



# RTPI

mediation of space · making of place

## PIPA – the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network Bulletin 6<sup>th</sup> October 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](mailto: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](#); [IPC](#); [LDF](#); [Design Review](#); [Local Transport](#); [Time Limits](#); [Mediation](#); [Local Democracy](#); [e-Consultation](#); [Sustainable Act?](#); [Public wants](#); [Housing](#); [Supply](#); [Axe for HCA?](#); [Council homes](#); [Better lives](#); [Sustainability](#); [Dig it?](#); [Welsh eco](#); [Green Energy](#); [Consultations](#); [England](#); [Scotland](#); [Wales](#); [Events](#); [Websites](#); [Publications](#)

### PIPA News

**PIPA CONFERENCE 2009 - PLANNING: DELIVERING FOR THE UPTURN – SATURDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, LONDON**

The Conference is now less than a month away and an updated programme is available via the front page of the [PIPA website](#). Bookings can still be taken via [this link](#) for the 2009 Conference which is again, thanks to sponsorship from PAS, offered **free of charge**. An invitation has been sent to every Local Authority in England but Councillors from across the UK are very welcome to attend.

### REMINDER: PIPA WEBSITE

In keeping with the RTPI Seven Commitments on Climate Change there is now a [PIPA website page](#) covering the types of contribution that local planning Councillors might make to address these issues. Further contributions very welcome.

### RTPI REGIONAL EVENT:

[An Update Conference for Councillors](#) – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

### WORLD TOWN PLANNING DAY – 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

RTPI London is offering [a free event to mark World Town Planning Day](#) 2009.

### PIPA EVENTS

#### Section 106 Agreements - Time For Review?

Following on from the well-supported meetings in Bristol, London & Tunbridge Wells, a further local meeting was held in Grantham. [These Network meetings](#) help to bring together all sectors involved in concluding and fulfilling Section 106 Agreements to explore best practice in recessionary times, and for the future. Would you be willing to offer a local event?

### NETWORKS EVENTS:

[Electric Vehicle and 'New Ride' workshop](#) - Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 12-2pm, London

The Transport Planning Network will be holding an information workshop on electric vehicles and [New Ride](#), the leading website for users and buyers of electric vehicles (EVs) in London. Use the link in the title or phone [0844 2328083](tel:0844 2328083)

### PLANNING SUMMER SCHOOL 2009

The School for Elected Members was again an excellent event with offerings to suit every planning Councillor. PIPA hosted the first evening Reception. The presentations with synopses are now available to look at [on-line via this link](#).

Andrew

[Planning System](#) ↑

## [Infrastructure Planning Commission](#)

On 1st October the new IPC opened for business with the promise of [fairer, faster planning decisions for major developments](#). CPRE worries that it may be “little more than a rubber stamp for unpopular and polluting major construction projects”.

## [Local Development Framework \(LDF\)](#)

A survey of planners' views on the LDF system, by Cushman & Wakefield and the TCPA shows that the leading reason for delay cited is a lack of resources (68%), followed by changes in Government policy/guidance (56%), synchronising with regional policy (38%), and acting on Government Office advice (34%).

## [Design Review](#)

CABE and eight regional design review panels have joined together to create a national network of design review panels.

## [Local Transport](#)

The Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) reports on case studies that might contribute to the [Local Transport Plan process](#) which aims to improve social inclusion for disadvantaged groups, and areas, by enhancing access to work, schools, healthcare, and other key services in a co-ordinated and systematic manner.

## [Extensions to the time limits for implementing existing planning permissions](#)

Letter to local planning authorities regarding the introduction of powers to apply for extensions to the time limits for implementing existing planning permissions, and to apply to make non-material amendments to planning permissions.

## [Mediation](#)

RICS is launching a pan-industry Planning Mediation Service which, it says, can reduce the deadlock between conflicting parties, alleviate the strain on the appeal process and help save money both for public authorities and applicants.

## [Local Democracy](#) ↑

### [e-Consultation](#)

Every year more than a million consultations are carried out by Local Planning Authorities following planning application submissions. A third of these are with Statutory Consultees, many of whom have agreed to adopt as their preferred method of consultation the national hub, a first connector for which has been successfully launched.

## [Act for Sustainable Communities](#)

Local Works has drafted the Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill and had it introduced into Parliament. This Bill will greatly strengthen the Act by creating an ongoing 'rolling' programme for communities and Councils to submit proposals to Government. It will also formally include Parish and Town Councils in the Act's process. They are seeking support with pressing the Bill.

## [Public want Councils to take charge](#)

Communities Secretary John Denham commented that a major new national survey on what people think of their local area and Council demonstrates the importance of strengthening local democracy. This would seem to be supported by [a survey of Councillors by ComRes](#): “Councillors are quick to state their views towards central government and there is a strong feeling of a need for change – particularly in terms of the powers available to authorities and a call for devolution of control from central government.”

## [Housing](#) ↑

### [Housing Supply in a Cold Climate](#)

This report from the Smith Institute, the TCPA and PricewaterhouseCoopers calls for the Government to resource a major campaign to raise awareness about the need for major new settlements and more new housing generally.

