



RTPI

mediation of space · making of place

PIPA – the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network Bulletin 19th August 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](#): [Eco Towns](#); [National Infrastructure](#); [HCA & Communities](#); [Protected Landscapes](#); [Waterways](#);
[Local Democracy](#): [Economic Assessment](#); [Transport & Infrastructure](#); [Donations](#); [LGA](#); [Housing](#): [Spend, spend](#); [CIL](#);
[Minimum space](#); [Sustainability](#): [Better life](#); [Valleys](#); [Consultations](#): [England](#); [Scotland](#); [Events](#); [Websites](#); [Publications](#)

PIPA News

URGENT: IS THERE A SKILLS GAP?

Do you have a view on what skills you need to fulfill your role as a Planning Committee Member? The HCA Academy is undertaking a planning skills survey and has asked the RTPI to contribute; this includes one section on Planning Committee Member skills. If you would be willing to give a view against the HCA Academy's chosen categories please email me (pipa@rtpi.org.uk) for further details, *but please reply within the week ie by 26th August*.

UPDATE: PIPA CONFERENCE 2009 - Planning: delivering for the upturn – Saturday 31st October, London

The Chair or Chief Executive of the Infrastructure Planning Commission – that will start work in October – has joined the list of keynote speakers that will also do a Q&A session at the Conference. Bookings are now being taken via [this link](#) for the 2009 Conference which is again, thanks to sponsorship from PAS, offered *free of charge*.

An invitation will be sent to every Local Authority in England but Councillors from across the UK are very welcome to attend.

RTPI REGION EVENTS:

[Putting Place Shaping at the Heart of the Corporate Agenda](#) – Friday 25th September, Blackpool

This RTPI North West event is specifically for local Councillors. As the Government's 'place shaping' agenda is becoming steadily more developed, local authorities who fail to grasp the Community Strategy/LAA/Local Development Framework links will find themselves under increasing pressure in the future. This event will provide the essential understanding that will help Councils stay ahead of the game.

[An Update Conference for Councillors](#) – Tuesday 20th October, Ely

This popular annual RTPI East of England Conference for Councillors will this year be taking place in the Maltings in Ely, which has excellent rail connections to the East of England and beyond. The programme has been designed to support the work of established and new Councillors involved in shaping the future of the settlements and landscapes of the six counties that make up the East of England.

NETWORKS EVENTS: all Networks' events are kept small and generally free to encourage your involvement

[The KLOE for the strategic approach to housing](#) - Wednesday 9th September 11am to 1pm, London

Paddy Mooney from the Audit Commission will lead this event around the [current consultation on amending the strategic housing KLOE](#) (Key Lines of Enquiry). This event is being arranged jointly between the RTPI-CIH Planning for Network and the National Housing Forum and will potentially inform the consultation submissions from the Forum, the RTPI & the CIH.

[Section 106 Agreements - Time for Review?](#) – Monday 14th September, Grantham

Following on from the well-supported meetings in Bristol, London & Tunbridge Wells a further meeting has now been arranged in Grantham. Thanks to PIPA Member Cllr Alan Parkin for helping to arrange this event.

[Bournville – an original sustainable community?](#) – Thursday 17th September, Birmingham

Planning with Communities Network Members are being invited to explore one of the original 'sustainable communities' that continues to renew and develop – Bournville in Birmingham. The walking tour will begin at 2pm for around 2 hours.

[Community Infrastructure Levy](#) – Tuesday 29th September, London

The Government has published [draft proposals for the introduction of the Levy in England & Wales](#). The National Housing

Federation has kindly agreed to host a RTPI-CIH Planning for Housing Network event at their London HQ on the current consultation to which PIPA Members are also invited. The discussion at the event will potentially inform the consultation submissions from the NHF, CIH & RTPI.

[Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre Regeneration Project](#) – Tuesday 6th October, Merthyr Tydfil

This was the winner of this year's RTPI Regeneration Network Award. The project aimed to start the physical regeneration of the town centre in order to stimulate further private investment. The Regeneration Network invites you to join a half-day event that includes a presentation, tour and discussion session to enable you to learn from those directly involved in this project.

REMINDER: PLANNING SUMMER SCHOOL 2009

Have you booked? PIPA will again be hosting the first evening Reception for delegates at the [Summer School for Elected Members](#). There will be two Summer Schools in Exeter; each School offers an in-depth engagement with current planning issues across 4 days, one for elected members and the other for officers.

PROSPEROUS ECONOMIES

The RTPI's response to the Government consultation on PPS4: Planning for Prosperous Economies can be read [here](#). The equivalent from the Commission for Rural Communities can be read [here](#).

Andrew

[Planning System](#)↑

[Eco Towns](#)

In conjunction with a new Consultation (see [Consultations](#) below) 'Building' has noted that Communities & Local Government (CLG) have clarified that the programme of development (PoD) prepared for each successful eco-town should include: "consideration of projects which would enable the existing community to better prepare for eco-town development." These could include: "environmental innovation shared with the new development or enhancement of existing community facilities."

[National Infrastructure](#)

The Conservative Party has clarified its position on the new planning regime for national infrastructure by confirming that projects would be determined by the relevant Secretary of State rather than the new Infrastructure Planning Commission.

[HCA Commitment to Communities](#)

The Homes & Communities Agency has set out its commitment to community engagement, explaining how it will use the single conversation to empower communities.

