

RTPI NEWS

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Challenges of 2009 lay foundations for year ahead in world of planning

Looking back over his year as president of the institute, *Martin Willey* reflects on some successes, considers how members of the profession have responded to testing circumstances and concludes with good news

When I was elected president for 2009, I set out my aims for a more businesslike and customer-focused RTPI, engaging more members in governance and increasing the status, voice and influence of planners. My overarching theme was to demonstrate how planning delivered solutions — but I did not foresee how deep the recession would be.

The housing market roller-coaster, tightening public finances and uncertainties over an impending general election have created a more challenging environment for planning and planners. Yet there has been good news. We have welcomed more than 2,000 new members in all classes. I have presented awards to some outstanding individuals, including 13 Today's Leaders and ten Tomorrow's Leaders, as well as nearly 50 awards for excellent projects, programmes and processes.

My visits to the RTPI regions have resulted in numerous local newspaper headlines promoting planning. I am particularly pleased that we have seen even more candidates standing for the general assembly and executive board, more votes for the post of junior vice-president and seven young planners taking the helm as regional and national chairs.

One terrific initiative to emerge from our excellent communications team was the presidential blog. Even though this has been challenging to write on time, it has now been read about 6,600 times. This forum highlights the fantastic work of our members and offers the chance to rant a little on planning matters.

Our presence at the party conferences, including a well-attended fringe event on planning and localism at the Conservative Party's Manchester conference, has greatly raised the institute's profile. We have been engaging with all of the



On tour: presidential visits enable dialogue and boost local confidence

main political parties as they prepare their manifestos for the forthcoming general election, banging the drum for planning.

There were, of course, a number of challenges. My meetings with planners illustrated the need to restate the case for strategic planning in a series of briefings — to good effect, I trust. Meetings with consultants indicated that there could be more RTPI representation from the private sector, while local authority heads of planning also felt underrepresented.

Fresh initiatives arose to share knowledge on local development frameworks and development management — well done Plymouth and Neath Port Talbot. Furthermore, some interesting opportunities for consultants to play a fuller part in our activities emerged. Meetings with government offices, the Homes and Communities Agency, CABE, the chief planners of the four

nations, English Heritage, the Local Government Association and the Planning Officers Society among others helped the RTPI to improve relationships with key stakeholders. Expect more of this in the new year.

There were some unexpected developments. I was surprised at the level of member expectation for leadership from the president — quite a challenge. I was a little disappointed to find out that not as many members as I thought were engaged with the RTPI networks, website or learning partners. This is something I hope that we will communicate better in the year ahead.

Meanwhile, I was constantly struck by the quality and passion of members who give their time voluntarily to support the RTPI and Planning Aid. These unsung heroes deliver solutions to highly complex and politically controversial problems. The loyalty, expertise, ambition and support from institute staff across the UK has been staggering in the past two years, especially under difficult circumstances. I would like to give special thanks to receptionist Cherry Copping at Botolph Lane, who is a brilliant ambassador for the institute.

Finally, I must express my absolute conviction that planners can continue to make a real difference, creating places where people want to live and work, aligning public policy and delivery to achieve sustainable communities, leading on good design, community engagement and integration, introducing climate change mitigation and securing planning contributions. The list of what we as planners do is endless. My thanks go to everyone for making my year so rewarding and enjoyable.

Martin Willey is RTPI president.

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We have engaged with all of the main political parties preparing for the election, banging the drum for planning

