

london calling

RTPI London newsletter

spring 2009

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LONDON

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comment

Rachael Rooney



Welcome to the first edition of London Calling in 2009.

The launch of our revamped newsletter last year was well received and we want to continue that success throughout 2009.

As we are all more than aware, this year is going to be extremely challenging on many fronts with the global economic recession, increased job risk and a tougher financial environment in which to deliver high quality sustainable development.

Once again our profession has the chance to show the world what we are capable of and it is vital that we meet this challenge head on. At RTPI London we know how important it is for planners to be at the forefront of current topical debates and have the necessary skills and knowledge to not only lead these important discussions, but implement some of the innovative ideas emerging from these debates.

In order to assist you with this, RTPI London provides a range of CPD and networking events. This has included Designing Out Terrorism and Examining Renewable Energy Solutions, Master Classes on Spatial Planning; tours of the Thames Barrier, Bedzed and the Olympic Site, social events such as the Young Planners Quiz and Five a Side Football Tournaments; providing a range of opportunities to meet other planners and others from the built environment professions.

In addition to this, our newsletter provides a London focused platform for planners to contribute to important debates, interviews with leading figures in planning, as well as keeping you up to date with some of the major projects and news and RTPI events throughout London.

If you would like to contribute to London Calling or indeed become more involved in RTPI London, please contact London@rtpi.org.uk.

Rachael Rooney is 2009 RTPI London Chair and is a Senior Planner at EDAW



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Channel Tunnel Rail Link wins Mayor's Award for Planning Excellence

The London Planning Awards took place on Tuesday 24th February at City Hall with awards presented by Boris Johnson and deputy Mayor Simon Milton.

The annual London Planning Awards, jointly run by the Mayor of London, London First, RTPI, and London Councils, are designed to recognise planning professionals and organisations that have made a vital contribution to the capital in making it a better place to live, work, do business and visit.

The Mayor's Award for Planning Excellence went to the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, High Speed One.

The Mayor said The Mayor of London Boris Johnson said:

'I was looking forward to seeing entries that improve the quality of life for Londoners and I have not been disappointed. However, since we launched the awards, the economic climate has dramatically changed. I strongly believe that we must press ahead with planning and developing our city and particularly our major infrastructure projects to ensure London emerges from this downturn strong and competitive. And that is where our planners and designers have a major role to play so that we do not just build the functional and mundane but capture the imagination.



London Planning Awards

‘My award for planning excellence to the High Speed Project recognises truly great and inspirational planning and design. The beautiful St Pancras terminus alone is a masterpiece that perfectly matches the old with the new making a wonderful statement about London’s creativity and confidence to our visitors. But High Speed One is much more. It is first class planning that has changed the way we think about rail travel and will leave its mark on the capital and the whole UK throughout the 21st Century and beyond.’

Other recipients at this years awards include:

Best Built Project (sponsored by CB Richard Ellis)

More London: A catalyst for the transformation of North Southwark, London Borough of Southwark

Commendation: Lee Valley Athletics Centre, London Borough of Enfield and Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

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

Grassroots Centre, West Ham, Eger Architects

Commendation: The City of London Information Centre, City of London

Best Conceptual Project (sponsored by Berwin Leighton Paisner)

Aldgate Masterplan, London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Commendation: Inclusive Design Strategy and Standards, Olympic Delivery Authority

Best New Public Space (sponsored by Lovells)

Cornmill Gardens, Lewisham, London Borough of Lewisham and BDP



Commendation: Swallow and Vine Street Improvements, The Crown Estate

Best New Place to Live (sponsored by National House-Building Council)

Adelaide Wharf, First Base

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, Five Years On (sponsored by GVA Grimley)

Paternoster Square, Stanhope PLC



(clockwise from top): Best Built Project Five Years On: Paternoster Square; this year's winners; and Best Project to Protect Communities: The Cut.

**CIC London Region provides a
single voice for the construction
industry in Greater London**



Working together in the capital

05

Richard Lemon

Our regular look at another organisation working in the built environment field in London. This time, the Construction Industry Council's, London Regional Committee.

Who? The Construction Industry Council (CIC), is the representative forum for the construction industry's professional bodies, research organisations and specialist trade associations.

