

london

RTPI London newsletter



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news plan

10 planning news from around the capital

past events

16 community planning, photo scavenger challenge, licentiate event

future events

20 RTPI London AGM + Social 27th November



RTPI
LONDON

calling

Autumn 2008

Olympic Update

page 6

00 new look

a new image for RTPI London

01 get involved

5 ways to get the most out of RTPI membership

12 affordable housing in london

present and future challenges



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comment

Tom Venables



Town Planners have an image problem.

This was made patently clear to me on holiday. My girlfriend and I struck up a conversation with a middle-aged couple from Cornwall, whilst enjoying a couple

of Mojitos on a terrace in Havana. During the course of the conversation, the husband, let's call him Bob, asked us what we did for a living. I told him I was planner, to which the guy responded:

"A Planner!? Your lot are worse than the tax man."

There is obviously some work do be done where the reputation of planning is concerned. General perceptions of planners are rather poor, but before we can expect to change public attitudes, we must learn to hold our own profession in higher regard. Planning has a role to play in tackling the UK's big-picture problems. We do not need to justify our profession, but we do need consensus on how we can raise our game.

The former Housing Minister, Caroline Flint recently said that "planning is as important as a career in architecture. Yet architects are held in rather higher esteem in the public mind". Similarly, Sunand Prasad, President of RIBA, stated at this year's Planning Convention that "Planning should be the most important profession in the built environment industry... planning needs to get its act together".

At RTPI London, we couldn't agree more! Planning should be recognised as a creative and dynamic career choice - and it's our job to make this happen. This newsletter's image change is a small contribution to what should be a London-wide sea change that ensures our profession remains relevant to this city and at the forefront of the capital's development.

RTPI London is run by planners, for planners and it can only happen with your support. Our end of year review/AGM takes place on Thursday 27th November at the Mulberry Bush in Southwark. Please join us for a drink and a chance to share your ideas on RTPI London's future.

Tom Venables is Editor of London Calling and an Associate Director at EDAW



RTPI
LONDON

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making the most of RTPI

London – five ways to get involved

The RTPI is at the centre of our professional lives. Using our subscription fees, the RTPI does tremendous work in promoting the profession and supporting members through provision of CPD training and networking events.

It is at the regional level that members can really maximise the benefits of subscription. RTPI London is the regional forum for over 2,000 chartered town planners in Greater London. We provide training, lectures, debates, social events, newsletters, local information and a network of colleagues in the capital, all of which can support your professional development. We also contribute to the development of RTPI policy and act as a lobbying body to ensure the interests of planners in London are fully represented.

The success of RTPI London is dependent upon the work of volunteers, all of whom are professional planners with day jobs. To ensure this success continues we are constantly looking for people to help out to do as little, or as much as they can. Over the coming pages we give you five ways in which you can get involved.

1. Events and Networking

Planners across the capital benefit from the events held by RTPI London. We regularly hold study tours, seminars, evening debates, as well as social and networking events. 2008 has been a bumper year with a range of activities put on for members including seminars focusing upon the new PPS 12 and PPS 6, study tours of the

Thames Barrier and Docklands, a five-a-side football tournament, wine tasting and photo scavenger hunt.

By attending these events we hope that members can enrich their professional lives through career development and networking opportunities. However, we couldn't hold these events without corporate sponsorship and are thankful to Cobalt, MacDonald and Company, EDAW, Indigo Planning, SJ Berwin, Cushman and Wakefield and Judd Farris who have all kindly supported our events over the past year.

We want 2009 to be even better. We are always looking for ideas for events and potential sponsors. If you or your company would be interested in organising, sponsoring or holding an events then please get in touch: london@rtpi.org.uk

2. Join the RTPI London Committee

The RTPI London is run by a committee of volunteers. We are currently looking for members to join for 2009. As well as running the regional events, the work of the committee includes representing the views of RTPI London to the RTPI nationally, government and other professional bodies including RIBA, RICS and many more.

The committee meets 6 times a year in central London. If you want to learn more contact Lucy Barton, RTPI London Co-ordinator by emailing london@rtpi.org.uk. You could also attend our Region AGM on Thursday 27th November at the Mulberry Bush in Southwark.

