

Planning Aid for London is seeking Volunteers to become involved with arrange of projects and case work. There are opportunities for a range of professionals working in the built environment.

Planning Aid for London has undergone significant changes in the last couple of years and the range of work in which it has become involved has broadened.

It provides advice on all aspects of planning work and training.

Our Aims

To provide free or affordable independent town planning advice to individuals and groups unable to afford professional consultants;

How can volunteers get involved?

Volunteers can provide assistance in the form of:

- Telephone advice
- Writing letters
- Help lobbying councillors
- Visiting council offices
- Liaison with planning/ other offices
- Giving written reps
- Preparing draft appeal statements
- Advice on statements
- Interpreting official documents
- Informal hearings
- Appearing as an advocate or witness at a public inquiry

The level of assistance given is dependent on the volunteer's assessment of the case and the most appropriate course of action.

Volunteer Testimonials

"I can actually use my experience of the planning system to make a real positive difference to people's lives."

Andrew Wright - Planning Officer

"My Planning Aid for London experience helps me advice private sector clients when proposing new schemes and seeking community support."

**Richard Pestell - Associate
Roger Tym & Partners**

"Volunteering for PAL gives an insight into new areas of planning activity, as well as understanding how decisions impact on areas and people, broadening experience of other sectors and authorities."

**Jon Medlin
Principle Planning Obligations Officer
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea**

"I have learnt as much about human interaction, negotiation and compromise as the clients have about Planning Law and Planning Policies."

**George Vasdekys - Partner
Salisbury Jones Planning**

Planning Aid for London

Unit 3.01, Whitechapel Technology Centre
65/75 Whitechapel Rd. London E1 1DU
t: 020 7247 4900 f: 020 7247 8005
info@planningaidforlondon.org.uk
www.planningaidforlondon.org.uk

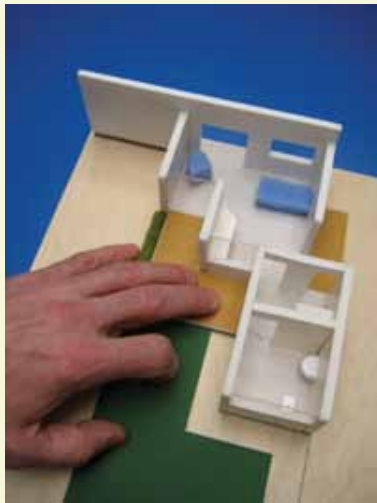
Please call or visit our website for an application form



Volunteer with PAL



Planning Aid
for London



Name: George Knott

Job: architect

Status: volunteering with Planning Aid for London

George Knott's Story

"As a consultant architect and town planner I am aware that my professional services are often out of reach for many. Working as a volunteer with Planning Aid for London breaks that access barrier and, at the same time, each case brings a fresh and stimulating challenge to me.

One of my cases involved a family needing to build a wheelchair-friendly annex for a member of the household who is blind. I felt so foolish when I attended my first meeting with a set of typical architects drawings and sketches that were, obviously, useless to my primary client who could not see them. A re-think was needed!

I am used to making delicate, beautiful (to the eye) architectural models but this challenge was different. A 'chunky', robust modeling technique was developed using clear textures so that the model could be read with ones fingers as well as with ones eyes. Now we can all sit together and discuss the designs – the arrangement of spaces, exact position of access ramps, where the furniture is placed . . . and on to the inevitable issues of Planning Permission and Building Regulations etc.

I have found this to be a particularly rewarding process. Creating the 'tactile-model' not only made me think laterally about communication tools; but it also assisted me in appreciating how the blind and partially-sighted actually experience the built environment."

Name: Ian Britton

Background: chairman of a resident's association

Status: successfully fighting unpopular planning decision

Ian Britton's Story

"We contacted Planning Aid for London to seek advice about how to make objections to a planning application to build a four storey block of flats behind our homes.

The advice we received from you was concise, clear and practical. It was extremely useful in enabling us to prepare letters of objection to the plans proposed. We presented our case at the planning meeting and were delighted that planning consent was refused by the planning committee. The applicant then appealed this decision and we once again asked for your help from Planning Aid for London.

We attended the Planning Appeal Hearing and put our case, and we are pleased that the Planning Inspectorate upheld the Council's decision and planning permission was refused.

I must tell you that before this, we (the local residents and myself) knew nothing about planning matters. We are extremely grateful to Planning Aid for London for their patience and encouragement throughout; they not only gave us encouragement and confidence to put forward our objections to the planning application, but most importantly explained to us – in layman's terms – the planning process proved absolutely invaluable to us."