



Is this the end of Strategic planning as we know it? Yes, Minister!

The planning world has been thrown into a state of confusion by a brief two paragraph letter circulated to local authorities by Eric Pickles, the new Secretary of State for Homes & Communities.

The letter simply warns Councils that Regional Spatial Strategies are to be abandoned and that decision making powers on housing and planning will return to local Council's. It advises that 'a formal announcement will be made soon' and goes on to explain that local planning authorities and the Inspectorate should have regard to the letter as a 'material consideration' in decision making, although no advice is given as to what will be put in its place.

The letter effectively tears up four years of work on the emerging West Midlands RSS which has been through several rounds of consultation, a full public examination and has already been the subject of a Chairman's report. It also casts doubt on the status of other adopted RSS's and those LDF's many of which are now in an advanced stage of preparation or are going through inquiries.

But more seriously, it leaves a complete vacuum in the planning system creating uncertainty and confusion both in the public sector and in private development companies about the future of strategic planning.



Eric Pickles

Without any transitional arrangements it leaves Councils with little alternative but to 'down tools' resulting in a complete paralysis in the development process.

In a separate press release, the Secretary of State has underlined the impact of the new 'local choice' approach by emphasising that from now on 'green belt' Councils in the region will be able to determine their own housing numbers. Coventry, Nuneaton & Bedworth, Worcester, Bromsgrove, Redditch, Newcastle under Lyme, Solihull and Warwick are all cited as places in the West Midlands which will now have freedom to reject the RSS housing figures. Paradoxically, it was Coventry City which previously volunteered to increase its housing provision, over and above the submitted RSS figure, to enable the City to expand.

Conflicting advice is emerging from planning lawyers about the 'weight' which the Secretary of State's letter can have in the process. But as Tripwire went to press, more sober advice emerged from the Inspectorate pointing out that until a formal announcement is made and/or legislation is implemented, there is no change to what constitutes the Development Plan. However, the message is clear, the whole planning process is about to be fundamentally changed.

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Chair's remarks

Given intervening events, it seems more than 2 months since I last provided my Chairman's Report.

Back in April, we were about to host the first RTPI Sub-regional Planning Debate in Worcester, with a panel made up from a cross section of local government, private sector and politicians. The timing of the debate, (held in the Worcester Guildhall), just ahead of the general election, provided the perfect opportunity for us to both reflect on previous changes to the planning system and look ahead to anticipate what further alterations might be in store with a change of Government.

The Panel members all felt that the relatively new LDF system had not brought the flexible, streamlined process as promised (no surprise there). Whilst the introduction of spatial planning and development management were seen as 'positives', our plan-making system was seen to have become overly complicated and to a degree, too centralised. However, for all its frailties, you won't be surprised to hear that the view from the panellists and the audience alike was that further wholesale changes to the system would not be particularly welcomed. Rather, at a time when many authorities are starting to get to grips with their Core Strategies it was felt that we should be looking to persevere with the current system, albeit with some alterations, to make the process more manageable – events have since shown this to be wishful thinking!

As well as seeking comment and views on current planning issues, the sub-regional debates are also an opportunity for me to gain an insight into how the planning profession is viewed by both planners and fellow professionals across the Region and importantly to encourage suggestions on what the RTPI can do to help with professional development and generally promote planning. Given that we now face a further review of the planning system and may well be under pressure to justify our contribution as a profession to the 'Big Society' initiative, I believe there is an urgent need for us to reflect upon and be clear about the skills and knowledge that planners possess and can offer.

The panel and audience were therefore asked to consider what strengths planners have and what skills we need to improve upon. It was felt that planners generally can translate the bigger picture to the local level; can engage the public and key partners in the process (whatever that may turn out to be); are particularly good at drawing together diverse views to reach a balanced decision; will seek to underpin any decision making with a clear evidence base; and can manage a wide range of projects. I firmly believe that these are skills we must promote to help firstly, shape the make up of the emerging new system, but secondly, to help us deliver it once finalised. But we must also be responsive and recognise that the


challenging times ahead will require us all to develop new skills and knowledge.

