

## Future Newsletters

We hope that you found this edition of Root and Branch useful and informative. The articles you have read have been submitted by Members of the Yorkshire Region. If you, or your planning colleagues, have any views, reports, articles or any other information (hundreds or otherwise) which you feel would be of interest to other members, please forward them, preferably by email, (see below) to Paula Nolan at regional office for inclusion in the quarterly Newsletter. **The last deadline for 2008 is 3rd December.** The success of the newsletter depends on the Members producing the necessary copy. There must be things happening in your area that merit being communicated to a wider audience!

All enquiries to: [Yorkshire@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:Yorkshire@rtpi.org.uk)

## Useful links...

Useful links ...

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

<http://www.rtpi.org.uk/cgi-bin/item.cgi?ap=18id=355>

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

[http://www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi\\_yorkshire/](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_yorkshire/)

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**Yorkshire Region Website**  
[http://www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi\\_yorkshire/](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_yorkshire/)



**Autumn 2008**  
Royal Town Planning Institute  
Yorkshire Region Newsletter



in this issue

A Word from the Chair

An Unconventional Affair

Yorkshire Region Planning Awards 2008

RTPi Yorkshire Region - Notice of the 2008 Regional Annual General Meeting

Yorkshire Conference Series 2008 Programme

CABE training event for Planning Aid Staff & Volunteers

## A word from the Chair

In case you were too busy working there was a wonderful little snippet in the Guardian in June which read:

*"Local authorities were told yesterday to ban the use of 100 words that are much loved by bureaucrats, but meaningless to the citizens they are supposed to serve.*

*The Local Government Association circulated a list of "non-words" that public bodies should try to avoid, including coterminosity, empowerment, multidisciplinary, place shaping and sustainable communities.*

*The association, representing councils in England, said the words were particularly tiresome when combined into phrases such as "predictors of beaconicity" - the title of a recent 38-page paper from the Department for Communities and Local Government.*

*The association's chairman, Sir Simon Milton, said: "The public sector cannot, must not and should not hide behind impenetrable jargon and phrases. Why do we have to have 'coterminous, stakeholder engagement' when we could just 'talk to people' instead?" The banned list also includes cross-cutting, joined-up, outcomes, revenue streams, synergies, top-down and transformational."*

So some sense seems to be imminent in the planning world. Everyone reading this please take note - from now on spades are spades.

And to add to this, excellent news about Local Member Review Boards being abandoned. Good, but it makes one think about which idiot thought of this in the first place.

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## Planning your next move? [juddfarris.com](http://juddfarris.com)

### Director of Planning

LEEDS CITY CENTRE

Salary & Package Negotiable

Our Client is a well known and respected Multi-disciplinary Property Consultancy looking to develop their Northern Planning Team into the Yorkshire market. In order to be successful within this role you will have experience of running major projects across Commercial, Retail and Leisure sectors, building relationships with key clients, and have the confidence that you can bring business with you as well as the ability to diversify your business into new markets where necessary. You will have an excellent reputation in the Yorkshire market with an understanding of how to build a consultancy team from scratch. In return, you will have the full support of the UK Planning team to develop the division organically.

[vicky.tipper@juddfarris.co.uk](mailto:vicky.tipper@juddfarris.co.uk) Ref: VT/12434

### Associate - Economic Planning Consultant

LEEDS CITY CENTRE

Flexible Salary & Package

Our client is currently looking to strengthen their Planning & Regeneration Team by introducing an Economic Development element to the division. You will be expected to manage and undertake major economic development commissions, with the support of junior staff. You will have experience of winning competitive tenders, writing high quality reports and undertaking presentations to clients, alongside being able to demonstrate an ability to interpret and understand economic development indicators and data sets. High level regeneration consultancy experience is key to the success of this role as well as a clear understanding of land use planning and development surveying. You will ideally be a qualified town planner with a strong analytical background.

