People & Places:
Community Planning,
Town Centres & Alex
Neil Outlines his Priorities for Planning
Welcome to the Spring 2015 Edition of Scottish Planner, the journal of the Royal Town Planning Institute in Scotland.

We are delighted to feature Alex Neil MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights as our lead article which introduces us as the new Minister with responsibility for planning to his priorities for planning – policy delivery and a continued focus on performance.

Planning is all about creating great places for people, and so the theme of this edition of Scottish Planner focusses on “People and Places.” We present the recommendations from the recent RTPI Scotland research on better linking Spatial and Community Planning; the Carnegie Trust UK makes the case for well designed, community led public spaces; we feature an article on the changing face of Scotland's towns from Scottish Towns Partnership; and we look at the innovative engagement of young people in Development Planning in Aberdeen.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Sile Hayes, RTPI Intern Project Officer for her hard work and enthusiasm over her 6 month internship here at RTPI Scotland, and wish her good luck with her future career. We will have a new Intern Project Officer in place after Easter to work with the team for 6 months.

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If you have any comments or feedback on Scottish Planner, or any suggestions for articles please email scotland@rtpi.org.uk or tweet us @rtpiscotland or @nikolamiller.

— Nikola Miller, Co-Editor
Convenor’s Comments: Place, People & Happy Planners

Pam Ewen is Convenor of RTPI Scotland. In this edition she focuses on Place and People, the housing crisis, RTPI Scotland’s 10 propositions to support planning for housing, and being Happy Planners.

Place and People, isn’t that what planning is all about? Having an opportunity to shape how places should change, however small or significant that change might be, is what I totally love about being a Planner. Orchestrating place change for not only today’s generations, but also for my son’s children’s children is what drives me to do the best I can each and every day.

Reflecting back on 2014, the RTPI Centenary year, so many successful events were held across Scotland, with over 2,000 people attending the 56 free or low cost events across the country, including 47 events from our Chapters, 10 events run by the Scottish Young Planners’ Network, 2 Conferences and 1 Annual Lecture.

Throughout my Convenorship in 2015 my central theme is ‘People Make Planning’ within which I will promote 3 key things: stronger leadership in planning; long-term planning for future generations; and above all Happy Planners, motivated and inspired with smiley faces!

We have a housing crisis. It is wrong that homelessness is on the increase. It is right that everyone who wants to should have access to a roof over their heads. As a step towards addressing this issue, RTPI Scotland set out 10 propositions for planning for new homes (see www.rtpiscotland.wordpress.com/2014/12/16/ten-propositions-tosupport-planning-for-housing). At RTPI Scotland we have been keen to get a big debate. We have presented and discussed the propositions at a number of conferences and events and received a number of comments. Thankyou for your contributions. We are now looking at these and will soon shape into RTPI policy.

I believe the debate should focus not only on numbers. Above all, it is about delivering great places within which new homes plays a huge part. To achieve this requires stronger political and planning leadership. Great places don’t happen overnight. We need to ensure our development proposals are of a quality to create great places. We need to ensure our Development Plans are reviewed every 4-5 years and development proposals determined timeously, providing clear spatial strategies and development locations which provide for realistic growth in our differing economies within Scotland. We need clarity to give certainty for investors to commit.

Scotland is open for business, so let’s do more to support investment where development should happen.

Planners and planning ARE doing a lot to facilitate the right investments in the right places. We need to continue to work hard, innovate and find solutions to make things happen. Communities and Community Planning can have a greater role; across planning we could work more closely. RTPI Scotland’s research into the link between Spatial Planning and Community Planning can assist. Recently I have enjoyed an opportunity to work with young people, helping them understand that they can have a say on how their place should change. Young Placemakers, through pas (planning aid scotland), have positively influenced my thinking. A number of these young people are now considering planning as a career.

If you are a ‘tweeter’ you will have noticed I have been asking what makes you a #happyplanner I would really like to hear what makes you happy, what is your recent golden moments in planning. Let’s get tweeting @convenorrtpis.

It is a little over 2 years since getting more involved with RTPI Scotland. I am really honoured to be your Convenor for 2015 and look forward to meeting and discussing key issues with Members and others working and influencing places and people across Scotland.
Alex Neil MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners’ Rights, takes the opportunity to introduce us to his priorities for planning of policy delivery and a continued focus on performance.
It is now just over 100 days since the First Minister appointed me as Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights and I am delighted to have planning in my portfolio.

Having held a Ministerial post for over five years, with responsibilities ranging from housing to infrastructure to health and wellbeing, I have seen the cross cutting role that planning plays across Government and its importance in delivering the Government’s overarching objective of creating opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.

We have three key priorities:
- to promote a strong sustainable, economy;
- to build a fairer Scotland and tackle inequality; and
- to protect public services while empowering communities.

Through continuing to framing a positive approach to high-quality development and the efficient use of land to deliver long-term benefits for communities, planning has a role in all of these areas.

I am encouraged by the many improvements that have been made over the last few years and the enthusiasm and hard work of my predecessors, but it is clear that still more pace and progress can be made.

Policy Delivery

We now have a clear and joined up policy framework for the planning system. The two key planning documents which were revised in 2014, Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) and the third National Planning Framework (NPF3) have been well received. Many of you will have contributed to their development. My attention is now clearly on implementation of this framework.

At publication of the SPP, we committed to developing advice to assist planning authorities and other practitioners in assessing and giving due weight to the net economic benefit of proposed development. Work on this is underway, with a view to issuing advice later this year.

A significant addition is the SPP’s presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development and I have taken a closer interest in a number of housing appeals with a view to seeing how that new policy will be delivered on the ground. But overall it is my intention that Ministers will continue to intervene in only a very small number of planning cases each year, where there are genuine national issues at stake.

Intervention was also necessary for unconventional oil and gas developments. This is a relatively new extraction process in Scotland and one that is generating considerable public debate. The Government has announced a moratorium and further work on planning, environmental regulation, health impact assessment including a full public consultation so that the views of people, the industry and stakeholders, including planners, are taken into account.

We have a sharp focus on the importance of infrastructure to sustain growth and deliver the places we want. Therefore to support the NPF3 Action Programme and following on from the Strategic Development Plan Review, we are undertaking an evidence based research project to identify and review the different approaches to the delivery of infrastructure, both currently being used and emerging, through the Scottish planning system. This is a significant piece of research work supported by a range of interests across the Government, including transport, housing, education and Infrastructure Investment. The research is due to be completed in the summer.