3. Support London Calling

London Calling has been going since the 1980's and over the years has witnessed massive changes in the capital's planning profession. We believe that London Calling is an important member benefit and have given it a whole new look that we think is more fitting for a 21st century profession.

London Calling does not seek to replicate the regular planning news offered in Planning, or the content provided by Planning in London. Rather it provides the main mode of communication to RTPI members in London and seeks to portray the profession as dynamic, creative and necessary.

As London Calling is part funded through membership fees we realise the importance in giving value for members and with rising postage and production costs we will be looking at more efficient ways of producing the newsletter. Part of this will be attracting sponsors in the form of planning and recruitment consultancies, and other development related industries. We have a range of sponsorship and advertising opportunities which will give your organisation a vehicle to promote yourself and what you do to over 2,000 chartered town planners living in the capital.

Thanks to Icenl projects for sponsoring the first of our new look issues and EDAAW for providing graphic design support.

To submit an article, news item, advert or to find out more about sponsorship please email London@rtpi.org.uk



4. Join the RTPI London Young Planners Network

The newly established RTPI London Young Planners Network holds regular events aimed specifically at chartered members, licentiates and student members under the age of 35. The network is run by a steering group, which is part of the wider RTPI London committee, comprising Laura Smith (The Landscape Partnership), Sara Eustace (DTZ), Robyn Blackburn (Planning Potential) and Rebecca Beer (Urban Initiatives). Laura is the London Young Planners Representative. The steering group liaise with the national RTPI Young Planners Network, update the London Young Planners webpage, provide updates in London Calling, contribute to Planning magazine and organise young planners' events.

In 2008 we have held a variety of events including:

Young Planners Quiz Night - this event was attended by over 20 team of planners and much fun was had by all. Judd Farris sponsored the event, which was won by the team from Colin Buchanan. Prizes included chocolate, champagne and an ipod shuffle.

Joint Young Planners Event in association with the Planning Convention - we teamed up with the South East Young Planners Network and the East of England Young Planners at the 2008 Planning Convention to hold a walking tour of regeneration projects in the Elephant and Castle and the Aylesbury Estate



(l-r) Sara, Laura, Rebecca and Robyn - the RTPI London Young Planners Network Steering Group.

The London Event for Licentiate 85 young planners attended a presentation on the Assessment of Professional Competence. This was followed by a very useful discussion and debate which enabled licentiates to feel more comfortable with the process of becoming fully chartered members.

2009 will see even more events aimed specifically at young planners to assist with CPD and provide networking opportunities. To be the first to hear about events, be involved in event organisation and comment on issues relevant to young planners, such as the APC please send your email address to laura.smith@london.tlp.uk.com. Alternatively, if you have any ideas for future events or would like to organise your own events then please get in touch or visit our part of the RTPI website: www.rtpi.org.uk/london_young_planners continued page4

"I would certainly recommend that any volunteer devote their time to PAL's educational projects"

Welcome to King's Cross

King's Cross is one of the most significant development regeneration opportunities in Great Britain.

Planning permission was granted in December 2004 for a total of 2.5 million sq ft of new development.

The programme includes up to 20 large, new office buildings, including some 4.5 million sq ft, 20 new schools, 20 new social public housing, the restoration and development of 20 historic buildings plus restaurants and other 2.5 million sq ft of new residential space.

The development is being built over several phases over a 10-year period.

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5. Help PAL to create the planners of tomorrow

Planning Aid for London (PAL) is an independent organisation providing free town planning advice to those unable to afford professional consultants. How would you like to help with their current innovative work which involves introducing and educating London's new generations to their town planning world? Join PAL's volunteer team today! There are a number of interesting educational outreach projects that you can get involved with. This is a great opportunity to help break down barriers between the public and the planning system as well as give something back to the community.

"The work is interesting and challenging. It brings out links for the students, between planning and the environment, climate, pollution, travel, lifestyle, health. It is a very hands on and interactive process." said Yousef, a qualified planner volunteer who ran the Building Newham 2012 workshop. This event aimed to raise awareness about career routes into the Construction industry using the Olympics development as its focus. PAL ran four workshops using this model, with sixty students from schools in Newham. The workshops illustrated the impacts of land use and the need to plan in order to create sustainable communities.

