habitats across the UK;
- pilot projects are also underway to examine how river basins and water catchment areas can be managed in an integrated manner, and;
- lessons are surfacing from the real world application of techniques of Sustainable Drainage Systems engineering.

This afternoon seminar will provide an opportunity to hear about these issues and the progress that is being made to integrate different activities, policies and practices to achieve more sustainable outcomes for the water environment. Expert speakers from the Yorkshire Water, the Environment Agency, DEFRA and Atkins Consultants will provide a variety of viewpoints and share their experience.

- December: a free evening event is planned on visualization techniques for planning and development in Knaresborough to be sponsored by In-Site Environments. There is the potential for the latter event to be held jointly with the Landscape Institute. More details to follow.

Mick McLoughlin, Sept. 2005