Elections see voter numbers increase

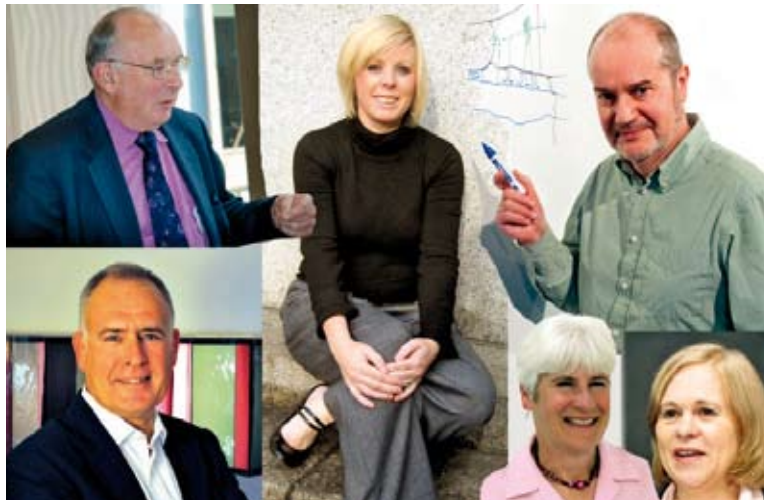
Successful candidates are eager to drive forward the RTPI's aims and ambitions for this year and beyond, reports *James Taylor*

More voters voiced their opinions via the ballot box than in previous years in the recent round of elections for key posts in the institute.

Planning consultant Colin Haylock, who is urban design director at Ryder Architecture in Newcastle, received 1,435 votes to become junior vice-president. The other candidate, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council's group manager for development and building control Peter Geraghty, won 1,301 votes. Haylock will be the institute's president in 2012.

Former Planning Inspectorate deputy chief executive and policy, quality and development plans director Leonora Rozee and planning consultant Mike Hayes have been elected as executive board corporate members for 2010-11.

Haylock was voted in for the third available place but his election as



Elections: candidates set to take up their places on executive board

junior vice-president created a vacancy. On 9 December, planning consultant and 2008 president Janet O'Neill was co-opted by the board as a trustee for 2010.

DTZ senior planner Sara Eustace is the new executive board young planner representative. Three young planners — Daniel Massey, James Morris and Wayne Reynolds — have been elected as general assembly student or licentiate members for

2010 and 2011. Three more will be co-opted for the coming year.

Planning consultant Don Alder has been elected as the executive board associations representative for 2010-11, while John Harvey has been co-opted by the board to serve as associations representative on the general assembly for 2010.

The 14 new corporate members elected onto the general assembly for 2010 and 2011 are Janet Askew,

Chris Berry, Craige Burden, Vincent Goodstadt, Jed Griffiths, Kath Haddrell, Clive Harridge, Mike Hayes, Hazel McKay, Julie Morgan, Janet O'Neill, Leonora Rozee, Alistair Stark and Andrew Taylor.

The general assembly's legal associate for 2010 and 2011 is planning lawyer Pat Thomas. A technical member will also be co-opted onto the assembly for 2010. Suggestions for candidates are welcomed.

At the December board meeting, it was decided to recommend independent planning consultant Vincent Goodstadt as honorary treasurer and solicitor Peter Wilbraham as honorary solicitor and secretary for this year. These two posts will be filled by election at the next assembly meeting on 20 January. Assembly members are entitled to nominate other candidates for each office.

If more than one candidate is identified for either office, then a postal ballot of assembly members will be held this month, with results to be announced on 20 January.

James Taylor is RTPI executive officer for governance. For more information, please call 020 7929 8172 or email james.taylor@rtpi.org.uk

Post-war planners chalk up 50 golden years

Planners who entered the profession in the aftermath of the Second World War helped restore and reshape a bombed-out Britain

Post-war planners came into the profession at a time of major rebuilding in Britain and over the years saw considerable changes in the planning landscape.

Elected between 1957 and 1959, these planners were dealing with the impact of major reconstruction, including the emergence of a number of new towns. The New Towns Act 1946 and the Town and Country Planning Act 1947 required landowners to secure planning permission to develop land and also introduced arrangements for listing buildings of special architectural or historic interest. The first section of the M1 motorway opened in December 1959, beginning a reliance on cars that has reshaped the UK.



Reconstruction: post-war homes

Over half a century, our golden members and their colleagues have taken on an abundance of issues, from conserving our heritage and dealing with the demands of increasing traffic to tackling the effects of climate change. Meanwhile, the planning system has continued to evolve. On behalf of the general assembly and fellow members, the RTPI congratulates our members on the 50th anniversary of their membership.