Designing a new public space at the entrance of King's Cross station was another successful project. PAL ran a four-day course in conjunction with Camden's Planning Department. This course introduced twelve young people to Planning, Urban and Landscape Design and Architecture. Two volunteers, Annabel Graham Paul and Suzanne Asher, helped to support students as they developed their ideas and worked on their proposals and models. Annabel Graham Paul stated "It is extremely exciting guiding these young people in applying their knowledge to a real life, high profile development, and encouraging them to explore their own creative ideas. I would certainly recommend any volunteer devote their time to future PAL's educational projects". Two of the students, Maheen Chaudry and Charlotte Chambers, were awarded a prize by John McAslan and Partners, principal architects on the King's Cross development scheme, with a two week placement at their office.

PAL is committed to offering a range of volunteering opportunities. Volunteers are involved in anything from educational outreach workshops to community planning and advice cases. For more information about becoming PAL's volunteer and for an application form, please visit PAL's website; www.planningaidforlondon.org.uk or contact

Volunteer Coordinator

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the olympic update

As the eyes of the world turn from Beijing to London as the next Olympic host city, they will see that significant progress is already being made in creating the new venues and infrastructure needed for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, writes ODA Head of Town Planning, Niall McNevin



The construction of the Olympic Park will transform an area of low quality and largely inaccessible land into one of the largest urban parks to be built in Europe for 150 years.

Planning for this huge project started in July 2005, before we even won the bid to become the Host City for 2012. One of our first milestones, in terms of town planning, was the submission and subsequent approval of the crucial outline planning application in September 2007. Over 200 conditions form part of the approvals including five key parkwide strategy documents:

- Urban Design Landscape Framework
- Inclusive Access Strategy
- Waterspace Masterplan
- Lighting Strategy
- Biodiversity Action Plan

These strategies set the Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) deliverable design parameters for the venues and infrastructure needed and have developed alongside statutory

requirements and other ODA responsibilities for Transport (Olympic Transport Plan), Equality and Inclusion and Sustainability.

Key to delivering these responsibilities has been the collaborative approach to town planning which has been adopted by everyone involved in the project. This has been managed by the ODA's Town Planning Promoter Team and Planning Decisions Team, and in the case of the Legacy Masterplan Framework, the London Development Agency. Consultation events, including Technical Fora, allow key statutory and other stakeholders to consider each others interests and develop a consensus with the designers over each project's approach to delivery.

Olympic Stadium

The flagship venue of the 2012 Games will be the Olympic Stadium, where the Opening and Closing Ceremonies will take place as well as the track and field events.



The innovative design for the Olympic Stadium allows for the 80,000 venue to be converted into a more easily maintained 25,000 seat venue after the Games. An Olympic Stadium with such a large temporary element has never been built before and is a design and engineering first.

The scale of the venue has set a schedule for construction which required a separate planning condition detailing a two stage reserved matters application.

The first stage of the reserved matters application concerned the shaping of the bowl and structural piling and was approved in April this year allowing construction work to commence in May. The second stage application was approved in September giving the green light to progress on site with building above ground level.

So far 800,000 tonnes of soil has been excavated to be reused elsewhere in the park, we have installed the majority of 4,000 piles into the ground and started to cast and place the 200 rakers which will support the permanent 25,000 seats of the stadium.

The steel terracing supports have started to be lifted into place above the podium level to hold the 55,000 seats in the upper tiers, so people can now start to see the skeleton of the venue emerging from the ground.

Velo Park

The Velo Park in the north of the Olympic Park, will include a 6,000 seat Velodrome to host the Olympic and Paralympic indoor track cycling events as well as a BMX circuit for Olympic events.

After the Games, a road cycle circuit and mountain bike course will be added to create a legacy VeloPark that will combine cycling facilities across all disciplines in one cycling 'hub'. The VeloPark will be linked into cycle routes across London, connecting the whole of the capital with the new world-class cycling facilities.

The detailed planning application was recently submitted after the designs were unveiled by triple Beijing gold medal-winning Olympic hero Chris Hoy.

