



RTPI

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PIPA – the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network Bulletin 26th 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*

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: [Devolution's impact](#); [YIMBY](#); [Connecting Communities](#); [Regeneration](#); [Economic Gap](#);

Planning System: [Greenbelt](#); [PPS4](#); [Frozen Fees](#); [Garden Grabbing](#); [National Infrastructure](#); [UDCs](#);

Housing: [Lowest](#); [Building for Life](#); [Mutual](#); **Sustainability:** [Wind Farm](#); [Without Growth](#); [Smarter Moves](#);

Consultations: [England](#); [Northern Ireland](#); [Scotland](#); **Events**; **Websites**; **Publications**

PIPA News

PPS4 - PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH – NETWORK EVENT

The new PPS has now been published and as previously notified, the Network has arranged an event based on it. The session will be presented by Cristina Howick, an Economist, and Peter Keenan, an Associate, both with Roger Tym & Partners. Peter will concentrate on the retail aspects of PPS4. This event is being organised in conjunction with the RTPI Development Planning Network. As always with Network events, there will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. **There are now very few places remaining so if you would like to attend please [use this link](#) as quickly as possible.**

PENFOLD REVIEW

[This Review, headed by Adrian Penfold](#) - the current head of Planning and Environment at British Land - is looking at consents made alongside or after planning permission which might be a barrier to development and it is presently calling for evidence. If you would be interested in a Network event on this Review please contact me: pipa@rtpi.org.uk

INVITATION TO BID FOR PILOT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDERS SUPPORT

IdEA are looking for more local planning authorities to establish Local Development Orders (LDO). **They need a quick response of an indication of interest by 8th February.** From April, up to £15,000 is available per authority to help meet any of the costs of setting up their LDO. Authorities already with design guidance, character appraisal, conservation area management plan, masterplan, or SPD could act fast and turn their already agreed development guidance into an LDO. Details on applying for the grant, setting up and using Local Development Orders & on the current projects are on their website: <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pageId=114302>

Please get in touch with Gillian Morgan, Principal Consultant, Planning Advisory Service for an informal discussion. gillian.morgan@idea.gov.uk 07717 720682. She is offering a masterclass in putting together a project for those expressing an interest in bidding.

REMINDER: 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 if you have not already done so.

REMINDER: 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. The first Workshops is planned for London on Thursday 11th February & others, including some in conjunction with local authorities across England are in the planning stage. [Please see the LGiU leaflet for details.](#)

REVIEW OF PIPA IN 2009

A review of PIPA activities and initiatives in 2009 is now available via the [PIPA website](#) (bottom left)

Andrew

[Local Democracy](#)↑

[Devolution's impact on low-income people and places](#)

For the tenth anniversary of devolution, this Round series of JRF reports explored trends in social and economic disadvantage as well as policy developments in areas that include housing and neighbourhood regeneration.

[Nimby to Yimby](#)

Conservative Shadow Housing Minister Grant Shapps has pledged to take money away from "NIMBY" Councils in order to fund incentives for local authorities that want housing growth. In an interview in [The Guardian](#) Shapps said that "the tone of the debate has to switch from nimby to yimby – 'Yes, in my back yard'."

[Connecting Communities](#)

An extra £20m has been announced to continue this English programme next year. Connecting Communities works with local authorities to improve communication and engagement with people in those areas. The communities being targeted are those where some people feel, despite their best efforts, they are not being listened to and their views are not being taken on board.

[Regeneration](#)

Radical changes are needed in the way regeneration projects are organised to meet the needs of communities, according to a new report.

[Economic Gap](#)

The Centre for Cities' annual economic index forecasts that robust city economies, such as Brighton, Cambridge and Edinburgh, are likely to grow further, leaving others, like Barnsley, Stoke and Burnley, hit hardest.

[Planning System](#)↑

[Greenbelt](#)

Matt Thomson, RTPI's Acting Director of Policy and Partnerships, was interviewed for a series running throughout this week on Radio 4 on the green belt. Matt was on the first of the Farming Today programmes, setting the scene. You can listen on the BBC iplayer by clicking on [this link](#). The item starts 5 mins in and Matt is on 6-9mins.

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

In welcoming the PPS4 the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) said that it "hopes that this new Planning Policy Statement will provide more proactive and positive opportunities for the development of rural businesses. We stand willing to advise CLG and planning bodies to help local authorities implementing this policy response in an equally positive manner."

[Frozen Fees](#)

Planning Minister John Healey has pledged to freeze planning fees on applications to help developers through the economic recovery.

