



RTPI

mediation of space · making of place

PIPA – the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network Bulletin 11th March 2010

Welcome, especially to new Members joining from our recent mailing

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: [Trust](#); [Northern Ireland](#); [CLG](#); **Planning System:** [PPS25 Supplement](#); [High Speed](#); [Green Paper](#); [Designing Streets](#); [Less Tape](#); [Heritage](#); [Design](#); [Planners](#); **Housing:** [Affordable Supported](#); [Mix](#); [New Communities](#); **Sustainability:** [Climate](#); [Low Carbon](#); [Wind Farm](#); [Guidelines](#); [Greener](#); [Code](#); [Renewal](#); [New Deal](#); [Foundation](#); [Awards](#); **Consultations:** [England](#); [Northern Ireland](#); **Events**; **Websites**; **Publications**

PIPA News

SPECIAL REQUEST:

RTPI Planning Aid is seeking examples of good community engagement in small – medium sized development projects for use in a Good Practice Guide that will be launched at the Planning Convention in June 2010. Very brief submissions are required **by Friday 12th March**. To make a submission please [request the simple information template from me](#).

TRUSTEE OPPORTUNITY

[The Glass-House](#), an organisation championing community-led design - is [looking for Trustees to be part of its Board](#) and contribute to its cause. Trustees should have experience of financial management, links with the professions concerned with the physical environment and/or experience in supporting grass roots initiatives.

REMINDER: 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](#).

REMINDER: ENTRIES FOR THE 2010 PLANNING AWARDS ARE NOW OPEN

[Send in your entries](#) by Monday 12th April.

GEORGE PEPLER INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Are you under the age of 30, enjoy travel and would like to go abroad this Summer to study some particular aspect of spatial planning? Then why not [apply for this Award](#)? Candidates need to provide a statement describing their chosen study together with a brief itinerary. The successful candidate will be awarded a sum of £1,500 which will be paid in two instalments, two-thirds being paid before the visit and the balance after the visit and on submission of a report. The Award is not confined to members or students of the RTPI. Details of previous winners and an application form can be found on the [website](#) or for further information please [email](#). **Closing date: Monday 26th April.**

NETWORK OF THE MONTH: MARCH

The RTPI Urban Design Network promotes the importance of urban design in spatial planning. It provides a forum to put people with an interest in urban design in touch with one another, share advice, information and examples of good practice. It has four special Interest Groups looking at: Heritage, Quality and Density, Creating Safer Places, Education and Skills.

Andrew

[Local Democracy](#) ↑

[Trust in Democracy](#)

London Councils has put together this publication featuring several Councillor-led initiatives for empowering local people to get involved in local decision-making and build confidence in their ability to influence and improve their areas.

[Northern Ireland](#)

Northern Ireland's Environment Minister Edwin Poots has confirmed that the Northern Ireland Executive has approved measures to bring about the most sweeping reform of its planning system for more than 30 years. Meanwhile, the Planning Service in Northern Ireland celebrates their [Commendation in the RTPI's National Planning Awards](#) for the recently introduced 'Streamlined Consultation Scheme' which has sped up the planning process for a whole range of planning applications.

[Communities and Local Government](#)

The Telegraph reports that the CLG Select Committee has warned that the CLG faces a 'significant hole' in its spending plans unless it speeds up efficiency efforts. It said it would be 'extremely challenging' to find the £887m of savings demanded by 2011 by the Treasury.

[Planning System](#) ↑

[Planning Policy Statement 25 Supplement: Development and Coastal Change](#)

This sets out a planning framework for the continuing economic and social viability of coastal communities. There is also an accompanying [Practice Guide](#).

[High Speed Line](#)

Planning reports that the new high speed rail route would cross parts of the Chilterns AONB where various options are being explored to lessen any environmental impact.

[Conservative Green Paper](#)

Planning Resource reports that at a 'Future of Planning' Conference Shadow Planning Minister Bob Neill, MP stated that the purpose of the "[Open Source](#)" Green Paper was to have a "conversation about how we can take this forward in practice." He said changes to proposals to scrap the Infrastructure Planning Commission, the role of the Planning Inspectorate in examining local plans and the incentives system are ruled out but the party is open to other ideas. [John Healey, Planning & Housing Minister](#), criticised the Green Paper proposals to incentivise housing development as 'naïve' and a 'recipe for chaos' at a Home Builders Federation question time event.

[Designing Streets: A Policy Statement for Scotland](#)

This Statement marks a change in the emphasis of guidance on street design towards place-making and away from a system focused upon the dominance of motor vehicles.

[Less Red Tape](#)

New measures that enable businesses and homeowners to extend existing planning permissions without the expense and red tape of a new planning application have now been approved by Parliament.

[Heritage](#)

Welsh Assembly Members have said that buildings in Wales with a 'social or cultural significance' should have new laws to help campaigners protect them.

[Design](#)

CABE's 'Planning for places: delivering good design through core strategies' aims to help local authorities take a spatial approach to writing their core strategy as part of a local development framework.

[Planners aren't supposed to look like this...](#)

Visiting Croydon, the Observer's Rowan Moore is surprised by the vitality and drive shown by the authority's planning team.

