

WHAT IS PLANNING?



RTPI

mediation of space • making of place
cyd drefnu gofod • creu cynefin

Have you ever thought about why cities, towns and villages are built the way they are?

Who decides where the buildings, roads, and parks go?

Does it matter to you where you live, go to school, shop, play, or where your mum or dad work?

'Planning' is about how we plan for and make decisions about the future of our cities, towns, villages and our countryside.

Planning is how we make sure we have enough houses to live in, we have space to play, shops, there are buildings to work in, and we have community buildings for everyone to use, such as schools, hospitals, libraries and places of worship, and that we can also move around – by bicycle, car, bus, train and even walk.



People who work in planning do lots of different jobs. Some work to protect our countryside and coast, some design our towns and cities to include attractive buildings, some work to protect our old buildings which have a strong local or national history and others plan our transport. Some planners work with people and companies to make the best use of their land and buildings.

Many work in local authorities or councils, and plan our towns. They look at plans from people and companies and say whether they are allowed to build them (sometimes they have to look at knocking buildings down as well). To make this decision they have to balance lots of different things to make sure it is best for everyone – the public – you and me. They think about how big it is, how will it look next to buildings already there, will there be too much noise, will it make the air dirty, how will people get there – will there be lots of cars, will it cause problems for the environment?

All of these things are about 'sustainable development', planners need to think about the impact designs will have upon the surrounding environment, whether any harm may be caused, and how they can protect the environment for future generations.

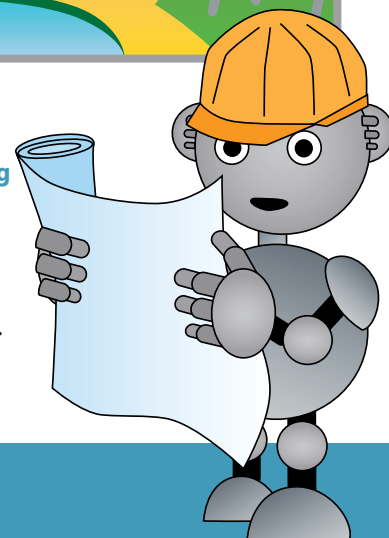
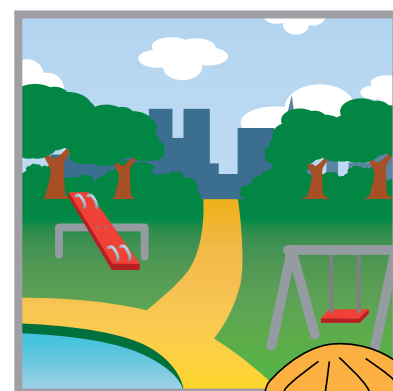
Planners also understand that places are different. They have to think about urban areas. These are our cities and towns. They are where lots of people live and work. They have lots of different buildings and spaces often mixed together – houses and flats, factories, offices, retail, parks and cinemas, as well as schools and hospitals.

In country areas the use of land is quite different. Fewer people live in rural areas, so they have fewer buildings. The land in the countryside is often used for farming or forestry. These places are also used for play and where people go on holiday – so there are caravan parks and camp sites, as well as tourist centres.



Planners also have to make sure there are places where our rubbish can be disposed of, places for mining coal and other ways of producing our electricity and quarrying rock for our roads and buildings, as well as reservoirs to store water so that we all have water.

Planners make lots of difficult decisions to make sure places are good to live, work, play and go to school in and that our countryside is protected. When you visit somewhere next time, think about what it looks like, does it have all the buildings and open areas you need and is it safe?



Produced by RTPI Cymru

The Royal Town Planning Institute is a charity registered in England 262865 and Scotland SC 037841.
Registered address: 41 Botolph Lane, London EC3R 8DL.

www.rtpi.org.uk