

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 (humorous 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. 2009 deadlines are 3rd June, 9th September and 2nd 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

Useful links...

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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/

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Spring 2009

Royal Town Planning Institute
Yorkshire Region Newsletter



A word from the Chair

Tumultuous Times

It's an interesting time to have taken on the role of regional chair. After a relatively long period of business as usual, suddenly many things we've taken for granted are being seriously challenged as the recession develops. For people with long memories, it is perhaps perceived as nothing new, but for those of us that have been in practice for less than 15 years, we're entering the sort of development conditions we know only through university case studies, which is a real professional challenge. Until recently, the word 'tumultuous' was uncommon, but it has found a new role describing the turbulent and still fast-changing situation facing us.

But, as town planners we have been trained to be adaptable, responsive and able to take the long-view. Planners are sometimes criticised as being the jack of many trades, but masters of none, a somewhat unfair criticism. However, now is the time that the broad professional training of planners should be valued more than ever. Whilst the number of planning applications has clearly reduced significantly, there is much work to do to create up-to-date development plans and develop the strategies necessary for local authorities to fulfil their 'place-shaping' role, which is arguably now more important than ever. Qualified planners are ideally placed to use their skills in different roles within the profession. It is therefore worrying to still see professional planning qualifications as merely 'desirable' attributes for local authority planning roles, let alone that so many authorities still fail to fund professional subscriptions to the RTPI or other similar professional bodies.

The recession will be challenging on a number of fronts. Already various estimates of the lost value of Section 106 payments in 2009 are being formulated. It's becoming increasingly clear that the development model that has emerged in the last 6 years particularly is unlikely to return, and this poses serious issues for funding affordable housing, community infrastructure and other community benefits.

Cont'd/...

OBITUARIES

Josephine Barnes –
Huddersfield
1946 – 2009

Andrew Etchells –
Kirk Hammerton,
York 1954 – 2009

Plan ahead with Judd Farris

Senior Regeneration Consultant

YORKSHIRE - £32-37k + Package

A multi-disciplinary construction consultancy is currently seeking a Senior Regeneration Consultant. You will be responsible for leading project teams, developing strategies into deliverable schemes, have experience of identifying funding sources, bid development and client pitches. You will ideally have a minimum of 5yrs experience in a similar role.

Ref: VT/13842

Associate Director

MANCHESTER - £40-45k + Car + Package

Our client is currently recruiting for a Specialist Retail Planner to work on a mix of Private and Public Sector opportunities. This role is available to candidates who can lead on projects and who have strong Retail Impact Assessment experience. You will ideally have a minimum of 8yrs experience gained in consultancy environment.

Ref: VT/13846

→ → To apply for the above opportunities please contact Vicky Tipper on 0161 834 8666 or email vicky.tipper@juddfarris.co.uk

→ → For full listings and career advice visit juddfarris.com



Judd Farris
property recruitment

Cont'd/...

The University of Sheffield published research ten years ago that highlighted the regressive nature of planning obligations – namely that those places with least development pressure are likely to receive least benefit from Section 106, not least because the bargaining power of planners in such areas is relatively weak. Invariably, these are the very places where investment in local community facilities and transport would be most valued. Less prominent in recent years, this problem is sure to worsen significantly again.

We all need to be vigilant, skilful and adaptable in the coming months and years (all solid professional planning traits), as there will be increasing political pressure to accept development at any cost, be that in terms of location, design quality, environmental or community impact. Planners will be central in ensuring the right balance between ever more competing pressures can be achieved.

On a more positive note, the Yorkshire Conference Series offers a whole range of affordable opportunities to diversify your knowledge on a range of planning topics; often those topics that seem most detached from day-to-day work can be the most valuable. As ever, the series attracts a good range of speakers from the national and regional circuits that offer an excellent forum for debating topical issues within a firm relevant regional context. Together with the Low Cost Events, and YORnet activities, we are providing a range of opportunities for planners (including those aiming for full professional status) in the region to share knowledge and experience. More details can be found on all our events at www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_yorkshire/.

Richard Crabtree
Chair, Yorkshire Region

The RTPi Office has Moved!

The Regional office of the RTPi, together with Planning Aid,
is now located in a new office:
Royal Town Planning Institute
The Studio, 32 The Calls
LEEDS LS2 7EW
Tel: 0113 204 2464
Fax: 0113 389 9871
Email addresses:
Yorkshire@rtpi.org.uk and
ykco@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk

YORnet Festive Social 2008



Revolution at the Electric Press in Leeds played host to the YORnet Festive Social on 4 December 2008. The event attend by

over 80 planners, architects and engineers was a great opportunity for professionals from across the Yorkshire region to socialise and meet up with other like minded individuals working in the development industry. The hearty Christmas themed buffet was kindly sponsored by DPP (www.dppllp.com/) and Beresford Blake Thomas (www.bbt.co.uk).