The panel discussion understandably reflected the current feeling of collective nervousness as we remain in uncertain economic times and face up to severe spending cuts - there was even reference to potential disturbance on the streets, although not necessarily from planners!

Falling planning fee income and a general lack of finance were seen to be real threats and the consensus view was that, as a profession, we need to be more proactive and creative in our approach to development. This will undoubtedly be a key theme as we seek to help the economy recover from the recession. Moreover, all those involved in the development industry will have to demonstrate flexibility and creativity if we are still to provide quality development under severe financial constraints – and planners can position themselves to take the lead on this.

The panel's view was that to do this, planners (from the public sector) will need to understand delivery in greater detail, which will mean developing knowledge around economic viability and finance mechanisms. In addition, communication and mediation skills require enhancement as we tackle ever more complex regeneration problems in particular, and seek to marry up the desires of the local community with those of the development industry.

All of these themes can help inform the programme of CPD events that the West Midlands Region provides and I will look to prompt further ideas and suggestions at future sub-regional debates. As we again move forward into uncertain times, the one thing that remains clear to me is that we must continue to adapt our role in response to changes from our political masters, whilst holding onto the key principles of the planning profession. The debate in Worcester provided a great start and I very much hope as many of you as possible are able to contribute to the ongoing debate at future such events across the Region.

Finally, can I just draw your attention to the back page of this magazine and our booking form for the RTPI West Midlands Summer Reception and Ball being held on the evening of Friday 23rd July at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. This 'celebrity' event will comprise a black tie dinner attended by the RTPI President, together with a special awards ceremony followed by dancing 'til late. It looks like being a stunning event, not to be missed! If you would like to nominate either 'The Best Local Authority', 'The Best Team' or 'The Best Planning Consultancy' please send your entry, on no more than 2 sides of A4 to me, Stephen Hill at: stephen.hill@hca.gsx.gov.uk. 

Stephen Hill
West Midlands Regional Chair



Ann Skippers RTPI President: A personal profile

Our January/February 2010 edition of Tripwire (Issue 56) featured the inaugural speech of Ann Skippers, this year's national Institute President, who runs her own planning practice 'Charisma Planning'. In this issue we find out more about the person behind the Presidency, with a series of questions focused on Ann's personal views, her professional opinions and her political 'take' on the new Coalition Government.

So first of all some personal viewpoints.

1. 'Life can only be lived forwards, but can only be understood backwards'. Looking back, did you ever think you would end up becoming RTPI President?

One of my favourite poets is TS Eliot and I studied The Four Quartets at school. A famous quote from one of the Four Quartets, Burnt Norton, starts with the lines "Time present and time past, are both perhaps present in time future and time future contained in time past". My involvement with the RTPI began whilst studying planning at what is now Anglia Ruskin University. I have always firmly believed that the RTPI has a critical contribution to make as a learned society. To be President should be something to aspire to. I have always felt that it would be a huge privilege to hold that office and the highlight of any career.

2. Who is your role model?

There are three people I particularly admire; Patsy Healey for her intellect, Kevin Murray for his ability to engage with and inspire an audience and my friend Emma for combining family with friends with fun and a zest for living.

3. What is your recipe for creating 'Charisma' in your career?

I like trying new things which are challenging; this is what keeps me on my toes and interested in learning new skills. For me doing lots of different things means that I can keep hold of the bigger picture: a fascination with the world around me and the desire to make it a better place. During a recent visit to Cardiff, I helped to judge a planning project which RTPI Cymru had set up with a local college of further education. IT and hairdressing students proposed a variety of uses on a large site coming up with some creative ideas including a zoo! The winning team of hairdressing students were thrilled to win and now will take more notice of where they live and understand more about planning. This experience of learning with others and hearing other people's aspirations and ideas is key; I guess it's the 'feelgood' factor of planning.