Performance

I want Scotland’s plan-led system to be more effective, meaning plans are up-to-date, understandable and most of all deliverable. I believe that we still need to find ways to reduce plan preparation timescales and address complexity to get the best out of development plans. Plans should provide confidence to all interested parties that outcomes sought can be achieved and that the policies and proposals are deliverable.

We are now monitoring the development plan context across Scotland more closely – looking at alignment with NPF3 and SPP as well as processing and timing. This is enabling a clearer overview of issues and it is clear that key areas for plans to tackle include housing, town centres and wind energy. We have provided a steer on the use of supplementary guidance and we will continue to work closely with planning authorities, individually and collectively, to provide support and advice on improving development plans.

I look forward to discussing the complex issues of planning performance and resources with partners at the High Level Group on Performance which I co-convene with Councillor Stephen Hagan, COSLA Spokesperson on Development, Economy and Sustainability.

I expect the planning service not just to perform to a high standard, but to pursue continuous improvement. Performance does not solely lie at the door of planning authorities – everyone working within planning and making use of the system has a part to play in the continuous improvement in the operation of the service.

Good performance includes speed of processing but it is also about quality outcomes for the people and places it affects and high service standards before, during and post application. These are a priority and whilst I am pleased to see the strong commitment to them in the last round of performance frameworks, across the country performance still remains too variable.

With much more to do, during 2015 the Government will be moving at a pace working across the Government and with partners on a number of key projects aimed at supporting the delivery of an effective and high performing planning system.

Conclusion

We are clear that the planning system should take every opportunity to create high quality places. By emphasising their quality, we can create successful places which have enduring appeal and functionality, are more likely to be valued by people, and therefore retained for generations to come.

The Scottish Government will continue to work in full partnership with the people of Scotland to achieve social justice and create an inclusive, strong and sustainable economy.

I look forward to working with you all in this endeavour.

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Alex Neil MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice
Communities and Pensioners' Rights
Scottish Planner: Feature

Q&A
Public Enquiries

Gordon Watson, Chief Executive of Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park, answers our questions on planning, planners and the planning system.

1. Who has been the biggest inspiration or influence on your career and why?

As a teenager, I watched an episode of Weir’s Way where Sir Robert Greive was sitting around a campfire on the banks of Loch Lomond with Tom, bemoaning the lack of co-ordinated planning of the area and arguing for a National Park. I thought ‘I fancy doing that’ and soon found myself at Glasgow School of Art doing a Planning degree.

In my professional life I remember working (as a West Dunbartonshire Council planning manager) with Vincent Goodstadt on the first Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan. I thought it was a tough job for him, trying to broker a new Structure Plan with clear vision and priorities across eight new unitary planning authorities just formed after 1996 local government reorganisation. I admired Vincent’s ability to negotiate through some tricky partnerships with good humour and credibility to deliver a visionary plan which could easily have been a wish list of all the Councils’ pet projects. I learned a lot watching Vincent’s approach to effective partnership working.

2. What do you feel is the biggest issues facing planners and planning at the moment?

Planning is still on a journey from being seen as a marginal regulatory function to a respected profession much more central to delivering big ideas and leading positive change. I see the current challenge as one of leadership and legibility. We are now seeing much more confident place-based planning using tools such as Charrettes, making things much more creative and ideas-based. These put planners centre stage, leading collaborative working across different professions, reaching much wider communities of interest, and being seen as confident leaders and facilitators willing to think differently. The challenge of legibility is the need for us all to talk in clearer language, using more dynamic visual and media tools rather than relying on lots of words laced with impenetrable jargon. This helps get people interested and on-board rather than feeling alienated and excluded. That is certainly what we’ve tried to do in the National Park with our recent LIVE Park Main Issues Report process which has been a fascinating experience.

3. Why is planning important?

Planning has always been unique in being able to take a much broader perspective than many other disciplines. The ability to join the dots and see the linkages between disparate issues helps drive better considered spatial solutions, whether dealing with a tricky development proposal or developing a strategic plan. Planning is also crucial for engaging people, often very innovatively, in decision making.

4. What would you change about planning, and why?

We need to keep working on changing the public perception of planning. The profession needs to keep growing in confidence and asserting itself. There are a lot of exciting planning initiatives happening in Scotland, such as Dundee Waterfront. SAQP and Best Places are important to raising the profile of planning achievements. I used to see planning as a bit process obsessed, applying rules without a clear idea about vision and outcomes. That is changing with more planners prepared to take risks to make things happen to achieve the right outcome. I think many people, including Scottish Ministers, respond positively to that.

5. How difficult is it to balance sustainable economic growth with environmental protection?

It troubles me that we tend to portray these outcomes as somehow always opposing or mutually exclusive when much of our job is to ensure they support each other. It’s what makes our work really interesting. It is up to us as planners not to present environmental issues as always some kind of barrier to progress, which is often the perception. In Scotland the quality of our environment and our natural resources is a massive economic asset and opportunity if managed progressively and imaginatively. It’s important that we see the environment as a dynamic thing where we are clear both about the multiple benefits it can deliver as well as the things that are important to conserve.
Immaterial Considerations
An irreverent look at the world of planning...

Number Crunching:
Scottish Young Planners' Conference 2015

4 key messages of the Conference from Chair, Pam Ewen (engaging, attitudes & behaviours, leadership and motivation)
15 speakers
139 participants
234 individual tweets using the #syc15 hashtag, plus hundreds of retweets and favourites

Best Bloggers
For this edition, the IC team have been discussing our favourite blogs. We recommend:

Brodies Planning Blog – one of the most well established planning blogs around, Neil Collar and his team provide useful planning law updates and thoughts on planning issues www.brodies.com/blog/category/planning

City of Edinburgh Council Planning – for posts on planning updates, news, biodiversity, planning committee and more in Edinburgh http://planningedinburgh.com

Brick by Brick – Ken Gibb from the University of Glasgow writes about housing issues https://kengibb.wordpress.com

Scottish Government Planning and Architecture - http://scotgovplanningarchitecture.com

Plus you can also follow our RTPI Scotland Blog - https://rtpiscotland.wordpress.com

IS RTPI BRANCHING OUT INTO TELEVISION?
An email from a Member in Turkey recently told us about the RTPI channel. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week of planning? Sign us up...