YORnet is a network for young built environment professionals in Yorkshire and is attached to Concourse, the Leeds centre for art, architecture, construction, landscape, planning and urban design. To register your interest and join YORnet, please email yorkshire@rtpi.org.uk It is free to register onto the emailing list and you will be kept up to date on forthcoming YORnet events and activities.

Please also visit the YORnet Facebook Group Blog for articles and photographs from all of the past YORnet events and activities. Remember its Free to register onto Facebook.

See link below
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=6595842791>

If you or your organisation would like to discuss sponsorship opportunities for future YORnet social and cpd events, then please email yorkshire@rtpi.org.uk

Bhupinder S Dev, MRTPI, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council and RTPi Yorkshire Young Planners Coordinator

OBITUARY

Deryck Solman 1926 - 2008

Deryck Solman was my first and best Chief Planning Officer. When I encountered him, he was in charge of the planning service at the former East Yorkshire Borough of Beverley Borough Council, a role he occupied from its inception in 1974 through to his retirement in 1990. I was privileged to have the benefit of his guidance and friendship during my sandwich year out from planning school in the mid-1980s and later on towards the end of that 'black decade for planning when I returned to the East Riding (or Humberside as it was then) to have the pleasure of working with him and his team again.

A first class planner, leader and human being, Deryck (otherwise known with affection as 'Solly') was an inspiration to all who worked for and with him, and for a young planner as I was, an excellent role model. He backed his staff to the hilt and commanded the respect and admiration of members, fellow chief officers and colleagues in other authorities.

Australians would probably have described him as a 'larrykin' – a slightly larger than life character who tells it as he sees it (even to Planning Committee!). Sadly such folk seemed to become fewer and fewer as my local government career progressed, replaced by generic MBA types often fixated by economic development or regeneration fads/targets/KPIs and a desire to ape some imagined ideal of private business whilst at the same time always aiming to curry political favour rather than offering professional advice because it might on occasion be unpalatable.

Deryck certainly had a major impact on me by setting a high benchmark in professional terms. In comparing notes with some of the people who knew him for this short obituary, one remarked that Deryck was a 'giant' during his spell within the Humberside planning scene and I wouldn't disagree. He had a big brain and a big personality.

Immediately prior to setting up the Beverley planning service, Deryck had held several senior posts in Hull City's planning department, having gravitated north from his native London via the Midlands in the post-war period.

Originally he had not intended to be a planner, initially training as a teacher after his time in the military as a glider pilot. Thankfully for me and others, who were fortunate enough to work alongside him, like many other idealistic people of his generation he decided to try his hand at the new post-1947 discipline of town planning.

He will be missed by all who knew and loved him – a brilliant 'bloke' with a haircut to match Boris Johnson but a completely different world view! (It was also rumoured that he could eat a Mars Bar in one, but I never actually witnessed him perform this particular feat.)

**Mick McLoughlin
March 2009**

Regional Planning Awards 2009

The deadline for submitting entries to the national planning awards is the end of March 2009, which will probably have passed by the time you receive this. All entries made to the national awards will automatically be forwarded for consideration for the Yorkshire Region Planning Awards. However, we also welcome additional entries directly to the regional awards. This year's deadline will be Tuesday, 30 June 2009. Now, more than ever, it's important to share good practice and celebrate success. More details will appear in the next Root and Branch, but we look forward to receiving a whole range of planning-related entries.



Roger Lomas of Taylor Young accepts the Yorkshire Regional Planning Award 2008 as overall winner for the 'Transforming Dalton & East Herringthorpe Housing Market Renewal Framework'.

