



JOIN THE RURAL PLANNING NETWORK

Train journeys are always good for solving problems. Those of us blessed with short sight find them especially so. Not because we can see the problems of rural planning as they flash by (generally speaking we can't) but because we can take off our glasses and peer out off the window into a sort of green, impressionist blur. This blur, we find, is an essential backdrop to sorting the problems of the world.

But as a method of problem solving, it is limited to those who combine poor sight and travel by train (a pretty good definition of multi-tasking in my book). And it also presupposes that the train is moving. A train that doesn't brings its own set of questions, not necessarily linked to rural planning. They invariably start 'why oh why ...' and they also include (I jest not) 'is there really going to be anyone on the train who is willing to lend a set of allan keys to the driver?'

This, therefore, will not be the method of choice for most rural planners. So 'why not', we asked expansively, 'why not have a network that will allow us all to probe and ask and learn and reply?'

If we need to ask about what we know we don't know, where do we seek the answer? If we hold the notion that the type of rural housing and its mix is more important than crude numbers, with whom can we share the delight of discussion? If we ask (in the privacy of our hearts) 'is this as barmy as it sounds', where will we find others who have been there, tested and succeeded?

So why not have a network for rural planners? Those of us who, by definition, are the more dispersed and further away from the places where planners congregate.

'Why not indeed?' answered the RTPI and set one up.

It's there on your nearest PC, now a year old, managed by Rhian Brimble and brilliantly guided by a steering group whose sole mission in life is to let everyone know about it.

The Rural Planning Network has already proved its worth. It gives us the news, points to events and publications and it allows us to share our information. And it's free.

*It's a click away
Join today
You won't be disappointed.*

To join the Network visit http://www.rtpi.org.uk/rural_planning_network/ or e-mail rural.planning@rtpi.org.uk

David Brooke

Chair, RTPi Rural Planning Network [401 words]

Charity Registration Number: 262865 & Scottish Charity Registration Number SC 037841