If you have any suggestions for the Immaterial Considerations team, please contact us at scotland@rtpi.org.uk.
Receiving a commendation at the 2014 Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning, the Listed Buildings and the Orkney Local List Supplementary Guidance (LBOLL) was formally adopted by Orkney Islands Council in October 2011. The document sets the criteria for inclusion on the Orkney Local List; outlines the implications of Local List status; establishes five ‘Core Principles’ that must be adhered to for a relevant planning application to be successful; details the level of information required to be submitted for an application for Listed Building Consent; and provides comprehensive advice on how to meet the requirements of the ‘Core Principles’.

For over 10 years the ‘one for one’ rural housing policy in Orkney had resulted in the loss of numerous dwellings of historic merit and, whilst they did not appear on the statutory list, many locally important buildings and structures were lost through the policy approach. The 2011 LBOLL guidance sought to ensure that an informative and transparent framework exists to inform the preparation of relevant development proposals and, where possible, to secure the retention of important local buildings and structures.

Population of the Local List to date has primarily taken place on a reactive basis upon the receipt of planning applications. However, the adopted guidance sets out a procedure for a three phase survey of Orkney’s buildings that will take place over the coming years. As locally listed properties benefit from additional weighting in terms of local conservation and heritage grant funding applications, there have also been a number of nominations to date by the owners of buildings and local community groups using the process established in the guidance.

Since 2011, the guidance has proved to be successful in ensuring that appropriate interventions are made and that locally important buildings and structures are not lost. The guidance is further supported by the revised ‘Housing in the Countryside Supplementary Guidance’, which allows the owners of historic buildings to restore them to an agreed standard and to also build an independent unit on an adjacent building plot, in effect providing a ‘two for one’ opportunity. This sustainable reuse of Orkney’s building stock has a positive impact on the environment whilst reinforcing the sense of identity and ‘place’ in the Orkney countryside and within the settlements. Whilst the criteria for inclusion on the Orkney Local List may not be directly transferable to other regions in Scotland, as they are tailored specifically to the local context, the overarching strategy and ‘Core Principles’ may.

The following Core Principles guide all relevant planning proposals:

1. The retention and preservation of buildings and structures which feature on the Orkney Local List will be encouraged.
2. Development proposals should avoid, wherever possible, the demolition or significant alteration of any portion of a building or structure which contributes to its local historic merit.
3. Any architectural features which contribute to the historic merit of a building or structure should be retained.
4. Extensions must not compromise elements of the building which are of historic or architectural value and the materials, form, scale and massing of any extension must complement and in no way dominate the host building or structure.
5. New developments in the grounds of buildings and structures on the Orkney Local List, or in close proximity, should not compromise their setting or dominate the historic building.

Stuart West, Development and Marine Planning Manager at Orkney Islands Council, produced the Listed Buildings and the Orkney Local List Supplementary Guidance. In this article he details the Core Principles and the positive impact the Supplementary Guidance has had since adoption.
In Practice: Partnership Working in Practice

Alistair Hilton is a Senior Planner in Dundee City Council’s Development Plans and Regeneration Team. In this article he details the project at The Crescent, Whitfield, integrating community facilities and regeneration that received a Commendation for Delivering in Partnership at the 2014 Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning.

The Crescent in Dundee’s Whitfield estate is a model of partnership working in practice. It is a vibrant and innovative building that provides community, health and social care services along with shops, a café and a library, all under one roof. It has brought together 150 staff to deliver services for the local community and is a catalyst for the social and physical regeneration of this area. The true success of the Crescent will be measured over coming years, but less than a year after opening, it is already improving collaboration, encouraging local people to use a wider range of services and helping them to have a say in their community!

“It is already improving collaboration, encouraging local people to use a wider range of services and helping them to have a say in their community!”

The Whitfield Planning Framework is guiding the regeneration of this area, promoting the redevelopment of vacant sites with up to 1000 new homes and tackling issues of deprivation experienced by many in the community. The Framework recognises that access to high quality local services is a vital component of the successful regeneration of this area.

Previous community facilities were poorly located within the estate, fragmented in terms of their service delivery and suffered from issues of anti-social behaviour.

The Crescent was developed through partnership working between Dundee City Council, NHS Tayside and the Whitfield Development Group which represents local people. By grouping together various services, opportunities to share the use of certain spaces in the building were identified, reducing the overall size and cost of the building. Despite differing priorities and prior working practices, good, open discussions from the outset ensured that an effective partnership approach was taken towards both the design of the building and the delivery of services since it opened.

The Crescent is a unique, double fronted, two-storey building with a central foyer from which the public can access all services. A high quality, landscaped plaza links The Crescent with the new Ballumbie Primary School that has been constructed on the opposite side of the street. The Plaza is a space where the community can sit, meet or host events and includes a highly creative public artwork that itself was delivered through extensive community involvement.

The Crescent includes a social enterprise café, a library, shared use community and NHS rooms and retail units at ground floor. The first floor houses a GP Surgery, clinic and consultation rooms, social work contact rooms, activity areas and open plan office accommodation shared by staff from Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside.

Since The Crescent opened in April 2014, there has been increased interest from house builders in the development opportunities in Whitfield, demonstrating the value of investment in community infrastructure as part the wider regeneration process.

The partners are now actively learning the lessons from this building as the development of similar facilities elsewhere in Dundee are progressed.

Read more about The Crescent’s SAQP Commendation here: www.scotgovplanningarchitecture.com/2014/07/18/the-crescent-whitfield
There has been a perception that there is a disconnect between the processes, outcomes and priorities of Spatial Planning and Community Planning. The Scottish Government defines Community Planning as a “process which helps public agencies to work together with the community to plan and deliver better services which make a real difference to people’s lives”. Given this RTPI Scotland has undertaken research exploring if this was the case; how we can address this; and what the benefits of a greater connection between processes might be for all parties.

The initial research aims were to examine:
- the current position with regards to linkages between community planning and spatial planning involving research into the legislative context, guidance and advice
- the potential that more effectively linked community and spatial planning can have for planners, local authorities, Community Planning Partnerships and communities.
- perceptions on better linking community planning and spatial planning from key players in spatial planning and community planning
- current barriers to, and opportunities for, better connecting community and spatial planning
- action that can be taken to make it easier and more effective to link community planning and spatial planning targeted at a range of players including Scottish Government, Community Planning Partnerships, local authorities, heads of planning and others.