[vicky.tipper@juddfarris.co.uk](mailto:vicky.tipper@juddfarris.co.uk) Ref: VT/13504

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**Judd Farris**  
property recruitment

For career advice and the latest in Planning opportunities, please contact Vicky Tipper on 0161 834 8666 or email [vicky.tipper@juddfarris.co.uk](mailto:vicky.tipper@juddfarris.co.uk). Judd Farris provides effective recruitment solutions for full Employer and Employee services, please visit [juddfarris.com](http://juddfarris.com)

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Yet more paper. I assume that everyone has now seen the revised PD rights regulations. It was fascinating to see within a very short time, as little as an hour, queries bouncing around the internet as to what these meant and how they should be interpreted. Both users of the sole practitioners' network and the PAS forum seemed to be at an equal loss as to a consistent view. Even at a Planning Portal event at the end of September the speakers admitted confusion. Written by lawyers.....

I attended the Planning Convention in early July. Very full programme which was surprisingly tiring. You may have read elsewhere already but the opening sessions on Bogota in Columbia and Johannesburg in South Africa were particularly thought provoking, as well as alarming. Being a long term Planning Aid volunteer I am well used to hearing about our work concentrating on areas of multiple deprivation and super output areas but never where lowering the murder rates was the initial priority. And we thought we had problems? These two were really on another planet.

There will be a more fulsome report in due course but this year's regional Planning Award will be going to Transforming Dalton and East Herringthorpe - Development Framework, Taylor Young; with a Commendation going to Taking Planning out of Policy and into the Community, Hambleton District Council. So congratulations to these and thanks to all the other entrants.

Hot off my press is the news about this year's Presidential visit. As you will all know, Yorkshire's own Janet O'Neill holds the office this year so it was a pleasure to meet and greet Janet on her local tour in the middle of September. The sun must literally shine on the righteous because the two days of her visit were probably the best for a long time. Two very good days starting with a morning tour of the Gold Route in Sheffield accompanied by Les Sturch and Simon Ogden. I hope that I am not being overly condemnatory but I have said before that I had not too fond memories from the early seventies of exiting Sheffield station to be confronted by crawling traffic and taxis, not sure where anything was and not being overly impressed with what I then saw. Now a totally different story. Some of the best public realm works one could hope to see, the public quite obviously enjoying themselves and everyone taking advantage of the good weather. No wonder that it won the regional planning award last year and the national planning award since.

Immediately after a mad dash up the motorway Phil Crabtree and his colleagues at Leeds graciously entertained us to lunch and a good discussion with junior staff, a particular interest of the President, followed by a tour of the department, the second largest in the country. The evening was taken up with the Three Cities 'contest', hosted by Leeds Met University, between Leeds (Phil Crabtree), Hull (Alex Codd) and David Curtis (Sheffield). A large and attentive audience, many of whom had just enrolled that day on the Masters planning course at LMU, heard the three long experienced but still very dedicated speakers talking about planning in their own patch. Not so much of a contest more a meeting of minds about what they were trying to do in their respective manors and why. What was particularly heartening for a cynic like me was the obvious enthusiasm of all the participants even after so many years of practice in the profession. Touch wood, it was enthusiasm which was catching for all the first year students. Aided and fuelled by the young professionals social event immediately after.

The next day started with Janet visiting Grimsby to meet the staff at North East Lincolnshire, recently



relocated at new offices well outside the town. Circumstances forced on the LPA saw some novel approaches to how they related to the public - no reception counter, officers generally going out of office to meet agents and video conferencing. The latter was an eye opener

as the picture below shows with the President linking up with council officers at an office in the town centre.

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## YORKSHIRE CONFERENCE SERIES 2008 Programme

13 <sup>th</sup> November	Leeds	Planning Law Update (in association with Hammonds)
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Leeds	Spatial Strategic Planning – How will it work in Yorkshire?

### CABE training event for Planning Aid Staff & Volunteers

#### YPA Volunteer Alan Mitchell reports on a day out in Sheffield:-

This touring workshop "landed" in Sheffield on 24<sup>th</sup> September and was well attended by staff and volunteers from the Y and H area.

In addition to the CABE speakers and facilitators there were two notable external speakers. The 1<sup>st</sup> visiting speaker was Simon Gedye, a prominent Sheffield architect and chair of the local Civic Trust. It was a good start. Simon, using illustrations from the locality and farther afield, got the audience thinking about the subject. Many of us were having similar thoughts; is good design something that can be analysed or measured or is it entirely subjective? How do aesthetics and appearance reconcile with users' satisfaction and economy? How will design standards be affected by the economic downturn?