Turning to some professional planning issues:

1. Does the planning system need an evolution or a revolution?

Definitely an evolution. One of the key facets about planning is that it has constantly evolved and adapted through the ages, sometimes more successfully than others. At the moment what we need is stability and consolidation so whilst there is always room for improvement. The system we have is effective. What is needed is a wake-up call about the challenges facing the world, not least climate change, poverty and health. To change the system now, seemingly just for the sake of it, should not be done lightly.

2. Can the planning system be run from the 'bottom up' by 'local choice'?

This is a tough question because the answer should be 'yes'. Society as a whole will be richer if local communities can decide what happens in their areas. The danger is that without the 'bigger picture', issues such as climate change, infrastructure, energy and equality will not be addressed. The challenge is, how do you give local communities 'local choice' and successfully bridge the gap between local self interest and the greater public good. Regional planning has traditionally carried out this function and so some form of strategic planning at a sensible geographical scale is vital - and even more so if decisions are to be devolved 'down' to the local level.

3. What advice would you give a youngster coming into the profession today?

Work hard, offer to help and assist people you admire, stick to your principles and fight for what you believe in.

And finally some political thoughts.

1. Do you foresee the new Coalition as being a dream or a disaster?


Potentially a dream. I have often thought that if politicians of different parties would talk to each other and work together and create medium and long term strategies for the future then we would have more chance to address some of the complex and important issues facing society. Sometimes things which are worth doing will not happen overnight. But they may well be risky and unpopular in the short term. So in theory at least the coalition has the opportunity to break the mould of short term politics.

2. In an age of austerity, should we be cutting spending, raising taxes, both, or neither?

There's probably a need to do both. We should be prioritising what needs to be done for society and then find a way of achieving it. I have always fitted the finances around a few key principles, so I suppose my motto would be cut your cloth accordingly, but have the confidence to ride out the storm. I'm not really one for short term fixes.

3. Do you see planning as a critical part of the 'Big Society' or just part of the 'Big Government'?

Planning has to be part of the 'Big Society'. We won't get anywhere at all by not being persuasive about the pivotal role planning can play in our future and the ability of planning to balance competing demands and bring together other professionals. By doing this successfully, planning can offer a beneficial way of thinking about the major challenges and opportunities as well as providing a means of delivering a stable future.

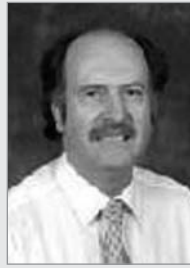
Ann Skippers will be attending the West Midlands RTPI Summer Reception and Ball on 23rd July 2010. 




Professor Alan Murie is awarded CBE

Warm congratulations to Professor Alan Murie, Emeritus Professor at Birmingham University who was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list last week for his services to the housing sector.

Alan Murie is an internationally renowned academic with a wide experience in housing and regeneration with many published works. Alan was former head of the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies in Birmingham and was



also Head of the School of Public Policy at the University of Birmingham. Prior to that, he was Professor at Herriot Watt University in Edinburgh.

Alan is a current member of the Royal Society and a founder Editor of the Journal of Housing Studies. He has always been active in the West Midlands combining his vast academic experience with a practical planning input – it is an award which is richly deserved. 


High Speed Train divides the West Midlands

The West Midlands region may not be the obvious location for Major Infrastructure Projects such as nuclear power stations and windfarms, but one major project – the High Speed Train 2 – from London to the Midlands, is creating some headaches.

With both the new Coalition partners firmly in support of high speed rail lines to 'open up' the economy in the Midlands and the North, the implications of high speed rail are just beginning to sink in. The preferred route of the line passing through Warwickshire to Birmingham was published on March 11th, by the previous Government shortly before the General Election.

But although the economic benefits for Birmingham and Solihull are clear, communities along the line are beginning to question the merits of the scheme. Trains running at 300 km/hour require straight lines and gentle gradients. The noise and visual implications (let alone the blight implications) are only now being considered.