Primary research involved interviews with a range of organisations; an online questionnaire sent to Heads of Planning and Community Planning Partnership across Scotland; a call for evidence from other interested parties and a roundtable session with a range of players to discuss and test the emerging conclusions.

The research identified a number of opportunities that were highlighted by both planning departments and Community Planning officers:
- Delivery of Outcomes
- Shared Visions
- Shared Processes
- Shared Resources
- Shared Knowledge

A number of barriers were also identified:
- Timescales and statutory processes
- Reduction in resources
- Institutional barriers
- Complexity of Spatial and Community Planning
- Lack of partnership working
- Lack of consistency across Scotland
- Culture

The research has also led to a number of recommendations for taking work forward.
There needs to be a recognition of the starting points to making links between Spatial Planning and Community Planning.

There is a drive and commitment for joining up spatial and community planning and growing recognition that place-based approaches through planning can help to maximise impact. For this to happen effectively CPPs and planning departments should examine opportunities for alignment through identifying key inroads on priority issues. Our research has identified a number of issues where more joined up approaches have been taken including regeneration, health and wellbeing.

There are opportunities to align processes to help to deliver Spatial Planning and Community Planning outcomes more effectively and efficiently. Our research has shown that, despite some barriers in terms of legislative timeframes, there is potential to align processes. These include visioning exercises for plans; community engagement; and stakeholder involvement processes.

Spatial Planning needs to articulate to Community Planning what it can do.

There is a lack of understanding of the roles, responsibilities and benefits of Spatial Planning amongst many Community Planners, and vice versa. This was compounded by the fact that the very large majority of Heads of Planning in Local Authorities sit in the third tier of their organisation and so are not always directly involved in Corporate Management teams. This points to a need for spatial planners to improve how they work corporately and express the expertise, resources and added value that they can bring through their work.

Local Authorities and Community Planning Partnerships should give priority to linking Spatial Planning and Community Planning.

There are inconsistencies across Scotland on how, and if, Spatial and Community Planning are working together. Generally such a link is seen as desirable and useful in helping deliver the priorities of each plan. Given this there needs to be consistent messaging about the importance of coordinating tasks and efforts to link spatial and community planning. It is recognised that this should not be a one size fits all approach and that approaches should be adapted to fit local circumstances.

There needs to be more effective communication between Spatial Planning and Community Planning actors.

The research has highlighted that a significant barrier to forming links between spatial and community planning is lack of communication. There is a need to address communication links therefore between spatial and community planning within local authorities. This could be addressed through sharing processes, sharing successes and sharing working environments.

There is a need to improve Spatial Planners’ knowledge of Community Planning, and where they can contribute.

Many spatial planners do not have a great understanding of what Community Planning is, what it does and how they should interact with it. There are different interpretations and perceptions of spatial and community planning. Given this, it is thought that there may be a need for training and awareness raising to help spatial planners and community planners better understand what one another do, and where they can complement their work.

There is a need to explore the landscape of plans for overlap and consistency.

There are a range of plans that aim to provide vision for a place or which set out how a programme or funding stream is to be implemented. These appear to have distinctive roles but there may be opportunities to better join these up to ensure that they are all pulling in the same direction.

There is a need to be clear about roles and responsibilities at different levels of leadership.

Our research has shown that leadership is important in taking this issue forward. However there are different leadership roles to be played at different levels and so there needs to be clarity on who needs to do what.

There is a need to explore how community-led approaches contribute to the delivery of the Community Plan and the Development Plan outcomes.

Spatial planning has an important role in engaging communities to establish a vision for their area and that this could be an extremely valuable part of the Community Planning machinery. Key to this will be making the link between the future development of an area (mainly through the Development Plan) and the provision of services in an area (which is mainly articulated through the Community Plan).

There is a need to ‘drill down’ further to explore practical opportunities and barriers.

Emerging from the research is a need to ‘drill down’ to explore the practical barriers and opportunities to linking Spatial and Community Planning, building some case study examples of good practice and lessons learned form the experience of local authorities and Community Planning Partnerships. Given this we are delighted that Scottish Government have agreed to fund work on this with the aim of developing a ‘routemap’ for local authorities, Community Planning Partnerships and Scottish Government outlining the key steps to take and pitfalls to overcome in establishing better linkages between Spatial and Community Planning at the local level.

Sile Hayes
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What makes a great public place? There is probably no consensus on the specifics but it’s likely that we would all agree on the fundamentals: that a great public place is one that improves community and individual wellbeing and enhances our quality of life.

It might do this by offering opportunities for walking or cycling, providing safe space for children to play, making it easy for friends and neighbours to meet and get to know each other, or by enabling people to take part in cultural activities, to learn or to do business and work.

A truly great place is probably also one that has been shaped by local people and that offers continued opportunities for the community to develop and improve. It is often residents who best understand the requirements of their community: what would work well and what would not.

Auchencairn Link – Park in the small town of Auchencairn in Dumfries and Galloway is a good example. For many years the town was effectively split in two by an area of agricultural waste ground. But life in Auchencairn changed recently when the waste land was put up for sale and subsequently
bought by a local community organisation. A bridge and steps were installed linking the two halves of the town for the first time and plans for a community garden were developed. Less than a year later the site was transformed. The Link - Park Garden in Auchencarrn is now a beautiful part of the local environment – but it is much more than that. The improvement of the site, led entirely by the community brought villagers together. There were high turnouts on weekend workdays, local businesses, artists and craftspeople contributed to the development, new friendships were formed and an inviting communal space for a range of community activities including, dyeing workshops, beekeeping, a children’s play area and classes in horticulture were created. Children now have a safe space to play in and to walk to school, away from the road.

Auchencairn Link Park illustrates the benefits of a community led approach to public space development both as a means and an ends. When communities are placed in the driving seat not only are there often better outcomes in terms of design but we also see increased confidence, the development of new skills, enhanced social cohesion and increased local participation.

The Challenge

In the UK a strong social gradient exists in terms of environmental quality. We know that too many communities live in unpredictable and unsafe environments that are linked to chronic stress and long term health inequalities. We also know that there is good evidence linking high quality, well designed public spaces, shaped by local communities to improved wellbeing, making the case for more communities to develop well designed public spaces like Auchencairn Link Park even more compelling.