Dominic Church [CABE] recalled the design nightmares of the 1960s and 70s and produced the all too familiar images of nondescript and poor design in more recent developments. He made the links with current Planning policy, referring to the clear mandate given by PPS1, PPS3, the Code for Sustainable Homes and more. Some of us [the older ones] remember the bad old "non-planning" days in the 1980s when planners were not encouraged to influence design; - architects knew best and planners shouldn't meddle! There is at least more hope in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

After a briefing about the CABE "Building for Life" criteria, we were taken on site to use the checklist on a real scheme built just a few years ago at the Manor estate in Sheffield. Four groups set off walking around the area assessing what we could see according to its character; roads, layout and pedestrianisation; design and construction; and environment and community [the community in the form of "hoodies" on a motorbike let us know with appropriate gestures what they felt about yet more planners gawping at their estate, - really you can't blame them!]. We lacked some of the technical and local information to complete every category but had a good stab at scoring the scheme for as many as possible of the 20 criteria. The results showed that most of us were not

very impressed by the development, and we learned later that when the exercise was assessed for real by Transform S Yorkshire it didn't pass the test. So our assessments were vindicated!

After lunch John Thorpe, Leeds Civic Architect, gave a fascinating insight into his work in Leeds. It was refreshing to discover that there are still some very enthusiastic architects who actually draw. John holds numerous planning workshops and doesn't write minutes; everything is recorded by means of sketches, diagrams and annotated plans. Thankfully this breed of Architect hasn't yet died out!

Sarah Burgess [CABE] passed on her experience of Design and Access statements, which was generally not very positive. There followed another practical exercise [we were certainly made to work]. We again used the "Building for Life" criteria to assess a planning application for an important site close to the rail station at Stratford upon Avon. All groups found some good and some uninspiring features within the scheme. Later the feedback was that the scheme had been refused by the local authority but



permitted on appeal. It is now being built. This may suggest a lack of support from the Planning Inspectorate on design issues but we were assured by CABE that the Inspectorate is

generally now very supportive of efforts to promote good design.

There was limited time for questions and discussion in such a packed day. Some of us were left a little concerned that the architectural profession is still most concerned about appearance and aesthetics rather than the needs and perceptions of the users of their creations. However it was a good workshop, demonstrating that whilst good design is partly subjective, many elements of good design can be identified and assessed, even if it is in a pseudo scientific manner. This must surely help the cause of improving the quality of development. We all left with useful CABE publications including guidance on Design and Access statements and a set of Building for Life cards for use when assessing schemes. Whether we are case officers or Planning Aid volunteers I'm sure these, and the lessons of the day, will be very helpful to us in our future work.



**RTPI**

mediation of space · making of place

**RTPI Yorkshire Region  
Notice of the 2008 Regional Annual General Meeting**

**To be held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 6.30pm at the Regional Office,  
Green Sand Foundry, 99 Water Lane, Holbeck, Leeds LS11 5QN**

**AGENDA**

**6.00pm – refreshments**

**6.30pm – Presentation of Regional Planning Awards for 2008**

**7.00pm – AGM**

- Any motions received in writing/email by 18<sup>th</sup> November
- Report on Branch activities 2008 (to be available on the region's website from 25<sup>th</sup> November)
- Business Plan and Budget 2009 (also on the website)
- Nominations for Principal Officers of the Regional Management Board:
  - Chair
  - Vice Chair
  - Immediate Past Chair
  - Hon Secretary
  - Hon Treasurer
  - General Assembly Representative
- Nominations for the Regional Activities Committee
  - 12 Corporate Members
  - 4 Student/Licentiate members (by students/licentiates)
  - 4 other non-corporate members, including Technical and Associate members (by their respective members)

✂.....