These golden members are: John Ainsworth, Peter Allen,

Geraldine Amos, Andrew Anderson-Bell, Frank Andrassy, Thales Argyropoulos, Kenneth Bailey, John Baker, John Barnes, Thomas Barr, Leonard Beake, Ian Becker, George Betts, David Birnbaum, Robin Bishop, Gerald Blythe, Claude Boistiere, Ratneswar Bose, Anthony Boulton, John Brooks, Charles Brown, Arthur Bryant, Peter Bryant, Derrick Buckler, Jan-Krzysztof Buczynski, George Burrows, John Burrows, Edward Car, William Chippendale, Alan Choe, Chua Peng Chye, Mary Cole, John Cox, Alan Crawshaw, Kenneth Cross, Stewart Cypher, John Davall, George Davie, Valerie Davies, Roy Day, Frederick Dickin, Maurice Dobson, Edgar Dyer, John Earnshaw, Thomas Elliott, Michael Evans, Brian Falk, John Flack, William Frame, George Franklin, David Frith, Brian Furniss, Roy Gazzard, Anthony Goss, Stanley Greenen, Douglas Haigh, Donald Harris, Onslow Harris, Rupert Havard, Gerald Holmes, John Hubbard, Keith Hubbard, Richard Ingle, Anthony Jones, Alan Keil, Ronald Kenyon, Pratul Khanna,

William Knight, Michael Law, Ronald Lewis, John Little, Peter Longden, Ian MacPherson, Brian Masterman, Allen Matheson, Raymond Maw, Sheila McDonald, David McNidder, John Millar, James Moughtin, William Mundy, Bock Ng, Alexander Nisbet, Maurice O'Carroll, Barry Payton, Elio Pikhholz, David Pilling, Leonard Pinkney, James Plant, Peter Platts, John Procter, Ernest Pye, James Rae, Hamish Ramsay, Michael Randall, Valerie Randall-Webb, James Read, David Robinson, Lawrence Robinson, Dale Robinson, Edgar Rose, Anthony Rouse, Ian Samuel, Joseph Samworth, Jack Seabrook, Graham Shaylor, Clifford Smith, James Smith, Richard Spain, Michael Stevens, Robert Stoddart, William Sutton, David Tattersall, Brian Thaxton, Mary Thaxton, Arthur Thompson, Richard Thompson, Andrew Thorburn, Peter Thornhill, Anthony Travis, Ronald Turner, David Vowles, Gerald Walker, John Wallis, Ural Wannop, Joseph Wardell, Alan Way, John Welbank, Edwin West, Geoffrey Wheeler, Alan Whitworth, Michael Wilkinson, George Winlow, David Woodhall and Thomas Woodward.

Stay ahead of your specialism by participating in a network

Trish Cookson reports on the RTPI network activities this year and why joining them can boost your career



NANCY HAMMONDS

Networks: participants are encouraged to learn about good practice

It has been another active year for the RTPI networks. Supported by RTPI president Martin Willey, and with 8,000 members across 16 networks and associations, we have never been busier in offering a first-class service to members and related built environment professionals.

Just what do our networks do? We provide news through regular e-bulletins and offer free or low-cost events. These are small-scale and informal and usually take place twice a week across the UK, encouraging participants to network as well as learn about good practice.

Events this year included the future of residential development, organised by the planning for housing network, and migration and housing development in China's urban villages by the international development network.

Sustaining high-quality, mixed-tenure housing development in a difficult economy was discussed by the regeneration network, while the Planning Inspectorate held a meeting with the independent consultants' network. A series of section 106 workshops was run by the development management network.

We ran workshops at the annual Planning Convention and held three major conferences this autumn for the young planners in Newcastle-Gateshead, the Politicians in Planning Association in London and the National Association for Planning Enforcement in Newark.

We offer you the chance to have a real influence by contributing to the institute's responses to government consultations. Dedicated websites for each network include a discussion forum to exchange ideas.

Members can get involved in a myriad of projects, contribute to online publications such as the *Introductory Guide to Environmental Planning and Protection* or join an interest group. Our groups explore healthy communities, housing-led regeneration, small islands planning and heritage and 20 other topics. And we are open to new ideas.

