



imperspective

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The publishing of the draft new PPS on Planning for Prosperous Economies is a timely reminder that the Planner's role is about more than just protecting the environment or seeking to meet housing allocations.

Planning is about balancing environmental, community and economic aspirations. There need not necessarily be any conflict between these objectives; economic growth can provide the income required to address community needs and improve the environment. It cannot be a co-incidence that the most prosperous parts of our region also tend to have the most attractive environments. The draft PPS brings

together all existing economic policy in existing National Policy Statements PPG4, PPS5, PPS6 and PPS7, into one streamlined document. It states that Planners should "adopt a positive and constructive approach towards planning applications for economic development". The role of Planners must therefore be to enable economic development in such a way as to support local communities and enhance the environment.

This seems rather removed from the current approach adopted by many local planning authorities in response to the Planning Delivery Grant, where, if the application isn't quite right, authorities would rather refuse the application under delegated powers within the time limit, than negotiate improvements and risk the danger of the application being determined outside the determination period, especially if it has to go to Committee. Whatever

happened to Planning, and Democracy? As a profession we should be working with Developers to help them shape their economic development proposals to be acceptable to the local community and environment. Particularly at this time of

Recession, Planners need to help local communities understand that new economic development can be a good force for creating new jobs, maintaining existing facilities, and improving their local environment.



TODAY'S AND TOMORROW'S LEADERS – a new award from the president, Martin Willey



It will spotlight and celebrate the achievements of planners in each UK Region and Nation who have shown outstanding leadership qualities or who have already demonstrated the potential for such leadership. The profession is renowned for 'hiding its light under a bushel' - these awards are intended to help increase the profile of planners and show how important they are within their communities. At the end of the Presidential year, each of the award winners will be invited to London to a special Today's and Tomorrow's Leaders' meeting.

The planning profession has always faced huge challenges and the current global economic climate is particularly demanding for every planner in whatever sector or specialism they are employed. Today's and Tomorrow's Leaders' Awards is a new initiative established by Martin Willey, RTPI President for 2009.

The awards are open to student, licentiate or chartered members of the RTPI. The Regions and Nations and Young Planners are all encouraged to join in the process to use it as a celebration of all that is excellent about the profession.

Today's and Tomorrow's Leaders' Awards are generously sponsored by Peter Wilbraham and leading legal firm Cobbetts.

Who are the awards for? There are two awards that individuals can be nominated for Today's Leader or Tomorrow's Leader. The nomination criteria for the awards are:

Today's Leader
A chartered planner with more than 5 years of chartered membership

who can demonstrate an outstanding contribution to leadership in the field of planning. Examples of possible nominations: A planner who has led an innovative or important project or development scheme; an academic who has completed a ground breaking piece of research or has successfully lead/ established/grown a planning school; a leader in a planning department improving efficiency and service delivery; a private or public practitioner leading good practice in planning; a planner leading engagement with the profession and other stakeholders. This list is by no means exhaustive and is intended to inspire; you may have your own examples of outstanding leadership in this category.

Tomorrow's Leader
A student, licentiate planner or a planner with up to 5 years of chartered membership who can demonstrate the potential to be an outstanding leader in the future in the field of planning. Examples of possible candidates: A student leading a substantial/complex group project; a student actively engaging with the community on a planning project; a planner showing innovation and development; a student or planner engaging more widely with the profession and other stakeholders, a student or planner who has developed a new initiative/ set up a project/run a conference. This list is by no means exhaustive and is intended to inspire; you may have

your own examples of outstanding leadership in this category.

What happens to the winners?
The winners of each category in each Region or Nation will be presented with an award certificate by the President at the Awards Evening and AGM, to be held this year at Denbies Vineyard, Dorking, and also invited to the Today's Leaders, Tomorrow's Leader's meeting towards the end of the Presidential year in London.

To enter yourself, or nominate a colleague, please email carol.dawson@rtpi.org.uk for details



Written by RTPI South East Region and produced by Savills



Young planner Charlie Collins, from Savills Planning and Regeneration, in Southampton, (far right) was nominated by RTPI President Martin Willey to represent the Commonwealth Association of Planners, at a special celebration at Buckingham Palace, where he was presented to the Queen. Can you think of a good caption for the photo? Send it to carol.dawson@rtpi.org.uk. The best ones will appear in the next issue...



REGIONAL AWARDS 2009

This year brings forward another fascinating crop of entries. The 13 entries vary widely from spatial and core strategy documents to completed schemes in the form of countryside management, retirement homes and sustainable development. The Panel will be visiting these schemes and interviewing entrants over the summer period – it's a hard job but someone has to do it! The Panel provides excellent CPD and so for anyone interested in joining us, please contact me. **Clare Wright, Chair. 01634 401166 clare.wright@kentarchitecture.co.uk**

CPD EVENTS

Successful events held so far this year include Planning for Administrators, Rural Planning, Environmental Impact Assessments, an APC event, Leisure Development and Public Art, and a Biodiversity Seminar.

All were well-attended, and from feedback, people felt that they represented excellent value for money in the present economic climate. There is a lot more to come before the end of the year – **Planning for Climate Change – Sustainable Design & Construction** (09/07/09, Brighton, contact patrick.griffin@horsham.gov.uk), **Network event on S106** (29/07/09, Tunbridge Wells, contact rhian.brimble@rtpi.org.uk),

Formal Dinner & Ball (18/09/09, Winchester, contact carol.dawson@rtpi.org.uk), **Planning Enforcement** - Joint event with the National Association for Planning Enforcement - This event is aimed at enforcement officers, and those in both public and private practice who are involved in development management and who wish to learn more about enforcement, especially those who find they are getting more involved

in enforcement issues (29/09/09, Maidenhead, contact carol.dawson@rtpi.org.uk) **David Fryer Memorial Lecture** to be given by Dr Richard Simmons of CABE (05/11/09, Oxford, contact carol.dawson@rtpi.org.uk) and the **South East Regional Awards** to be presented by the President, Martin Willey (25/11/09, Denbies Vineyard Surrey, contact carol.dawson@rtpi.org.uk) There will be other events, including the Annual Legal Update,

and further details will be circulated as dates are settled. Make sure you get dates in your diary, and book early for events - numbers at some venues are limited and several events this year have been fully booked.

If you have any questions about events (attending or organising!) please contact carol.dawson@rtpi.org.uk

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