**Nomination Form for the Yorkshire Regional Management Board  
And/or Regional Activities Committee 2009**

**I nominate ..... for election as .....**

**Signed ..... membership status .....**

**I am willing to serve in the above capacity**

**Signed ..... membership status .....**

**Full name ..... contact .....**

**Please return nomination forms to Paula Nolan by Mon 1st December at  
RTPI Yorkshire, The Green Sand Foundry, 99 Water Lane, Holbeck, Leeds LS11 5QN  
or Fax: 0113 237 8488 or Email: [yorkshire@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:yorkshire@rtpi.org.uk)**

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Lunch was then graciously laid on by Alex Codd, leader of the Council Cllr Minns and their colleagues at Hull in the wonderfully named World Trade Centre overlooking a balmy Humber estuary in full sunlight.

Excellent walking and bus tour of the city thereafter again demonstrating how things have changed since I last visited Hull a few years ago. Memorably finishing with our cars being clamped!



In a parking bay adjoining the marina, with no apparent restrictions. That is until we were shown the

nearest WARNING SIGN which just happened to be in the marina, and when I say in I mean in. Fastened to an upright wooden pole about a metre or more into the water! The London based clamping company were then subjected to a half hour of masterful conversation with Alex and his colleagues, verging between the imminent start of WWII and diplomacy the United Nations would have been proud of. Again, sun shines on the righteous as the clamps were removed without the £250 payment. So be aware, anyone visiting Hull docks, and I would strongly recommend you do, should park carefully.

And finally finishing at Bishop Burton College to see staff and participating organisations in the College's Planning foundation degree course.

So a very hectic two days touring the region came to a close. How each President manages to do this with every region plus everything else and their own private work commitments I do not know.

My thanks go to all who helped in the seamlessly smooth organisation of these two days – David Curtis, Les Sturch and Simon Ogden at Sheffield; Phil Crabtree, Adam Ward and the staff at Leeds; Mick McLoughlin, Leeds Met University and Macdonald and Company for organising and sponsoring the 3 Cities event; Phil Wallace, Stacey Chaplin and all the staff at North East Lincolnshire; Alex Codd, Councillor Carl Minns, colleagues and staff at Hull; and Sharron Carlill at Bishop Burton,

Phil Parker and Darren Hendley from East Riding Council and Nigel Carruthers at IDeA; and, as always, to Tony Ray and Paula Nolan at the branch office.

I don't have a clue when you will be reading this but if it is in time then seasons greetings, peace and good health to all.

**Harvey Pritchard, Yorkshire RTPI Chair  
October 2008**

**An Unconventional Affair**

***Rebecca Penty reports from the 2008 RTPI Planning Convention***

Over 150 delegates gathered for the annual RTPI 2008 Planning Convention held this year at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster, London. The changed format for 2008 meant the delegates enjoyed three days of stimulating plenary talks, a series of linked workshops, and an increased number of fringe events including study tours, all of which contributed to making it a lively, informative and enjoyable event for everyone.

This year's theme was "changing places in a changing world", and addressed how best to mitigate and adapt to climate change, whilst also responding effectively to an increasingly turbulent economic climate.

The standard of the Plenary talks was extremely high with a range of varied issues being raised. The proceedings were opened with a reflection on urban planning problems in Columbia and South Africa, adding an international flair to the conference, and ended with a unique insight into the similarities between the environment and the human brain.

Secretary of State Hazel Blears also made an appearance, arguing that it is a myth that an efficient, faster planning system equates to the public losing its voice, while a special mention must go to our own Steve Quartermain of Hambleton in his new role as DCLG's Chief planner, who demonstrated how the profession was distancing itself from its traditional "anorak" image.

Having attended as a first-timer to the conference, it is easy to see why the majority of delegates there were returnees, and I have no reservations in urging you to keep the dates 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June 2009 free in your diary for next year's event!

**Rebecca Penty**

## Yorkshire Region Planning Awards 2008

This year's competition included a broad range of different projects for the judging panel to consider, reflecting the diversity of the profession in the region. Selecting a winner is a challenge when many of the entrants have significant merit.

However, one clear winner did emerge amongst the entries, particularly when considered against the seven judging criteria for the competition. It is evident that the Taylor Young team have been dedicated in delivering the Transforming Dalton and East Herringthorpe Development Framework, developing aspirational yet realistic proposals for housing market renewal in communities east of Rotherham. In addition to the winner we have also awarded a commendation. Hambleton District Council took its 'Beacon Authority' role very seriously. Development of the curriculum compliant teaching resources will provide a lasting legacy of students who will have a much better appreciation of the challenging issues that need to be resolved through the planning process.

