



# RTPI

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## PIPA – the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network Bulletin 8<sup>th</sup> February 2010

### Welcome

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](#): [Strengthening](#); [Balance of Power](#); [Happiness](#); [Planning System](#): [Policy Leak?](#); [Permission time](#); [Top prize](#); [Responsive Practices](#); [NSIPs](#); [Shared Housing](#); [Green Belts](#); [Transport](#); [Section 106 Bill](#); [Castle Home](#); [Housing](#): [Budget Cut](#); [Eco-housing](#); [Rural](#); [Double Village](#); [50 yrs](#); [Sustainability](#): [Local Carbon](#); [Eco-towns](#); [Markets](#); [Consultations](#): [England](#); [Events](#); [Websites](#); [Publications](#)

### PIPA News

#### EVENTS 2010

PIPA will be well represented at Network events this week, both at the round-table event on Wednesday with the [Development Management Network](#) and the PPS4 event on Thursday with the [Development Planning Network](#). Both of these events are fully booked and with waiting lists. The latter event was kindly suggested by Cllr Amy Kennedy from Brighton & Hove City Council – so if you have suggestions for useful events, and are perhaps able to offer a local authority venue also, then I would be pleased to hear from you. The end-of-year Networks survey showed that members would be pleased to see more events outside of London, so hopefully we might encourage a few out-of-London volunteers?

#### NEW CONSULTATION

Following a 2009 Consultation about issues arising from concentrations of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs), the Government has published proposals to introduce a general consent to enable local authorities [to make additional HMO and selective licensing schemes without seeking approval from the Secretary of State](#) (as well as an intention to amend the Use Classes Order to restore local planning controls over the conversion of dwellings). The RTPI-CIH Planning for Housing Network is tasked with drafting a response to this Consultation and is therefore looking for authoritative input; contributions please to [housing@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:housing@rtpi.org.uk)

#### REMINDER: 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](mailto:pipa@rtpi.org.uk)

#### SKILLS GAP?

The HCA Academy is undertaking a study that will update the findings of their first in-depth review of skills – Mind the Skills Gap which was launched in September 2007. This market intelligence research will uncover detailed information on current skills gaps by profession and by region so that the differences in skills issues between the regions can be understood. The study includes online surveys of individuals and organisations in the sector [to which you can contribute](#).

#### RTPI NETWORKS

Early analysis of the 2009 End of Year Survey (our thanks to all those that took part) indicates that overall the Networks are rated as "very good". Members regard the Network e-bulletins as the most useful aspect of their Network membership, followed by Network events.

#### NETWORK OF THE MONTH: FEBRUARY

[The RTPI/TPS Transport Planning Network](#) (TPN) is a member-driven forum to put people with an interest in transport planning in touch with one another, share advice, information and examples of good practice.

#### REMINDER: 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](#)↑

### [Local Strengthening](#)

Publishing the Government's response to its Strengthening Local Democracy consultation (see also [Consultations](#) below), Communities Minister John Denham said the Government had moved to quickly put in place ambitious reforms that enable Councils to further protect and improve public services in a tighter financial climate.

### [Balance of Power](#)

A report of the final Government Response to the Select Committee Report into The Balance of Power: Central and Local Government.

### [The State of Happiness](#)

This new report from the [Young Foundation](#) and the [Improvement and Development Agency \(IDeA\)](#) brings together four years of groundbreaking work based on in-depth pilots - from teaching resilience to children in schools to promoting neighbourliness - with three Councils in very different areas of the country: Manchester, Herefordshire and South Tyneside.

## [Planning System](#)↑

### [Policy leak?](#)

According to a leak reported in the Sunday Times, Conservative proposals contained in a Green Paper due to be published this month, would put a brake on out-of-town development and protect town centres.

### [Permission Time](#)

Social homes and 'prestige' residential schemes tend to go through development control faster than other residential proposals on major English housing sites, according to a study commissioned from Reading University by the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit (NHPAU). The researchers also found that the development control process takes longer in more affluent localities and where there are hung Councils.

### [Top planning prize](#)

The ground-breaking city-centre regeneration project, Belfast's Victoria Square, has been awarded the Silver Jubilee Cup, the UK's top planning prize, in a ceremony celebrating the best planning projects across the UK and Ireland.

### [Responsive Planning Practices for Changing Economic Times](#)

This series of practice notes for planning in the economic downturn has been launched by the Advisory Team for Large Applications (ATLAS) and is aimed at local authorities and public or private sector partners involved with stalled projects.

### [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects \(NSIPs\)](#)

Government guidance on how applications for development consent for NSIPs are to be examined by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC). And Sir Michael Pitt, Chairman of the IPC, [has told Parliament](#) that planning authorities dealing with NSIPs need resources to fulfil their role under the new planning regime.

### [Shared Housing](#)

The RTPI has welcomed [Government proposals](#) designed to restrict the growth of houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs) where local authorities wish. The RTPI has previously called for houses in multiple occupancy to be defined as a separate class of housing within the 'Use Classes Order'.

### [Green belts: A greener future](#)

This Report has been published by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and Natural England, as the first major report on the environmental state of green belt land, and the benefits it provides for people and wildlife and the Report says the areas are 'fulfilling their purposes'.

### [Connecting Local Economies - The Transport Implications](#)

This TCPA/LGA Report argues that a coherent national development framework is needed to inform local decision making, with a joined up transport policy as a first step, to make sure opportunities to build better transport links are not missed.

### [Section 106 Bill](#)

Planning reports that a Private Members Bill to boost the provision of affordable housing through section 106 agreements will get its delayed second reading in the House of Commons later this month.

### [Castle Home](#)

Planning hit the headlines last week when a farmer who secretly built a house designed like a castle and lived in it for four years while it was hidden behind bales of straw has lost a High Court bid to block its demolition.