Parkland and Public Realm

Inspired by the English landscapes of the 18th century and the great public parks of Britain, but with a contemporary twist for the 21st century, the PPR will have at its heart an interactive relationship with the waterways. The nature of the parklands as the glue which binds the venues together, green heart of the area, and host of the carnival atmosphere which the Games will be, the 100+ha of open space will be defined by two character zones:

The northern parklands will be characterised by an open, softer and ecological landscape.

The southern parklands as the primary gateway to the Olympic Park during the Games (up to 170,000 people entering each day) and in Legacy, will be a vibrant entertainment district which will honour the spirit and celebration of Olympics and Paralympics.

The planning submissions for the parklands and for upgrading the Greenway are being submitted in Autumn 2008. Construction should start in March 2009. *continued page8*

An aerial view of the Aquatics Centre site, June 2008



Aquatics

Located in the south east corner of the Olympic Park, the Aquatics Centre will be an iconic 'gateway' to the Park during the Games and in legacy.

The Aquatics Centre will have a capacity of 17,500 during the Games, reducing to a maximum of 2,500 in legacy, with the ability to add 1000 for major events, and provide two 50m swimming pools, a diving pool and dry diving area - facilities that London does not have at present.

The Zaha Hadid designs were released in November 2006, following a design competition in 2005. The planning application for the Aquatics Centre was submitted this January and planning permission was granted in May.

The construction work to create the foundations started in July this year, two months ahead of schedule.

Energy Centre

An Energy Centre is being designed and built in Kings Yard on the western edge of the Olympic Park and will generate hot water, heating, electricity and in some cases cooling to homes and buildings in the Park. The Energy Centre will include biomass boilers and a Combined Cooling, Heat and Power (CCHP) plant. These innovative technologies support the ODA's sustainability commitments to using renewable

energy technology and providing efficient energy systems in the Park.

The Energy Centre is one of two CCHP plants, the other being in the Stratford City development, which together will provide power and heating for both the Olympic Park and Stratford City.

The Energy Centre is being designed by 'John McAslan and Partners' and one of the existing mill buildings of historical interest at Kings Yard will be renovated and reused as part of the project.

A reserved matters planning application was made for the Centre at Kings Yard in March with planning permission being granted in July construction is programmed to complete in 2010.

PLUG (Power lines Under-grounding)

To facilitate development on the Olympic Park, it was identified that the overhead power lines which cross the site, needed to be placed within two under-ground tunnels.

The subsequent planning permissions were granted in January 2006 and works are at an advanced stage with the power lines within the now completed tunnels being energized in August 2008. The 52 pylons which cross the site will be taken down shortly, with the rest of them coming down before the end of the year



The Olympic Village in 2012.

Athletes' Village

The Olympic Village will accommodate athletes during the Olympic and Paralympic Games. After 2012, it will leave the legacy of new homes, many of which will be affordable, together with new parks, public squares and open space; an Academy education campus for all ages; multi-use community facilities; and new infrastructure to connect the new communities with the Olympic Park.

Work began in June on the permanent foundations for the first blocks of the Athletes' Village. More than 300 construction workers are now on site carrying out piling works - inserting concrete columns into the soil to reinforce the ground where the first blocks of the Athletes' Village will sit. Piling works have been completed on the first block of the Athletes' Village, with work underway on further blocks.

A selection of leading architects are now in place for all residential plots in the Athletes' Village. The latest designs show the residential schemes as well as courtyard areas, pedestrian walkways and new open spaces that will be created in the Athletes' Village. Planning permission has recently been secured for the first three residential schemes.

Contribution to Planning

The project has been hugely beneficial for the team of town planners involved, evolving skills in project and programme management and requiring negotiation, political diplomacy and utilisation of the full range of the latest planning techniques. This has been in response to the fierce delivery timetable and complex environment which we are delivering the venues and infrastructure for the Games.

news plan

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KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