['Garden grabbing'](#)

Housing and Planning Minister John Healey has published new research that shows inappropriate building on back gardens is not a widespread, national problem and is often linked to Councils' failure to have local policies in place.

Take [this link for the letter to local authorities](#) advising them on how specific garden policies may be considered.

[National Infrastructure](#)

Planning Portal reports that the Planning Officers Society has written to Planning Minister John Healey to ask for specific financial help for Councils involved with proposals for nationally significant infrastructure projects.

[Urban Development Corporations \(UDCs\)](#)

A review of UDCs suggests that strengthened delivery arrangements and more local planning responsibility will drive regeneration in London and Thurrock Thames Gateways and West Northamptonshire.

[Housing](#)↑

[Lowest](#)

Building reports that the number of homes started by housebuilders last year fell to its lowest level since records began, according to NHBC statistics.

[Building for Life](#)

MPs have criticised the HCA for providing funding to bail out twenty-seven projects that scored less than five on the Building for Life benchmark. They warned that the Government risked repeating the mistakes of the post-war housing boom by wasting millions of pounds on poor quality housing.

[Mutual Housing](#)

The Guardian reports that co-op housing's advocates believe its time has come as the main political parties see its potential to promote community responsibility.

[Sustainability](#)↑

[Wind Farm](#)

The first large scale wind farm in the Western Isles has been approved.

- [Prosperity Without Growth: Economics for a Finite Planet](#)

The Guardian reviews this new book by Tim Jackson, Economics Commissioner on the UK Government's Sustainable Development Commission.

[Smarter Moves](#)

The Sustainable Development Commission's report 'Smarter Moves: How Information Communications Technology can promote Sustainable Mobility' looks at how ICT could transform the way we choose to travel, and so make both our travel and our lifestyles more sustainable and could help provide answers to some of our most pressing transport problems.

[Consultations](#)↑

England

[Greater flexibility for planning permissions: Summary of responses](#)

This document comprises a summary of responses to the recent Government consultation on allowing greater flexibility for planning applications. It sets out the Government's formal response to the issues raised in the consultation.

Northern Ireland

[Responses to the public consultation on the proposals for reform of the planning system](#)

264 formal written responses were received to the consultation and these can now be accessed via the link above.

Scotland

[Permitted Development Rights for Domestic Micro-Wind Turbines and Air-Source Heat Pumps Consultation](#)

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 requires Scottish Ministers to consult on these proposals to extend permitted development rights. **Deadline for submissions: Monday 1st February**

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

[How Good Is Your Governance?](#) – Friday 5th February, Edinburgh

This course focuses on knowledge and understanding of the six elements of the Good Governance Standard for Public Service which has become the benchmark standard for ensuring a comprehensive approach to governance in Scotland. Use the link in the title or contact [Mark McLean](#) 0131 551 2100

[The Road to Zero Carbon](#) – Tuesday 9th February, Bristol

This Conference will showcase some of the best low and zero carbon projects, with a strong focus on the steps and measures taken to achieve these reductions in CO2 and the impact it had on the construction process. Use the link in the title or contact [Corina Reay](#) on 01458 254349

FREE CONFERENCE

[Lifetime Neighbourhoods - Vision into reality](#) – Monday 22nd February, London

This LGA Conference will provide lead Members and Chief Officers with responsibility for older people, environment and planning issues and community cohesion with an important opportunity to discuss the current policy framework and hear about current best practice. Use the link in the title or contact events@lga.gov.uk 020 7664 3131

[Conditions, Planning Agreements and Planning Gain](#) – Tuesday 20th April, Edinburgh

This popular workshop concentrates on the basic legal and policy principles and explores some of the up to date front-line issues. Participants will have the opportunity to thrash out some of the theoretical and real-life difficulties of day to day practice in this area with a highly experienced legal adviser. Use the link in the title or contact [Shelagh Pooley](#) 01204 385678

[Websites](#)↑

[Oneplace](#)

This website brings together evaluations of the work of local councils, primary care trusts, police forces and other local statutory service providers.

[Publications](#)↑

[Research into multi-area agreements - Summary of key findings](#)

A summary of key findings from research into the negotiation of multi-area agreements (MAAs).

[New Model Mayors: Democracy, Devolution and Direction](#)

This NLGN publication argues that strong local leadership and vision is needed to take bold decisions and citizens need to be better engaged in choices about what can be realistically delivered, particularly with constraints on public spending likely in the coming years.

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

Andrew Matheson MRTPI

Network Manager

Royal Town Planning Institute

41 Botolph Lane London EC3R 8DL

Direct line: +44(0)1789 763006 Mobile: 07971 375362

Switchboard: +44(0)20 7929 9494

www.rtpi.org.uk

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