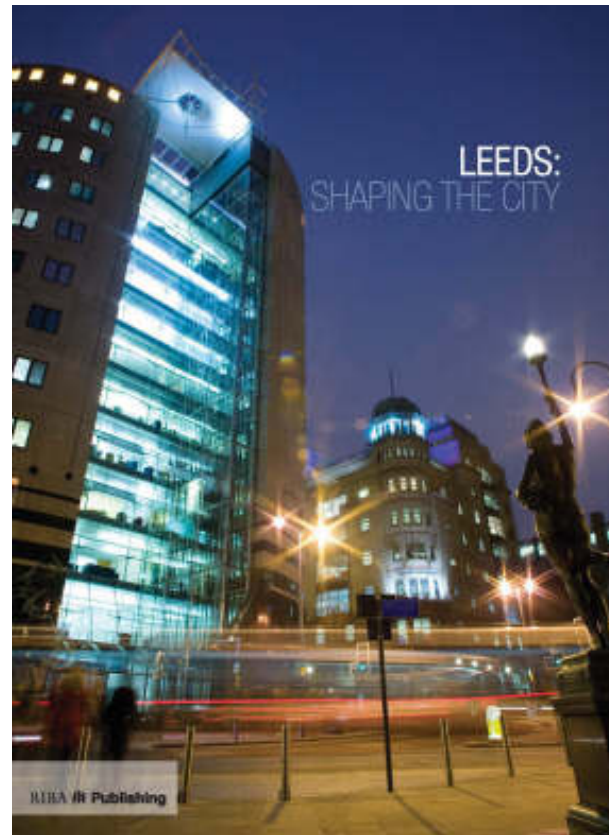
Leeds: Shaping the City

Bhupinder Dev, Team Leader in the Local Development Framework Group at Bradford City Council and RTPI Yorkshire Regional Activities Committee member has contributed to a major new publication by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and Leeds City Council called *Leeds: Shaping the City*

Through his previous work as a planning consultant in Leeds and his ongoing role as a Director of Concourse (the Leeds Architecture Centre) and his work with the Royal Town Planning Institute in Yorkshire, Bhupinder was invited by Leeds City Council to write a 'future vision piece' for the book.

The 224 page, glossy hardback book by the northern editor of The Guardian newspaper, Martin Wainwright is an authoritative and objective assessment of the redevelopment and regeneration of Leeds and:

- Identifies the drivers for change in the renaissance of contemporary Leeds following its evolution from Georgian/Victoria times;
- Explores the depth and complexity of the public-private partnerships involved in the delivery structures and their achievements;
- Articulates the importance of urban design for successful regeneration;
- Uses case studies to illustrate the processes involved in the major physical change of the city and to assess their influence on future projects; and



- Provides a chronology of critical regeneration activities and key events over the last 20 years.

Leeds: Shaping the City is one of a series of books that the RIBA has published on the redevelopment and regeneration work that is taking place in our major cities. The first two titles in the series, *Manchester: Shaping the City* and *Birmingham: Shaping the City*, have already been published.

Leeds: Shaping the City was published in February and will be launched to the international development industry at MIPIM 2009. The book (ISBN: 9781859462447) is available to purchase from all good bookshops including www.ribabookshop.com

YORKSHIRE CONFERENCE SERIES

2009

22nd April
20th May
17th June

Planning and the Professional
The Development Control conference
PPS12 - Have the changes worked?

Sheffield
York
Leeds

For further details please contact Paula Nolan, Regional Administrator at:

Yorkshire@rtpi.org.uk
telephone on 0113 204 2464

or check the main website at http://www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_yorkshire/

Trees within Planning & Development seminar – York – February 2009

On the 4th February 2009 arboricultural consultants Elliott Consultancy Limited played host to RTPI members with their seminar Trees within Planning & Development. The aim of the seminar was to increase awareness amongst the planning professions as to the considerations that should be afforded to trees adjacent to potential developments. Approximately 20 delegates from the public and private sectors attended the evening seminar at The Bar Convent in York.

The seminar was characterised by two-halves; the first being an explanation of the requirements of British Standard 5837 'Trees in Relation to Construction' 2005, specifically regarding the intended phased approach of the document and how & when the different elements of it should be applied within the design, planning and construction phases.

The second half of the seminar used example projects undertaken by Elliott Consultancy Limited to highlight the requirements of trees and the importance of obtaining arboricultural advice from the outset in order to understand the tree constraints of a particular site.

The seminar was well received by all who attended and the discussion period that followed lasted as long as the prepared sessions combined. Elliott Consultancy Limited would like to thank the RTPI for their support and all who attended the event

Charles Prowse, Elliott Consultancy

Transforming Places – will it change lives?

Stephen Gandolfi reports from the February Regeneration Planning Conference

Thanks to all the speakers whose expertise showed a holistic approach to the topic of *Regeneration - Transforming Places* at the Wheeler Hall at the recently restored St Anne's Cathedral Leeds.

The theme of the day was that of "Transforming places, changing lives" and the conference was chaired by John Seacome of Leeds Metropolitan University. Any fresh approaches to regeneration must involve a bottom up approach starting at an individual level, slowly building skills level in all areas to achieve the best practise possible in regenerating our urban environments. Success is about balancing growth and regeneration, a long process which is constantly changing. Without a range of professions and community groups working together, it is almost impossible that anything of great significance can be achieved. The linked topics of worklessness and housing for vulnerable groups provided an underlying context for the present difficult times.

