

ICN Steering Group

Peter Lloyd



I am based in north Wales and regularly update the network on Wales matters. If I don't know it's happening, it probably is anyway, just don't take my word for it! I find the network, and Forum in particular, a wonderful resource, full of talented (and humorous) people who give much needed guidance, moral and other support to daily working life.

Alyn Nichols



Having graduated from Oxpolo in 1979, I started my career working for a national planning consultancy. I progressed through the ranks from planning assistant and bag carrier to a full equity partner, opening and running an office for the practice in Leeds.

However, in 1990 dissatisfaction with the way the Partnership was run, the lure of independence and propulsion by a dare led me to establish my own practice. I have now been pottering along, plying my trade independently for 31 years. I am a general practitioner, but I have become known for dealing with town centres and retail development. I am appointed an Expert by the High Streets Task Force. I do much the same sort of work as I did in 1990 but nowadays I do it better and with more panache.

Outside of work I have an enduring interest in the delights of older motor cars, I make models professionally and for the last 26 years I have been learning to play the piano accordion, unsuccessfully.

Deirdre Wells



I've loved being a planner throughout my 40 year career – it has given me the opportunity to learn something new everyday, provoking passion and introducing me to individuals and organisations with different outlooks on the world. I rose through the ranks to Head of Planning role in Local Government, then moved to head a planning team in a large engineering consultancy, on to a Central Government Taskforce and then to setting up on my own as a private consultant for a diverse range of clients. I feel a tremendous loyalty to my ICN colleagues, who retain a sense of humour while being committed to excellence and enthusiasm in their ability to change the world for the better, site by site and battle by battle. I've found my tribe and am proud to have led the Steering Group for its first six years.

Anton Lang



I have been a self-employed, independent, sole practitioner planning consultant for over 17 years; just me, no-one else. I concentrate solely on development control/management work, although did dabble in some policy matters when first starting out, as well as short term DC help to local authorities - a great way to meet architects and plan drawers as contacts for fresh work once I had left the lpa. Over the years my workload has balanced out from mainly appeals to 50/50 appeals and applications, as my regular clients, and new ones with difficult/complex issues, want me in 'on the ground floor' on projects, so I can spot and overcome the hurdles at the earliest possible opportunity. I unashamedly now only deal with small

and medium sized stuff as find the long haul of large applications a drag (and having to corral so many other consultants), so these days I tend to boot anything very big to other larger, independent/local consultancies I know, and in return they often thrown me their tiddlers - which works well.

I prefer urban jobs to rural jobs, and operate mainly in the north-east region, but have done stuff from Devon to Manchester to London to Grimsby to Leeds. My first commission was an 'ambulance chase' householder appeal job from the decision lists at my 'home' lpa Newcastle City, since then it has ALL been word of mouth - which I thank the Planning Gods for every day. I am well positioned to voice the fears, loves and lessons that sole practitioners suffer/enjoy on a daily basis, and to hopefully feed into improvements to the 'system' and the RTPI itself.

I am particularly fond of the RTPI's ICN forum which is akin to a virtual office, where one can ask questions from the simple / mundane to the exceedingly complex, and usually get a response that day from what could be called an 'online hive-mind'; sometimes there is humour and light relief too. My website at www.antonlangplanning.com has got the boring stuff about me and my track record. Interesting stuff is that I do not like wearing suits / shirts & ties, the one is the photo was from a thankful client, but I do like success fee arrangements, doing averagely on various tv quiz shows, winning cost claims against local authorities, cheap wine, pragmatic appeal decisions from old skool Planning Inspectors, clever wordplay and my two dogs.

Jacqueline Veater



I set up my own planning consultancy in 2012, initially with part-time local government contracts and now full-time as a consultant. Having tried graduate trainees and interns and working with associates, I am currently solo again. It is very difficult to get the balance right between maintaining company reputation, having colleagues who can add their expertise when needed, and being part of a network of consultants with whom you can share ideas. I am still trying to find this balance.

Govresources is primarily occupied as a Neighbourhood Planning Consultant with 11 neighbourhood plans at various stages of completion, from starting a refresh to being in Examination. This involves me working with Steering Groups of all shapes and sizes.

I am a member of Locality and contribute to discussions at webinars etc. We also advise parish councils on how to comment on planning applications and local plan consultations, and occasionally advise individuals, who also ask for our help. I provide training and contribute to client events and meetings on a regular basis.



Brian Waters



I am a chartered town planner and chartered architect and have been in private practice since 1972 and continue working as a sole practitioner. I have for many years enjoyed the ICN and have contributed occasionally.

I value private practice and have twice served as president of the ACA– the Association of consultant architects. I have also been a vice president of the RIBA.

For five years, recently, I chaired the national planning forum and I have chaired the London planning and development forum since 1990. I edit Planning in London magazine, the Journal of that forum.