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NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL TOWN PLANNING INSTITUTE SOUTH EAST • OCTOBER 2009

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Martin Taylor, Chair
RTPI South East

From the chair

For the second year of my chairmanship of the South East Region, again I felt it would be useful to have a clear idea of objectives. These were to maintain the Continuous Professional Development Programme, to continue to support the growth of the Young Planners' Networks, to support unemployed planners in getting back to work, to maintain communication with members, and to spread the word on planning for Tourism and Leisure.

Much effort has been put into providing a full and varied CPD programme this year, and with a view to the economic times, prices have been reduced accordingly.

Sponsorship has proved difficult in the current climate, but free venues have been given, and an increase in the numbers attending has enabled us to keep delegate rates low. Attendances rose by around 25%, showing that members have appreciated the value of low-cost CPD events. Several of the events have been fully subscribed, emphasising the importance of booking early.

The Region hopes to continue to build on this programme, recognising the importance of CPD for all its members. After a very successful Awards evening towards the end of last year, we did try the idea of a Ball in conjunction with the Young Planners, but unfortunately this was cancelled because of poor ticket sales. Perhaps when the climate improves, we will try again. The David Fryer Memorial Lecture, to be given this year by Dr Richard Simmons of CABE, is always very well attended, and provides an

opportunity for a social evening as well as a lively and interesting lecture. There will be another excellent chance for social networking at the Awards Evening, taking place at Denbies Wine Estate in Surrey.

Young Planners' Network – there have been five very successful and well-attended events run by the South Coast Young Planners, and a new network was started in Kent. The Region will continue to support the enthusiastic work of these networks. I am pleased to see that the new MSc in Town Planning at Brighton University now has provisional accreditation, providing more places to train the young planners of the future.

Unemployment arising from the recession appears to have hit younger planners the hardest. The young planners' networks have therefore provided a vital link for unemployed planners to stay in touch with the planning market, find out about job opportunities 'on the grape vine', continue with their APC and improve their professional planning knowledge and skills. (for support and information please go to

www.rtpi.org.uk/member_services/piwp/)

Communication with members has improved dramatically over the last two years, and again three issues of 'In Perspective' have been produced. The e-bulletin is now firmly established, with 12 issues planned before the end of the year. These have proved particularly effective in giving members good advanced notice of CPD events.

Spreading the word on planning for tourism and leisure was upheld by the Young Planners at their event on 'Planning for Leisure Schemes in Town Centres'. Achieving a work/life balance is never easy, particularly in hard times, but creating communities with good facilities must help! The two day study tour of Martin Willey, this year's President, included a trip to the New Forest to see how tourism impacts on sensitive environmental sites, and how it can be effectively managed for the benefit of all. Martin also visited South Oxfordshire, the town of Reading, and its University, where he was able to talk to lecturing staff and new planning

students. As Chair of the South East region, I have also been asked to organise and chair the national RTPI Tourism and Leisure Workshop in November.

Overall, I feel that it has been a good year for the Region, and committee members and volunteers have shown the enthusiasm which is so essential to taking us forward to 2010. If you would like to join the Regional Activities Committee of RTPI South East, please contact southeast@rtpi.org.uk. The commitment amounts to attending four meetings per year (usually in London in late afternoon) and being involved in the provision of service to members.

Martin Taylor
Chair, RTPI South East

AGM Denbies Wine Estate, Dorking. Please note that the papers for the AGM are available at www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_south_east/. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy, please contact **Carol Dawson on 01304 823494 or email carol.dawson@rtpi.org.uk**

CPD Events

The autumn season of events got started with a sold-out event on Enforcement in Maidenhead at the end of September. Other perennial favourites coming up this autumn include the Legal Update and the David Fryer Memorial Lecture. The annual Legal Update (22nd October) will be hosted again this year by Landmark Chambers, Fleet Street, London.

A regeneration event is also being considered for later this year or early next, in Reading. Details will be available through the e-bulletin.