CIC London Region was formed in 2005 with the aim of providing a single voice for the construction industry within the Greater London region and currently has 16 member institutions. CIC has established committees across eight regions within the UK with the aim to expand this to cover all regions.

As well as the RTPI, the London Regions members include representatives from the London branches of the Association of Building Engineers, the Institute of Highways & Transportation, RIBA and RICS.

What are the aims of CIC London Region?

- To create an influential voice for the built environment with government bodies
- To develop links between regional built environment organisations.
- To work with 'ConstructionSkills' to promote skills development, reduce skills gaps and shortages, improve productivity and boost business performance.
- To improve the coordination of initiatives and events by CIC Members.

What does it do? CIC London Region is working with ConstructionSkills to research future skills requirements in the capital arising both during and beyond the current recession.

CIC London activities include:

- A Schools Design competition in conjunction with ICE London in which schools were asked to design a sports stadium;
- A surveying workshop for careers staff in conjunction with RICS and CSTT – this event aimed to demonstrate to careers advisors what opportunities are available in this field.
- An SME conference in conjunction with the Chartered Institute of Building – this event was held in early 2008 and offered a range of generic short CPD courses for SMEs.
- The CIC Coaching Scheme is a volunteer programme that aims to raise awareness of career opportunities in the Built Environment by giving children the chance to find out about careers directly from respected local professionals
- The Professional Development Programme is a free five day training programme is a ConstructionSkills Partnership initiative developed by CIC which aims to expand the skills that employers are looking for in their staff.

Where can I find out more? Visit the CIC website at www.cic.org.uk

news plan

share your news with us -
email: london@rtpi.org.uk

WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL

The Victoria Transport Interchange project, which the council has rejected twice in the past, was granted planning permission after Land Securities scaled down its plans in response to the council's concerns over the height of the proposed buildings. The scheme features a mix of office, retail and residential space and will free up space for any future revamped bus terminus at the capital's busiest transport hub. The plans do not include redeveloping Victoria rail station but the developers are set to work in partnership with Transport for London on its proposals to do so.

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

The Council have backed a planning brief for the regeneration of Hawley Wharf in Camden Town, which was burnt down in a fire last year. The brief sets out the Council's vision to improve the area's physical environment while also recognising the area's "unique character."

LONDON BOROUGH OF EALING

After receiving planning permission from the Mayor of London, the proposals for the 24-storey Ealing Arcadia tower were called in by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Hazel Blears.

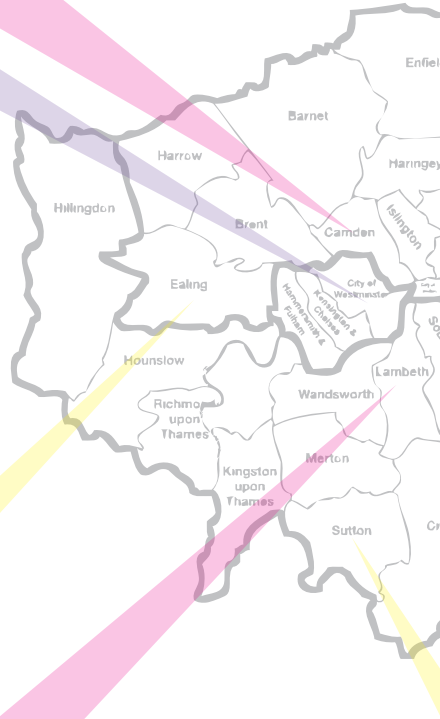
LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH

Lambeth Council has completed its public consultation on two major planning applications it received as part of the Future Clapham project. Views and comments on the Clapham Leisure Centre and Mary Seacole House proposals can be viewed at the Lambeth Council Website.

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY

Following a public consultation, Hackney Borough Council has approved recommendations to extend the South Shoreditch conservation area to protect the area's special architectural and historic interest and manage future development.

Meanwhile, a public consultation on the draft interim planning guidance for Bishopsgate Goods Yard was launched on 23 February. Hackney borough is seeking views on the site, which will house the new Shoreditch High Street station, until 6 April.

