



RTPI

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The Chartered Institute of Housing

THE RTPI-CIH PLANNING FOR HOUSING NETWORK MONITORING REPORT 2009

Summary

The Network has built on the earlier Agreement between the RTPI & CIH to become an attentive and active contributor to debate and policy development in the field of planning for housing. In particular the Network has now established its presence across the UK, with a launch in December in Scotland being the last piece in the UK jigsaw. The Network's Plan for 2010, developed jointly with the CIH, aims to ensure that the Network is active, responsive and respected in a year of potential policy shift with the 2010 Election. There will in particular be opportunities for cross-professional and cross-sectoral sharing with two Task Groups, and continuing efforts will be made to break down barriers to effective delivery of housing.

The Year

2009 was the first full year of the Network as the RTPI-CIH Planning for Housing Network. Jointly between the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) and the RTPI there were formal launches of the Network in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland (the initial launch in England having been in November 2008). Joint ownership by the two Institutes reinforces a clear message of the need for professional co-operation and collaboration to achieve the twin goals of meeting housing needs and sustainability. In further demonstration of these joint commitments, in April the two Institutes made a constructive Joint Response to the CLG Consultation on the Draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS) on Eco-towns.

A wide range of opportunities to be active in the Network have been offered, ranging from a meeting with the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) shortly after it commenced work to an introduction to the first large-scale housing scheme to reach Level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes and the first to be funded under the HCA's Carbon Challenge – Hanham Hall in Gloucestershire. Joint events with others of the RTPI Networks have included a series with the Development Management Network on the potential need to review Section 106 Agreements and one with the Planning with Communities Network to look around a community with a claim to pioneering sustainability credentials – Bournville in Birmingham. It is very pleasing to note that a wide range of like-minded organisations have been willing to host Network events across the year – from Knight Frank hosting a session on their report 'The Future of Residential Development' to the National Housing Federation hosting a double session that included examination of the Consultation proposals for the Community Infrastructure Levy.

'Planning' carried an article by Abi Davies (CIH Head of Policy) and Network Manager Andrew Matheson, 'Time to Home in on Greener Housing', which picked up on some of the themes from recent Network events about workable housing models after the recession. And 'Planning' also carried an article by Network Member Jon Morris writing about the CIH & ECOTEC publication 'Transforming Estates', which subsequently became the subject of a Network event hosted by ECOTEC.

During the year the Network made a contribution to RTPI Governance activities when Sarah Webb the Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Housing addressed the General Assembly

at their meeting in Liverpool the major topic of which was 'planning for housing'. The event was written up as a basis for RTPI policy development on the topic.

Through efforts throughout the year to raise the profile, awareness and potential of the Network across the UK, membership has continued to grow from 401 at the end of 2008 to, at the year end, 520. There is obvious potential for continuing to build on and from the good reputation of both Institutes through the Network.

The Member survey undertaken in early 2009 revealed that by far the most valued feature of the RTPI-CIH Network offer was 'information giving' (86% ranked this No1); second favourite was 'sharing information & knowledge with other Members' (via events in particular) and third was 'opportunities to explore and express views on planning for housing policies'. A number of other specific Network features or variants were also valued amongst which were: 'links between the professions'. Just over 85% of those completing the survey were supportive of setting up some task or interest groups to look at some specific or more detailed issues – although not all were immediately available to support initiatives. There were also a wide range of suggestions for Planning for Housing Network priorities – 106 in total – which have informed event offerings and the selection of Interest Groups.

The Network's Plan for 2010, developed jointly with the CIH, aims to ensure that the Network is active, responsive and respected in a year of potential policy shift with the 2010 Election. There will in particular be opportunities for cross-professional and cross-sectoral sharing, and continuing efforts will be made to break down barriers to effective delivery of housing.

Total Membership

Figure current at 31.12.09: **520**

(For comparison: Members 2007 – 190; 2008 - 401)

Advisory Group

The old 'Room for All' Network Advisory Group stood down prior to the November 2008 relaunch and in anticipation of a new Group being formed jointly with the Chartered Institute of Housing in 2009. However, with limited finances for the Network and many other fronts on which it was vital that progress be made to ensure a successful launch across the UK, it was agreed that a formal Advisory Group would not be established. Instead fuller use of the expertise and interest of the Membership as a whole has been preferred and, although initial ambitions were higher, the result has been the creation of two Interest Groups with concerns for specific planning for housing policy areas (see below).

The annual Business Plan cycle with quarterly reports on progress has continued as a basis for the RTPI & CIH to monitor and jointly steer the activity of the Network.

