



# RTPI

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## PIPA – the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network Bulletin 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010

### Welcome, and a Happy New Year

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 ↑)*

**Local Democracy:** [Penfold Review](#); [Leadership](#); [Community Contracts](#); [Unitary Councils](#); **Planning System:** [PPS4](#); [Killian & Pretty Progress](#); [Largest?](#); [Village Greens](#); [NI Planning](#); [Challenge](#); [Construction](#); **Housing:** [Flexible Tenure](#); [Church Land](#); **Sustainability:** [Scotland](#); [Eco-towns](#); [Windfarms](#); [Scottish Power](#); [Green Up!](#); **Consultations:** [England](#); [Northern Ireland](#); [Wales](#); **Events**; **Websites**; **Publications**

### PIPA News

#### TRAINING REQUIREMENTS: ECONOMICS OF DEVELOPMENT

Roger Tym & Partners have been commissioned to assess the training requirements of both planners *and* local councillors in the economics of development. As part of the study, Roger Tym & Partners is conducting a survey of Councillors & professionals involved in planning. Their team hopes to consult as many people as possible, from a wide cross-section of the sector. Please play your part by completing the survey, and encourage other elected Members colleagues to do the same. Please [click here](#) to access the survey.

#### GYPSIES & TRAVELLERS

PIPA is supporting a Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) Practice Workshops initiative. The aims of the Workshops are to strengthen the confidence of Councillors in dealing with the provision of sites in their Wards, as Cabinet Members in ensuring that provision is made in strategic plans, and as Members of Planning Committees in hearing contested applications, and to facilitate improved planning and decision-making. Two Workshops are planned in London in February & March with one in Shropshire in the planning stage. Local authorities could get together to have a session in their locality – and I will offer to broker such an arrangement if that would be helpful. [Please see the LGiU leaflet for fuller details.](#)

#### RTPI NETWORKS END OF YEAR SURVEY

**How are we doing?** The RTPI Networks are committed to providing all members with an excellent service. We'd like to know what you think of our service and hear any suggestions you might have. If you haven't yet, please could you take just a little time to complete the [RTPI Networks Survey 2009](#) – thanks.

#### PPS4 - PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH (See [Planning System](#) below for details)

The new PPS has now been published and if you would value an opportunity to find out about its content and implications please let me know and I will see what can be arranged for Network members: [pipa@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:pipa@rtpi.org.uk)

#### THE PLANNING CONVENTION 2010

Book now and save up to £100! "Planning: Shaping the future" will be held on 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> June at the QEII Centre, London: <http://www.theplanningconvention.co.uk/>

#### NETWORK OF THE MONTH: JANUARY

[The RTPI Development Planning Network](#) is for everyone with an interest or involvement in development planning; it provides an opportunity to share views, gain support, raise awareness and disseminate good practice. .

Andrew

## [Local Democracy](#)↑

### [Penfold Review](#)

This Review, headed by Adrian Penfold - the current head of Planning and Environment at British Land and board member of British Land Corporation Ltd - will look at consents for development made alongside or after planning permission for all sizes of project and is presently calling for evidence to identify barriers to investment created by consents for development.

### [Leadership](#)

The IDeA Leadership Academies bring together leading Councillors to talk about what they are doing to lead their communities. The December 2009 event was focussed on planning, housing and economic development. The IDeA captured conversations with some of the attendees and have made them available to view on their website.

### [Community Contracts](#)

Communities Secretary, John Denham has called on Councils to sign Community Contracts with local residents as a way to drive up the standard of local services - including providing redress when things go wrong. [This report](#) presents the results of a small-scale evaluation of the community contracts pilot programme.

### [Unitary Councils](#)

CLG has published these details of 'lessons learnt' from the implementation of nine new Unitary Councils in April 2009.

## [Planning System](#)↑

### [PPS4 - Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth](#)

The PPS sets out the CLG's new policy framework for planning for sustainable economic development in urban and rural areas. You may also be interested in the CLG [Planning for Town Centres: Practice Guidance on Need, Impact and the Sequential Approach](#), this guidance is intended to support the implementation of town centre policies set out in PPS4. The "competition test", recommended by the Competition Commission following its probe into grocery shopping, is not included in PPS 4. A new 'impact test' is being introduced that replaces the previous 'needs test'. The Government hopes that this will now give Councils better control over larger developments that could put town centres at risk. Development that could harm town centres will now be assessed against key factors including climate change, impact on the high street, consumer choice, consumer spending and jobs. You can also read a [Summary of public consultation responses](#). [The Country Land & Business Association](#) welcomed the rural aspects of the new PPS.

### [The Government's response to the Killian Pretty Review: Second Progress Report](#)

Planning Minister John Healey has announced a further package of measures which build on reforms recommended by the Killian Pretty Review. The proposals cover pre-application discussions, the use and discharge of planning conditions and the regime for statutory consultations.

### [Largest?](#)

Planning Portal reports that the Peel Group has submitted what the property company has claimed is the UK's largest ever planning application. This is for the East Float part of its scheme known as Wirral Waters, a £4.5bn project which centres on plans for the regeneration of Birkenhead Docks.

### [Village Greens](#)

Planning Portal reports that the Government has signalled plans to review the regime surrounding town and village green designations following controversy over the way campaigners have used the existing legislation to thwart development.

### [Northern Ireland Planning](#)

Before Christmas a report was published by the Comptroller and Auditor General for Northern Ireland which was critical of the performance of the Northern Ireland Planning Service

### [Challenge](#)

Property developers are challenging Conservative proposals for planning policy.