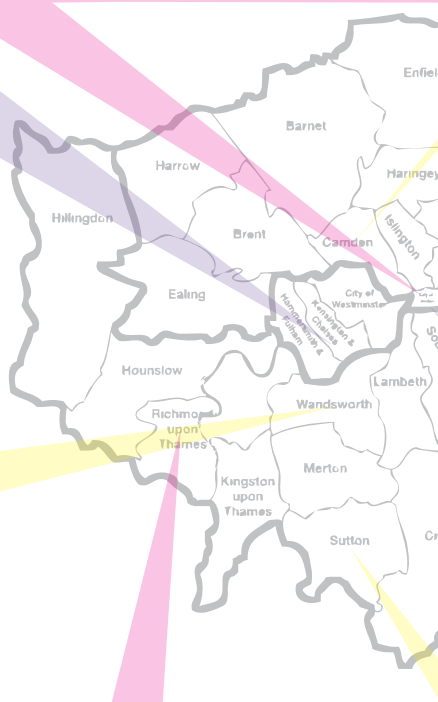
The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) has appointed Balfour Beatty to carry out the first phase of works relating to the Exhibition Road project, following RBKC Cabinet funding approval for the £3 million contract. The new one-way system proposed around South Kensington Station will improve the traffic flow in the area; provide new direct pedestrian links and more pavement space. It is expected that the scheme should be completed in time for London 2012.

WANDSWORTH

A multi-million pound proposal to transform Clapham Junction; the Country's busiest train station, was submitted to Wandsworth Council at the start of the month. The scheme includes two new station entrances, a pedestrian shopping street and a cinema. Also part of the scheme are two 42 storey towers with 556 new homes. The scheme has been submitted by Metro Shopping Fund.

LONDON METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

London Met has launched an evening short course on planning and housing. The induction course is aimed at planners who have recently rejoined or rejoined planning practice in London. For more details visit www.londonmet.ac.uk/londonmet/library/y30102_24.doc



RICHMOND UPON THAMES

A public examination to consider the soundness of Richmond Borough's Core Strategy is due to take place Tuesday 25 November 2008

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CAMDEN

Camden Council has produced a Draft Planning Framework for the Euston Station Site. The framework has been produced as Network Rail want to redevelop Euston Station in partnership with British Land. Planning applications for the proposals are expected at the end of 2009.

The Borough is also seeking views on: the Core Strategy preferred options; the development policies preferred options; and site allocation issues and options. The consultation runs until 20 November

BEXLEY

The Crayford Town Centre Scheme was approved by the GLA on the 15th September and the decision was issued on the 18th September. The scheme included: 187 residential units, 30% of which are affordable, refurbishment of the Town Hall, replacement library and medical facilities, new community facilities and a new civic centre.

RTPI LONDON - LONDON CALLING SUMMER EDITION UPDATE

Following the article on the future direction of planning at the GLA, Giles Dolphin Head of Planning Decisions at the GLA has asked us to point out that although development viability assessments are undertaken by consultants for the GLA, the costs to the GLA are recharged to the applicants.

The winner of the spot the building competition in the last issue of London Calling was Sebastian Lowe. He correctly spotted it was St. Paul's church. Congratulations.

SUTTON

The London Borough of Sutton unveiled proposals for the regeneration of Sutton Town Centre. A bid for funding has been submitted to Transport for London and work is set to begin in April 2009

affordable housing in london - present and future

Dan Olliffe of Icen Projects Ltd explores some of the challenges facing the delivery of affordable housing and how they can be tackled head on

The current financial crisis has heightened the dichotomy within the housing market which sees a rising demand for housing alongside reduced completions. It has resulted in a fall in housing development and the acute housing need continuing to rise unabated.

With housebuilders being forced to down tools, this growth in housing need in a stagnant market presents significant challenges to planners in achieving the delivery of affordable housing.

Existing affordable housing policies are seen by many planners as unduly rigid with an insatiable hunger for the delivery of quantity, with little or no regard for the quality of accommodation.

The challenge for planners is to change the nature of affordable housing policy to ensure a greater focus on addressing housing need and to provide sufficient flexibility to accommodate fluctuations in the market. This is particularly important in the current financial climate where many housebuilders are revisiting approved plans with the intention of reducing affordable housing provision.

Commuted Payments versus On-Site Delivery

Commuted payments are not the answer to meeting this challenge - at least not in isolation. Whilst commuted payments secure sums of money to be ring-fenced for affordable provision, the money has to be used and units have to be built to realise the benefits to the community. Land is scarce in London and local authorities do not necessarily have the powers, staff or skill-sets to maximise the use of commuted payments and consequently deliver affordable housing.