Interest Groups

Two Interest Groups were established towards the end of the year; in keeping with current financial constraints these will meet in an on-line format and, where appropriate, within a defined time-frame. The first has an initial objective of 'building from the short-term responses to the financial crisis in housing to vision the medium to long-term changes that will be needed to ensure that affordable housing is deliverable and delivered within the mix of additional housing'. There are 11 members of the Group, all but one of whom attended (Or was represented) at the opening meeting and a work-plan is being devised.

The second Group is a Rural Housing Group in conjunction with the RTPI Rural Planning Network. At the year end there had been eight expressions of interest in this Group and they are taking the lead with the response, due in 2010, to the CLG proposals to incentivise landowners to

bring forward land for affordable housing in rural areas which follow on from the Matthew Taylor Review.

Publicity & Promotion

The availability of the **Network across the UK** was publicised through launch events in Wales (February), Northern Ireland (September) and Scotland (December).

The Network contributions to **National Housing Week** were promoted widely and included events in Birmingham & London.

Joint events involving RTPI & CIH Nations & Regions, the National Housing Forum and the National Housing Federation have been well supported and the Network leaflet has been distributed to those attending other planning & housing events.

The Network has been successful in attracting hosts for particular member events during the year including **Knight Frank, Family HA Birmingham, HTA Consultants, The National Housing Federation, Bournville Village Trust, & ECOTEC**.

The Network has contributed 2 articles to '**Planning**' and the Network launches were highlighted in each of the Institutes' publications across the UK.

E-bulletins

E-bulletins have been distributed fortnightly, with special editions for any topics of urgency.

Network On-line Forum

With support from CIH the Network has pioneered a different type of on-line discussion facility, using the Moodle facility extensively used by the Open University. Whilst its potential to host a number of on-going debates, some for sub-sections of the wider membership has been demonstrated, the Member contributions have been limited and we continue to explore ways to further exploit its undoubted potential.

Unsolicited Feedback received in 2009

"Thanks for all your hard work"

"I found the event very useful and stimulating with a lot of valuable discussion, criticisms and positive ideas from participants from different backgrounds; plenty of food for thought"

"Thanks very much for the website, very interesting and useful"

"I find the whole site most useful & user friendly"

"Thanks for the quick response"

"I find your Bulletins immensely valuable"

"Thanks for organising the event; it was very interesting and very useful"

Requests to/from Members (beyond the information content of the Bulletins)

The Planning & Housing Institutes considered pressing Government for the **eco-standards** proposed to be applied to all new housing and invited Network Member practitioners to help to examine the viability of such a proposition.

The RTPI response to the CLG Consultation on **Community Land Trusts** was publicised to Members who were invited to follow up on any points made in the submission.

RTPI Information Services invited Network Members to take part in a survey to find out what they think about the information the RTPI provides and how it is provided.

The Housing Design Awards 2009 and UK Housing Awards 2009 teams invited Members to consider making Award submissions.

In March, prompted by an invitation to share views on the **future of Section 106 Agreements**, a couple of Members expressed their concerns and the Network in conjunction with the RTPI Development Management Network responded with a series of events across England that numbered 5 by the end of the year.

A Network Member drew Member attention to a **new Foundation Degree Course** at the University of Gloucestershire. designed to improve governance, partnership working and community engagement, helping to create more sustainable communities.

The HCA Academy drew Member attention to a **free four-day learning programme** for professionals involved in community development.

Members with any experience of, or views on the impact of **second homes in rural areas**, were invited to submit them to the Rural Planning Network for which a think piece and article on second homes in rural areas was being written.

A Member of the Network was sought to contribute to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation roundtable event in Edinburgh which formed part of the **JRF investigation** into what devolution has done so far to alleviate poverty.

At the Network's 'Future of Residential Development' event many attendees made positive references to **European models** with a different land market than that we have known in the UK. Members were invited to contribute views to an on-line Forum on this subject.

One or more Member was sought to be the Network's **Climate Change Champion** and one volunteer stepped forward.

Following the announcement of the new **Planning Policy Statement for Eco Towns** and a raft of related green development initiatives, Members were invited to comment and exchange views.

A Network Member offered a **Talk the Walk** network event co-hosted by Play England about how local neighbourhoods can be created for children, young people and families to play and move independently.

On behalf of the organisers - CIH / RTPI / RICS / ROOM at RTPI / RIBA / CIOB – the Network helped to promote and publicise the **7th Annual Housing and Construction Conference** - "Rising from the Rubble - Housing from Beyond the Recession".

On behalf of the **National Planning Forum** project on evaluating the potential for using mediation as a tool at various stages in the planning process, the Network called on planners who may be working on contentious cases to volunteer their case as a potential case study in mediation.

Network Members were invited to volunteer to test services and information available through the **RTPI website**.

A Network Member with 4 years work experience in social housing, through the columns of the Bulletin, looked for a **new project to work on**, perhaps providing temporary cover.

