



RTPI

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RTPI Media Monitoring Update

Monitoring period: 16th September – 31st December 2008

This report has been compiled by Sophie Stapleton, who began the interim Communications Manager position on Tuesday 16th September 2008.

The new Marketing & Communications Team is still being put together. With a full team in post we would expect to generate more coverage, both regionally and nationally. It should also be noted that we are currently in dispute with our main media monitoring company so as a result some coverage will have inevitably been missed.

A. Press releases

Parliament, which is a particular generator of stories and comment for us, was in recess for part of this period. However, the following releases were issued:

[PR 56 - 08 October 2008 – RTPI appoints new Managing Director](#): announcing the appointment of Sara Drake from 01 December 2008.

[PR 57 – 14 October 2008 – The future of UK planning examined at RTPI National Young Planners' Conference](#): the annual RTPI Young Planners' conference, held in Brighton, explored the last 60 years of planning and the future challenges facing the profession.

[PR 58 – 15 October 2008 – RTPI backs Blears' call for more chief planners in council cabinets](#): Hazel Blears, Communities Minister, spoke of the need for larger numbers of chief planners to be members of local authority cabinets and management teams at the RTPI Politicians in Planning (PIPA) conference.

[PR 59 – 28 October 2008 – Global survey unearths key challenges facing planners](#): RTPI Global Planners Network Congress' research results unveiled in Zhenjiang, China on back of UN Habitat Report into the state of the world's cities.

[PR 60 – 07 November 2008 – Housing and planning bodies launch joint network](#): official release with the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) regarding the launch of the RTPI-CIH Planning for Housing Network.

[PR 61 – 07 November 2008 – Sir David King: Decarbonising must be mainstreamed into our economic thinking to meet the challenges of climate change](#): RTPI David Fryer Memorial Lecture 2008 event overview.

[PR 62 – 07 November 2008 – Planning’s role in fighting global crises addressed on eve of World Town Planning Day](#): Two international events - The Global Planners Network Congress and World Urban Forum 4 – highlighted the shared concerns of planners leading up to World Town Planning Day.

[PR 63 – 17 November 2008 - Generic enforcement teams not a step in the right direction, say planning enforcement officers](#): coverage from the National Association for Planning Enforcement (NAPE) annual conference.

[PR 64 – 21 November 2008 – Pre-Budget Report must use planning to provide economic stimulus](#): RTPI calls for recognition of planning prior to Pre-Budget Report announcement.

[PR 65 – 24 November 2008 – RTPI advice acknowledged in Killian Pretty Review recommendations](#): RTPI broadly welcomes the 17 recommendations from Killian Pretty Review of development management.

[PR 66 – 27 November 2008 – New bilingual career materials promote planning to young people in Wales: when I grow up I want to be a planner](#): The first nationwide RTPI Cymru campaign promoting planning as a career to young people is launched, backed by the Welsh Assembly.

[PR 67 – 27 November 2008 – Community involvement must be at heart of Planning Bill law](#): RTPI welcomes the passage of the Planning Bill into law but calls on the government to ensure community involvement in the policy decision making process.

[PR 68 – 01 December 2008 - £30 million rail project steams into first place at 2008 Wales Planning Awards](#): Announcement of the winners from the 2008 Wales Planning Awards.

[PR 69 – 02 December 2008 – Planning system vital to reach new carbon target levels](#): The RTPI urges the Climate Change Committee to use the planning system strategically to achieve its carbon emissions targets.

[PR 70 – 03 December 2008 – Queen’s speech a welcome sea change say Britain’s planners](#): RTPI response to the inclusion of The Community Empowerment Bill and The Marine and Coastal Access Bill in the Queen’s Speech.

[PR 71 – 10 December 2008 – RTPI and Government to address planning law implementation](#): The RTPI and Government pledge to work together to implement the Planning Act 2008.