Social housing scheme,
Kings Cross



On the other hand, forcing developers to provide on-site affordable housing does not necessarily deliver the right outcome either. On many premium value sites in London, as a direct response to Government policy to maximise the development potential of brownfield land, developers have often been obliged to provide 50% of the accommodation as affordable. Many such sites focus on the delivery of one and two bedroom units and the problem with this approach is that it often fails to meet the affordable housing need; for example family housing with private gardens.

The challenge of combining these competing approaches is self-evident.

Allocated affordable housing sites

One way of creating a duality between these approaches could be for local authorities to specifically allocate sites for affordable housing provision through the local development framework process. This approach has long been accepted in rural areas.

Allocations could be approached in one of two ways:


- Local authorities could allocate a site within their ownership and seek to develop out for affordable housing through capital receipts generated from off site developer contributions or alternatively could partner with an RSL or developer willing to provide affordable housing.
- Local authorities could allocate privately owned land for affordable housing. The landowner could then choose to develop the site for affordable housing at financially viable terms agreed with the local authority (e.g. commuted sums) or again could choose to sell the land to an appropriate delivery body.

Either approach should make provision for private housing as part of a development to make use of the benefits that can be gained in achieving a mixture of tenures, so long as the added value generated by any proportion of private sales can be ring-fenced and returned to the local authority's off-site pool of contributions.

Shared ownership as a priority

The issue of the quality of affordable housing must also focus on the aspirations of individuals looking to become engaged in the housing market. As a general approach, it is appropriate to conclude that individuals, particularly those settled within an area, would rather own their own home and pay a mortgage as opposed to renting. There will always be exceptions to this rule, for example, due to a short term employment contract, but the general aspiration of the market is to buy as opposed to rent.

Despite the ambitions of the market, affordable housing policy remains skewed towards socially rented rather than shared ownership or other flexible means of ownership structure. The balance between ambition and delivery must be redressed to ensure affordable housing policy assists people to get on the property ladder rather than merely maintaining them in rented accommodation. *continued page14*



“The positive news is that the new planning system provides the tools to address issues of housing need”

The benefits of plans monitoring

The positive news for those engaging with affordable housing policy is that the new planning system provides the tools to address issues of housing need. Under the new system, local authorities are required to produce annual monitoring reports, which has seen many authorities becoming more and more sophisticated in the maintenance of information, particularly relating to housing delivery. Twinned with the requirement under PPS3 to provide housing market assessments, authorities should be able to provide more accurate information on the exact nature of housing need, allowing those delivery bodies within the market to be more responsive to affordable housing needs.

It is clear that this article has merely scratched the surface in respect of meeting the challenges of affordable housing, and it is acknowledged that there are a whole variety of other methods that could be explored to meet this challenge. However, it is of paramount importance that policy is able to keep pace with the fluid and dynamic nature of the market and the current pressures experienced in the supply and demand for housing. What is clear is that the one size fits all strategy is ultimately unlikely to be successful.

Dan Oliffe works for Icen Projects, 83 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0HW. Tel 020 3008 5040, Fax 020 3008 6180. mail@icenprojects.com

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For more information call 020 7426 0680 or email london@rtpi.org.uk

wine tasting with the RTPI president



RTPI members enjoying wine tasting at Vivat Bacchus, and Richard Jones, winner of a meal for two.

09/10/08

Wine Tasting in the company of the RTPI President, Vivat Bacchus

Swirl, smell, taste, and savour. From Chardonnay to Pinot Noir, RTPI London members were greeted to a selection of excellent wine from South Africa in the company of the Janet O'Neil, RTPI President. With a motto that "life is too short to drink bad wine" Vivat Bacchus, treated members to a medley of notable wines, exploring their history, production and characteristics. Before long, RTPI London members had become connoisseurs and were discussing the buttery toastiness, zestiness and pebble-like finish of these New World greats.

Janet O'Neil supported the evening by expressing her pleasure that RTPI members were enjoying sociable and interactive events together.

Many thanks to Cobalt Recruitment, Vivat Bacchus, Janet O'Neil and RTPI London members for supporting a thoroughly enjoyable and sociable evening. Also, congratulations to Richard Jones, Tom Forkan, Gareth Fairweather, Sarah Adams and Jason Lowes for winning the evening's raffle, which saw members winning a selection of gifts from an iPod to dinner for two at Vivat Bacchus.