In our next issue, Andy Cowan, from Warwickshire County Council, who has been exploring some European examples, will look more closely at the economic and environmental impact of High Speed Rail. 


West Midlands Planners reach pinnacle of achievement

For the second year, a team of 6 West Midlands' planners, led by Sue Manns, took part in the 'Munro Challenge' last weekend to raise money for Water Aid. But this time they scaled the 'twin peaks' of Y Garn and Elidir Fawr, both of them above 3000 feet. In all, about £500 was raised for charity.

But what a contrast from last year! This time the climb was achieved in bright sunshine with a pleasant



breeze, with top of Mount Snowdon clearly visible across the valley, whereas, last year, at the same time, the challenge took place in wind, rain, mist, hail and freezing temperatures.

The picture was taken at the summit of Y Garn; (No Hector it wasn't taken from the rescue helicopter). Left to right: John Acres, Lindsay Wood, Will Brearley, Dan Roberts, Sue Manns and Ros Robb. 


Planning Aid Good Practice Guide

For developers, communities and decision makers, one of the biggest challenges in taking forward a development scheme is to ensure that public engagement is undertaken in a way which is meaningful, inclusive and brings benefits for all involved.

On 28 June 2010, at the start of the Planning Convention, Planning Aid England and Planning Aid for London will launch their Good Practice Guide to Public Engagement in Development Schemes. Good public engagement reduces conflict, results in better development and most importantly allows communities to have an influence over the future shape of the places where they live.

Good engagement is about more than just 'ticking a box'. If there is no real commitment, all the key decisions have been made, not enough time has been allowed or there are insufficient resources to engage properly, it is likely that at

best little will be achieved and at worst, may add to the frustrations of a community increasing the risks of objections, delay and possible refusal of consent. There is no 'perfect recipe' for good community engagement. Every development scheme and every community will be different.

The Guide identifies the key principles which underpin good engagement and how these can be applied at the pre-application, submission to decision, and construction and operation stages of a development. It provides practical advice, backed up by examples of good practice including several from the West Midlands region, and has received strong support from all sectors engaged in the development industry. The Guide will be available in both hard copy and for download from the Planning Aid website: www.rtpi.org.uk/planningaid 

Sue Manns National Planning Aid Manager

A Special Editorial Report – What exactly is ‘Local Choice’?

‘Giving power to the people’ is always a popular election platform – so the new Government’s promise of granting ‘Local Choice’ to local communities in deciding their future on planning and housing was always going to be an ‘crowd pleaser’.

With its origins in Liberal Democrat policies (as well as the central plank of the Conservative Party’s Green Paper on ‘Open Source Planning’) it became an inevitable policy outcome of the new coalition Government. But what does it actually mean?

The theme of devolving decision making to the lowest tier is a common aim of Governments, but one which is often sacrificed once Governments realise that, in order to achieve wider objectives, they cannot afford to lose central control. At the same time, local communities often find, once they are given the power to decide, it comes with the responsibility to make difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions – so local politicians will frequently ‘duck key issues’ and refuse controversial applications to ensure that the Inspectorate, or if necessary the Secretary of State carries the can instead.

It is early days in this new regime. Whilst ‘local choice’ in planning seems to imply that local authorities will be given the power to decide on both the scale and the location of development, paradoxically, ‘local choice’ in education is turning out to mean the removal of powers from local authorities and granting powers to parents and governors to choose ‘free’ schools and academies – so how far does the concept of ‘local’ extend?

The Open Source Green paper implies that village design statements will become more important as a starting point – expressing the ‘grass roots’ opinions of local (rural) people. Mobilising Parish Councils to deliver positive plans (or indeed any plans at all) may prove more difficult to achieve than the Government expects. Perhaps Planning Aid will assume more of a role in training Parish Councillors.