In 2014 the Carnegie UK Trust began exploring the role of good design in improving wellbeing and how policymakers and practitioners might support this. In 2014 we launched a new competition the Carnegie Prize for Design and Wellbeing. The aim was to shine a spotlight on the impact that well-designed public spaces can have on wellbeing.

Auchencairn Link Park was the overall winner. The four other winners included a tenants residents association in Denny who had brought a neglected park back into use; an active travel project in Kirkcaldy that worked with the local community to create safer streets; a community garden established on the site of former tower blocks in Greenock; and a citizen focused arts project in Ballymena which sought to bring life back into the town centre.

Drawing on learning from the experiences of our prize winners and evidence about the impact that well -designed public spaces can have on community and individual wellbeing, the Trust has identified 5 high level actions that policymakers can take so that more communities have the opportunity to benefit from public space improvements like these. They are:

1. Recognise the importance of high-quality public spaces in national and local performance frameworks
2. Make it easier for communities to access funding for design work
3. Put quality public spaces at the centre of town centre regeneration
4. Be creative and just say ‘yes’ to communities who want to do good things
5. Recognise public space improvement as a central component to a preventative approach to health inequalities and wider inequalities

The Role of Planners

A focus on quality of outcome with due attention to good design is a core principle of Scottish Planning Policy. With this in mind planners have a critical role in supporting and advocating for more community led development of public space. There are opportunities both at the Development Planning and Development Management stage for planning professionals to act as facilitators and enablers of community led public space development. Planners can help ensure that local people are actively involved in shaping local development and support communities to navigate the planning system and realise their aspirations.

For more information about the Carnegie Prize for Design and Wellbeing and our research into the impact of high quality public spaces on wellbeing see www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/changing-minds/people---place/carnegie-prize-for-design-and-wellbeing or get in touch with Jenny Brotchie. To download the policy report Places that love people, see www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/publications/2014/places-that-love-people-learning-from-the-cam-%281%29.
Despite the continued drive toward urbanised city economies, 70% of Scotland’s population still lives in its towns and villages. Most of our towns are essentially creations of the industrial age which began to gather force around the middle of the 18th century. The census of 1861 showed that for the first time in our history more people lived in towns and cities and our hitherto agricultural economy had become industrial, 50 years later the 1901 census showed that this ratio had risen to 3:1.

However, from the 1970’s onwards, deindustrialisation across Scotland led to a major shift in the economy towards a service base and whilst cities were quick to replace shipbuilding and manufacturing with finance, business services, education, retail and tourism, our towns found it more difficult to reinvent their role and function. Once the mining, manufacturing, steel, textiles or quarrying had gone, by the late 1980’s many of our towns were left trying to fundamentally reinvent and rediscover their role in a fast moving 21st century.

But our towns are a living legacy of our history and culture, even the most cynical amongst us will have an emotional attachment to their home town or village.

Phil Prentice
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Article:
The Changing Face of Scotland’s Towns

Phil Prentice is the new Chief Officer of Scotland’s Towns Partnership, focusing on helping towns and smaller settlements across the country to reconnect with their people and to build better places. In this article Phil discusses.
a childhood memory, a sense of pride and identity, we acknowledge their famous sons and daughters, it's who we are, part of our fabric and DNA.

Our towns are not homogenous and whilst some are doing well, many are at a crossroads. The continued drift of talent and youth to city economies, structural changes in retail where we use tablets, online, click and click, out of town and destination shops, the ongoing impact of the economic recession, dysfunctional property and housing markets, welfare reform, less disposable local income and a fast shrinking public sector. The issues are complex and there is no silver bullet solution but a good start to the fight back is to energise and empower people and communities. Business Improvement Districts are growing faster in Scotland than anywhere else in the world and this is a great start for any town – to get its businesses working together and reconnecting with the community they serve...it has come full circle in terms of local, ethical and social.

Last year saw a year in Scotland like no other, from the Homecoming to the Commonwealth Games, The Ryder Cup to the Referendum, our small nation regained its sense of identity and pride, it became energised and showed the world how we can punch above our weight. That energy is still around and we must nurture this engagement and empowerment. The Community Empowerment Bill due for Royal Assent in June will also provide further legislative powers to assist communities to reclaim a stake in their towns and villages.

Fundamentally places are about people and although the way we live our lives has changed dramatically in a generation, we still depend on our towns for meeting friends, for shopping, entertainment, leisure, history, heritage, tourism, culture, public services and for transport. We also depend on them for jobs and businesses, towns continue to make an important economic contribution, they allow us to share resource and services. The places that we live in also have a fundamental impact on our wellbeing and successful places are where people feel engaged and where they play a role in owning, designing and shaping its future. Recent work by the Carnegie UK Trust highlights the benefits of Places that Love People (see article on Pages 12-13 of this edition of Scottish Planner).

The future will be a mix of cities and towns which are innovative and embrace change and which offer a good quality life and a sense of like-minded community, the human factor is the driver to achieve this, let's adopt Governments “can do” agenda and deliver an economy which is competitive, but also socially just.

The role of planning in this agenda is critical and I believe that we have some of the best urbanists, designers, architects, engineers and planners who can rise to the challenge. We must look to the long term and be pragmatic as well as creative. A good start would be for planners to adopt the Town Centre First Planning Principle which aims to protect our towns from further edge and out of town sprawl.

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We will also offer advice and support, highlight best practice, show how to master plan properly, connect people to various towns focused programmes and identify funding opportunities. STP has been resourced by the Scottish Government to strengthen its role as the ‘go-to’ collaborative body for information, advice and sharing of expertise around town centre development. Our reach is now into almost 200 cities, towns and villages across Scotland covering settlements with a total population of 3.8 million people and we have links to over 270 professionals, cover 100,000 businesses and 1.5 million jobs.

When the Scotland's Towns Web Portal goes live in April, come and see how we can help people to improve their place.
Engaging Young People in the Aberdeen Local Development Plan

Claire McArthur is a Senior Planner within Aberdeen City Council’s Local Development Plan Team. In this article she details the initiative to promote and encourage the role young people can play in looking to the future of places, which won an Award for Community Involvement at the 2014 Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning.

The Aberdeen Local Development Plan (ALDP) Youth Engagement Programme was launched in 2013 as we began to acknowledge that the young people of Aberdeen had become a largely ‘voiceless group’ who had not been actively engaged in previous ALDP consultations, or empowered to take a more active role in shaping their local communities. We committed ourselves to changing this and, in late 2014, we were thrilled to win a Scottish Award for Quality in Planning and have our work recognised nationally as an example of excellence in active community involvement.

