

in perspective

IN PERSPECTIVE

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NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL TOWN PLANNING INSTITUTE SOUTH EAST - JANUARY 2008

www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_south_east/

CHAIR'S OBJECTIVES FOR 2008

It's a great privilege to be elected Chair of the South East Region for 2008. I'd like to start by thanking the out-going Chair – Graham Stallwood – for his great efforts in bringing together the new Region and moving us forward in a positive direction. If I only achieve half as much as Graham, I will deem it a success.

For those of you who don't know me, I am currently Director of Planning & Public Sector Development at HLL Humberts Leisure where I have been for eight years. Prior to that I spent most of my career in the public sector including eleven years at Brighton (then Brighton & Hove) Council in development control, forward planning and economic development.

My key objectives for the year are as follows:-

- 1. To increase the number of trained planners entering the system.** I know many local planning authorities are understaffed, and can tell you that it is no easier to recruit in the private sector. I therefore want to work with local planning schools to see what we can do to increase the number of people choosing planning as a profession.
- 2. To continue to support the growth of the Young Planners Network.** Enthusiastic young planners have set up networks on the South Coast and in the Thames Valley. I want to continue to support these Networks and promote a new one to serve the Kent/Thames Gateway area. We are a large region and it is important to support young planners in promoting CPD and professional networking opportunities within their sub-regions.
- 3. Maintain the Continuous Professional Development Programme.** We have a full CPD events programme which is currently being put together for 2008 (see below). As Chair of the Programme Group for the last two years I have been pleased to see the programme set back on a proper footing. We are all very busy, but I would urge you to attend as many of these CPD events as

possible as the simplest way keep up to date, network with other professionals and maintain your own professional development.

- 4. Improve Communication with Members.** I want to continue our efforts to communicate as effectively and efficiently as possible with members. I have found the two-sided 'In Perspective' much easier and more appealing to read than our previous rather longer newsletters. Let me know if you agree or disagree.
- 5. Spread the Word on Planning for Tourism & Leisure.** With the government priority to plan for new homes, it's easy to forget or defer planning for economic development, tourism or leisure. However, good planning is about planning for all our human needs 'work, rest and play' and balancing these with the environment.

If you think that there is more the RTPI could be doing for you, please let me know via southeast@rtpi.org.uk.

Martin Taylor
Chair, RTPI South East

CPD PROGRAMME 2008

The new programme is gradually taking shape. Some definite dates for your diary are as follows:

- 6th March** 'Planning Performance Agreements' (Winchester);
- 12th March** 'RTPI and the Sub National Review' (Woking);
- 1st May** 'Planning for Administrators' (Oxford).

Others will include events on Green Belt, Assessment of Professional Competence (for Young Planners), joint event with Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce, Thames Gateway Parklands (and Presidential visit), Tourism/Leisure in Brighton, Regeneration, Housing, Design and Access, Environmental Assessment, Legal Update, Counter Terrorism, the David Fryer Memorial Lecture and the AGM. As dates are finalised, further details will be on the regional website so keep looking to see what is happening in the South East Region.

■ Send us your articles and ideas at southeast@rtpi.org.uk or use it to tell us you would rather receive a paper copy. If you work outside the public sector and want to update your email details, contact southeast@rtpi.org.uk.



THE GREAT DEBATE – NOVEMBER 2007

The implications of the Sub-National Review and the appropriateness of its possible outcomes, the role of planners in preventing/slowing/causing climate change, how to "fix" or improve the planning system, and how the social basis and conscience of planning has or has not been reduced by the huge growth in private sector planners representing private interests.

These were just a few of the matters the subject of the Great Debate in the splendid surroundings of Reading's Old Town Hall where panellists Jed Griffiths (Past President RTPI), Catriona Riddell (Director of Planning SEERA) and Andrew Docherty (Managing Director of event sponsors Hives Planning) lead the debate for the 80 strong audience. A

unhealthy consensus was pleasingly lacking except on the matter of whether Steve McClaren should stay as manager in the

event England failed to qualify for the European Championships. An annual event? I very much hope so. This House believes that lively,

challenging, intelligent debate is a sure sign of a healthy profession.

Graham Stallwood



'WANTED - YOUR GOOD PRACTICE!'

RTPI is seeking projects from regions that demonstrate good practice for their exhibition in June. Please call to discuss schemes or submit your nominations to Carol Dawson in the form of a short piece of text (up to one page long) on why you feel that it merits inclusion in the Exhibition and what you see as the key aspects of good practice that it illustrates, please also supply supporting material - colour photographs or brochures of sufficiently good quality and interest that they can be reproduced on exhibition panels.

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER 2008

Every year we use the AGM to hold our Annual Awards ceremony. The 2007 Awards were a great success held at Reading Town Hall together with a 'Question Time' style debate (see below). I want to keep the 'Question Time' on our annual calendar of events, but am considering whether it could be moved to a different time of year.

Instead, I am thinking of organising an Annual Awards Dinner in November 2008 to celebrate regional successes in a more convivial atmosphere. The trouble is, are you, your council, or your firm interested? Please let me know. In a large region like ours where should it be held?

Please let me have your thoughts via southeast@rtpi.org.uk. If I don't hear from you, we will have to assume that there is no interest.

Martin Taylor
Chair, RTPI
South East

AWARDS 2007

The following awards were made by the South East Region –

Development in a sensitive area – joint winners were the Rolls Royce Manufacturing Plant + Head office, Chichester, and the Pines Calyx, St Margaret's Bay, Kent.

Planning Process – Canterbury District Futures Study City & Metropolitan Areas and Town

Regeneration – The Coastal Park, Folkestone.

Commendations for Good Practice – Brighton New England Quarter, Mercedes-Benz World Brooklands, Marks Barfield Architects + DP9, Brighton.

Commendation – Natural Environment – Sustainable Design for the M2 Widening, Kent.



The Overall Winner of the 2007 South East Region Awards was The Coastal Park, Folkestone (left). (See website for further details)