Whether this ‘bottom up’ plan making approach will work in urban areas (where communities are less well defined) remains to be seen, but one cannot readily envisage that communities are likely to volunteer sites for development, particularly if they are not tied to ‘local needs’ and are likely to attract migrants from elsewhere.

The key drawbacks of the ‘local choice’ philosophy are therefore threefold:-

- How can people be persuaded to think strategically and plan for needs which serve a wider area,
- How will the jigsaw fit together when the sum total of ‘bottom up’ village, neighbourhood or community plans are combined, and
- Who will ensure that the product of the ‘bottom up’ approach actually meets the country’s overall needs for homes, jobs, energy or indeed for any other use.

The implication of the Conservative Party’s ‘Open Source’ Green Paper is that none of these issues actually matter. It will be up to local authorities to decide how much development will occur and where. A ‘horses for courses’ approach will apply where authorities reign free and decide whether they choose to grow (encouraged by financial incentives – for as long as they last) or satisfy the desires of their more comfortable electors and eschew new development – resulting presumably in gradually rising house prices at a time when a return to capital appreciation by home-owners is welcomed.

This seems likely to result in a diversion in investment from ‘cooler comfortable authorities’ to ‘warmly welcoming authorities’ This may mean a drift away from higher demand areas, including green belt and suburban areas (where intensification of development through so-called ‘garden grabbing’ will be discouraged) to lower demand but more ambitious Councils.

One positive aspect of this approach however maybe that development (and therefore resources) may be diverted northwards to less popular areas where investment has been lacking perhaps re-balancing the economy in the way the Prime Minister envisaged in his inaugural Yorkshire speech. The downside of this outcome however will be that the house price differential between high market areas and less popular locations will widen, resulting potentially in greater not less inequality.

So where do planners come in as part of this brave new world? There must be a clear set of rules for planners, politicians and people to adhere to and the idea of a simple set of national planning policy statements is long overdue. Clearly there must be adopted local plans (to use as a platform for decisions) and local communities, landowners and developers and interest groups must have a fair input into those plans.

But the suggestion that the developers’ natural right of appeal against the interpretation of those plans should be curtailed or that local residents should have the power of veto over planning applications must be a retrograde step. The dangers inherent in such an approach are all too familiar to planners in both the public and the private sector.

Which brings us back to the key questions: ‘What is local choice’? Who decides? Does the ability of small groups of protestors to influence their local politicians govern the future of an area? What powers will be local press now wield? Who speaks for the silent majority who need home and jobs, including those from outside the community? and above all who now takes a strategic view and plans for the wider benefit of society? Well planners of course! 🏠

John Acres
Tripwire Editor

'Gardens of Art'

An example of cooperation between RTPI West Midlands European & International Group and Wroclaw University (Poland)

Planning is all about partnership. Over the last year or so, there has been close and successful cooperation between RTPI West Midlands E & I Group and Wroclaw University of Technology (Poland) to produce a new joint publication – 'Gardens of Art'.

In 2008 British team acted as tutors at *1st British-Polish Planning Workshop* focusing on the regeneration of a derelict site in very heart of Wroclaw. In May 2009 West Midlands hosted group of students from Poland on an *Urban Study Tour*. Finally, in August/September 2010 the E & I Group will be involved in an innovative urban workshop in Wroclaw – **International Urban Workshop 'Gardens of Art'**.

The project aimed to create a plan for revitalising a key street in the Old Town in Wroclaw – a strategy based on sustainable development, to bring back a sense of importance to this significant axis and to balance a whole spectrum of issues, ranging from creating a vision of development, through general urban and spatial solutions, to detailed a explanation of key places.

We chose the street in the city centre – Szewska St. – which is not actually a 'brownfield' or derelict area, but has much potential. The real problem is that the street does not currently fulfil its true potential. The main question was how to use this potential to lift the level of excellence. What fascinated us was the mixture of uses on the street. We considered this aspect as our 'urban laboratory' of public involvement. We wanted to study and understand the different needs and prepare our concept with 'diagnostic and design transparency'.