10/10/08

Tour of London Metropolitan University

Following the previous evening's wine tasting and to compliment her 'education and lifetime learning' presidential theme, Janet O'Neill was treated to a tour of London Metropolitan University. The tour included a chance to find out about new planning and housing courses at the university and gave Janet a chance to meet students working on architectural projects in India, Korea and Cuba.



Janet O'Neill learning about projects at London Metropolitan.

past events



Community planning event (top) and some of the best pictures from the Photo Scavenger Challenge, including DTZ's winner - RTPeye.

24/07/08

Community planning, City of London

This was a jointly held interactive event with Planning Aid for London (PAL), drawing on their skills and experience of community planning. The event featured an interactive session which was based around a design game. The purpose was to get delegates to understand first hand some of opportunities as well as draw backs that the technique offers. Delegates ranged from professional planners and community workers through to resident associations members. All of the groups came up with imaginative solutions from redesigning the site through the realignment of roads to the creation of mixed use developments to fund projects.

27/08/08

Photo scavenger challenge, South Bank

Cobalt recruitment sponsored this social event held with New Zealand and Australian planners. A photo treasure hunt was held around South Bank and Embankment, followed by a pub quiz round. DTZ won several bottles of champagne for both best picture (left) and the overall challenge.. Ipod shuffles were also won in a prize draw.

10/09/08

Changes to PPS6, SJ Berwin

Duncan Field of SJ Berwin, Lucy Hargreaves of CLG and Bruce Hartley-Raven of Cushman and Wakefield outlined the terms of the draft PPS. Discussion majored upon the suggested removal of the existing 'need test' and its replacement by a wider test of impact, along with the likely effects of the Competition Commission Report.

17/09/08

Licentiate event, DTZ

This was 2008's first event directed at Licentiate members. Sue Percy of the RTPI gave a presentation on the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) followed by a questions and answers session. A drinks reception and canapés rounded off a useful evening.



Notice of annual general meeting of the London region of the Royal Town Planning Institute

To be held on Thursday 27th November 2008 at from 6.30pm at the Mulberry Bush, 89 Upper Ground, Southwark, SE1 9PP (see www.mulberrybushpub.com for directions)

Agenda

1. Welcome from the Chair
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2007
4. Presentation of Annual Report for 2008
5. Treasurer's Report for 2008
6. Election of Principal Officers (Regional Management Board members)
7. Election of Regional Activities Committee members
8. Chair's Closing Remarks

All RTPI London members are welcome to attend and participate in the AGM. At the discretion of the Chair, members of other RTPI regions and other planners are welcome to attend the AGM as observers.

Nomination forms for the election of Principal Officers and Regional Activities Committee members are available from the Honorary Secretary who can be contacted at london@rtpi.org.uk

The AGM will be followed by some social drinks from around 7.30pm. All planners and planning students are very welcome.

Diary

Sixth Annual Housing & Construction Conference 2008

7/11/08

London's Sixth Annual Housing & Construction Conference 2008 will be held on 7 November 2008. Organised by the London regions of RIBA, RTPI, ROOMatRTPI, CIH, CIOB and RICS, the conference will examine the state of the current housing market and what the future may hold.

To register your interest email;
jkem@btinternet.com

Evening Short Course on Planning and Housing in London

Alternate Tuesdays 6-8pm at London Metropolitan University in Holloway Road, Islington.

This course is being run as an induction course for planners who have recently rejoined or rejoined planning practice in London.

21/10/08 - The National Framework for Planning in England

4/11/08 - Regional planning in London since early 20th C :

18/11/08 - Strategic Planning in London – Key Challenges and Policies.

2/12/08 - Planning policy for housing in London including density and standards.

10/02/09 - Planning and housing delivery in London.

24/02/09 - Housing Capacity and site identification.

10/03/09- Planning Obligations and Development Viability.

24/03/09- Preconditions for Sustainable Development

The cost of each session will be £40 per person. The full programme can be prebooked for £250,

For more details visit www.londonmet.ac.uk/londonmet/library/y30102_24.doc

keep up to date with RTPI London events - register for our regular e-bulletins: london@rtpi.org.uk




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- Ability to undertake a landowner/developer representative role
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