To date, two rounds of youth engagement have been held with over 700 young people as part of the preparation of the next Aberdeen Local Development Plan, and we hope to reach more young people in schools, youth groups, universities, etc. as preparation of the Plan continues. As well as being an integral part of our ALDP consultation, we’ve worked hard to ensure our engagement with young people can also provide a broad and progressive learning experience (in particular by positively contributing to the four capacities set by the Curriculum for Excellence), and can demonstrate how school subjects such as geography and modern studies directly link to the ‘real world’. Developing future skills for work and promoting a greater understand of the planning profession as a career choice have also been key objectives of the programme.

Whenever we are invited to talk about our experiences we are often approached by Planners inspired to better engage with young people in their area. As such, these are our ‘top tips’:

1. You Can Do This - Use The Resources You Already Have
Think you don’t have the skill set to speak to young people? You do. As a Planner you already have all the skills you need! Remember that youth engagement shouldn’t be an ‘added extra’ to ‘traditional’ consultation - instead make sure your consultation materials are geared to all age groups. Laminators are your friend.

2. Consider the Logistics
If you intend to consult with schools, be in touch as soon as possible (ideally 3-6 months in advance) in order to plan around holidays and exam times. Can the participants travel to you or do you need to go to them? Can you take photographs? How much time do you have? Oh, and is that suit you’re planning to wear really appropriate...?

3. Have Fun and Be Challenged!
Get ready to laugh more than you ever have, and be challenged to think about why things ‘have to be the way they are’. Who’s to say that in 2035 Aberdeen’s Union Street won’t have lanes dedicated to fast and slow walkers?!

Go on, get out there – you can do it! ■

Further information on the Aberdeen Local Development Plan Youth Engagement Project is available via www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ldp_youthengagement.

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Update: RTPI Policy Paper

Strategic Planning: Effective Cooperation for Planning Across Boundaries

Richard Blyth, Head of Policy, Practice and Research for RTPI outlines the key recommendations for Scotland in the recently published RTPI Policy Paper.

The RTPI Strategic Planning Policy Paper looks at current and potential strategic planning practices across the UK and Ireland, and uses case studies, including TAYplan and ClydePlan in Scotland to demonstrate some General Principles for strategic planning, before going on to make specific recommendations for the individual nations. For Scotland, the recommendations focus on integration, engagement, process and skills and resources:

Role of Strategic Development Plans
Scottish Government’s ongoing planning reform and the move to a truly plan led system with a clear hierarchy of plans in Scotland mean that Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) play an important role in setting out the strategic spatial planning context for plan making, and crucially for delivery of development. SDPs must be able to work in a context that allows them to take long-term, high-level decisions which may be contentious but which are required to ensure that the city region functions economically, environmentally and socially.

Integration
SDPs are more than planning documents; they are investment and marketing tools demonstrating the way in which the city regions will be shaped over time. Given this, it is imperative that SDPs (and Local Development Plans) are better connected to Community Plans and Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs).

Engagement
SDPs must be seen as a key tool in providing a long term spatial strategy setting out what should be developed where, and what should be protected and enhanced. This will involve early engagement with key interests from the public and private sector, and communities. Key to this is the need for SDPAs to be seen as key players in collaborative partnerships for their areas that can help to bring together public sector bodies to agree what is in the Plan and Action Programme

Process
There is concern that there have been no hearings on SDPs to date. The Development Plan Examination should still be in public where justice can be seen to be done. The lack of a hearing might be a problem for some sections of the community, insofar as objections went seemingly unheard.

Skills and Resources
The issues of skills and resourcing for the public sector in general are key issues in this debate, and particularly the resourcing of SDPAs and planning authorities taking forward the SDP allocations and policies within their Local Development Plans. There is a need to ensure that the skills and knowledge sets required to undertake strategic planning are not lost.

The Strategic Planning Policy Paper is available to read in full on the RTPI website www.rtpi.org.uk/media/1230885/RTPI-Strategic%20Planning-Brochure%20FINAL%20web%20PDF.pdf
Update: Scottish Government

A regular update on planning at the national level from the Scottish Government’s Planning and Architecture Division.

Chief Planner Letters
You may wish to be aware of two letters that the Chief Planner has recently issued. On 15 January 2015, a letter setting out the Government’s concerns relating to the preparation of supplementary guidance by planning authorities was published. His letter of 28 January 2015 contained the Town and Country Planning (Notification of Applications) (Unconventional Oil and Gas) (Scotland) Direction 2015. The Direction is intended to ensure that the Government’s position, a moratorium on unconventional oil and gas developments in Scotland, is reflected through the planning decision making process.

Both letters are available on the Scottish Government website at: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/ Roles/Scottish-Government/Guidance/Other-Publications.

Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning 2015
The 2015 Scottish Awards for Planning have opened. Anyone can enter the planning awards, including local authorities, consultants, community groups, developers, public agencies and voluntary organisations. You have until 17 April to submit an application. Further details including an application form and guidance note can be found at: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/SAQP. You can also get updates by searching for #SAQP2015 on twitter.

Two of the 2014 Awards winners (TAYplan and Aberdeen City Council) gave presentations on community engagement with young people at the December 2014 National Development Plan Forum. Presentations from the day, and the annual HRA Development Plan Forum held in November, are available on the Scottish Government website.

Environmental Assessment
The Environmental Assessment Team circulated its latest Environmental Assessment Newsletter in February 2015. It covers forthcoming events and important changes that may be of interest to practitioners within Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats Regulations Appraisal and Environmental Impact Assessment. The SEA Gateway has now processed more than 1000 Scottish SEA cases. We are using this milestone as an opportunity to review our SEA processes and procedures, ensuring they are still fit for purpose. We will share any relevant outcomes from this internal review in due course.

Performance
Last month saw the publication of the Planning Performance Annual report 2013-14. It provides an overview of the planning authority performance across Scotland. For the first time this year we have produced appendices on SDPA and Key Agency performance too. The report can be accessed at the following link: www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00470271.pdf.

