



RTPI

mediation of space · making of place

PIPA – the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network Bulletin 21st May 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↑)

Planning System: [Economic Recovery](#); [Delivery Grant](#); [World Class Places](#); [Regeneration](#); [HMRAs](#); [East of England](#); [Affordability](#); [Residential Streets](#); **Local Democracy:** [Central vs Local](#); [Leading Lights](#); [Duty to Involve](#); [People Power](#); [Parish Councils](#); **Sustainability:** [Climate Positive](#); [No Eco-towns?](#); [Wind Farm](#); [District Heating](#); [Rural Proofing](#);
Training: [Appeal Costs](#); [In a Nutshell](#); **Consultations:** [England](#); [Scotland](#); [Wales](#); **Events;** **Websites;** **Publications**

PIPA News

MEMBER SURVEY 2009

A big thank-you to every PIPA Member that responded – in one case via a paper copy – to the request to complete our brief 2009 survey. If you have not yet done so please [click here](#) to contribute to the survey feedback.

Early analysis shows that by far the most valued feature of the PIPA offer is 'information giving' (91% ranked this No1); second favourite was 'sharing information & knowledge with other Members' (via events in particular) and third was 'opportunities to explore and express views on planning policies'. A number of other specific PIPA features were also valued amongst which were: 'the Conference as per the event with Hazel Blears in 2008', 'ability to keep my fellow members up to date with legislation, etc', 'information search – on-line and in person with the Network Manager'.

I am also very pleased to report that just over 87% of those completing the survey are supportive of setting up some task groups to look at some specific or more detailed issues – although not all would be immediately available to support initiatives. There are a wide range of suggestions for PIPA priorities – 75 in total – to be followed up and these may help advise the content of the annual PIPA Conference (31st October – you do have the date in your diary don't you?), might prompt a one-off event with potential to add follow-ups or could provide the basis for an email group to ensure local and national interchange of ideas. A more detailed analysis is needed but you have an assurance that *all* the ideas will be further explored and further details of points arising will appear in future Bulletins.

NETWORKS EVENTS:

[Rural Issues: Update on Sustainable Rural Communities](#) – Wednesday 3rd June 2009, Morecambe

This event, run jointly by the RTPI North West Region and the Rural Planning Network will seek to provide an update on the current situation regarding sustainable rural communities, assess the effectiveness of both the broader rural and rural planning policy framework, and debate some of the specific problems and options open to planners at the local level.

For more information use the link in the title, email northwest@rtpi.org.uk or phone 0161 969 3815

Consultation Event on the [Draft PPS4 Planning for Prosperous Economies](#) (England)

The RTPI is in the process of formulating its response to the draft PPS 4 consultation and the RTPI Networks will be holding a joint meeting to discuss the proposals. Network members are invited to join us at this meeting, to be held at the RTPI's offices **in London on Thursday 11th June 1.30pm - 3.30pm**. You will be able share information and views on this important consultation with other Network members and Matt Thomson, RTPI Head of Policy & Practice. If you would like to attend please e-mail pipa@rtpi.org.uk to book your place. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Sustaining High Quality, Mixed Tenure Housing Development in a Period of Economic Austerity – Weds 24th June

This event is offered by the RTPI Regeneration Network is at the University of Westminster and further information and a booking form are [available online](#)

RTPI-CIH Planning for Housing Network 'Fixing Broken Neighbourhoods' - Tuesday 30th June 2-4pm in Birmingham.

Localis have published a paper on ['Principles for Social Housing Reform'](#). Amongst the proposals is a call for a statutory duty on RSLs and Councils to 'fix broken neighbourhoods'. The authors of the paper, John Moss and Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh, will introduce their proposals and lead a discussion of them. Please email housing@rtpi.org.uk to book.

The Future for Development Planning

Join members of the Development Planning Network on **Thursday 16th July from 1.30pm – 3.30pm at the RTPI offices** in London to discuss the future for development planning and the possible impacts a change of government might bring. The Conservative party in their Green Paper "[Control Shift – Returning Power to Local Communities](#)" outlined plans to abolish regional planning and housing powers exercised by regional government, returning powers back to local communities – how might this affect the English planning system and what practices are emerging in the Welsh and Scottish systems which might inform our discussions? Matt Thomson, RTPI Head of Policy & Practice will be at the meeting and will give a short presentation. Places are limited and booking is essential. Please contact [Rhian Brimble](#) to book your place.

