

## **RTPI Climate Change Champions Meeting**

Earlier this Summer I was invited to the RTPI as a member of NAPE to attend a meeting of Climate Change Champions from the various RTPI groups and networks.

The day involved discussing PPS: Planning for a Low Carbon Future in a Changing Climate, and PPS: Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment.

The day was chaired by Richard Summers, the RTPI's Senior Vice President, which certainly emphasised how important the issues surrounding climate change are for the RTPI. Only last year the RTPI launched the 7 Commitments to Climate Change at its Convention, and it holds climate change as an over arching priority for the planning industry.

As well as Richard Summers, there were presentations and discussions from Matt Thomson, the RTPI's Head of Policy and Practice, and Ben Lee, Communications and Public Affairs Officer for the RTPI.

John Hack of the Development Planning Network, spoke about the Environmental Audit Commission reporting in March this year that:

“The planning system has a key role in adapting the built environment”

A future built environment that will include zero carbon homes, sustainable urban drainage and retreats from coastlines. However, despite this, John Hack pointed out that climate change is falling down the political agenda, (even faster now given the spending cuts).

Brian O'Callaghan, the RTPI's Head of Education and Lifelong Learning, spoke about the development of a four module course, soon to be available through e-learning, which would be CPD accredited.

In small discussion groups we were asked what are our key sectoral and regional priorities, and what can we do to help achieve these. Sarah Lewis, RTPI Planning Practice Officer, is compiling a Climate Change Compendium of Good Practice, so if anyone has any beneficial working practice that they want to share with the rest of the planning industry then please get in contact with her at [practice@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:practice@rtpi.org.uk)

Another discussion posed the question:

‘Would direct action be taken to demolish a building that failed to comply with CO2 mitigation conditions, if the demolition of the building and its rebuilding in compliance with the conditions, generated more CO2?’

Michael Lloyd Hughes  
NAPE Management Committee Member and NAPE's climate change champion