The concept of the International Urban Workshop 'Gardens of Art' was specific because of real public involvement and partnership. It explored multi-level education – not only were the students expected to learn something from the public, but the public 'was expected' to learn from students. We wondered if the professionals involved in the workshop might learn from both groups. Local authorities might study these recent innovations in public involvement.

The Urban Planning Workshop involved students of Wroclaw University of Technology, University of Wroclaw, University of Łódź, Silesian University of Technology, University College London – Bartlett School of Planning (UK), Institut d'Aménagement du Territoire et d'Environnement de l'Université de Reims (France) and Brandenburgische Technische Universität Cottbus (Germany) studying architecture, spatial planning, urban design, and conservation.

It has been run jointly by academic teachers and professionals from design companies, both from Wroclaw (Izabela Mironowicz, Pawel Hawrylak, Zbyszek Macków, Wawrzyniec Zipser) and abroad – the UK (Anthony Clerici, Nikos Karadimitriou, Susan Moore,



Noha Nasser, Michael Vout), France (Anna Geppert), Germany (Heinz Nagler), Italy (Giancarlo Cotella). They combined experience with enthusiasm, knowledge with freshness, realistic calculation with exuberant dreams.

Everybody is welcome to visit the International Urban Workshop 'Gardens of Art' webpage <http://www.urbanworkshop.eu> and download workshop book: Mironowicz I., Clerici A., (eds.), 2010, 'Gardens of Art' *Urban Renewal of Szewska Street in Wroclaw. International Urban Workshop*. ISBN 978-83-7493-491-6.

The outcome of the workshop was presented at the 15th International Conference on Urban Planning, Regional Development and Information Society RealCORP 2010 in Vienna and published (Mironowicz I., Clerici A. *Urban Workshop Plus – Concept of Public-Professional Partnership in Urban Development*, available online from <http://www.corp.at>).

This year Wroclaw University of Technology is hosting new event: UN Habitat and AESOP (Association of European Schools of Planning) **European Urban Summer School** for young professionals run in cooperation with ISCARP (International Society of City and Regional Planners). Young planners from the UK are warmly encouraged to apply and experienced planners will be welcomed in tutors' team. For details please visit <http://www.euss.pl>.

I am deeply indebted to many people from the UK, especially members of RTPI West Midlands and RIBA West Midlands Region, whose effort and involvement made International Urban Workshop 'Gardens of Art' happen. My special word of gratitude goes to Ant Clerici, Chair of RTPI West Midlands E&I Group, who worked with me both on the concept of the workshop and editing the workshop book. 🏠

Izabela Mironowicz Wroclaw University (Poland)



Planning Aid West Midlands Community Planning Update

Community planning remains the focus of Planning Aid activity in the West Midlands. Building on the momentum developed since the start of the year, Planning Aid West Midlands staff and volunteers have been assisting communities across the region get involved in the production of plans and proposals.

Since the beginning of April, over 600 people have attended community planning events and activities. These have included:

Open days, workshops and meetings to support communities identify issues to be addressed in the forthcoming Moseley Big Plan Supplementary Planning Document.

Workshops and meetings to engage rural communities in the 'community testing' exercise across Shropshire as part of the Shropshire Rural Involvement project. This initiative was based on use of a Rural Toolkit first developed in Devon, which the Council has adopted as a robust evidence base that will help to underpin decisions in their Local Development Framework.

Interactive sessions with young people in schools to promote the potential of planning both as a catalyst for local change and as a potential career.

Delivering training presentations on the planning system and the opportunities to get involved. These have taken place with groups including the Staffordshire Association of Parish Councils (Stafford), Hartshill Residents Association (Stoke), the Resident University (Birmingham) and the Women's Design Forum (Wolverhampton).

In addition to developing a programme of sessions in schools, discussions are currently taking place regarding a role for Planning Aid West Midlands in supporting communities get involved in an Area Action Plan and housing estate regeneration proposals; further details will be confirmed shortly. The upshot is that there are a variety of community planning activities for Planning Aid volunteers to be involved in.