B. National coverage breakdown:

Press Association	01 October 2008	RTPI Director of Policy Rynd Smith quoted regarding simplification of planning permission rules in England
Press Association	03 October 2008	Announcement of new UK energy and climate change committee - The RTPI welcomed the new department in an area where "joined-up government" was vital
The Guardian	15 October 2008	Society Guardian feature on careers in planning in the public sector, RTPI Director of Policy Rynd Smith interviewed
Press Association	21 October 2008	Roisin Willmott, National Director of RTPI Cymru, quoted on subject of local councils releasing cut-price land for house building urged by the Welsh Assembly Government
The Telegraph	28 October 2008	Mentions the RTPI's well publicised stance on eco-towns
The Herald (Scotland)	29 October 2008	Recounts the meeting between the RTPI and representatives from Scotland's local authorities regarding speeding up the planning system
Press Association	04 November 2008	RTPI reasserts its stance on eco-towns scheme
The Guardian	05 November 2008	RTPI Secretary General Robert Upton responds to lengthy attack on the Planning Bill by Hugh Ellis from Friends of the Earth
The Scotsman	06 November 2008	Veronica Burbridge, National Director of the RTPI in Scotland writes letter in response to editorial calling the planning system "organised civil war"
The Guardian	08 November 2008	RTPI figures quoted in a letter from the Labour Land Campaign
The Scotsman	11 November 2008	Coverage of the RTPI in Scotland's annual conference focusing on climate change
The Scotsman	31 December 2008	RTPI Secretary General Robert Upton awarded CBE in Queen's New Years Honours list
The Telegraph	31 December 2008	Mention of Robert Upton's CBE award

The Guardian	31 December 2008	The Queen awards a CBE to RTPI Secretary General Robert Upton for his public service
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C. Regional coverage breakdown:

Westmorland Gazette	17 September 2008	Announcement of the winner of the RTPI North West Best Rural Planning Project Award
Western Mail	25 September 2008	Roisin Willmott, National Director RTPI Cymru quoted in article on the potential establishment of a sovereign wealth fund (SWF) to manage revenue from the huge quantities of coal and methane gas that could be exploited in South Wales
Belper News	15 October 2008	Representatives from RTPI East Midlands attended a conference on town centre design for planners and architects in Belper
The Birmingham Post	15 October 2008	Robert Upton, RTPI Secretary General, gives endorsement for national property and construction consultancy Wakemans, who have been appointed to construct a £3m live/work development near Kidderminster, Birmingham
Bath Chronicle	05 November 2008	Quotes RTPI South West representative on their response to draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South West
BBC News Northamptonshire	08 November 2008	Kettering Council and its consultants Savills win Town Regeneration category at RTPI East Midlands Planning Awards
The Shields Gazette	24 November 2008	Cleaddon Park estate in South Shields comes away with 2008 RTPI North East Regional Award for Planning Achievement
The Argus	29 November 2008	Brighton and Hove City Council wins RTPI's Sustainable Communities Award
South Wales Argus	03 December 2008	Ebbw Valley railway line wins RTPI Cymru Supreme Planning Award for 2008
Chorley Citizen	03 December 2008	Chorley Council are granted a

		commendation from the RTPI for the Buckshaw Village development at the Wales Planning Awards 2008
Lancashire Telegraph	03 December 2008	Chorley Council are granted a commendation from the RTPI for the Buckshaw Village development at the Wales Planning Awards 2008
Wales Online	04 December 2008	The £30m revival of Ebbw Valley Railway passenger services led by Blaenau Gwent Council has won the Supreme Award at the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Cymru's 2008 Wales Planning Awards
Wales Online	09 December 2008	Cardiff Council has been commended by the RTPI Cymru at the Wales Planning Awards 2008
South Wales Echo	10 December 2008	Cardiff Harbour Authority wins award from RTPI Cymru in recognition of its work promoting planning to young people
Gwent Gazette	18 December 2008	Two Blaenau Gwent Council led partnership projects – the Ebbw Valley Railway and The Works: Ebbw Vale win RTPI Cymru planning awards
Merseyside Acme	23 December 2008	North West RTPI commends 'The Fairytale of Burscough Bridge' in its regional awards
Camb's Times	29 December 2008	RTPI President Janet O'Neill presents Nene Waterfront Regeneration Project with the East of England Planning Achievement Award for 2007
The Southern Daily Echo	31 December 2008	Robert Upton, RTPI Secretary General originally from Fleet, is made a CBE for public service
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D. TV/Radio coverage breakdown:

BBC Radio 4's You and Yours Programme	1 October 2008	Janet Askew, Chair of the RTPI's Development Management Network, interviewed on the topic of changes to the General Permitted Development Order from 01 October 2008
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BBC Radio Shropshire	02 October 2008	RTPI Policy Director Rynd Smith interviewed regarding the new planning rules for homeowners
BBC Radio Devon's Michael Chequer Show	03 October 2008	Peter Whitehead, Community Planner from South West Planning Aid, spoke to callers about the South West Planning Aid service and answered live queries
BBC Radio Bristol	08 October 2008	Barry Pearce, Regional Manager South West Planning Aid spoke to Dave Barret from BBC Radio Bristol on general planning issues and the South West Planning Aid service
BBC South East's Inside Out programme	17 October 2008	Kelvin MacDonald, past RTPI director of policy, spoke about planning in the South East region
BBC Radio Berkshire	01 December 2008	RTPI Past President Ron Tate speaks to BBC Radio Berkshire regarding redevelopment of the Reading town centre

E. Trade press breakdown:

A wide range of issues were dealt with over the period, those of interest include:

- The importance of quality design in the planning process
- The shortage of qualified planners and limits on non-EU migrant workers into the UK
- The appointment of Sara Drake, RTPI's first Managing Director
- A higher profile for planners in local authority cabinets
- The practice of sustainability appraisals within the spatial planning process
- The official launch of the RTPI-CIH Planning for Housing Network
- The return of Margaret Beckett MP to the Labour government as Housing Minister
- The structure of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and its implications
- The planning system acting as a block to land supply for house builders
- RTPI President, Janet O'Neill, stressing the importance of authorities signing up to sustainable living planning policies so planners can help combat the effects of climate change
- Shake ups to the Scottish planning system
- The global challenges facing planners unveiled in RTPI GPN Congress report

- RTPI response to Killian Pretty Review and reappraisal of planning system users' satisfaction criteria
- London Planning Awards finalists are announced
- RTPI responds to calls to overhaul planning delivery grant system
- RTPI praised by Baroness Andrews for showing "leadership and vision" in helping push through reforms of the Planning Bill
- Heritage Protection Bill dropped from Queen's Speech
- RTPI calls for good planning to hit carbon targets
- Community involvement must be at the heart of the Planning Bill
- RTPI Planning Awards 2008 shortlist announced
- RTPI Secretary General Robert Upton is awarded a CBE in the Queen's New Years Honours list for his public service

The RTPI was mentioned in the following trade publications (hard copies are kept by the Communications Manager) :

Planning Magazine/Planning Resource	29 mentions
Building Magazine/Building Online	6 mentions
Inside Housing	4 mentions
Building Design/Building Design Online	3 mentions
Local Government Chronicle	3 mentions
Municipal Journal	3 mentions
Property Week/Property Week Online	2 mentions
Regeneration and Renewal	1 mention
Construction Now	1 mention
Housing News	1 mention
Local Government Executive	1 mention
New Builder	1 mention
Green Building online	1 mention
Planning in London	1 mention
Planning Portal	1 mention
Architecture Scotland	1 mention
Scottish Architecture	1 mention
Scottish Property	1 mention
The Journal Online	1 mention
24 Dash	1 mention
ege magazine	1 mention
E-Politix.com	1 mention
Total:	65 mentions

F. Journalist contact and queries:

The Communications Manager handled 61 queries over the period, including calls from the following media not mentioned previously in the report:

- Financial Times
- BBC Northampton
- BBC Bristol
- Public Finance Magazine
- BBC Radio 2 – Chris Evans Show
- BBC Radio Scotland
- Newstalk Radio Ireland
- BBC News London
- Architects Journal
- BBC Look North Programme
- BBC Radio Ulster Evening Extra Programme
- BBC Radio 4 Today Programme
- BBC South East
- BBC London TV News
- Move or Improve Magazine
- The Ends Report
- Channel 4's Relocation Relocation Programme
- Planning Portal Online
- Fleet News

Many other queries were also handled relating to advertising, image requests and RTPI reports/submissions requests.

Sophie Stapleton
27 January 2009