



RTPI

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PIPA – the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network Bulletin 25th February 2010

Welcome

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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](#): [Rural Support](#); [Strengthened Scrutiny](#); [Village Greens](#); [Unitaries](#); [Planning System](#): [Regional Strategies](#); [Planning Agreements](#); [Community Infrastructure](#); [National Policies 1](#); [National Policies 2](#); [Legal Challenge](#); [Censured](#); [Planning Awards](#); [MyPlace Awards](#); [Housing](#): [Land](#); [Rural](#); [Eco](#); [Affordability](#); [Evaluation](#); [Ageing](#); [Travellers](#); [Sustainability](#): [Infrastructure](#); [Lifetime Neighbourhoods](#); [Test & Try](#); [Futures](#); [Consultations](#): [England](#); [Wales](#); [Events](#); [Websites](#); [Publications](#)

PIPA News

CONSERVATIVE PLANNING GREEN PAPER

Further to my [email briefing](#) sent earlier this week the following were some additional reactions:

[Inside Housing](#) headlined "Tory plans 'threaten affordable housing'" (reporting on the Labour reaction)

[The Telegraph](#) notes "the Tory Shadow Secretary of State for Communities, said the new plans would make it easier for new developments to be approved, and give residents a new incentive to consent".

[The Guardian](#) notes: "Cameron's inner circle regard yesterday's Green Paper as a highly significant element in devolving powers to local communities. In a key proposal, modelled on a scheme in Concord, Massachusetts, a new system of local plans would see every household invited to neighbourhood meetings to discuss the development of their area. The local plan, in which a village could decree that houses would have to be built with thatched roofs, would be posted on the internet and developers would have to consult it before they submit their plans".

GYPSIES & TRAVELLERS

As previously noted, 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. The LGiU can bring the Workshops to you or local authorities could get together to have a session convenient to them all. [Please see the new LGiU leaflet for fuller details.](#)

NETWORKS EVENTS

The RTPI-CIH Planning for Housing Network offers you this event:

[Rethinking the UK housing system for the twenty-first century](#) - Thursday 22nd April, Leicester

The Building & Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) launched a Report last October: '[The Future of Housing: Rethinking the UK housing system for the twenty-first century](#)'. It summarises the discussions of a Consultation event that brought together experienced practitioners and academics from different housing-related disciplines and experience from Continental Europe and North America. BSHF will host this Network Member event to outline and discuss the findings from the Report.

PPS4: Planning for Prosperous Economies

You can now see the two great Presentations from this event in the Members' Area of the [PIPA webpages](#) under Resources.

PENFOLD REVIEW

The RTPI has now made a submission to [this Review, headed by Adrian Penfold](#) - the current head of Planning and Environment at British Land – which is looking at consents made alongside or after planning permission which might be a barrier to development. You can read the submission via [this link](#).

Andrew

[Local Democracy](#)↑

[Rural Support](#)

36 rural Councils across England are to be supported with £1m of cash and expert support - funded by Communities and Local Government (CLG) and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) - to help them design and plan thousands of new homes. [The Homes and Communities Agency](#) (HCA), said: "We welcome today's [Rural Masterplanning Fund](#) announcement; as the first time that rural councils have received this kind of tailored funding to help them develop places their local residents want, it's a hugely significant move towards helping provide a longer-term and much-needed boost to the well-being of rural communities across the country."

[Strengthened Scrutiny](#)

Under a Private Members Bill, backed by the Government, Councils will have strengthened powers to legally compel organisations to attend Council scrutiny hearings in order to investigate issues, get answers and make recommendations.

[Village Greens](#)

The National Housing Federation (NHF) are demanding reform of "Victorian 'village green' law" that "NIMBYs are using to block any attempts to build new homes in their village." The situation has become so desperate for High Peak DC that it has enlisted the help of MP Tom Levitt who has pushed for change in the law to prevent the tactic being used elsewhere.

[Unitary authorities](#)

Local Government Minister Rosie Winterton has announced the Government's final decisions on unitary proposals for Exeter, Norwich, Ipswich, Norfolk, Devon and Suffolk.

