



RTPI

mediation of space · making of place

PIPA – the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network Bulletin 4th June 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: [Local Democracy Bill](#); [NHBC Reports](#); [Surplus Public Land](#); [Kick Start?](#); [Improving capacity](#);

Local Democracy: [Empowering communities](#); [Progress Report](#); [Rural Recession?](#); [The Good Society](#);

Sustainability: [Code Level 6](#); [Scottish](#); [Green Champions](#); [Brownfield](#); [Defining Carbon Neutral](#);

Training: [Leadership Academy](#); **Consultations:** [Northern Ireland](#); [Scotland](#); [Wales](#); **Events; Websites; Publications**

PIPA News

IN WALES

It was very gratifying that, at the RTPI Welsh Conference this week, Welsh Assembly Government Environment Minister Jane Davidson showed her positive support for PIPA by carefully locating her photo-call with the PIPA banner as the background to the shots. Watch out for the evidence on the PIPA webpages. The Minister announced at the Conference that there is to be a [review of the planning application system in Wales](#).

CLIMATE CHANGE CHAMPIONS

Do you have a particular interest in climate change issues and how planning for housing needs to respond? We are looking for 2/3 'climate change champions' for the Network who would, with fellow members from across the Networks, form an Advisory Group. Collectively the Champions will be able to press widely for change and adaptation. But individual champions will have equally important roles within their own Network, exploring and providing good practice examples and articles to feature on the website, possibly material for 'Planning' and 'Housing' magazines, and generally promoting discussion amongst Network Members.

If you would like to volunteer to be a Champion or you want more details then please contact me via pipa@rtpi.org.uk

MEMBER SURVEY 2009

Following up on the feedback from the Survey included in the last Bulletin, I have now had the opportunity to look at some of the 'current issues' suggestions included in the responses – I would welcome indications of interest in these (an initial list) to decide where across the UK it would be best to locate activity, or whether to rely on a 'virtual' arrangement that could happen simultaneously across the UK?

- Elected member involvement in pre-application discussions - whatever the party
- How the Independent Planning Commission will work in practice, especially with communities
- More on Section 106 Planning Agreements – see also [Network events](#) below
- Implications for planning of views of the main political parties
- Making an LDF locally distinctive
- Wind farms and other controversial matters
- Citizen involvement in planning policy/participative democracy
- Increasing the provision for housing, NOT just affordable, so that when the market revives there is a choice of sites
- Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) – see also [Events](#) below
- Green issues / costs
- Overpopulation

NETWORKS EVENTS:

The Planning System and Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO): Monday 22nd June, Brighton (venue to be confirmed)

The RTPI Networks are holding an afternoon seminar on the Planning System and HMOs. The recent CLG [consultation on HMOs](#) has raised a number of questions around the way the planning system currently deals with HMOs and sets out a number of suggestions for the future. Darren Smith, an academic, who has researched and written extensively about 'studentification' will give a presentation on the day which will be followed by discussion from the floor. If you are interested in sharing information and good practice on this topic then please join us at our event. The RTPI is in the process of formulating its response to the CLG consultation so you will also have the opportunity to feed into the draft response.

If you would like to attend please e-mail pipa@rtpi.org.uk as soon as possible to book your place.

Section 106 Agreements - Time for Review?

Following on from the well-supported meeting in Bristol (note now available in the Resources section of the Members Area of the PIPA website) two further meetings have been arranged: [Thursday 2nd July – RTPI HQ, London](#); [Wednesday 29th July - Tunbridge Wells](#) (use the links for full details and to book).

The Future for Development Planning: Thursday 16th July from 1.30pm – 3.30pm at the RTPI offices in London

Join members of the RTPI Development Planning Network to discuss the future for development planning and the possible impacts a change of government might bring. 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 COASTAL PLANNING?

Do you like Planning beside the seaside? Can you help create a new Coastal Regeneration Guide?

The [Coastal Communities Alliance](#), which is a group of coastal LA regeneration practitioners, are producing a **Coastal Regeneration Guide** with the objectives of reducing deprivation and improving the quality of life in coastal resorts by seeking new solutions to entrenched socio-economic problems. The Guide is being produced at a time when there is considerable and growing national and local interest in the conditions and the future of our many diverse seaside resorts.

The guide aims to:

- Explain “who’s who” and “who’s doing what” in coastal regeneration.
- Stimulate new local approaches and partnerships to provide local solutions to entrenched coastal deprivation problems.
- Improve the knowledge, effectiveness and cooperation of coastal regeneration practitioners, as well as the national/regional/local organisations that support coastal communities’ development.

Can you contribute your expertise?

We need PIPA Members to feed their knowledge, opinions and good practice examples into this new resource by addressing questions such as ... How can the planning system address the barriers to coastal regeneration in your area? Have you developed planning expertise in addressing specific coastal resort issues? Do you have examples of outstanding planning success and/or failures in your area?

To get involved, please contact [Rhian Brimble](#) - your name and e-mail address will be passed on to the Coastal Communities Alliance, who will contact you directly.

REMINDER: 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 SCOTLAND?

The Heritage Interest Group invites you to an event building on the success of that recently held relating to World Heritage, **to be held at the RTPI HQ in Scotland in Edinburgh on Tuesday 16th June 2pm to 4pm**. This event will allow attendees, including RTPI & IHBC representatives, to examine and discuss the nature of and possible responses to:

The heritage-related content of the draft [Scottish Planning Policy The Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings \(Amendment\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

Please email pipa@rtpi.org.uk as soon as possible if you wish to attend as places are strictly limited.