For further details on volunteering for Planning Aid in the West Midlands please contact Jon Lord, Planning Aid West Midlands Regional Manager on 0121 236 883 or wmco@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk 

Continuing Professional Development > July ... October

Regional Programme

Non-members of RTPI welcome to attend.

TUESDAY 6 JULY

Planning Law Update

Speakers: Peter Taylor & David Brammer of DLA Piper
Venue: Offices of DLA Piper, Victoria Square, **Birmingham**
Time: 9.30am - 2pm including lunch
Cost: **£50 incl. VAT** (£20 for full-time students & unwaged)
Details & Booking: Sue Griffith-Jones Tel 0121 709 1599
Email westmidlands@rtpi.org.uk

FRIDAY 23 JULY

RTPI West Midlands Oscars, Dinner & Ball

Venue: Botanical Gardens, **Birmingham**
Time: 7.30pm to 1am
Cost: **£40 incl. VAT** per person until 1/7/10
Details & booking: Sue Griffith-Jones Tel 0121 709 1599
Email westmidlands@rtpi.org.uk

Other Events

FRIDAY 2 JULY

The Future of Regeneration

Venue: **Coventry**
Cost: **Free**
Organiser: RegenWM
Details & booking: Veronica Barbaro Tel 0121 202 3260
Email veronica.barbaro@regenwm.org

SUNDAY 11 – WEDNESDAY 14 JULY

CABE Urban Design Summer School Designing Sustainable Places

Venue: **Birmingham**
Organiser: CABE
Details & booking: Tel 0845 347 9374
Email info@udss.org.uk

MONDAY 12 JULY

Making Good Places to Live

Venue: **Stoke-on-Trent**
Organiser: Urban Vision North Staffordshire
Details & booking: Caron Colbert Tel 01782 575321
Email caron.colbert@uvns.org

WEDNESDAY 14 JULY

Introduction to HIA

Venue: **Birmingham**
Cost: **£145**
Organiser: West Midlands Public Health Observatory
Details & booking: www.wmpho.org.uk/hiatraining/

THURSDAY 15 JULY

Talking Cities Lecture Series: Retrofitting Old Cities

Venue: **Birmingham**
Cost: **£10**
Organiser: MADE
Details & booking: info@made.org.uk

FRIDAY 17 – SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

The 38th Joint Planning Law Conference

Venue: **Oxford**
Cost: £552 + VAT until 30/6/10, £579 + VAT after this
Organiser: RTPI, RICS, the Law Society & the Bar Council
Details & booking: www.jplc.org

TUESDAY 5 – THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER

Ready to do HIA

Venue: **Gregynog, Powys**
Cost: **£675**
Organiser: West Midlands Public Health Observatory
Details & booking: www.wmpho.org.uk/hiatraining/

tripwire



RTPI

mediation of space · making of place

RTPI West Midlands is proud to present the West Midlands Oscar Ceremony, Dinner and Ball

What: RTPI Planning Awards, Dinner and Ball

- Drinks reception
- Sit down dinner
- Oscar winners announced
- Live music and dancing

When: Friday 23 July 2010, 7.30pm to 1am

Where: Birmingham Botanical Gardens,
Westbourne Road, Edgbaston,
Birmingham, B15 3TR

Who: The RTPI President, Ann Skippers, joins RTPI members, guests, friends & family

Why: To celebrate planning excellence in the region and wine and dine in style

For more details or to book your place please contact Sue Griffith-Jones at westmidlands@rtpi.org.uk or telephone 0121 709 1599.

RTPI West Midlands is very grateful to the following organisations for sponsoring this event and the awards.

**Regional award for
Planning achievement**

AlliancePlanning[△]

**Local Planning Authority
of the year award**

JMP

**Consultancy of the year award
& drinks reception sponsor**

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Homes &
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**Chairman's award &
main event sponsor**

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