Network Members, in conjunction with the RTPI Rural Planning Network, were invited to contribute to a response to the CLG Consultation seeking views on **proposals to incentivise landowners** to bring forward land for affordable housing in rural areas.

Members were invited, through the RTPI website, to submit views on emerging **National Policy Statements** under consultation and help shape and inform the RTPI's responses.

Policy consultations

Network members have been invited to contribute to consultations on the following during 2009:

Draft Planning Policy Statement: Eco-towns - CLG

All Landscapes Matter – Natural England

Definition of Zero Carbon Homes and Non-Domestic Buildings - CLG

Guidance for Local Transport Plans - Department for Transport

Draft Revised Circular 12/1996: Planning Agreements – Scottish Government

Climate Change Strategy – First Stage – Welsh Assembly Government

One Wales: The All Wales Community Cohesion Strategy - Welsh Assembly Government

List of statutory consultees for National Policy Statements - CLG

Draft of 'Designing Streets' – Scottish Government

Sustainable Homes: A National Housing Strategy for Wales - Welsh Assembly Government

Heat and Energy Saving Strategy - DECC

Financial Inclusion Strategy - Welsh Assembly Government

Sustainable Communities Act 2007: Local Spending Reports - CLG

Financial viability study of the eco-towns programme - CLG

The term 'carbon neutral': its definition and recommendations for good practice - DECC

National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan - Welsh Assembly Government

Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the Draft Policy on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation in the East of England & from the Recommendations of the Examination in Public Panel - CLG

Co-operative Commission - The Independent Commission on Co-operative and Mutual Housing

Planning Act 2008: the Pre-Application Consultation and Application Procedures for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - CLG

Scottish Planning Policy – Scottish Government

Scottish Planning Policy Environmental Report – Scottish Government

New Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Prosperous Economies - CLG

Freedoms and flexibilities under the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) - CLG

Park Home Site Licensing - Improving the Management of Residential Park Home Sites - CLG

Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Framework – Scottish Government

Draft Housing (Scotland) Bill 2009 – Scottish Government

Draft Technical Advice Note 22: Planning for Sustainable Buildings - Welsh Assembly Government

Houses in multiple occupation and possible planning responses – CLG

Building Sound Foundations - A Strategy for the Private Rented Sector – Northern Ireland Assembly

Commission on the Future for Housing in Northern Ireland – The Commission

Crofting Reform (Scotland) Bill - Scottish Government

Greater Flexibility for Planning Permissions - CLG

Urban Development Corporations' Quinquennial Review - CLG

Building a Society for All Ages - CLG

New Planning Policy on Development and Coastal Change - CLG

The Planning System in Northern Ireland - Northern Ireland Assembly
Private Sector Housing Issues - Scottish Government
New planning policy on Development and coastal change - CLG
Streamlining Information Requirements for Planning Applications - CLG
Publicity for Planning Applications - CLG
Planning Policy Statement 15: Planning for the Historic Environment - CLG
Policy Statement on Regional Strategies - CLG
Proposed amendments to Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk - CLG
Proposals and Draft Regulations for the Introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy - CLG
Implementation of the Removal of the Duty of Planning Authorities to Notify Historic Scotland on Certain Types of Listed Building Consent Application - Scottish Government
UK Equality Bill - Specific Public Sector Duties to Promote Equality, and Socio-economic Duty - Scottish Government
TAN 6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities - Welsh Assembly Government
Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance - Cadw
Changes to Planning Policy Wales to support the requirement for travel plans for specific types of development - Welsh Assembly Government
Eco-towns - allocations from the eco-towns fund - CLG
A consultation on high hedges and other nuisance vegetation - Scottish Government
Coastal Access: Proposals to amend the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 for coastal land - DEFRA
Historic Scotland Guidance Notes - Managing Change in the Historic Environment - Scottish Government
A Road Less Travelled - A Draft Gypsy Traveller Strategy Document - Welsh Assembly Government
Proposed changes to the Growth Fund for 2010-11 - CLG
Scottish Planning Policy - Proposed Policy Changes - Scottish Government
Thames Gateway Eco-quarter - CLG
Three London Mayoral Strategies – London Assembly
Proposals to incentivise landowners to bring forward land for housing in rural areas – CLG
Proposed Permitted Development Rights for Microgeneration - Northern Ireland Assembly
Proposed Changes to Householder Permitted Development Rights - Northern Ireland Assembly
Draft Addendum to PPS 7: Safeguarding the Character of Established Residential Areas - Northern Ireland Assembly
Code for Sustainable Homes and the Energy Efficiency standard for Zero Carbon Homes - CLG

Events

Date: 30th January 2009
 Event: Meeting with the Homes & Communities Agency
 Venue: London
 Subject: The work of the newly created HCA
 Participants: 24
 The Presentation from this event is available in the members' area of the website.