INTERESTED IN HERITAGE?

The [Heritage Interest Group](#), within the family of RTPI Networks, is looking to expand its activities. If you have an interest in planning for urban or rural heritage then we would be most grateful if you would complete a very brief survey, [click here](#), to help scope the benefits from and activities for the Group, to ensure that it is relevant and active across the UK. And please pass the details to anyone else you know that shares the interest. Many thanks.

IN WALES?

Wales's premiere planning Conference is on Tuesday 2nd June at City Hall, Cardiff and is proving popular again in its second year. There is a full programme of plenary speakers, including key note speeches from Jane Davidson, Assembly Government Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Housing, and Leonora Rozee, Deputy Chief Executive of PINS. The afternoon's plenary session will focus on delivering planning in the current economic climate and will be followed by a plenary debate on planning's role in the economic recovery. The programme also includes a choice of 8 breakout seminars.

Full details of the programme, pre-Conference study tours, networking event, exhibition opportunities and details of costs and available discounts (including the buy 3 get 4 places offer) are available at www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_cymru.

MEET THE CHIEF PLANNER AT THIS YEAR'S PLANNING CONVENTION!

Don't miss your opportunity to hear from key staff at CLG, including Chief Planner Steve Quartermain. Use the link in the title for fuller details.

Andrew

Planning System↑

Letter to Chief Planning Officers: Planning for Housing and Economic Recovery

Letter to local authorities outlining what the CLG is doing to help planning authorities to respond to the downturn and, in particular, to ensure that planning is in a position to deliver when the upturn in the economy happens.

Planning Delivery Grant

Inside Housing reports that the Grant pool will be cut by £75m to fund lower rent rises.

World class places

This document sets out the Government's strategy for improving quality of place - the way the places where we live and work are planned, designed, developed and maintained - and the steps being taken to build on recent success.

Regeneration

A new framework for regeneration - Transforming Places; Changing Lives - has been announced by Communities Secretary Hazel Blears. [In a speech to the British Urban Regeneration Association](#) (BURA) she acknowledged that the sector is facing tough times, especially in areas like commercial property, but argued that strong partnership working can help the sector to refocus and prepare for the upturn.

Housing Market Renewal Areas

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has welcomed the Audit Commission's review of Housing Market Renewal areas, and confirmed that it had agreed broad priorities for future activity.

East of England

A High Court Judge has forced a Government rethink on the East of England Plan by ruling that "inadequate consideration was given to the environmental effects of expansion".

Housing Affordability

A report from NHPAU, 'Affordability - more than just a housing problem', outlines how the lack of housing affordability is a long-term issue and has far-reaching consequences for society. NHPAU has also released an updated version of a report from the Cambridge Centre for Housing and Planning Research titled [Measuring Housing Affordability: A Review of Data Sources](#). This is a useful text for regional and local authorities in fulfilling their obligations under PPS3 to consider housing affordability.

[This way to better residential streets](#)

This is a summary by CABE, and explains how good design helps to connect and structure neighbourhoods. It includes examples from both England and Scotland.

[Local Democracy](#)↑

[Centre vs Local](#)

The Parliamentary Communities & Local Government Committee has produced a report 'The Balance of Power: Central and Local Government' which calls on central government to take "radical steps" to tilt the balance of power toward localities. In return, the Committee called on Councils to become more "ambitious" in achieving autonomous local leadership.

[Leading Lights](#)

Urban Forum has published this new research into Councillors and third sector representatives in community leadership.

[Duty to Involve](#)

The Community Development Foundation (CDF) has produced a new guide to show you how the new duty to involve in England can be an opportunity as well as an obligation.

[People power in difficult times](#)

In her speech at an LGiU/Involve seminar on empowerment and the economy Communities Secretary Hazel Blears said "I remember the days when believing in putting 'citizens in control' was as 'out there' as believing in little green men. It wasn't all that long ago".

[Parish & Town Councils](#)

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) have together published a number of new tools and guides relating to engagement with Parish & Town Councils.

[Sustainability](#)↑

[Climate Positive](#)

Two London housing and regeneration projects - Albert Basin and Elephant & Castle - have been named as two of the 16 founding projects of the worldwide Climate Positive Development Program, launched by former US President Bill Clinton.

