

PIPA – the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network

Bulletin 3rd March 2009

Welcome

All PIPA Bulletins, including this edition, can be viewed as an Adobe pdf document using [this link](#) provided you have registered on the RTPI website. *If this email has been forwarded to you, you can take up free PIPA membership for yourself by signing up on the [PIPA website](#) or email pipa@rtpi.org.uk*

Topics beyond 'PIPA News' for you to dip into in this edition:

(click on the heading below to take you to a chosen topic, click on the main topic heading there to return↑)

[Planning System](#): [Housing](#); [Unviable?](#); [Future Funding](#); [Greenfield](#); [Local Democracy](#): [Control Shift](#); [Cross-border](#); [Community Anchors](#); [Powers to Promote](#); [Botched Attempt?](#); [Sustainability](#): [Breakthrough ideas](#); [Retailing](#); [Code](#); [Consultations](#): [England](#); [Wales](#); [Events](#); [Websites](#); [Publications](#)

PIPA News

SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS

In response to the item about the Campaign to get Section 106 Agreements suspended and the proposal to have a Network meeting around this, PIPA Member Cllr Roger Gambba-Jones wrote: "I can understand why developers are looking to reduce overheads and why S106 is seen as the easiest option. However, I hope the Government are very cautious about such a proposal as it could rob communities of amenities that are desperately needed and that there are very few other ways of delivering. There is probably also the issue of misuse and abuse which in some cases has made S106 a dirty word in some developers minds, especially where they feel it has used as a form of blackmail."

Do you also have views? We hope to offer a Networks' event in Bristol later this month – so let me know if this would be of interest: pipa@rtpi.org.uk

PLANNING TO LIVE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

The RTPI is examining its New Vision for Planning in the context of the importance of climate change and planning's response to climate change. The RTPI is asking its Members and Network participants:

- What are you doing and what can you do about climate change?
- How will professionals help to tackle the global issues?
- How will you engage in developing "Planning to Live with Climate Change"?

[Click here](#) to access the home page for Member engagement.

[Click here](#) to give us your answers to these and related questions ... please give us your views by Friday 10th April so that they can feed into the next meeting of the RTPI General Assembly

[Click here](#) to read an **executive summary report**, setting out our reasons for reviewing the New Vision for Planning and likely key forward directions.

[Click here](#) to read a more detailed **consultation report** developed by the RTPI Policy and Practice Committee under the leadership of Chair and Junior Vice President Richard Summers.

Email your views to nick.summerfield@rtpi.org.uk or [click here](#) and scroll to the foot of the page to participate in a public debate on the RTPI website.

PIPA CONFERENCE 2009

Planning for the 2009 Conference has started – so if you have a wish for particular content for this important annual event for planning Councillors then please do let me know via pipa@rtpi.org.uk

WORLD HERITAGE

Following the three consultation events organised across the UK, the RTPI and the IHBC both made submissions to DCMS in response to their invitation for comments. You can see these responses via the [PIPA website homepage](#).

NORTHERN IRELAND RTPI/RSPB AWARDS FOR SUSTAINABLE PLANNING

Amongst the [RTPI/RSPB Awards](#) presented at Stormont was one for [Brokerstown Village](#), hailed as Northern Ireland's first Eco Village. Amongst its features is a central biomass boiler plant that provides heating and hot water for all the units; the CO₂ produced by the boiler, is offset by the CO₂ taken in by the locally grown willow.

If you would value a Network visit to the Village please let me know: pipa@rtpi.org.uk

LONDON PLANNING AWARDS

Whilst the overall Award was won by the Channel Rail Link, amongst the other Awards were:

Best Project to Protect Communities (sponsored by Arup):

[The Cut - from through-route to destination](#), London Boroughs of Southwark and Lambeth and the Cross River Partnership

Best Built Project – Community Scale Scheme (sponsored by Land Securities)

[Grassroots Centre, West Ham](#), Eger Architects

If you would value a Network visit to either or both schemes then please let me know: pipa@rtpi.org.uk

PLANNING THEORY AND PRACTICE - Special Discounted Rate for RTPI Members & Associate Members

This quarterly magazine is available at the special annual discounted rate of £31 (*normal price: £140*). It includes peer-reviewed articles on the analysis of case studies, reflections on practice, think pieces and book reviews. Subscribe via subscriptions@rtpi.org.uk or use [this link](#) for or a free sample.

Andrew

Planning System↑ **Housing and the Credit Crunch**

The Communities and Local Government Select Committee Report says that Government should “increase construction of new social housing, both to provide for housing need and as a means of maintaining capacity in the homebuilding industry whilst the market recovers.”

Unviable?

An independent assessment of the Middle Quinton eco-town proposal (that was the subject of a recent High Court hearing) concluded that the proposed development could be financially unviable.

Future Funding

PlanningResource reports that Councils could face a fall of up to £7bn in section 106 contributions this year as the credit crunch worsens. But the same source has also reported that the [Government is to put up £2bn](#) to ensure PFI infrastructure projects will go forward as planned despite the current financial market conditions.

Greenfield

“Without up-to-date housing policies, greenfield releases are likely to be favoured. This could well provide an impetus for local authorities to crack on with their strategies.” This is a conclusion to an article in Planning about the experiences of two Midland authorities.

Local Democracy↑ **Control Shift**

The Conservative decentralisation green paper, outlines a series of policies that would see powers transferred by:

- “Abolishing all regional planning and housing powers exercised by regional government, returning powers and discretion back to local communities
- Creating bottom-up incentives for house building, by allowing Councils to benefit more from the increase in Council tax revenues from new homes, rather than being equalised away by Whitehall”.

Cross-border

Northern Ireland Regional Development Minister Conor Murphy has launched a Report about opportunities for cross border collaboration on spatial planning in the Newry –Dundalk area.