Trish Cookson is RTPI networks and associations developer. For more information, please visit www.rtpi.org.uk/events_awards_and_networking/networks_and_associations or email networks@rtpi.org.uk

RTPI Bulletin Board

Polish town planners sample the delights of Yorkshire

Avid readers of RTPI Yorkshire's *Root and Branch* will recall a report on the region's visit to Upper Silesia. Polish planners from the Silesian Technical University and the Society of Polish Town Planners paid us a return visit, and we were determined to offer them a similar high-quality experience.

But with so much to see — urban, rural and coastal — the problem quickly became one of what to leave out.

So we chose to spend the first three days in our regional capital Leeds, Sheffield and the spectacular Yorkshire coast around incomparable Scarborough and Robin Hood's Bay.

Both Leeds and Sheffield have an impressive record of city centre regeneration, with some award-winning architecture and urban design. Our Polish visitors felt that the Sheffield approach was more planned and integrated than that of Leeds' approach.

Scarborough and Robin Hood's Bay may be challenged by Mediterranean and continental tourism, but they received an enthusiastic reception from Scarborough's mayor and officers which helped to make the day memorable for our Polish visitors. We included a day in York, with its glorious medieval heritage of the Minster, the Shambles and city walls. A visit to York Brewery also proved popular.

We also spent a day in the Yorkshire Dales with a visit to Swinden Quarry and Grassington, ending up in Harrogate for a tapas bar meal. The impressive Humber Bridge and South Humber side provided another interesting day. Scunthorpe provided a good example of a planned settlement, based on iron ore extraction and an integrated steelworks. A barbecue and live band, led by Alison Linnegar, rounded off the day and we were delighted to see and hear our Polish forester friend at the keyboard dueting with one of our number.

The last day started off at the Saltaire world heritage site before moving on to Doncaster for the Woodlands' model mining village and an interesting walking tour of the town centre masterplan initiative. We revived our Polish visitors at Doncaster and Sheffield Robin Hood International Airport for their flight back to Silesia.

Our grateful thanks go to the European network members for arranging and delivering a fascinating programme, Leeds Metropolitan University and RTPI Yorkshire for support with accommodation at the Kirkstall Brewery student flats. Thanks also go to many colleagues, councils and other organisations for their help and hospitality.

RTPI campaigns against funding cuts in planning education

The Scottish Funding Council's proposal to cut funding for planning and architectural education by 22 per cent is the focus of a major campaign by the RTPI. The institute believes that such a move would be extremely detrimental to the future of the profession and to the Scottish Government's own key commitments on climate changes, economic growth and placemaking. We are asking education minister Mike Russell to step in and reverse the cuts. We are also calling for our members and students to help support this campaign by emailing the minister and their local MSPs.

For more information and to join the campaign, please visit www.rtpi.org.uk

The RTPI's Online Directory of Planning Consultants

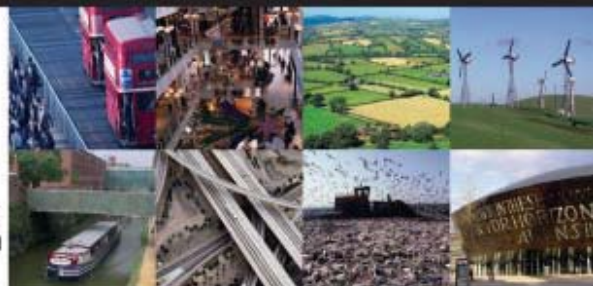


The Online Directory of Planning Consultants, is the official RTPI listing of firms providing the services of professionally qualified planners.

To ensure your firm is listed in the RTPI accredited online and printed publications please contact the **Directory Manager** on 0207 960 5663 or email: simon.owen@rtpiconsultants.co.uk

Benefits of an entry:

- Inclusion in the official RTPI Consultants Printed and Online Directory for 2010
- Online directory received over 60,000 direct users in the last year
- Greater capabilities for the distribution of company information to a UK and global audience
- Provides a web presence for firms without a dedicated website
- Inclusion in the printed directory and regional leaflets, distributed in bulk and free of charge to the UK & Eire planning industry



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