[No Eco-towns?](#)

Planning reports that Minister Margaret Beckett has said that if the eco-town proposals do not meet the required standards then potentially no bids will be accepted.

[Wind Farm](#)

The world's largest wind farm in the Thames Estuary has been given an approval and is expected to be in operation by 2012 and will supply enough power for around 750,000 homes – or a quarter of Greater London homes.

[The Potential & Cost of District Heating Networks](#)

This study identifies the costs and benefits of district heating, which is a potentially important option available to communities and developments seeking to lower fuel bills and reduce carbon emissions.

[Rural Proofing](#)

The Commission for Rural Communities and Defra have produced a new toolkit that will provide policy makers at all levels with a practical understanding of rural proofing and its importance within mainstream policy making approaches. This coincides with the re-launch of the Government's commitment to Rural Mainstreaming and Rural Proofing.

[Training](#)↑

[Avoiding Costs in Planning Appeals](#)

This is a new course from Linda S Russell, Solicitors & Planning Consultants, aimed at elected members and planning officers. It follows the introduction of the new [costs Circular](#), and aims to help protect the Council from avoidable costs awards. They are offering an in-house course daytime or evenings, and are also running a course at their offices in October.

[In a Nutshell](#)

The HCA Academy offers this online course that provides a deeper understanding of the sustainable communities agenda. You will work with built environment professionals, community workers and volunteers to gain a shared understanding of how to create and manage sustainable communities.

[Consultations](#)↑

[England](#)

[Houses in multiple occupation and possible planning responses](#)

This consultation document seeking views on three options for addressing the impact of high concentrations of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). **Deadline for Submissions: Friday 7th August**

Scotland

[The Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings \(Amendment\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

This consultation seeks views on the proposed provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill. **Deadline for Submissions: Friday 14th August**

Wales

[Draft Technical Advice Note 22: Planning for Sustainable Buildings](#)

The 'Planning for Sustainable Buildings' Ministerial Interim Planning Policy Statement (MIPPS) details a new national planning policy on sustainable building standards (a new section 2.12 of Planning Policy Wales) which will be relevant to certain developments. This TAN details how to apply the policy. **Deadline for Submissions: Friday 31st July**

Events↑

[Shaping Sustainable Communities and Homes Conference](#) – Thursday 28th May, Birmingham

In the face of unprecedented economic conditions together with new legislation, regulators and partnership working, this conference will focus on the challenges of new structures, partnerships and agreements designed to create sustainable communities and homes. Use the link in the title or phone [0207 0671066](tel:02070671066)

[Skills and Knowledge for Sustainable Communities](#) - Wednesday 3rd June, London

Findings from 11 research studies, sponsored by the ESRC and the HCA Academy, into the learning, knowledge development and skills needed to create and maintain sustainable communities, will be presented at this free one-day Conference. Use the link in the title or phone [0208 542 7622](tel:02085427622) or email strathclyde@vistaevents.co.uk

[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)

[The National Association of Local Councils Annual Conference](#) – Friday 4th & Saturday 5th September, London

The Conference will show how local Councils can be at the heart of positive change through community involvement and wellbeing. Use the link in the title or phone [020 7637 1865](tel:02076371865)

[Sustainable Scotland](#) – Wednesday 28th October, Edinburgh

Amongst the issues to be addressed: the natural environment or industrial change, what takes precedence? Use the link in the title or phone [0131 555 3970](tel:01315553970)

[International Journal of Neighbourhood Renewal Conference](#) – Thursday 19th & Friday 20th November, London

There are two strands to this event, a practitioners forum and a researchers forum. Delegates to the event receive a free annual subscription to the Journal and there are free places for Board Members and Volunteers of Local Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships. Use the link in the title or phone [0845 602 5280](tel:08456025280)

Websites↑

[The Governance of Sustainability: Multiple Dimensions, Multiple Approaches](#)

This is a collaborative research network which will be holding a research workshop in July.

Publications↑

[Land Supply Assessment Checks](#)

This report highlights best practice in establishing a 5 year supply of deliverable sites for housing as part of a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.

If at any time you wish to stop receiving the Bulletin just email me via pipa@rtpi.org.uk

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