Community Anchors

In a speech by Cohesion Minister Sadiq Khan at the bassac Annual Conference he said that he supported Anchors as independent, multi-purpose, community-led organisations.

Power to promote well-being

Guidance for Local Councils on the extension to eligible local Councils of the Power to Promote or Improve Economic, Social, or Environmental Well-Being.

A botched attempt?

Peter Hetherington in The Guardian says we could be left with the worst of all worlds in some of the new unitary areas.

Sustainability↑ **Breakthrough Ideas**

The Sustainable Development Commission has shortlisted 40 ideas for better sustainability – 6 in the Land Use & Planning category – and is inviting public comment **before Friday 6th March**.

Retailing

PlanningResource reports that [new research](#) suggests that retail property developers and local authorities must join forces and exploit the attributes of smaller towns to avoid losing crucial investment.

Code

This publication uses case studies to show the different ways of achieving various levels of the Code for Sustainable Homes and also highlights potential pit-falls for developers.

Consultations↑

England

Sustainable Communities Act 2007: Local Spending Reports

This consultation paper makes proposals for how the Government will put in place the arrangements for Local Spending Reports and seeks views on how these might develop over time.

Deadlines for Submissions (in two parts): **Friday 3rd April & Friday 15th May**

Draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS) and Sustainability Appraisal on Eco-towns

The consultation on the has now been **extended to Thursday 30th April**.

Wales

Consultation on a Bioenergy Action Plan for Wales

The Welsh Assembly Government is seeking views on our plans to use bioenergy to help Wales reduce its carbon footprint.

Deadline for Submissions: Friday 22nd May

Events↑

Book now and get £100 off - quote MAR09

RTPI's 4th Annual Rural Planning and Regeneration Conference – Tuesday 17th March, London

This RTPI Conference will provide an overview of rural regeneration, consider how to plan for and identify sustainable rural communities, and examine case studies that can help identify good practice in regenerating the countryside.

Use the link in the title or phone **0845 082 1171**

Adapting to Climate Change in Canada and Scotland: can we learn from each other? – Thursday 19th March, Dundee

Considers current research that focuses on examining barriers to change in implementing sustainability and methods to incorporate principles of sustainability into rural and remote communities. Use the link in the title or phone **01382 383 000**

Community Infrastructure Levy Conference – Wednesday 25th March, London

This RTPI Conference will consider the latest developments in this still changing debate and identify the outcomes of recent research. Use the link in the title or phone **0845 082 1171**

Recycling Historic Building - Empowering Local Authorities & Communities: Thursday 26th March, Llandudno

This Conference (organised by The Prince's Regeneration Trust, Institute of Historic Building Conservation and The Civic Trust for Wales) focuses on encouraging local authorities to use their statutory powers in working with communities to tackle redundant historic buildings. Use the link in the title or phone **01747 873133**

LGA Future Places Conference – Monday 30th & Tuesday 31st March, Stratford on Avon

The LGA has cancelled this event

Lifetime Neighbourhoods: What is the Future? – Wednesday 1st April, London

An ILC-UK debate exploring how the 'lifetime neighbourhoods' agenda should respond to the current economic turmoil, particularly that affecting the building industry. Use the link in the title or phone **0207 340 0440**

Planning Aid Conference 2009 - Monday 6th to Tuesday 7th April, Edinburgh

The 2009 Conference will look at the role of Planning Aid in building sustainable communities. Use the link in the title or phone Planning Aid Scotland on **0131 220 9730**. Use this number also if you wish to exhibit at the event.

Copenhagen Eco-Metropolis – Monday 6th April, Birmingham

Copenhagen has an international reputation for high quality architecture and public spaces and its leadership in tackling the environmental challenges of urban development. Part of Talking Cities: MADE and Birmingham City University urban design public lecture series, this event will look at Copenhagen's achievements. Use the link in the title or phone **0121 6339333**

Housing & Government: a Decade of Difference – Wednesday 15th to Friday 17th April, Cardiff

This Housing Studies Association Conference is intended to provide a space for reflection on the differences, similarities, constraints and opportunities that have emerged and explore the responses to problems and issues that have arisen both between and within individual countries. Use the link in the title or phone **01904 321480**

Planning in a Changing Climate: 2009 Planning Convention – Wednesday 17th to Friday 19th June, London

The Convention is host to a stellar line up of plenary speakers; well-informed breakout sessions; contributions from leading political figures; an informative and stimulating exhibition; great social programme; and above all interaction, intervention and engagement. Use the link in the title or phone **0845 082 1171**

Websites:

Demystifying Climate Change

See the Homes and Communities Academy website for these up-to-date resources.
See also Events above on this topic.

Infrastructure Planning and Delivery Briefing Pack

This PAS site offers a presentation that can be used to introduce Council Officers, Members, the Local Strategic Partnership & partner organisations to the need for infrastructure planning and the roles and responsibilities of those involved.

Publications↑

Community Assets

'Community ownership and management of assets' is a JRF review of evidence on community organisations owning or managing assets, including buildings and land.

A typology of the functional roles of deprived neighbourhoods

This report outlines a typology (developed for the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal evaluation) that helps understand better the different functional roles that deprived neighbourhoods play in their wider localities.

Understanding the different roles of deprived neighbourhoods: a typology - Research summary

This research summary accompanies the publication 'A typology of the functional roles of deprived neighbourhoods'.

Andrew Matheson MRTPI Network Manager

Royal Town Planning Institute
41 Botolph Lane
London EC3R 8DL
Direct line: +44(0)1789 763006
Mobile: 07971 375362
Switchboard: +44(0)20 7929 9494
www.rtpi.org.uk

Registered Charity: England No 262865 Scotland No SC037841