## [Housing](#)↑ [Budget Cut](#)

Inside Housing reports that the Scottish Government plans to slash its housing and regeneration budget by nearly £200m.

## [Eco-housing](#)

The Government has announced a £60m funding package to build over 600 new homes including 'eco-show homes' as well as community, transport and green infrastructure projects. [The TCPA](#) has welcomed the funding.

## [Rural Housing](#)

The National Housing Federation has warned that the number of pensioners living in rural England will increase by nearly one million over the next decade – but communities will struggle to support the ageing population boom unless more affordable homes are built for families and younger people.

## [Double Village?](#)

Approval is being sought for proposals which could more than double the population of a Borders village Newtown St Boswells. The current population of the village - where Scottish Borders Council has its headquarters - stands at about 1,200.

## [The Last 50 Years](#)

As a new decade gets under way, the Halifax Bank has looked back over the past half century to plot key trends in the UK housing market. Amongst the headlines is the fact that house prices recorded their biggest increase in the latest decade with a real rise of 62% during the 2000s.

## [Sustainability](#)↑

### [Councils to test new local carbon frameworks](#)

Communities Secretary John Denham has announced the nine pioneering local authorities that will work with Government to develop an ambitious programme of action to tackle climate change.

## [Eco-towns](#)

The TCPA has published the eleventh and final Worksheet in the Eco-town Worksheet series, sponsored by Government. The new Delivery Worksheet 'ensuring eco-towns are delivered' provides background information and guidance that will assist those involved in eco-town delivery.

## [Local Markets](#)

Markets Minister Rosie Winterton congratulated the winners of the 2010 Market of the Year Awards saying that they demonstrated how traditional markets could thrive in the 21st century, playing a crucial role in bringing town centres to life.

## [Consultations](#)↑

### [England](#)

#### [General consents for licensing schemes under Parts 2 and 3 of the Housing Act 2004](#)

This paper seeks views on a general consent to enable local authorities to introduce additional HMO and selective licensing schemes without seeking approval from the Secretary of State. **Deadline for submissions: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

#### [Economic prosperity boards and combined authorities: draft statutory guidance](#)

This draft guidance sets out the main purpose of economic prosperity boards and combined authorities and the process for establishing such a body. **Deadline for submissions: Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April**

#### [Planning Act 2008: examination procedures for nationally significant infrastructure - Summary of responses](#)

This also sets out the Government's response to the points raised during consultation and any changes made to the secondary legislation and guidance.

#### [Houses in multiple occupation and possible planning responses: Summary of Responses](#)

A summary of responses to the 2009 Government consultation on three options for addressing the impact of high concentrations of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs).

#### [Strengthening Local Democracy: Summary of responses](#)

This is a summary of responses to 2009 consultation, including the Government response. There is also a [Strengthening Local Democracy Focus Group Study](#) with results from focus group research undertaken in response to the Strengthening Local Democracy consultation.

## [Events](#)↑

### [Remaking Urban Neighbourhoods](#) - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February, Glasgow

This course provides an introduction to and overview of current debates and policies in neighbourhood renewal, looking at theory and practice about neighbourhood decline and renewal, and examining specific policy areas including neighbourhood services, housing, economic development and employment. Use the link in the title or contact [Fiona Wilson](#) 0141 330 5493

## **FREE EVENT**

### **[Viability, affordability and an uncertain market](#) – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 10am to 1pm, Taunton**

This ROOM@RTPI SW event will include the above presentation from Lyn Cousins of Three Dragons (LC) Ltd as well as a presentation from Jenny Cheshier of English Heritage on Enabling Development and the Conservation of Heritage Assets. To book contact [Helen Clarke 01823 250822](mailto:Helen.Clarke@rtpi.org.uk)

## **FREE CONFERENCE**

### **[Lifetime Neighbourhoods - Vision into reality](#) – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:events@lga.gov.uk) 020 7664 3131

### **[Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and the IPC Conference](#) – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February, London**

This timely RTPI Conference brings together representatives of all those groups and interests who are involved in this new and important process to discuss its operation, to map out its effects and to advise on the best ways for you to get involved. Use the link in the title or phone [0845 082 1171](tel:08450821171)

### **[Today's Legacy and Historic Places](#) – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March, London**

The Annual Conference of the Association for Studies in the Conservation of Historic Buildings (ASCHAB). Use the link in the title or contact [John Adams 020 7720 4764](mailto:John.Adams@rtpi.org.uk)

### **[Building for the Future: Sustainability in the Built Environment](#) - Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March, London**

This Conference brings together topic field experts and allows delegates to gain a key insight into the future of sustainable construction. Use the link in the title or contact [enquiries@insidegovernment.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@insidegovernment.co.uk) 0845 666 0664

## **[Websites](#)<sup>↑</sup>**

### **[Future Communities consortium](#)**

The Young Foundation has launched this new “Never Again” resource, bringing together national bodies and local areas, to find ways in which new housing settlements can work in the long term as flourishing communities, avoiding the mistakes that were too often made in the past.

## **[Publications](#)<sup>↑</sup>**

### **[Why do neighbourhoods stay poor?](#)**

Carried out by the Centre for Housing and Planning Research at Cambridge University, this study identifies the key factors which have undermined the ability of these neighbourhoods to prosper – from the role of economic restructuring, housing policy, international migration and internal mobility.

### **[Land Use Change Statistics \(England\) 2008 - provisional estimates \(January 2010\)](#)**

Statistics in this release present provisional figures on Land Use Change in England, including dwellings built on previously-developed ('brownfield') land.

### **[Housing and Planning Key Facts - February 2010](#)**

This quick reference leaflet is published quarterly and contains a snapshot of the main housing and planning data.

**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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