This year's David Fryer Memorial Lecture on 5th November, in Oxford, will be given by Dr Richard Simmons, Chief Executive of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment. The lecture will take place at 6.30pm. Earlier in the day, at a separate lunchtime event also in Oxford, Richard

Summers (junior Vice-President of the RTPI) and Chris Shepley (former Chief Planning Inspector and well known commentator on planning matters) will be speaking on 'Recession, Recovery and the future of Regional Planning'.

To round the year off, the South East Regional Awards Evening will be held on 25th November at Dorking, with special guest RTPI President Martin Willey. This annual event offers a great opportunity to celebrate the best of

planning in the South East and to meet with those producing the work. Come along, and be inspired to enter a project you have worked on, for next year's awards.

To book for all these events, please email carol.dawson@rtpi.org.uk

Looking to next year, we already have a number of CPD events in production, covering themes from Development Management to the IPC, from politicians in planning to planning for

administrators. Also likely to feature are coastal planning, rural planning, and possibly green infrastructure and heritage assets. And all this, so far, in just the first half of 2010!

If you have an idea for an event then please don't keep it to yourself! We can help organise events on almost any theme, so please send your ideas to southeast@rtpi.org.uk

Miles Thompson
CPD Co-ordinator

2009 REGIONAL PLANNING AWARDS

There has been an excellent crop of entries for the awards again this year. I am delighted with both the quality of the entries, and the interest and support from award sponsors.

The four corners of the south east (with some poetic license here!) have yielded 13 entries in the fields of sustainable residential new build and office refurbishment, regeneration and development of heritage assets, economic development strategies, supplementary planning studies and evidence based references, new transforming shared highway surfaces, through to premier education establishments and sporting facilities.

The entries all have a story to tell, indicate a benchmark of quality across the region, and for us, as practitioners, impart some lessons for our work. The Panel has been busy over the summer on pre-selection visits, so do come along on 25th November to hear about the schemes and celebrate the final results of the 2009 Regional Planning Awards.

Clare Wright
Chair, Awards Panel

TODAY'S LEADERS AWARD

RTPI South East is pleased to announce that we have two entries for this award.

The closing date for voting is Tuesday 2nd November. Just go to www.rtpi.org.uk/item/3002&ap=1

to vote for your preferred candidate!

South East Regional Representative on General Assembly

My two year stint representing the Region on the RTPI's General Assembly will end shortly and it's time for someone else to take this exciting and hugely important baton.

At a time when national politics could change direction, public spending is under enormous pressure and increasing numbers of planners are fighting for decreasing numbers of jobs, there could not be a more interesting time to join the GA.

You'll debate planning policy and practice, and contribute to determining RTPI policy and influencing Government. You'll meet a huge range of people with diverse backgrounds representing the the current breadth of the planning profession.

You can give something back to your profession, learn something new and create wider networks for career or business advancement. You'll represent more than 3000 Chartered Town Planners in the South East.

Why not stand for election for one of our two representatives?
Make a difference and contact southeast@rtpi.org.uk

Graham Stallwood
RTPI SE Representative
on GA 2008/09

CAPTION COMPETITION - CHARLIE COLLINS MEETS HRH QUEEN ELIZABETH II



Thank you to all those who submitted entries – here is a selection of the best.

"MY SON COULD MAKE A BETTER FIST OF IT THAN YOU LOT – EDWARD, I MEAN."

"OH, DO I NEED PERMISSION FOR THAT FLAG?"

"CHELSEA BARRACKS? DON'T ASK ME, PRINCE CHARLES WENT THAT WAY."

"MR COLLINS... YOU MAY THINK THAT WAS AMUSING, WE DO NOT. PLEASE LEAVE."

"WE ARE GETTING CONCERNED ABOUT OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT. DO YOU THINK ONE WOULD GET PERMISSION FOR A WIND TURBINE ON THE ROOF OF ONE'S PALACE?"

THINKS...IF ONLY I HAD SOME NEW WHITE GLASSES SHE MIGHT NOTICE ME.

"OH, YOU MEAN THAT CHARLIE. HAS HE ALSO BEEN INVOLVED IN THAT VULGAR SCHEME AT CHELSEA BARRACKS?"

"I WILL GET LORD ROGERS TO DESIGN THE NEW EXTENSION, THAT WILL GIVE CHARLES SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT."

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