Isobel Mills, Deputy Regional Director, People, Communities and Local Government at GOYH, started the day with an insightful keynote speech, outlining the thinking behind the DCLG's consultation framework document *Transforming Places, Changing Lives* published in July 2008. She emphasised that regeneration should be taken into the 21st century focussing on recovery of the local economy. Housing-led regeneration had received a bad press, shifting its perceived 'centre of gravity' away from the importance of enterprise, both large scale and individual. She stressed this link between enterprise and regeneration, in particular the benefits of working at neighbourhood level, using best practice.

What the framework "was not" was about spending new money! Rather, it was utilising existing funds. New strategies would have to be

developed on this basis. Isobel emphasised the development of a "working together" approach rather than a top-down one. The Houghton Review recognised the issue of worklessness and how Registered Social Landlords could provide a vital role in changing its relationship with homelessness.

Huw Jones, Strategy and Intelligence Director of re'new, then gave a lively presentation on regeneration and housing in Leeds, which leads the country in housing regeneration. The Vision for Leeds and the Strategic Plan aimed to narrow polarisation by supporting economic development and therefore utilising employment opportunities, whilst providing an attractive inner-urban residential area as an attractive alternative to the popular suburbs. Policies for the (inner city) Leeds Rim were attempting to change public perception.

Huw described how various initiatives such as EASEL, a Public Private Partnership, and the Leeds Bradford Corridor, the sub regional flagship project, which aimed to link the two cities by focussing on employment, housing and transport initiatives. He next looked at the strategies for the neglected back-to-back houses of Leeds. He outlined how they were an integral part of the area's historical context and the economic and cultural strategies for their regeneration.

Simon Brereton, Programme Manager, Leeds Local Enterprise Growth Initiative Business and Enterprise, spoke enthusiastically about the LEGI with its aim of diversifying the economy through areas such as self employment and inward investment. The bottom-up approach is not a traditional one, but Simon saw it as a positive way of bringing together people, businesses and investors in deprived neighbourhoods. Simon ended with some positive notes. "Enterprise is possible for all, Businesses respond best to the

direct approach, and an investment approach is key". All these require best practice training. Dr Garreth Bruff, Barnsley Town Centre Manager then spoke on Town Centre Partnerships. This raised perhaps the most positive response from the mainly planning-based audience. First class professionals have provided the town with a new vision and identity, using the phrase 'nothing is too good'. The "Tuscan Hill Town" concept was established through Will Allsop's initial scheme and the linked public participation exercise, in order to make Barnsley a 21st Century market town. Garreth explored on-going physical, economic and cultural regeneration schemes in the Masterplan, including landmark buildings like the Digital Media Centre and the Transport Interchange.

Joanne Clark, CABE Historic Environment Advisor Design and Heritage Pennine Lancashire, "crossed the border" to illustrate the true meaning of the term "heritage". For many, this may suggest a long drawn-out planning stage in the regeneration process, but Joanne encouraged a positive perception, providing economic vitality through tourism whilst maintaining a sense of historic character. She then talked about the controversial Whitefield Housing Market Regeneration Initiative in Nelson. The involvement of both John Prescott and Prince Charles in this saga showed how much the general public cares about their built heritage. Joanne suggested that the link between heritage and regeneration and consequently planning has improved due to a broader attitude to the question of the true meaning of "heritage".

A stimulating day for the delegates and a taste of regeneration in the new world of spatial joined-up planning!

*Stephen Gandolfi
Human Geography Student
Leeds Metropolitan University*

RTPI Yorkshire Licentiate Event

Leeds Metropolitan University

11th February 2009

On the 11th of February an event was hosted for the Region's licentiate members and their mentors to discuss the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC). Jacqui Ward from the RTPI gave an insightful presentation on the APC process to inform licentiates and their mentors about what is required from their submissions. Discussion about the log book in addition to the submission itself proved an invaluable tool in answering some of the key questions that individuals had about the APC. This presentation provided attendees with useful 'helpful hints' and 'do's and don'ts' of the process with a question and answer session.

The event played a key part in supporting licentiates with their submission, guiding them through the APC maze. Further information, including advice notes and examples, is available on the RTOPI website (www.rtpi.org.uk) under the 'Assessment of Professional Competence' in the 'Join the RTPI' section.

*Fiona Boden, Licentiate Member,
Arup*