[Planning System](#)↑

[Regional Strategies](#)

The Government has published a policy framework for the preparation of Regional Strategies under the provisions of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act. This is jointly produced by Communities and Local Government (CLG) and the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and sets out the main expectations on their form, content implementation and monitoring. The policy statement replaces PPS 11: Regional Spatial Strategies.

[Scottish Planning Circular 1/2010: Planning Agreements](#)

This Circular provides current guidance on the processes for determining the need for, and negotiation of, planning agreements.

[Community Infrastructure](#)

The RTPI has welcomed the Government's announcement of the new Community Infrastructure Levy regulations, following a consultation in which the Institute pointed out flaws with the proposals. [The regulations](#) allow Councils to potentially raise an extra £700m a year, where Councils choose to use the new power. [A 'unique consortium'](#) comprising key public and private sector organisations also welcomed the amended CIL regulations as a "pragmatic and flexible way forward".

[National Planning Policy Statements](#)

The RTPI has described the Draft Policy Statements on both [Ports](#) and [Energy](#) as 'not fit for purpose'.

[Scottish Government's policy on nationally important land use planning matters](#)

"The Scottish Government believes that a properly functioning planning system is essential to achieving its central purpose of increasing sustainable economic growth. The way in which the planning system is structured and operated should be directed towards that purpose and to supporting the Scottish Government's five strategic objectives and fifteen national outcomes."

[Legal Challenge](#)

Planning Portal reports that Hertfordshire CC has decided to launch legal proceedings against the Secretary of State's decision to approve planning permission for the development of land west of Stevenage, part of which is in the Green Belt.

[Censured](#)

Planning Portal reports that Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council has been heavily censured by the Local Government Ombudsman over the way it dealt with proposals to demolish a listed Victorian schoolroom and build new houses on the site in a conservation area.

[Planning Awards 2010](#)

Entries for the 2010 Awards are now invited with a closing date of **Monday 12th April**.

[Scottish Civic Trust's My Place Awards](#)

These aim to celebrate quality developments as nominated by local civic organisations. In this, its first year, a Scottish Civic Trust My Place Award will be made to a winning project that contributes positively to local place-making.

[Housing](#) ↑ [Land](#)

Housing and Planning Minister John Healey has announced the first three Government sites to be handed over for housebuilding under the Public Land Initiative. Under the scheme, the Government takes out the upfront costs and risks involved in site purchase and preparation as contractors pay for the land only once the completed homes are sold.

[Rural Housing](#)

The RTPI has now responded to the CLG Consultation on '[Guidance for local authorities on incentivising landowners to bring forward additional land for rural affordable housing on rural exception sites](#)'. The [Country Land & Business Association](#) has also made public its submission.

[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.

[Affordability](#)

The National Housing & Planning Advisory Unit (NHPAU) has released three new affordability indicators to give a fuller picture of the challenges people face getting on the housing ladder and staying there and the affordability of renting.

[Evaluating requirements](#)

NHPAU has also released a new study on Evaluating Requirements for Market and Affordable Housing by Professor Steve Wilcox of York University and Professor Glen Bramley of Heriot-Watt University.

[Ageing](#)

The Audit Commission report 'Under Pressure' advises all Councils to update their sustainable community strategy, medium-term financial plans and service strategies to prepare for the impact of an ageing population.

[Traveller Sites](#)

English public bodies who wish to provide social rented sites for Gypsies and Travellers, New Age Travellers and Travelling Show People can now bid for a share of £32million funding from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

[Sustainability](#) ↑

[Community Infrastructure](#)

A report on community infrastructure produced by the UK Green Building Council (UK-GBC) and the Zero Carbon Hub says that Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) could have a key role in the delivery of community-scale heating, water harvesting, waste disposal and waste re-use.

[Lifetime Neighbourhoods](#)

Speaking at a LGA event Parliamentary Under Secretary Lord McKenzie of Luton said: "In our current climate, implementing [Lifetime Neighbourhoods](#) and communities which provide the best possible chance of health, well-being, and social, economic and civic engagement, and allow us all to pursue our own ambitions for a high quality of life, has to be a priority."