Details of the awarded entries together with special mentions are set out below. We will be looking for more entrants for the 2009 competition next year in early summer – look out for details in a future issue of Root and Branch. I would encourage everyone to consider entering projects in the region they have been involved with as planners. You've got to be in it to win it!

**Richard Crabtree**  
Vice Chair, RTPI Yorkshire

### **OVERALL WINNER:**

**Transforming Dalton and East Herringthorpe – Development Framework, Taylor Young et al for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council**

Taylor Young with Lambert Smith Hampton, Boreham and Urbanistix were appointed in late 2006 to produce a Development Framework to guide the Housing Market Renewal (HMR) work being undertaken in Dalton and East Herringthorpe as part of the Transform South Yorkshire HMR Programme.

The Dalton and East Herringthorpe Development Framework includes four villages east of Rotherham – East Herringthorpe, Dalton Parva, Dalton Brook, and Dalton Thrybergh.

The Development Framework as associated documents are an

excellent example of positive place-shaping.

They articulate an aspirational but deliverable set of proposals for the area which respond to the unique circumstances in each village. The documents are easy to follow and well illustrated, and are accompanied by a computer modelled 'fly-through' video of the area to demonstrate where the proposals are and how they might look.

However, there are a number of aspects of the process that make it stand out. It is evident that the consultancy team were dedicated to delivering a development framework that would work for the area. Community engagement often presents a challenge in HMR work where many residents are opposed to change. However, the team has evidently put particular effort into listening to the community to understand their views, and equally to articulate clearly what the plans are how they will improve the area. This approach has been very successful, and will be fundamental to its eventual success.

The planning process is an important tool for delivering HMR programmes. The consultant team and Rotherham MBC have worked together to ensure the timely delivery of the Development Framework, but with an eye to how the HMR proposals can be incorporated into the Local Development Framework process. The important role of planners at both Taylor Young and Rotherham MBC is evident. The first major planning applications to start implementing the proposals are expected in late 2008.

### **COMMENDATION:**

**Taking Planning out of Policy and into the Community, Hambleton District Council**

Hambleton District Council was awarded Beacon Authority status in 2007 for its commitment to 'Promoting sustainable communities through the planning process'. Part of the beacon role includes dissemination of experience to peers and the wider community. As part of this programme, and to ensure a lasting legacy from the Beacon experience (and funding) the Council developed a suite of curriculum compliant teaching and learning resources for use in schools. These cover the whole range of issues dealt with through spatial planning and the building of sustainable communities, and how planning can help deliver the aspirations set out in the Community Strategy.

The materials help establish the role of planning, and introduce students to some of the challenging issues that need to be resolved through the planning process including housing affordability, household growth (including demographics) and employment patterns.

Through a deeper understanding of these issues it is hoped that students will be better placed to contribute to the planning process in the future as well as stimulating interest and debate in topical areas that form an important part of the 'Citizenship' component of the National Curriculum.

In addition to the winner and the commendation, two further entrants are deserving of special mention. These projects, whilst not fulfilling the full range of the judging criteria are good examples of planning-related practice in the region, delivering excellent outcomes.

**Bradford College** has recently opened its Trinity Green Campus as part of the first phase of the comprehensive redevelopment of the college estate. Through a very inclusive and outward looking process, Bradford College has managed to deliver a project that not only helps to fulfil the city's own aspirations for the 'Learning Quarter', contributing to the regeneration of the city centre, but also one which demonstrates excellence in architectural design, one that responds to the needs to students and staff. Leading sustainable construction methods and control techniques have also been employed to ensure the building has a low environmental impact both in construction and in day-to-day use.

**Yorkshire Water** and its partners developed the SSSI Recovery Project in 2004, to help get the company's 11,500ha of SSSI designated sites into 'target' condition, helping to deliver a wider Government objective on SSSI condition. Excellent progress is being made, with well over half the estate now in target condition, much of which is also in the region's National Parks and AONBs. The project is an excellent example of joint working across sectors, with a significant role of Natural England, the Environment Agency and others. Careful working with graziers, stakeholder groups and the RSPB has been instrumental in the achievements to date.