Date: 30th January 2009
 Event: Consultation Event with RTPI & CIH Policy
 Venue: London
 Subject: Consultation on the draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS) on Eco-towns
 Participants: 24
 The Presentation from this event is available in the members' area of the website.

Date: 6th February 2009
 Event: Launch in Wales
 Venue: Pontypridd
 Subject: Planning & Housing working together to deliver the Assembly Government's affordable housing targets

Participants: 50

Presentations from this event are available via the members' area of the website.

Date: 26th February 2009

Event: Joint event with the RTPI Regeneration Network

Venue: London

Subject: A New Way to Plan: Development Related Travel Plans

Participants: 20

Date: 27th March 2009

Event: Joint event with RTPI Development Management Network

Venue: Bristol

Subject: Section 106 Agreements – Time for Review?

Participants: 25

Presentations from this event are available via the members' area of the website.

Date: 26th May 2009

Event: Event hosted by Knight Frank

Venue: London

Subject: The Future of Residential Development

Participants: 20

The Presentation from this event is available via the members' area of the website.

Date: 11th June 2009

Event: Consultation Event with RTPI & CIH Policy

Venue: London

Subject: Draft PPS4 Planning for Prosperous Economies

Participants: 20

Date: 18th June 2009

Event: Workshop at The Planning Convention

Venue: QEII Conference Centre

Subject: Viability and affordability - attainable for housing development in 2009?

Participants: 45

Presentations from this event are available via the members' area of the website.

Date: 22nd June 2009

Event: Joint event with RTPI Development Management Network

Venue: Brighton

Subject: The Planning System and Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO)

Participants: 28

Date: 24th June 2009

Event: Joint event with the RTPI Regeneration Network

Venue: London

Subject: Sustaining High Quality, Mixed Tenure Housing Development in a Period of Economic Austerity

Participants: 25

Date: 30th June 2009

Event: An event for National Housing Week hosted by Family HA Birmingham

Venue: Birmingham

Subject: Fixing Broken Neighbourhoods

Participants: 18

The Presentation from this event is available via the members' area of the website.

Date: 1st July 2009

Event: An event for National Housing Week hosted by HTA Consultants

Venue: London

Subject: The First Carbon Challenge Scheme

Participants: 25

Presentations from this event are available via the members' area of the website.

Date: 2nd July 2009

Event: Joint event with RTPI Development Management Network

Venue: London

Subject: Section 106 Agreements – Time for Review?

Participants: 24

Presentations from this event are available via the members' area of the website.

Date: 29th July 2009

Event: Joint event with RTPI Development Management Network

Venue: Tunbridge Wells

Subject: Section 106 Agreements – Time for Review?

Participants: 20

Date: 30th July 2009

Event: Joint event with the RTPI Regeneration Network

Venue: Chester

Subject: How can planning aid successful regeneration?

Participants: 25

Date: 9th September 2009

Event: Joint event with National Housing Forum

Venue: London

Subject: The KLOE for the strategic approach to housing

Participants: 24

This event contributed to the RTPI response document that was available to members' on the RTPI website

Date: 14th September 2009

Event: Joint event with the RTPI Development Management Network

Venue: Grantham

Subject: Section 106 Agreements – Time for Review?

Participants: 30

A Report from this event is available via the members' area of the website.

Date: 17th September 2009

Event: A joint event with the RTPI Planning with Communities Network & hosted by Bournville Village Trust

Venue: Birmingham

Subject: Tour of Bournville – an original sustainable community?

Participants: 20

Date: 24th September 2009

Event: Network launch in Northern Ireland

Venue: Belfast

Subject: CIH Autumn Conference

Participants: 50

A Presentation from the launch event is available via the members' area of the website.

Date: 29th September 2009

Event: 2 events hosted by the National Housing Federation (NHF)

Venue: London

Subject: Draft Regulations for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) & Land Supply for Social Housing

Participants: 40 (across 2 meetings)

The Presentation from the latter event is available via the members' area of the website.

Date: 30th October 2009

Event: A joint event with the RTPI Planning with Communities Network

Venue: London

Subject: Urban Characterisation Studies

Participants: 24

Date: 25th November 2009

Event: Joint event with RTPI Development Management Network

Venue: Leeds

Subject: Section 106 Agreements – Time for Review?

Participants: 28

The Presentation from this event is available via the members' area of the website.

Date: 4th December 2009

Event: Network launch in Scotland

Venue: Edinburgh

Subject: Planning for Housing Needs

Participants: 30

The Presentations from this event are available via the members' area of the website.

Date: 9th December 2009

Event: Network event hosted by ECOTEC

Venue: Birmingham

Subject: Transforming Estates

Participants: 22

The Presentation from this event is available via the members' area of the website.

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