[Protected Landscapes](#)

English Heritage has published a Strategy for Historic Environment Research in Protected Landscapes (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks). It identifies priority areas and issues, addressing which will allow English Heritage's research resources to be targeted where they are most needed and will deliver the greatest benefit.

[Waterways](#)

The Town & Country Planning Association, with support from British Waterways, has produced a policy advice note on 'Unlocking the potential and securing the future of inland waterways through the planning system'.

[Local Democracy](#)↑

[Economic Assessment](#)

The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction (LDEC) Bill makes provision for a new local authority economic assessment duty. This requires all County Councils and Unitary District Councils to prepare an assessment of the economic conditions of their area. Formal consultation on draft statutory guidance will start once the Bill has been enacted. But CLG has published pre-consultation draft guidance now to give local authorities and partners early sight of the Government's thinking on how the proposed new duty should be carried out and to enable local authorities to start thinking about how they should prepare for the new duty.

[Transport & Infrastructure](#)

'On the right track: new models for integrated transport' published by the New Local Government Network, calls for local authorities to be given integrated transport authorities and other sub-regional arrangements which would include the power to hold rail franchisees to account.

[Row over donations](#)

Planning reports that a planning application for a housing development in Blackpool could be decided by an independent panel after it emerged that the developer made two donations to the local Conservative Association.

[LGA](#)

The Local Government Association has announced the Chairs of the LGA Group bodies for 2009/10. The Environment Board is chaired by: Cllr Gary Porter South Holland DC and the Regeneration and Transport Board by Cllr David Sparks OBE Dudley MBC.

[Housing](#) ↑

[Spend spend spend](#)

Figures released to 'Inside Housing' by the Homes and Communities Agency reveal that it has already earmarked 85 per cent of its £3.29 billion affordable housing budget for 2009/10.

[CIL for Affordable Housing](#)

Planning Minister John Healey has revealed to 'Planning' that the Government is exploring a much-reduced community infrastructure levy (CIL) rate for affordable housing.

[Minimum Space](#)

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has called for national minimum space standards in all new-build housing, whether it is privately or publicly funded. This is further to recommendations by CABI in their new research publication [Space in new homes: what residents think](#). In [Building](#) they note the 'the demise of the ultra small flat'.

[Sustainability](#) ↑

[Ideas to make life better](#)

Nearly 300 proposals have been submitted by English Councils under the first round of the Sustainable Communities Act.

[How Green is my Valley?](#)

British Gas and the Welsh Assembly Government have announced that the UK's first dedicated Green Skills Training Centre will be opened in Tredegar in the South Wales Valleys later this year.

[Consultations](#) ↑

England

[Eco-towns - allocations from the eco-towns fund](#)

This consultation paper sets out proposals for local authorities and their delivery team partners on how the £60million announced to support locations identified with the potential for an eco-town published in the PPS in July over the 2009-11 period might be allocated. **Deadline for responses: Friday 25th September**

[Policy Statement on Regional Strategies](#)

The Government makes proposals for how the new breed of regional strategies will be drawn up and how the LA Leaders' Boards will work with Regional Development Agencies to prepare them. **Deadline for responses: Friday 30th October**

[Proposed amendments to Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk](#)

This consultation seeks views on proposed amendments clarifying aspects of the spatial planning policy on development and flood risk. **Deadline for responses: Monday 3rd November**

Scotland

[A consultation on high hedges and other nuisance vegetation](#)

This consultation seeks views on how high hedge disputes should be dealt with including the role of planning.

Deadline for responses: Friday 6th November

[Events](#) ↑ - also available on-line on the [PIPA website](#)

[Place Making in Historic Cities](#) – Thursday 17th September, Norwich

Offered by RTPI East of England in association with the IHBC, this event focuses on place making in historic cities with examples from mainland Europe and the UK. Use the link in the title or phone Tina Jessup [01359 233408](#)

[RTPI's 4th Renewable Energy Conference](#) – Thursday 24th September, London

This topical one-day Conference will enable delegates to understand the implications of the new Climate Change PPS and the Government policy on renewable energy. Use the link in the title or phone [0845 082 1171](#)

[Planning & Health in the Community](#) – 22nd October, London

This RTPI Conferences event will help you better understand: how planning can contribute towards the health agenda; integrating health into urban design; working to deliver sustainable healthy communities; how transport planning can enhance health outcomes; links between climate change, urban design and health. Use the link in the title or phone [0845 082 1171](#)

[The 21st Century Councillor Local Leadership Conference](#) – Thursday 5th November, Nottingham

This IDEa Conference considers the question 'What is the future role of the ward councillor as a leader of the local community?' and more. Use the link in the title or phone Rachel Stevens [020 7296 6630](tel:02072966630)

[Websites](#)↑

[EAT](#)

The relaunched HCA Economic Appraisal Tool (EAT) allows local authorities to establish effective but realistic affordable housing targets in order to meet national planning policy requirements, based on a calculation of residual land value. The tool is designed to be site specific, but can also be used to inform viability modelling to test affordable housing targets in Local Development Frameworks.

[Publications](#)↑

[Planning Advice for Developments Near Hazardous Installations](#)

This is the Health and Safety's Executive's land use planning methodology document. It is designed to help planners and developers work out for themselves what the likely response of the Executive would be if consulted about a planning proposal.

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

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