



RTPI

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PIPA – the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network Bulletin 22nd April 2009

Welcome

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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↑)

[Budget 2009](#): [Housing Kickstart](#); [Renewables](#); [Local Democracy](#): [Ethical Challenges](#); [Frontline Councillors](#); [Planning Together](#); [Working Better](#); [Civic Trust](#); [Eco-Towns](#); [Planning System](#): [NPS](#); [Competition Test](#); [Infrastructure](#); [Scottish Planning](#); [High Streets](#); [Better Informed](#); [HCA](#); [Sustainability](#): [Renewables](#); [Rural Housing](#); [Draft PPS21](#); [Research & Education](#): [Engaging Young People](#); [Consultations](#): [UK](#); [England](#); [Scotland](#); [Wales](#); [Events](#); [Websites](#); [Publications](#)

PIPA News

WIND FARMS

PIPA Member Cllr David Milsted of North Dorset DC would be pleased to hear from other planning Councillors that have been involved in formulating local policies on the location of wind farms. It would also be useful to him to know whether these policies or draft policies have been tested against the provisions of PPS22 on Renewable Energy. His need is quite urgent – there is a local planning application to be determined – so do please [email him](#) with any useful information that you may have (and copy me in for information). [The British Wind Energy Association](#) has also been approached.

NETWORKS' EVENT: SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS – TIME FOR REVIEW?

Bristol City Council and the Bristol Property Agents Association have taken a lead in looking again at the Section 106 obligations attached to permissions. The full-to-capacity Networks' event on Friday 27th March in Bristol Council House discussed this initiative and *a note from the event is now available in the Resources area of the [PIPA website](#)*. If you feel that a similar event in your part of the UK would be helpful (the relevant piece of legislation will vary across the UK), then please contact me pipa@rtpi.org.uk.

RURAL HOUSING: SECOND HOMES

[The Matthew Taylor Review](#) thought the Government should examine the options, possibly with a trial "in one or more of the communities most affected", for changes in secondary planning legislation to limit changes of use for full-time homes to be used instead for holiday lets, or as second homes. The Review was particularly thinking of the National Parks, and acknowledges the "real issues of practicality".

[The Government has now responded](#) ... "We well understand that the issue arouses strong feelings, for and against, but are not persuaded that the 'problem', such as it is, could be tackled effectively through the planning system, for the reasons given in the body of this response. We think that there are more innovative ways of providing the affordable homes rural communities need without interfering with the legitimate rights of second home owners."

What do you think of Matthew Taylor's recommendation and the Government response to that? Do you have any experience of, or views on the impact of second homes in rural areas, if so please contact [Rhian Brimble](#) with your views. Rhian is currently writing a think piece and article on second homes in rural areas.

RTPI NETWORK OF THE MONTH

[Environmental Planning and Protection Network](#)

The environmental agenda is never far from the thoughts of planners. Over the years, concerns have changed from wildlife, landscape and pollution issues, to a much wider consideration of short and long term impacts on the human environment.

REMINDER: MEMBER SURVEY 2009

I will shortly be urging you to give me feedback via the annual PIPA Member Survey, which will be available to complete quickly & easily on-line. In preparation for this you may wish to think about what the Network could do more of or differently that would help you and the communities which you serve to get the most from the many facets of planning that can be highlighted through the Network. If you are keen to offer an event or make more of an input that would be a bonus and I will ensure that there is space for offers to come forward!

Andrew

[Budget 2009](#)↑

[Housing Kickstart](#)

As widely forecast the Budget includes £500m to kickstart stalled housing projects - including £100m for local authorities to build energy efficient homes. However, [the RTPI](#) in its response has warned that “a proportionate stimulus [is] necessary to provide the essential economic, social and environmental infrastructure needed to deliver genuinely sustainable development”. And the [RTPI President](#) has urged that “for [the Budget] economic boost to be timely and of good quality, urgent action is needed now to provide up to date plans and to maintain the planning skills needed to assess major development proposals”.