OLYMPIC LEGACY

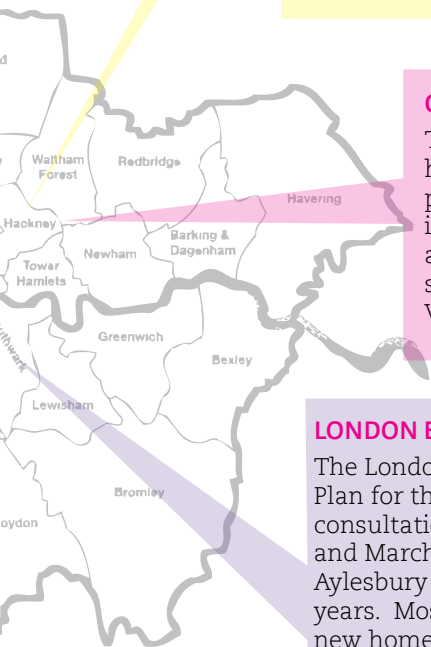
The vision for East London after the 2012 Olympics has been revealed. Proposals announced included plans to build 10,000 new homes in addition to those in the Olympic Village, a studio school and a sports academy in the Olympic Stadium, three new primary schools and a new arts academy in the Olympic Village.

LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

The London Borough of Southwark has agreed an Area Action Plan for the regeneration of the Aylesbury Estate. A public consultation on this document will now take place in February and March 2009. The AAP will shape the redevelopment of the Aylesbury estate and surrounding area over the next 15 to 20 years. Most of the estate will be demolished making way for new homes, streets and open spaces.

LONDON BOROUGH OF SUTTON

London Borough of Sutton plans to make Hackbridge the greenest suburb in the Country. Plans for Hackbridge include more than 1,000 energy efficient homes, fitting of energy-saving technology to existing homes, power from local renewable sources, new parks and road and pavement improvements to encourage walking and cycling.



Spatial Co-ordination in Action: The North London to Luton Corridor

The production of a prospectus for growth in the North West London to Luton Corridor prospectus has provided an opportunity for joint working between planning authorities write Stephen King and Martin Simmonds

This January saw the launch of a Prospectus on the 'North West London to Luton Corridor':* The foreword is signed up to by London Mayor Boris Johnson and the Leaders of the four Borough Councils in the London part of the Corridor: Barnet, Brent, Camden and Harrow. The report sets out the massive level of growth projected

in a narrow corridor extend from Kings Cross, through Wembley, Brent Cross / Cricklewood, out into Hertfordshire and beyond. The London element alone is projected to deliver over 42,000 new homes and 74,000 new jobs.

The altered London Plan (February 2008) includes the Corridor, where it is the latest addition to two national growth areas (Thames Gateway and London-Stansted-Cambridge) and two other 'coordination corridors' in west and south London.

The North London Strategic Alliance (NLSA) has set up and coordinated a working group of boroughs, the Greater London Authority, Transport for London and Government Office, to work on this corridor. The prospectus was the first major output from the group. The impact of the downturn is of course being felt in the corridor, but as the prospectus demonstrates, it already has many of the key building blocks for delivery in place.



North West London – a focus of growth

‘North West London to Luton’ Corridor recognises that this part of London contains major strategic concentrations of development potential, with considerable private sector investment, associated with key radial transport routes into central London, and large-scale capacity improvements advancing (e.g. Thameslink programme). The need for coordination was recognised, partly because some of the main opportunities occurred at or near borough boundaries and partly because of the need to relate inner London developments with key locations in this part of outer London and thereby facilitate economic revival in the suburbs – a key objective for the Outer London Commission. In addition, population growth in outer London (e.g. Barnet) will put increasing capacity pressures on inner London routes (e.g. Camden’s North Line routes).

The main components of the London part of the Corridor are illustrated overleaf.