## [Tory axe for HCA?](#)

Planning reports Shadow Housing Minister Grant Shapps threatening the future for the Homes & Communities Agency if performance doesn't improve. [Shapps has since repeated](#) that he wants to turn the UK into a “nation of homebuilders” by giving local authorities incentives to build new homes. [He has also indicated that there will be legislation on planning](#) in the first Queen's speech if the Tories win the election, possibly called the Local Government Housing and Planning Bill.

## [Biggest programme to build new Council homes for almost two decades](#)

Forty seven Councils, covering every region of the country, will receive a share of £127million Government funding to help build these homes. They will match funding bringing total investment to over £250million. A second wave of projects is to be announced in the autumn.

## [Building better lives](#)

This Audit Commission report finds that Councils feel pressured into focusing on building brand new housing – it says that fewer than a third prioritised targets relating to their existing housing stock despite the financial savings, environmental improvements and social benefits of doing so.

## [Sustainability](#)↑

### [Can you dig it?](#)

The Government is urged by the New Local Government Network to dramatically expand the number of public allotments by building on brownfield sites and encouraging landowners to donate unused holdings to their local community.

### [Welsh eco village](#)

What is claimed to be the first eco village development in the UK based on ecological principles has finally been approved on appeal in south west Wales, Planning Portal reports. And [Welsh Environment Minister Jane Davidson told US political leaders](#) from around the world that regions and small nations such as Wales will be central to averting runaway climate change.

### [Green Energy](#)

For The Guardian John Vidal visits the owners of an inner-city street that is a model for using green energy to refurbish estates and build communities.

## [Consultations](#)↑

### **England**

#### [Proposed changes to the Growth Fund for 2010-11](#)

Consultation paper on the Government's proposal to switch funding from the Growth Fund in 2010-11 to support the measures set out in the Housing Pledge announced in Building Britain's Future.

**Deadline for responses: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November**

#### [Coastal Access: Proposals to amend the Countryside and Rights of Way \(CROW\) Act 2000 for coastal land](#)

This DEFRA consultation seeks views on amendments to ensure that coastal land is included within the Countryside and Rights of Way Act's description of land to which the public has a right of access for the purposes of open-air recreation.

**Deadline for responses: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

### **Scotland**

#### [Scottish Planning Policy - Proposed Policy Changes Consultation](#)

Changes are proposed taking account of representations made on the draft consolidated SPP, eg the sustainable development section has been reworked to provide clearer guidance, and other new matters. At the same time [Consolidated Scottish Planning Policy: Consultation Responses](#) and [Scottish Planning Policy-Analysis of Consultation Responses](#) have been published

**Deadline for responses: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

#### [Consultation on Historic Scotland Guidance Notes - Managing Change in the Historic Environment](#)

This consultation is seeking the views from a range of stakeholders on a series of guidance notes for managing change in the historic environment. **Deadline for responses: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

### **Wales**

#### [A Road Less Travelled - A Draft Gypsy Traveller Strategy Document](#)

The Welsh Assembly Government is consulting on the draft of its strategy to support Gypsy Travellers in Wales and improve their access to services. **Deadline for responses: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

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

### [The 21st Century Councillor Local Leadership Conference](#) – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

### [Sustainability - What does it mean for you?](#) – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November, Northampton

An RTPI East Midlands afternoon seminar looking at sustainable development planning issues, including zero carbon policy, Code for Sustainable Homes, building standards and renewable energy and will include examples of sustainable development projects in the UK and Europe. Use the link in the title or phone [07870 276454](#)

### [Using planning to make a difference to local communities](#) – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November, London

At this LGA Conference delegates will hear from Councils who are using plans and planning processes to ensure they are well placed to attract investment and facilitate development and regeneration once the market recovers. Use the link in the title or phone [020 7664 3131](#)

### [Is this what a sustainable community looks like?](#) – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November, Cheltenham

This RTPI West Midlands event will review issues and possibilities confronting small market towns like Winchcombe; it will include viewing its sustainability (or otherwise) at first hand. Use the link in the title or phone [0121 709 1599](tel:01217091599)

## [Websites](#)↑

### [The Global Climate Network](#)

This is an alliance of nine influential, progressive think tanks located in countries where action on climate change really matters. It aims to propose progressive solutions that will also help lay the foundations for a new era of prosperity.

### [Sustainable Communities Excellence Network](#)

The Network is an alliance of publicly funded organisations in the United Kingdom working to build sustainable places through skills, knowledge and networking. The Network's Annual Review is now available online.

### [London Planning Awards](#)

Entries are now being accepted for the London Planning Awards, now in their sixth year and organised jointly by the RTPI, London First, the Mayor of London and the London Councils. Categories include 'Best Built Project - Community Scale Scheme'. **Deadline Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October.**

## [Publications](#)↑

### [Planning Applications: June Quarter 2009 \(England\)](#)

This release provides statistics on local planning authorities and covers information on planning applications received and decided.

If at any time you wish to stop receiving the Bulletin just email me via [pipa@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:pipa@rtpi.org.uk)

**Andrew Matheson MRTPI**

**Network Manager**

Royal Town Planning Institute

41 Botolph Lane London EC3R 8DL

Direct line: +44(0)1789 763006 Mobile: 07971 375362

Switchboard: +44(0)20 7929 9494

[www.rtpi.org.uk](http://www.rtpi.org.uk)

Registered Charity: England No 262865 Scotland No SC037841