[Renewables](#)

UK renewable and energy projects will receive up to £4 billion of new capital from the European Investment Bank to address any shortfalls in project financing. And offshore wind investments will receive £525m of new financial support over the next two years funded through the renewables obligation.

[Local Democracy](#)↑

[Ethical Challenges](#)

The Standards Board for England has developed a 'planning game' designed to help local authority Standards Committees grapple with the ethical challenges surrounding planning applications.

[Role of Frontline Councillors in Neighbourhoods](#)

The LGIU has published the findings from its learning network on the role of the frontline Councillor in neighbourhoods.

[Planning Together](#)

This is an updated version of the short practical guide focused on the strategic leadership role of local authorities working through Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and the Planning system to shape good places and deliver quality services. PAS (the Planning Advisory Service) has also provided [a companion website](#).

[Working Better Together](#)

This Audit Commission review of local strategic partnerships finds that local authorities and their partners work in a complex economic, social and physical environment and can deliver better outcomes by working together.

[Civic Trust](#)

The Civic Trust – the English umbrella body - has gone into administration blaming the ‘squeeze on local spending’.

[Eco-towns Programme](#)

The Local Government Association has called on the Government to reconsider proposed eco town developments where there is strong local authority opposition.

[Planning System](#)↑

[National Policy Statements](#)

The RTPI has reaffirmed support for NPS whilst calling on Ministers for flexibility on statutory consultees.

[Competition Test](#)

The Guardian reports that the Competition Commission has been given a second attempt at designing a test that aims to stop one supermarket chain dominating a local market.

[Infrastructure](#)

Planning reports that research for Hertfordshire County Council has revealed that up to £7.5 billion will be needed to build transport and other essential infrastructure to meet the requirements of housing targets in the East of England plan.

[Scottish Planning](#)

Fewer planning applications will require consideration by the Scottish Government, resulting in 'faster decisions and less bureaucracy' to support economic recovery. See also [Consultations](#) below

[High Streets](#)

Further details on how Scotland's hard pressed high streets will benefit from the Town Centre Regeneration Fund have been released.

[Better informed](#)

Interactive consultation on planning applications is amongst the innovative ways ten councils around the country are making it easier for people to get information about their local council services.

[Homes & Communities Agency](#)

Planning (17th April) reports that the HCA key planning policy unit is to grow 50% so that the Agency can be directly involved in place-making at half of English local authorities. Also [the Agency says](#) that it has exceeded targets for rented homes, clearing brownfield land and creating employment space in its first year – despite the economic challenges.

[Sustainability](#)↑

[Renewables](#)

Planning reports that the renewables sector is looking for a stronger lead from the planning system and Ministers to overcome delays in processing wind farm applications.

[Rural Affordable Housing Project](#)

Jointly launched by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and DEFRA, the Project aims to help local authorities increase the delivery of affordable housing in rural settlements of fewer than 3,000 residents.

[Draft PPS21- Sustainable Development In the Countryside](#)

RTPI Northern Ireland has made a submission in response to the Consultation now closed.

[Research and Education](#)↑

[Engaging Young People in Planning](#)

The Macaulay Institute has pioneered the use of dramatic virtual landscapes and townscapes as part of an interactive educational and policy options tool.

[Consultations](#)↑

UK

[Nominated Nuclear Power Sites](#)

A list of potential sites for new nuclear power stations has been unveiled by the Government. All the locations are either close to or involve existing nuclear industry facilities. Members of the public are now being asked for their views during a month-long consultation period. **Deadline for Submissions: Thursday 14th May**

England

[Planning Act 2008: Consultation on the Pre-Application Consultation and Application Procedures for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects](#)

This consultation paper seeks views on a suite of draft regulations and guidance documents that set out the procedures for pre-application consultation on nationally significant infrastructure projects, and information an application should contain.

Deadline for Submissions: Friday 19th June

[Transforming places; changing lives: a framework for regeneration - summary of consultation responses](#)

This summary of responses sets out the views expressed by respondents and the CLG's proposed next steps.

