



RTPI

mediation of space · making of place

PIPA – the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network Bulletin 18th November 2009

Welcome, particularly to the new Members joining from the 2009 Conference

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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 )

Local Democracy: [Battle for social policy](#); [Local Rights](#); [Uplands](#); **Planning System:** [National Park](#); [Green Belt](#); [To approve?](#); [Heritage Applications](#); **Housing:** [2020 Targets](#); [Eco-towns](#); [Masterplan](#); [HCA](#); **Sustainability:** [Adaptation](#); [Renewables](#); [Green Utilities](#); [Grey to Green](#); [Construction](#); **Consultations:** [England](#); [Northern Ireland](#); **Events**; **Publications**

PIPA News

NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

[The Government released 7 of the intended 12 National Policy Statements on Monday 9th November](#). The RTPI is committed to a full and wide ranging consultation with its members on the raft of NPSs coming forward. Through the [RTPI website](#) you can submit your views on emerging national policy statement consultations and help shape and inform the RTPI's responses. A CLG [letter has been sent to all Chief Planning Officers in England](#) with general information explaining the expected interaction between NPSs and the town and country planning regime.

Also, RTPI Planning Aid is working with individuals and communities that cannot afford professional fees to help them understand and have an effective voice in the consultations on these new National Statements. They have issued a series of short leaflets which summarise the National Policy Statements (NPS) and these can be found at www.nationalpolicystatements.org.uk

INQUIRY: MINIMISING TRANSACTION COSTS IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[This All Party Urban Development Group Inquiry](#) will analyse transaction costs in urban development and make recommendations about how these can be kept at acceptable levels. To submit your views please [email the RTPI Policy Team](#) by Wednesday 9th December.

RTPI IN THE NEWS

Heritage – a further article in the [Sunday Telegraph](#) noted that the Minister had agreed to revise the draft PPS15: planning for the historic Environment

Green Energy – in a [Daily Telegraph](#) article the RTPI's support for simplification of permission arrangements for green energy generation is noted. See also [Sustainability](#) below

PIPA CONFERENCE 2009 - PLANNING: DELIVERING FOR THE UPTURN

The Conference has made the [front page of the RTPI website](#). As noted in the last Bulletin the Conference presentations are now available via the [PIPA webpages](#).

NETWORKS EVENTS:

[Section 106 Agreements – Time for Review?](#) – Wednesday 25th November, Leeds

The RTPI Networks, RTPI Yorkshire Region and Leeds Met University are hosting a free event to discuss different views and approaches, and to consider the ways forward with S106 Agreements and to explore best practice in recessionary times.

[Planning for Housing Needs](#) - Friday 4th December, Edinburgh

The RTPI-CIH Planning for Housing Network will be formally launched in Scotland at this major joint Conference.

[Transforming Estates](#) – Wednesday 9th December, Birmingham

['Planning' on 30th October](#) (page 22) carried an article by RTPI Network Member Jon Morris writing about the new CIH & ECOTEC publication ['Transforming Estates'](#). There is now the opportunity to discuss the research behind the Report with Paul Jeffrey from ECOTEC at this Networks Meeting in Birmingham.

Andrew

[Local Democracy](#)↑

['John Lewis' v 'easyCouncil' - the battle for social policy](#)

The Guardian writes about the different approaches to local government delivery in the run up to the 2010 election.

[Local Rights](#)

A new protocol to the Charter of Local Self-Government has been agreed by Ministers from across Europe at a Conference in Utrecht. It sets out that citizens across the Continent should be engaged at every stage in local affairs from voting in their elected representatives to being consulted on local policy that matters to them.

[Uplands](#)

A report written to inform the Commission for Rural Communities' inquiry into the future for England's upland communities says, "the greatest threat to the future of upland communities [is the] ambiguity regarding the significance, value and role of upland communities themselves."

[Planning System](#)↑

[New National Park](#)

Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has signed the Confirmation Order which legally creates the South Downs National Park as the 14th in the UK. The order comes into effect on 31 March 2010. [The Campaign to Protect Rural England](#) (CPRE) called it a "hugely positive and visionary decision".

[Green Belt Warning](#)

Shadow Planning Minister Bob Neill has warned that the Government is giving the go-ahead for green belt "destruction" in the quest for additional housing. And [Planning Portal](#) reports that property consultants in Yorkshire are claiming an appeals decision involving land near Leeds has set an important precedent over the release of greenfield sites for housing.

[Minded to Approve](#)

Planning Portal reports that Communities Secretary John Denham has issued a 'minded to approve' decision letter in respect of a proposed new residential neighbourhood in Berkshire which was opposed by the Council and local residents.