[Housing](#) ↑

[Affordable Supported](#)

Planning Portal reports that Communities Secretary John Denham has upheld an Inspector's recommendation that planning permission for a major new settlement be refused unless a supplementary planning obligation could be completed to deliver the affordable housing on the basis of 30 per cent affordable housing in the first phase and 40 per cent overall. Councillor David Bard, South Cambridgeshire District Council's Portfolio Holder for New Communities, said: "This is a decision of national importance which has implications for all growth areas and reinforces the principle that providing affordable housing should not be compromised during the current economic downturn."

[Type/Size Mix and Density](#)

A new report from the National Housing & Planning Advisory Unit (NHPAU) looks at the 'Implications of Housing Type/Size Mix and Density for the Affordability and Viability of New Housing Supply'.

[New Communities](#)

Developer Places for People is examining the creation of two new communities. Brooklands in Milton Keynes will provide a new 2,500 home community including three new schools, offices, shops and leisure facilities. The Marlborough Park development in Swindon will comprise 616 homes with a small local commercial centre.

[Sustainability](#) ↑

[Climate Change](#)

This research examines the implementation of the Planning Policy Statement (PPS) on Climate Change, particularly through the take up of its policies in regional spatial strategies and local development plan documents, and their application through development control. It also identifies any barriers to effective implementation of the policies in the PPS on Climate Change.

[Low Carbon Zone](#)

Merton is launching the Wandle Valley Low Carbon Zone which is made up of 1,000 properties across 12 streets, including schools, businesses and community groups. Two 'green doctors' have also been recruited to provide free energy saving equipment and advice to homeowners.

[Wind Farm](#)

John Swinney MSP has presented the top prize at the annual Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning to representatives of Scottish Power for their groundbreaking Whitelee Wind Farm – Europe's largest onshore wind farm.

[Guidelines](#)

New guidelines published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) will help regional authorities assess the potential for renewable and low-carbon energy in their area.

[Greener Homes](#)

With around one quarter of UK emissions coming from energy used in homes the Warm Homes, Greener Homes Strategy is aimed at cutting emissions from the UK's homes by 29 per cent by 2020.

[The Code for Sustainable Homes: Case studies - Volume two](#)

[Renewal](#)

The link is to the final report of the national evaluation of the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal which is accompanied by a wide range of supporting research.

[New Deal](#)

The evaluation reports reveal improvements in NDC areas, which each received on average £52 million, on the key areas of health, education, crime, skills and training, housing and the environment, between 2002 and 2008.

[Foundation](#)

Baroness Rosalie Wilkins, in association with Age Concern and Help the Aged, Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR), the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) and Habinteg Housing Association, launched The Foundation for Lifetime Homes and Neighbourhoods.

[Sustainable Housing Awards 2010](#)

The Awards aim to find out who is the cleverest when it comes to energy conservation, reducing waste and environmental best practice. **Closing date for submissions: Friday 21st May.**

[Consultations](#) ↑

England

[New Planning Policy Statement: Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment](#)

Consultation on proposed planning policy on: biodiversity; geological conservation; landscape and soil protection; heritage coastline; open space; sport; recreation; green infrastructure; and floodlighting of sports and recreational facilities.

Deadline for submissions: Tuesday 1st June

[Planning Policy Statement: Planning for a Low Carbon Future in a Changing Climate](#)

This consultation seeks views on the proposal to combine and update existing planning policy on climate change and renewable energy from two documents into one. **Deadline for submissions: Tuesday 1st June**

[Policy on development and coastal change consultation - Summary of responses](#)

[Policy Statement on Regional Strategies Consultation - Summary of responses](#)

Northern Ireland

[Regeneration & Housing Bill](#)

The draft Bill will allow for the transfer of a range of regeneration and housing functions from the Department of the Environment to local government control. **Deadline for responses: Monday 26th April.**

[Events](#)↑

[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:0845 082 1171)

[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:0845 082 1171)

[Regenerating Cities](#) – Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th May, Glasgow

This course examines the transformative potential of the regeneration of 'strategic sites' within cities. A four-day version of this course is also available as above plus 12th & 13th May; this includes a one-day fieldtrip in Central Scotland. Use the link in the title or phone [Fiona Wilson 0141 330 5493](tel:0141 330 5493)

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](#)↑

[Place-making](#)

HCA Knowledge & Skills are recruiting for their free online introductory course to place-making. The 10-week course brings together people from local government, regeneration, housing and the third sector to develop their knowledge about how to create and manage sustainable communities.

[Publications](#)↑

[A new perspective on land use is needed for the 21st century](#)

Drawing on over 35 expert papers, this report sets out how land is used, what it is valued for, the challenges the land system will face and the critical choices for Government.

[Making deprived areas better places to live](#)

This report reviews and synthesises the evidence from the evaluation of the New Deal for Communities Programme associated with the place-related outcomes.

[Financing Social Housing after the Economic Crisis](#)

This Report takes stock of recent trends and innovative practices in social housing finance, as well as thinking about future possibilities for the financial sustainability of the sector. It provides information on social housing financing in Finland, Austria, France, The Netherlands, Italy and Ireland, as well as some cross cutting themes.

[How can we make the housing market more stable for vulnerable households?](#)

Two different perspectives on the kinds of reforms needed to provide long-term, secure housing for the people least able to afford it.

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

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