Working outwards they include:-

- the prominent King’s Cross railway lands project, now advancing and associated with the new International and Thameslink stations at St Pancras;
- nearby Euston, with its redevelopment potential associated with suburban and mainline rail services through north-west London to Watford, Milton Keynes and beyond;
- Wembley, with its new stadium, big leisure and housing development intentions and regeneration of the town centre;

- the ambitious commitments at Brent Cross- Cricklewood for large-scale commercial and residential growth with transport and public service enhancements;
- major redevelopment and regeneration at Colindale;
- developments along the A5 Edgware road straddling the Barnet, Brent and Harrow boundaries;
- renewal and growth at Harrow and Edgware town centres.

A Connected Corridor

North West London (and beyond) will become better connected through a number of transport infrastructure commitments and intentions. Notable are: the Thameslink upgrade, which will include greater capacity and a new station for the Brent Cross-Cricklewood; London Overground (TfL) improvements including services to Watford Junction and on the West London Line via Willesden Junction to Stratford and the Olympics; Underground capacity increases on the Bakerloo, Jubilee, Metropolitan and Northern Lines.

However, there is a real need for further investment, improving interchange between Thameslink, Overground and Jubilee services at West Hampstead; continued rail /tube capacity improvements; and improved bus services notably for Brent Cross-Cricklewood.

The prospectus notes that a particular focus must be upon orbital linkage between the big developments at Wembley and Brent Cross and wider innovative bus services along the North Circular corridor to spread social benefits.

Housing growth in North West London



Employment growth

Coordination provides the ability to address the outer London issue of population arising from housing growth (about 120,000 in the four boroughs to 2026) increasing much faster than employment, with implications for transport and sustainable communities. The Prospectus includes a focus on maximising job opportunities at the key locations, notably Wembley and Brent Cross-Cricklewood, and at town centres. The Mayor's Outer London Commission needs to engage with this work as part of their remit. Attention is also paid to employment locations in parts of the Corridor beyond London, notably Watford with its excellent accessibility and functional links with outer North West London.

Joining up with East of England

In the Corridor beyond London the East of England Plan indicates that Hemel Hempstead is to accommodate 12,000 new dwellings; the largest capacity increases are nearly 26,000 in the Luton area and 19,500 around Bedford – these are the southern parts of the Government's Milton Keynes-South Midlands Growth area. This is in addition to major employment and

housing growth in Watford, including a tube line extension.

The next step following the Prospectus is to engage with organisations in the East of England part of the Corridor, to secure their commitment to coordination. The present East of England Plan (May 2008) does not refer to the Corridor, but acknowledges functional links with adjoining London areas in its key development centres at Hemel Hempstead and Watford. A 'partial review' of the Plan is now in hand, to roll forward growth provisions to 2031. This provides the opportunity to establish an inter-regional coordination mechanism.

The North West London to Luton Corridor has the potential to become an exemplar of joined-up regional planning for coordinated growth in a key sector of the 'wider south east'. We must not ignore this opportunity.

Stephen King is Deputy Director, North London Strategic Alliance

Martin Simmons is Spatial Planning Consultant to the NLSA

www.nlsa.org.uk

past events

26/11/08

RTPI London AGM

The RTPI London AGM took place at the end of November. Rachael Ronney was nominated Chair, James Bompas Vice Chair, Tom Venables Junior Vice Chair and Maria Primarolo Honary Secretary. Meeta Kaur becomes our Representative on General Assembly.

17/02/09

Designing out Terrorism: Counter Active Measures to Reduce the Vulnerability of Terrorist Attack

NaCTSO have targeted planning, architect and design professionals to raise awareness of designing in counter terrorism protective security measures at the design concept stage. This workshop explained the threats of terrorism, how they're evolving and measures designed to mitigate against these threats. What was clear from the seminar is the opportunity costs attached to counter-terrorist design and the financial savings in considering security at an early stage, rather than retrofitting existing buildings. Similarly, the workshop demonstrated that not all schemes are expensive, and that practical measures can be introduced to reduce the risk of an attack. Those present at this workshop were given the opportunity to watch film footage of these counter-actives measures in action, with remarkable success. The RTPI (London) would like to thank NaCTSO and Carl Whitley-Jones their support in organising this event.

27/01/09

An Evening with David Higgins

David Higgins, CEO of the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), met with over 100 London planners representing the Planning Institute of Australia, New Zealand Planning Institute, and the RTPI at a joint event sponsored by Cobalt Recruitment, to share the lessons learnt throughout his extensive career.