### [Construction](#)

The Construction Products Association (CPA) has forecast a further 3% drop in construction output this year. This follows an estimated fall of more than 12% in 2009 - the largest decline in a single year since records began in 1955.

## [Housing](#)↑

### [Flexible Tenure](#)

On both sides of the border there has been some thinking on housing ownership. [UK Housing Minister John Healey](#) in his speech to the Fabian Society has given his strongest indication yet that he would like to see more choice and flexibility in the way people can own or rent a home and move between the two tenures. And in Scotland, [the Housing and Communities Minister Alex Neil](#) said: 'I think we have got to try to challenge the culture with the obsession of homeownership'.

### [Church Land](#)

New research by the National Housing Federation shows that if each of the 9,600 rural Anglican churches sold or leased land, or church buildings, a tenth of the 100,000 affordable rural homes the nation needs could be delivered.

## [Sustainability](#)↑

### [Sustainable Scotland](#)

The Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) Scotland's Third Annual Assessment of Government progress on sustainable development says that Scotland's communities are still not geared towards low carbon living but widening the perspective when delivering the Climate Change (Scotland) Act could make the Act world leading climate legislation and a catalyst for a flourishing Scotland.

### [Eco-towns](#)

The Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA), have today published new guidance, sponsored by Government, entitled '[Developing energy efficient and zero carbon strategies for eco-towns](#)'.

### [Wind Farms](#)

The CBI has commented on the [Crown Estate](#)'s announcement of the successful bidders to develop nine new off-shore wind farms: "This is as exciting step forward for the UK energy's industry comparable with the exploration of the North Sea for oil and gas in 1970s". A quarter of UK electricity demand could be met from the programme.

### [Scottish Power](#)

Planning Portal reports that the Scottish Government has approved the controversial Beaully - Denny power line upgrade project which aims to boost grid capacity along the line and unlock Scotland's onshore and offshore renewables potential.

### [Private Allotments](#)

The [New Allotment Company Ltd](#) opened its first site of 300 allotments on the outskirts of Tonbridge, Kent, this week. It expects to open more sites in the Midlands and South East by Summer 2010.

### [Green Up!](#)

This CDF publication sets out how local groups can link to their Council's existing frameworks, such as Local Area Agreements and Sustainable Community Strategies, and get financial and other support for their work.

## [Consultations](#)↑

### **England**

#### [Development Management: Proactive Planning from Pre-Application to Delivery - Consultation](#)

This Consultation seeks views on a draft new PPS on development management and on draft policy annexes on pre-application and determination. **Deadline for submissions: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

#### [Improving the use and discharge of planning conditions: Consultation](#)

This Consultation seeks views on a draft policy annex on the use of planning conditions (which also clarifies current arrangements on the fees that LPAs can charge), and on proposed measures to improve the discharging of conditions. **Deadline for submissions: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

#### [Improving engagement by statutory and non-statutory consultees: Consultation](#)

This Consultation seeks views on a range of proposals to improve the consultation arrangements for statutory and non-statutory consultees. **Deadline for submissions: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

#### [Code for Sustainable Homes and the Energy Efficiency standard for Zero Carbon Homes](#)

This Consultation covers both policy and technical changes being considered to the Code which include embedding the new definition of zero carbon for new homes. **Deadline for submissions: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

#### [Publicity for planning applications: Summary of responses to consultation](#)

This document sets out a summary of responses received on the Publicity for Planning Applications: Consultation which took place between 30 July 2009 and 23 October 2009.

#### [Policy statement on Regional Strategies and guidance on the establishment of Leaders' Boards: Summary of responses to consultation](#)

This document sets out a number of responses received on the consultation which took place between 6 August 2009 and 30 October 2009.

### **Northern Ireland**

#### [High Hedges Bill](#)

A Bill to provide a means of redress for owners or occupiers of domestic property who allege an adverse effect on the enjoyment of their property due to the height of a neighbouring high hedge. **Deadline for submissions: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March**

## Wales

### [Governance and Scrutiny of Local Government in Wales](#)

The Assembly Government considers that changes may be needed to the scrutiny and executive arrangements within local authorities to keep pace with policy developments. **Deadline for submissions: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

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

#### [Join in! are your communities ready to benefit from the 2012 Games?](#) – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January, London

This LGA Conference will give you the latest information on how your local authority will be impacted by the UK hosting the Games and will give you an opportunity to learn from others about how they are gearing up for 2012. Use the link in the title or phone 020 7664 3131

#### [Key planning issues in 2010](#) – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January, London

This RTPI Conference will look at future changes to the planning system. Use the link in the title or phone 0845 082 1171

#### [Sustainable Development: putting sustainability into practice](#) – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February, London

This event will focus on the important work that local authorities are carrying out to ensure the continuing improvements within the environmental battle. Use the link in the title or phone 01782 613924

### [Websites](#)↑

#### [The Sue Gateway](#)

This is a new customised search engine that has recently been created to open up results from a huge UK research programme focused on Sustainable Urban Environments (SUE).

### [Publications](#)↑

#### [Assessing neighbourhood level regeneration and public expenditure](#)

This report provides an assessment of the levels of public expenditure in a New Deal for Communities (NDC) area compared to the local authority as a whole, focussing on the example of the Bradford NDC area.

#### [Tracking economic deprivation in New Deal for Communities areas](#)

This report tracks economic deprivation in the New Deal for Communities (NDC) areas between 1999 and 2005 using the Economic Deprivation Index (EDI).

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

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