[Review of 'Call-in' Directions: consultation responses](#)

Summary of the responses received to the consultation on the review of 'call-in' directions, and the Government's response to the replies received.

[Sustainable Communities Act 2007: First arrangements for local spending reports - summary of responses](#)

Response to the consultation on the first arrangements for Local Spending Reports.

Scotland

[Scottish Planning Policy](#)

The draft SPP sets out the Scottish Government's planning policy on different types of development and on environmental issues. This shorter SPP will replace seventeen existing documents, making policy easier to understand and interpret.

Deadline for Submissions: Wednesday 24th June

[Scottish Planning Policy Environmental Report](#)

A strategic environmental assessment of the consolidated Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) has been carried out and comments are invited via the consultation. **Deadline for Submissions: Wednesday 24th June**

Wales

[Commons Act 2006 - part 1: Updating the Commons Registers in Wales](#)

The Welsh Assembly Government wants views on proposals to update, improve and maintain registers of common land and town and village greens.

[Events↑](#)

[Delivering a lasting legacy - the East Manchester experience](#) – Wednesday 29th April, City of Manchester Stadium

This RTPI Regeneration Network event will explore the opportunity for creating a lasting local legacy from the delivery of a major international event. The team from New East Manchester will share their experience in building on the Commonwealth Games to maximise health, economic, cultural and sporting benefits for the community in East Manchester.

Use the link in the title or phone [020 7515 1913](tel:02075151913)

[Planning to Achieve - the new challenges facing environmental health & planning](#) - Thursday 30th April, London

Developed in partnership with the RTPI, this one-day Conference will focus on how to achieve a more sustainable and healthier tomorrow. By attending you will gain an insight into the Planning Policy Statement on eco-towns, the 'Planning for a Sustainable Future' white paper and the new RTPI Good Practice Note on Planning and Health. This event will also feature a presentation by Steve Quartermain, Chief Planner and Head of Profession, CLG on 'Challenges We Face Together as People Who Plan'. Use the link in the title or phone [020 7928 6006](tel:02079286006)

[RTPI's 8th Sustainable Communities Conference](#) – Friday 8th May, London

This Conference will consider the development of sustainable communities especially in the management of urban change in those communities with a declining population. Use the link in the title or phone [0845 082 1171](tel:08450821171)

[Sustaining Development in a Recession](#) – Wednesday 20th May, Edinburgh

This Holyrood Conference, held in conjunction with SURF, will examine how physical regeneration plans can continue to become constructive realities in a recession. Use the link in the title or phone [0131 272 2134](tel:01312722134)

[Wales Planning Conference](#) – Tuesday 2nd June, Cardiff

There has been a great deal of change recently for planning policy and delivery in Wales. The Conference will be focused on delivering the planning system. Use the link in the title or phone [029 2047 3923](tel:02920473923)

[Great Places Great Cities Conference](#) – Thursday 4th & Friday 5th June, Glasgow

This Conference will have an international audience to discuss the role of public space and green networks in creating truly sustainable cities which have a reduced impact on the environment. Use the link in the title or phone [01786 465934](tel:01786465934)

BOOK NOW: [Planning in a Changing Climate](#) – 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](tel:08450821171)

[Websites↑](#)

[Planning Inspectorate Checklist for Planning Obligations](#)

Although it is not the decision maker's role to negotiate the terms of a planning Obligation he/she needs to be satisfied that the Obligation will deliver what it promises and is legally enforceable – and this site provides a suitable checklist.

[Planning together: updated practical guide for local strategic partnerships and spatial planning](#)

The PAS website includes Case Studies.

[CABE](#)

The Government's advisor on architecture, urban design and public space offers resources particularly aimed at the needs of Councillors.

[Publications↑](#)

[Successful Suburbs: The Case for Investment in London's Suburban Communities](#)

This research highlights the contributions that suburbs make to the City.

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