[Test & Try](#)

Inside Housing reports that utility company Scottish and Southern Energy is to build its own small development of zero carbon homes to assess what they are like to live in.

[Sustainable futures](#)

This is one of the several Award categories in the new Homes & Communities Awards – the closing date for submissions is **Friday 30th April**

[Consultations](#) ↑

[England](#)

[Proposed revisions to the Lifetime Homes Criteria](#)

The revisions are the result of work by the Lifetime Homes Technical Advisory Group, which comprised a range of practitioners involved in housing design, housing development, access consultancy and provision of adaptations.

Deadline for responses Monday 15th March

If you would like to contribute to an RTPI response to this consultation please send your comments to housing@rtpi.org.uk before the end of February.

[Natural England's Draft Position on Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture](#)

This consultation seeks views on Natural England's draft position on marine fisheries and aquaculture issues including commerce, food production, recreation, ecosystems and industry. **Deadline for responses Monday 19th April**

Wales

[The Economic Renewal Programme](#)

This is a major review of the approach to economic development and how the Welsh Assembly Government can position the Welsh economy for the future. **Deadline for responses Tuesday 11th May**

Events↑

[Planning for New Economic Realities](#) – Tuesday 23rd March, Nottingham

This is a half day seminar from RTPI East Midlands looking at current and future issues relating to economic development in the East Midlands following the recent publication of PPS4. The seminar will focus on the necessary improvements to planning practices and exemplar projects. Use the link in the title or phone Sue Slack [07870 276454](tel:07870276454)

[Community Infrastructure Levy Conference](#) – Thursday 25th March, London

A key planning debate in recent years has focused on the way in which local planning authorities plan for and fund infrastructure to support development. This RTPI Conference will consider the latest developments in this still changing debate. It will identify the outcomes of research, focus on the different views of those involved and look at what is likely to be delivered in the future. Use the link in the title or phone [0845 082 1171](tel:08450821171)

[PPS4, Retail & Town Centres Update](#) – Tuesday 30th March, Lichfield

This RTPI West Midlands Region seminar will include the main policies in PPS 4 Planning for Prosperous Economies and practice guidance published to assist implementation of PPS 4 policies and use Lichfield City as a case study. Use the link in the title or phone Sue Griffith-Jones [0121 709 1599](tel:01217091599)

[Heritage](#) – Tuesday 13th April, Liverpool

This RTPI NW update on the evolving heritage context of the emerging PPS15. The event will explore current themes (and good practice) such as how heritage planning responds to the climate change imperative, how it contributes to regeneration, and how it meets the challenge of encouraging creative design in historic environments. Use the link in the title or phone Beverley Watson [0161 969 3815](tel:01619693815)

[Local Development Frameworks Conference](#) – Tuesday 20th April, London

This RTPI Conferences event aims to update and complement earlier LDF conferences by bringing together speakers who understand the needs of authorities, stakeholders and local communities. You will explore the continuing evolution of local development planning and look forward to the possibility of further change. There will be lots of practical examples of success. Use the link in the title or phone [0845 082 1171](tel:08450821171)

HAVE YOU BOOKED YET FOR THE 2010 PLANNING CONVENTION?

There is a [dedicated website](#) showing what is on offer from Monday 28th to Wednesday 30th June in London.

Websites↑

Join the Debate

The HCA Academy is running [an on-line debate](#) - Engaging Communities, Empowering People: How do we help citizens to become problem solvers? - and they would like to hear your views. Amongst the questions they would like to address are: *Does empowerment mean different things to different people? How does empowerment work in practice?*

Publications↑

[What works in neighbourhood-level regeneration?](#)

This report examines the views of key stakeholders in eight New Deal for Communities (NDC) areas.

[Interventions in housing and the physical environment in deprived neighbourhoods](#)

This report reviews the activities undertaken by the New Deal for the Communities (NDC) Partnerships from the start of the programme in 1999 until early 2009.

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

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