



**RTPI**

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## North East Young Planners' Steering Group

**Rachael Ashworth**  
**Policy Officer, Newcastle City Council**

Rachael finished the professional diploma in Town Planning in June 2008 following the three year BA (Hons) course in Planning at Newcastle University. Rachael spent her placement year and following 5<sup>th</sup> year working part time with Newcastle City Council's Planning Policy team.

Rachael now has a full time position as Policy Officer within the Newcastle team. The policy team is responsible for producing and overseeing the Local Development Framework, her main focus of work is in relation to environmental issues, in particular flood risk and waste management.



She has been a member of the Young Planners' North East Steering Group for 6 months and is one of the members working on the 2009 Young Planners' Conference which is to be held in Newcastle in October.

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**Andrew Dorrian**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Year Planning Student, Newcastle University**

Andrew is currently in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year at Newcastle University studying for the BA Planning Degree. He intends to continue onto the Certificate in Planning Practice and Diploma in Planning and Regeneration. In August 2009 Andrew is going to start his diploma placement year at Transport for London.

Andrew is a member of Young Planners' North East and sits on the steering group, organising and attending various social and CPD events, previous events he has helped organise included Planning Idol and he is currently involved in bidding for the 2009 Young Planners' Conference. His involvement came through the University's Planning Society, which he help set up and of which he was treasurer.

Andrew is passionate about reaffirming the link between students at the University and young professionals in the North East. He is also a student volunteer for Planning Aid North, within which he recently completed a study on Conservation at North Shields Fish Quay. He hopes this role within the Young Planners' North East Steering Group will help bolster the relationship with students and the RTPI and promote wider continued learning for all.



**Daniel Massey**  
**Planner, Dickinson Dees LLP**

Daniel completed an RTPI accredited Post Graduate Diploma in Town Planning at Newcastle University in June 2007, which followed a BA (Hons) in Town Planning also from Newcastle University. He worked for the North West Regional Assembly on a placement year as part of his Diploma. Upon graduating, Dan worked for Planning Aid North, where he contributed to a number of community planning projects including 'Planning Education and Young People,' which won the RTPI North East Regional Award in 2007.



He joined Dickinson Dees LLP as a planner in July 2008, and now assists in the preparation of planning applications, appeals and policy representations as well as providing background research for private sector, public sector and institutional clients. Dan is currently working towards his APC, which he hopes to complete in Autumn 2009.

Dan has been a member of the North East Young Planners Steering Group since July 2008 and is currently in the process of organising the 2009 Young Planners' Conference to be held in NewcastleGateshead.

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**Nick Pleasant**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Year Planning Student, Newcastle University**

Nick is currently in the final stages of completing his BA (Hons) Town Planning at Newcastle University with particular interest in Urban Regeneration strategies and Urban Design. In July 2009 Nick will start a year placement at Government Office North East as an Assistant Planner working on many aspects of spatial planning, before returning to University to complete the Diploma in Planning. His Involvement in the Young Planners' Network came through the Newcastle University Planning Society, of which he was the Vice-President (2007-8) and currently helps co-ordinate Planning Society with YPNE events. He hopes the Young Planners' Network will help further his knowledge of the planning system and hopes to provide a different perspective on what the Young Planners' Network means to Students.



**Joseph Ridgeon**  
**Planner, Dickinson Dees LLP**

Joseph completed an RTPI accredited Masters Degree in Town Planning at the University of Newcastle in August 2007, which followed a Bachelor of Arts Geography Degree from the University of Durham. He joined Dickinson Dees LLP in September 2007 as a Planner, assisting in the preparation of planning applications, appeals and representations as well as providing background research for public sector and institutional clients. Joseph has just finished a secondment period at Castle Morpeth Borough Council where he was acting as an Area Development Control Officer.



Joe is an active member of the Young Planners' North East Steering Group and is one of the group members working on the Young Planners' Conference 2009 which is to be held in NewcastleGateshead in October.

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**Laura Shiell**  
**Policy Officer, Northumberland County Council**

Laura finished the professional diploma in Town Planning in June 2008 following the three year BA (Hons) course in Planning at Newcastle University. Laura spent her placement year and following 5<sup>th</sup> year working part time for Planning Aid North as a Community Project Officer on Planning Aid North's award winning education project.



Laura now works as a Policy Officer in the Strategic Policy and Initiatives Team at Northumberland County Council. She is a member of a small working group tasked with writing the Statement of Community Involvement for the new Northumberland Unitary Authority and works largely on the conformity of large scale applications with Regional and Local Planning policy. She has been a member of the Young Planners' North East Steering Group for almost a year and is a member of the RTPI North East Region's Member and Public Relations Sub Committee. Laura is one of the committee members working on the 2009 Young Planners' Conference which is to be held in NewcastleGateshead in October.

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**Andrew Simm**  
**Planner, Northumberland County Council**

Andrew completed his Diploma in Town Planning at Newcastle University in August 2009 following the three years BA (Hons) Degree in Planning at Newcastle University. Andrew worked for Northumberland County Council as a Minerals and Waste Development Control Planner during his placement year, and continued with the Council on a part-time basis during his final year at University.



Following completion of his course, Andrew has contributed to work for the County Council where he is primarily involved in determining various types of planning applications, compiles screening and scoping opinions for developments, and carries out site monitoring inspections of minerals and waste sites.

Andrew is currently working towards his RTPI professional accreditation and has been a member of the Young Planners' North East Steering Group since April 2009.

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**Emma Walker**  
**Urban Designer, Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners**

Emma obtained a BA Hons in Town Planning from Newcastle University in 2004. Following this she then went on to do a Diploma in Town and Country Planning, also at Newcastle University. She graduated again in 2006 having completed a year in practice as a Development Control Officer at South Tyneside Council and a year of study where she specialised in Urban Design. During this time she also undertook a part time placement as a Regeneration Officer for Newcastle City Council.



Emma has been working as an Urban Designer for Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners in Newcastle since she completed her Diploma in June 2006. Since starting she has worked on a variety of masterplanning and regeneration projects for both public and private sector clients.

Emma is currently working towards her RTPI professional accreditation and is a member of the Young Planners' and Urban Design Networks. Emma is one of the members of the Young Planners' North East Steering Group who is working on the 2009 Young Planners' Conference.