Higgins shared his experience of major development projects such as the creation of a New Town at Milton Keynes that taught him the importance of identifying the key priorities for which are fundamental to the project, and delivering on these in a focussed manner. Higgins is applying this strategy to delivering the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, where much like Milton Keynes, he feels getting the infrastructure right will be key to the success of the area and believes that the integration of the planning process has been a fundamental element of delivering the project on time.

The night ended as a huge success, with many planners taking the opportunity to ask David a variety of questions about the day-to-day running of the Authority. Through planning events, the joint Planning Institutes aim to explore different approaches to planning systems, drawing on both international examples as well as those which test new ways of working. For more information on upcoming events, please contact Javiera Maturana, PIA UK Branch at pia.ukbranch@googlemail.





**Do you know a leader in the making?
Get involved and nominate the planning talent of the future
UK Regional 'Tomorrow's leaders' Awards throughout 2009**

The RTPI is pleased to announce a new award in 2009 open to all young licentiates, student, corporate or associate members of the RTPI under the age of 35.

The award is aimed to recognise achievement and promise in the practice of good spatial planning or development management by a young planning professional. The judging panels will comprise other younger planners in the relevant Region/Nation. They will be looking for informative examples of sound town planning. Each winner may then be considered for the National Young Planner of the Year Award.

The 'Today's and Tomorrow's leaders' awards will be given at the London Presidential Visit of the 2009 President Martin Willey. Dates to be confirmed.

Please send your nominations to london@rtpi.org.uk

For further information please contact Laura Smith (2009 RTPI London Young Planners Representative) at laura.smith@london.tlp.uk.com

18/03/09

Bar Kick, Shoreditch High Street

PLANNERS VS ARCHITECTS TABLE FOOTBALL

The RIBA Social and RTPI London will be taking over the ground floor of Bar Kick for the ultimate battle of built environment minds. £12 entry fee for teams of up to six. To register email thesocial@inst.riba.org.uk

19/03/09

SJ Berwin

PLANNING LAW UPDATE

Annual RTPI London Planning Law Update at SJ Berwin. To register email london@rtpi.org.uk

26/03/09

The Guildhall

SEMINAR: UNDERSTANDING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Sustainable Community Strategies, Local Development Frameworks and Local Area Agreements

Planning Aid for London, jointly supported by the London Branch of the RTPI and LVSC (London Voluntary Service Council), will be holding the headlined London-wide Event on Thursday, March 26, 2009 from 2 pm – 5:30 pm at Guildhall Marketing Suite.

The purpose of this event is to explore and clarify the relationship between Sustainable Community Strategies (SCS), Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) and Local Area Agreements (LAA). For more information for delegates or to reserve a place please contact: Lucy Barton,

london@rtpi.org.uk, 020 8613 8357

7/5/09

TBA

YOUNG PLANNERS PUB QUIZ

Annual Young Planners pub quiz. Details to follow. To pre-register email: london@rtpi.org.uk

Promote your practice! Great value opportunities for advertising and sponsorship in 2009

RTPI London is run by planners, for planners, and has a membership of over 2000 planning professionals from central, regional and local government, private consultancies, the education sector and a range of other organisations.

We realise that businesses in the planning sector are being particularly hard hit at the current time and they too need the support of the RTPI. We can assist by providing your business with cheap and cost effective ways to promote your practice to thousands of planning professionals across the capital. This may include the following:

- Support or sponsorship of RTPI London events. Could you provide a venue? Do you have any initiatives or areas of expertise that you wish to share with other professionals? Would you be interested in funding networking events where you could meet perspective employees and clients? RTPI London is always on the lookout for partners to assist in the formulation and running our CPD and networking events.
- Advertise in our newsletter – we provide great value advertising rates in London Calling – sent to all 2,000 RTPI members in the capital throughout the year.
- Sponsor a newsletter – support the production costs of the newsletter and receive space for advertising and/or an article relating to your business as well as having your company details on the front cover.

To discuss sponsorship opportunities email london@rtpi.org.uk about events or contact Tom Venables on 07740 362715 for newsletter enquiries.