[Circular 08/09: Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications - Notification to the Secretary of State \(England\)](#)

The Direction in this Circular revises the requirements for local planning authorities to notify the Secretary of State of listed building consent applications.

[Housing](#)↑

[2020 Targets](#)

New research launched by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, shows the Government is unlikely to meet its target of three million new homes by 2020. Complementing the report, JRF has established [a free website](#) that brings together a wide range of housing and neighbourhood trends for the whole of the UK for the first time.

[Eco-towns Housing Worksheet](#)

The starting point for this new Worksheet is a set of aspirational criteria for housing which, if achieved, could ensure that the ecotown is an exemplar development. The Worksheet examines each of these criteria in turn and looks at how they apply to housing in ecotowns. On the [Inside Housing website](#) a blogger comments that "[most] interesting is their thinking with regard to potential funding models which really would represent a break from the current stasis".

[Ecotown Masterplan](#)

Planning reports that East Hampshire has unveiled its Masterplan for the Government-designated [Whitehill-Bordon eco-town](#).

[HCA Strong Delivery](#)

The Homes and Communities Agency has published its first annual report and financial statements, outlining how it has met its key targets in its first year of operation.

[Sustainability](#)↑

[Adaptation](#)

The LGiU is launching a learning network on adaptation to climate change for elected members. There will be three meetings in 2009-2010.

[Small-scale renewables](#)

The Government commissioned this study to review renewable and low-carbon technologies for all non-domestic land uses and make recommendations for conferring permitted development rights to them. See also [Consultations](#) below

[Green Utilities](#)

There is strong public support for 'green utilities', like district heat, vacuum waste disposal and water harvesting, that are delivered at a community scale, according to research published by the UK Green Building Council and Zero Carbon Hub, funded by the NHBC Foundation.

[Grey to Green](#)

CABE argues that a switch is needed in public spending from grey projects, like road building and heavy engineering projects, to green schemes, like street trees, parks, green roofs and waterways.

[Construction](#)

An initiative aimed at increasing the use of renewable construction materials in affordable homes has been agreed by DECC (Department of Energy and Climate Change) and the housing and regeneration body the HCA (Homes and Communities Agency).

[Helping Community Groups to Improve Public Spaces](#)

This is a summary of research by CABE into the main barriers facing community groups in improving public spaces.

[Consultations](#) ↑

England

[Permitted development rights for small scale renewable and low carbon energy technologies, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure](#)

This consultation is on proposals to introduce permitted development rights for small scale renewable and low carbon energy technologies, and in relation to electric vehicle infrastructure. **Deadline for submissions: Tuesday 9th February 2010**

[Housing and Regeneration Act 2008: Summary of Responses](#)

CLG has published a summary document of responses to the consultation on the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 (registration of Local Authorities) Order 2009. The consultation period ran from August to the end of October.

Northern Ireland

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

The Commission, chaired by Lord Richard Best OBE, has published its first report analysing the issues and challenges facing the Northern Ireland Housing system. **The consultation on the Commission's analysis runs until Thursday 31st December.**

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

[NALC Larger Councils' Conference and Exhibition](#) - Wednesday 2nd December, London

This year's theme for the National Association of Local Councils' event is community empowerment and localism. Use the link in the title or phone [020 7637 1865](tel:02076371865)

[Planning for Sport: Enhancing Communities](#) – Friday 4th December, Cardiff

This RTPI Cymru seminar will discuss expectations from the planning system from those promoting sport and children's well-being. Use the link in the title or phone [029 2049 8215](tel:02920498215)

[Empowering Citizens to Shape their Communities](#) - Wednesday 27th January 2010, London

Despite the recent *Place Survey* highlighting more people would like to be involved in decisions affecting their community, less than a third of the public are aware of how to go about getting involved, and in the past year less than 5% have been involved in an actual decision. Use the link in the title or phone [0870 400 1020](tel:08704001020)

[Making your local historic environment work for you](#) - Tuesday 9th March 2010, London

This LGA/English Heritage Conference will look at what the future holds for the historic environment, examining how unlocking the value of your heritage assets can contribute to achieving local priorities. Use the link in the title or phone [020 7664 3131](tel:02076643131)

[Publications](#) ↑

[Community philosophy: A project report](#)

This three-year New Earswick experiment used an approach called 'Community Philosophy' to promote conversations and develop positive relationships between different groups of people within a community.

[An Overview of Cross-sectional Change Data 2002–08](#)

This report presents new data from the 2008 New Deal for Communities household survey and, for key indicators, tracks change from 2002 across the series of household surveys undertaken in 2004 and 2006. It compares progress in NDC areas with that in comparator areas, parent local authorities and with England as a whole where data allows.

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

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