Experience of using Processing Agreements
The Scottish Government has actively promoted the use of processing agreements as a project management tool for planning applications since 2012. In February 2014 we received feedback at Planning Performance Framework workshops that some planning authorities were struggling to get applicants and developers to sign up to them. We therefore felt that it was important to report on progress made and the experiences of planning authorities and applicants who had recently used them. During Autumn 2014 we interviewed a selection of planning authorities and applicants in order to identify benefits, potential issues and the key ingredients of making a processing agreement successful. We have recently published a report on the experience of using processing agreements on our website. It is hoped that the findings of the report are used by planning authorities, applicants and developers to consider how take-up can be increased further.

Pay Day Lending and Betting Offices
The Scottish Government has published the report of its planning consultation in this regard: www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/02/8755.

Compulsory Purchase

Progress on ePlanning
ePlanning Scotland is a single shared service for submitting planning applications and appeals online anywhere in Scotland. The website has seen a significant growth in popularity in the last year which has been marked by two key milestones. By autumn 2014, more than 60% of all applications and appeals were being submitted online as opposed to using traditional paper based postal applications. This is double the figure forecast when the site was launched, which is a fantastic achievement. The second milestone was reached in February, when the 100,000th application was submitted through ePlanning Scotland. The portal currently processes an average of 2,200 applications and appeals a month, providing a high quality planning service and generating significant financial savings for customers and the public sector. The average saving per application equates to £241 to the applicant and £106 to the planning authority.

The ePlanning portal is an example of the Scottish Government’s work in this regard: www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/02/8755.

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**Background**

The purpose of the Place Standard is to articulate what makes a good, sustainable place. Using it should help communities and both the public and private sectors to work together in delivering high quality, sustainable places. It is being delivered in partnership by Scottish Government (SG), NHS Health Scotland (NHS HS) and Architecture + Design Scotland (A+DS) so it provides an example of the integration of health considerations into the wider policy landscape.

It is now widely recognised that the physical and social environment can impact upon physical and mental health and how action on a specific place can reduce health inequalities. The Place Standard should help identify how the contribution of ‘the place’ could be improved to support better health, wellbeing and a higher quality of life across Scotland.

The project was launched in late 2013 in recognition of commitments made in **Good Places Better Health** and the Scottish Government’s policy statement on architecture and place: **Creating Places**.

Following a period of background research and literature review, initial stakeholder engagement was taken forward through a series of workshops and interviews. In light of that work the project team (SG, NHS HS & A+DS) developed an interim standard based around a set of key themes and questions that are central to the delivery of successful, sustainable places. This is now ready for testing by stakeholders with a view to further refining the product and developing a final version for launch later in 2015.

**The Place Standard Assessment Tool**

The Tool is designed to provide a framework for assessing a place or plan through structured conversations. Fourteen themes have been developed after careful consideration by the project team, to prompt a wide discussion about the qualities and challenges of ‘my place’, or ‘our place’. Each theme is framed as a question and supported by an aim and a set of considerations that can be accessed by any user, if they want some background information on a particular aspect.

The output is hoped to set out the strengths and assets of a place in an easily understood and graphic manner. However the aim of the tool is not to develop a definitive numeric score, which can often lead to stigmatisation of communities, but to record the assets of a place in a holistic manner and to inform intervention and, through continued use, to plot improvements.

By plotting various opinions of a particular place in response to each question users will generate a visual assessment of place quality. A plot close to the centre of the circle indicates that health and wellbeing is not currently well supported through that theme; in contrast, close to the outer edge suggests a very good situation with less room for improvement.

**Testing**

The project team will test all aspects of the Place Standard through consultation with stakeholders in the coming months. We’ll seek feedback on the themes & questions, how and when the tool should be used to maximise its potential impact and how accessible the tool is for the broadest possible range of users, from the general public to design professionals.

If you would like to know more about this project, please contact architecture@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Government
The Convenor, Vice Convenors and Director of RTPI Scotland met with Alex Neil MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners’ Rights and Derek Mackay MSP, Minister for Transport and the Islands on 26 February to discuss planning issues including housing, resources and community planning.

The Director of RTPI Scotland met with Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Sport, Health Improvement & Mental Health on 10 March in his role as Chair of the National Walking Strategy Implementation Group.

Parliament
RTPI Scotland has been engaged in 2 Bills going through Parliament – the Community Empowerment Bill and the Historic Environment Bill. Draft secondary legislation for the Historic Environment Bill has just been published and is being considered.

The Director of RTPI Scotland has given a presentation on our 10 propositions to support planning for housing in Scotland to the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Architecture and the Built Environment. The Director also continues to act as policy advisor to the Chair of the Cross Party Group on Towns and Town Centres.

Working and Advisory Groups
RTPI Scotland continues to be involved in over 20 working groups or advisory committees. As part of this the Director has been asked to sit on the Scottish Government’s Joint Housing Delivery Group, The Planning Policy and Practice Officer has been asked to become a member of the Scottish Urban Air Quality Steering Group and Chair the Planning Working Group on the Low Emissions Strategy for Scotland consultation to determine the most appropriate path for the delivery of the actions on “Development” set out within the consultation document.

Scottish Election in 2016
RTPI Scotland is working to influence the manifestos of the main Scottish political parties and, although the election to the Scottish Parliament won’t take place until 5 May 2016, we have a window of around 6 months to do this. Given this, we are exploring the key issues to be faced; the evidence in hand or required; and the lines and messaging to be taken forward. It is anticipated that the key issues will include housing; energy; resources and performance; public service reform; town centres; and community empowerment.

With this in mind we have been building an evidence base on some of these issues through the working being undertaken on the 10 Propositions for Housing; research on linking community planning and spatial planning; analysis of Planning Authorities’ Planning Performance Frameworks on staffing; research on planning for the 2020 Renewables Targets; and our inputs to the Institute’s Planning Horizons papers.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

Pam Ewen, Convenor of RTPI Scotland, spoke on the Radio Scotland Morning Call programme on 4 February on the Scottish Carbuncle awards. She also had a letter published in The Herald on the topic on 6 February.

Pam also contributed Morning Call’s discussion on community engagement in planning on 10 March and had a letter on the issue published in The Herald on 6 March, with a follow up article published on 12 March. Director Craig McLaren discussed the issue on BBC2’s Scotland 2015 current affairs programme on 9 March.