RTPI NETWORK OF THE MONTH

[Planning for Housing Network](#)

This is a joint network with the Chartered Institute of Housing. Amongst the offerings is a Discussion Forum encouraging exchange of experience and views between the professions and others engaged in planning for housing.

Andrew

[Planning System](#)↑

[Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Bill](#)

You can view progress via the Parliamentary website and see the latest on RTPI Bill-related proposals on the [RTPI site](#).

[NHBC Reports](#)

In the past three months to the end of April 2009, applications to build new homes have risen by 10 per cent compared to the previous quarter - the first quarter-on-quarter rise in almost two years.

[Surplus public land](#)

Planning Portal reports that the Government has signalled that the disposal of surplus public sector land for housing is to be accelerated and extended to include sites owned by the BBC, Royal Mail and Network Rail.

[Kick Start?](#)

The British Property Federation have launched a manifesto to try and kick start regeneration. Proposals include a professional private rented sector for housing and encouraging Councils to make more land available for development.

[Improving the Capacity of the Planning System](#)

RICS have recently commissioned research which looks at the capacity of the planning system in England & Wales.

[Local Democracy](#) ↑

[Empowering communities](#)

A new CLG Report 'Empowering communities to influence local decision making - Evidence-based lessons for policy makers and practitioners' aims to make sense of variable and often competing or contrasting evidence in order to identify which mechanisms empower; in what ways, and in what contexts.

[Communities Progress Report](#)

This Report sets out progress made since the publication of the White Paper Communities in Control and provides a timeline for future implementation.

[Rural Recession?](#)

The Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) is inviting you to help enable the rural voice and needs to be put to the [National Economic Council](#).

[The Good Society](#)

A Demos publication 'The good society is messy and unpredictable because it vests power in people...' suggests that 'only when there is good reason should power be consolidated upwards to communities, local agencies, national government or international bodies'.

[Sustainability](#) ↑

[Code level 6](#)

Building reports that the first open market homes that meet level six of the Code for Sustainable Homes have been completed and formally certified.

[Scottish Sustainability](#)

The conclusion of the Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative (SSCI) has led to 11 projects being recognised as having potential. This report sets out the Scottish Government's response to the submissions made to the SSCI.

[Green Champions](#)

Scotland's top 50 sustainable development champions have been named by the Scottish Sustainable Development Forum.

[Brownfield](#)

Land use change figures for England published by the CLG show that 78% of homes were built on brownfield last year. Also the density of new housing developments has increased by 84 per cent since 2001. [CPRE](#) has however expressed concerns.

[Defining Carbon Neutral](#)

The RTPI has supported the Department for Energy and Climate Change's consultation on defining 'Carbon Neutral' and its recommendation for good practice.

[Training](#) ↑

[New PAS Leadership Academy: Your place in leading economic recovery](#)

PAS is offering senior elected members the opportunity to attend this fully subsidised programme and hear the current thinking from experts, build their strategic capacity, and share ideas with colleagues. Events run from July to February 2010.

[Consultations](#) ↑

Northern Ireland

[Building Sound Foundations - A Strategy for the Private Rented Sector](#)

The purpose of this consultation document is to seek views and comments on proposals to develop a healthy private rented sector in Northern Ireland. **Deadline for Submissions: Friday 7th August**

[Commission on the Future for Housing in Northern Ireland](#)

As part of the Commission's engagement process with the housing sector a newly interactive website has been established.

Scotland

[Crofting Reform \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

This is a consultation paper on the draft Crofting Reform Bill which includes a section on support for croft housing.

Deadline for Submissions: Wednesday 12th August

Wales

[Consultation on charges payable to the Planning Inspectorate.](#)

This Consultation seeks comments on proposals to make regulations to increase the daily standard charge paid by local authorities to the Planning Inspectorate. **Deadline for Submissions: Wednesday 24th June**

Events↑

[Community Engagement: Improvement, Empowerment and Local Decision Making](#) – Tuesday 23rd June, Edinburgh

Speakers will outline the key components and how these can be implemented in Scottish authorities. Use the link in the title or phone 0131 272 2134

[Making Planning Guidance Work](#) – Wednesday 24th June, Plymouth

A considerable amount of effort is put into the production of supplementary planning guidance but does it add significant value to the planning process. Speakers will provide a range of examples illustrating the value and potential pitfalls in producing planning guidance. Use the link in the title or phone RTPI South West 01823 250 822

[Tackling climate change, improving local performance](#) – Tuesday 30th June, London

The LGiU and the Audit Commission are jointly organising this event to enable local authorities to make sense of indicators: how they fit in with the wider community strategy (Local Area Agreement) and performance assessment (Comprehensive Area Assessment), their effectiveness in enabling local authorities to deliver better services on tackling climate change. Use the link in the title or phone 0207 554 2800

[Regeneration in a Downturn – What Needs to Change?](#) – Tuesday 30th June, London

This half day Parliamentary Conference organised by the Smith Institute in partnership with the All Party Urban Development Group, McGrigors LLP, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and BURAs will take place in Portcullis House, London. Use the link in the title or phone 020 7823 4236

[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

Websites↑

[Innovators Council](#)

- Have you got ideas about how people delivering public services can work better together?
 - Have you spotted areas of duplication in public services which could be cut out?
- ...then this is the website for you.

[United Nations Climate Change Conference 2009](#)

This site leads the way to the Conference running from December 7th to 18th in Copenhagen.

Publications↑

[How many cards to hold? The benefits of community asset management and ownership](#)

This report investigates the benefits of community asset development and the added benefits of community ownership of land and buildings in rural Scotland.

[Historic Environment](#)

Cadw has published the Welsh Historic Environment Position Statement for 2008, comprising facts and figures on the historic environment.

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

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