A number of pieces have recently been posted on the RTPI Scotland Blog (see http://rtpiscotland.wordpress.com) including:

- Developing Public Planning Policy – Is there a right way or a wrong way?
- “Yes, We Also Can” – Project Suwalki Youth Exchange
- No place should be labelled as a Carbuncle...
- 10 Landmark Moments in Scottish Planning in 2014
- What does 2015 hold for planning in Scotland?

The @RTPIScotland twitter account now has 1774 followers and the @ConvenorRTPIS account has 289 followers.

DEATHS

The Institute regrets to announce the deaths of the following members:

- Mr Stanley Neville Denney BA MRTPI(Rtd), Glasgow
- Mr David George Hamilton Waugh ARIBA FLI MRTPI, Edinburgh
- William Derek Collier Lyddon FRTPi, Edinburgh. A short tribute to Derek, a former Chief Planner for Scotland, can be read on www.rtpi.org.uk/scotland.
PAS Facilitates Community-led Charrette

Dunblane Community Council and Dunblane Development Trust have appointed PAS to deliver a Charretteplus programme for Dunblane town centre. The Charretteplus model integrates Land-use Planning and Community Planning in a more holistic and inclusive approach. In this community-led process, the role of PAS is to facilitate the charrette engagement and to assist the community to create and implement its own vision for place.

The Dunblane Charrette is focused on the town centre, how it currently functions and how it might function in the future. This focus on the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the town centre comes from the Town Centre First Principle. The project is supported and funded by the Scottish Government, Stirling Council and the Big Lottery.

The aim of this charrette process is to create a 20 year vision for Dunblane town centre in the form of an updated Community Action Plan. This will look at the potential physical improvements to the town centre, as well as other actions that can improve the functioning of the town centre. To support the vision put forward by the community, the Community Action Plan will outline specific actions and an indication of how they might be taken forward.

As part of the pre-charrette engagement, PAS is encouraging the local community to set the agenda and identify key issues to be explored during the main charrette which will take place 26-29 April. In addition, PAS is holding workshops with the three local primary schools, high school and youth centre to ensure the charrette is an inclusive process.

For further details visit www.pas.org.uk

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Jim Boyack Memorial Trust

Jim Boyack Award Recipients Announced

The Jim Boyack Memorial Trust has presented its 2014 prize jointly to Charlotte Brown and Priya Kay who were each awarded £800 and a free place at the Scottish Young Planners’ Conference. Priya, who is undertaking part-time for an MSc in City Planning and Real Estate Development at the University of Glasgow said “I have developed a great interest in planning through my undergraduate BA Hons Geography degree from Strathclyde University and hope to pursue a career within this field.” Charlotte is a third year Town and Regional Planning student at University of Dundee and said “I believe it is important to build communities; their housing, facilities and connections, whether it be a small village or a large city. Working in the planning profession will allow me to support the balance between development and the environment, a balance that is crucial in Scotland”.

Jim Boyack was Senior Vice Convenor of RTPI Scotland when he died in 1990. The trust was established in gratitude for his life and distinguished work, enthusiasm and contribution towards planning in Scotland. The Trust aims to invest in tomorrow’s planners by organising an annual award to assist students to enter or continue on a planning course in Scotland. The purpose of the Trust is to endow and provide for the making of an annual award to students undertaking or extending their studies in Scotland of town and country planning.

You can find out more about the Jim Boyack Trust at https://jimboyacktrust.wordpress.com.
RTPI Scotland aims to **lead** thinking in how planning can create great places for people. We do this by:

- responding to policy consultations from Scottish Government, agencies and other organisations; and
- discussing planning issues with policy makers including Ministers, MSPs and Civil Servants.

It's currently a busy time for planning and related policy, with a large number different responses submitted to Scottish Government, Scottish Parliament and others by RTPI Scotland already this year on a variety of policy issues of national importance within which spatial planning can and does play an important part.

We are keen to receive comments from members on any policy issues. Please contact Nikola Miller, RTPI Scotland’s Planning Policy and Practice Officer, on nikola.miller@rtpi.org.uk.

### POLICY RESPONSES

All RTPI Scotland policy consultation responses can be read on the RTPI website at [www.rtpi.org.uk/scotland](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/scotland).

From December 2014 to March 2015 we’ve submitted the following responses:

- **Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill Briefing for MSPs** in advance of Scottish Parliament debate on 3 February 2015
- **The Future of Land Reform in Scotland** Response to Scottish Government on their Consultation Document
- **Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland − Our Place in Time − Measuring Success** Response to BEFS on the Measuring Success Consultation Paper
- **Public Petition on Equal Rights of Appeal** Submission of Written Evidence to Scottish Parliament on Public Petition
- **Public Engagement for Wind Turbine Proposals − Good Practice Guidance** Response to Scottish Government on Consultation Document
- **Commission on Housing and Wellbeing** Submission to Shelter Commission

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- **Planning Controls, Payday Lending and Betting Offices − Analysis Report** Published 20 February 2015 Scottish Government
- **Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey 2014** Published 19 February 2015 Scottish Government
- **Low Emissions Strategy for Scotland Consultation** Published 16 January 2015 (Deadline 10 April 2015) Scottish Government
- **Historic Environment Scotland Act: Secondary Legislation Consultation Paper** Published 19 December 2014 (Deadline 27 March 2015) Scottish Government
- **Planning Performance Statistics, Quarter 2, 2014/15** Published 17 December 2014 Scottish Government

### POLICY RESEARCH

- **Planning for Housing** Following the publication of the 10 Propositions to support planning for housing the December 2014 Scottish Planner, RTPI Scotland has been engaging in the current housing debate to support planning for housing and contribute to proactively rethinking approaches to housing in Scotland. We are looking to establish some key “Game Changers” to form part of the RTPI Scotland Manifesto for the 2016 Scottish Elections. Please contact scotland@rtpi.org.uk if you would like to contribute to this.

- **Linking Spatial Planning and Community Planning** One of the key policy priority issues for RTPI Scotland in 2014 was identified as Community Planning and Spatial Planning. RTPI Scotland Intern Project Officer Sile Hayes is carrying out a research project looking at the current disconnect between the processes, outcomes and priorities of community planning and spatial planning, how we can address this, and what the benefits of a greater connection between processes might be for all parties. The results of this research, in the form of a short report with recommendations, are due to be published in March 2015.

We would welcome your views as part of our Call for Evidence on the opportunities and barriers to better linking spatial and community planning, and any good practice examples of integrated approaches to delivering services. Please email sile.hayes@rtpi.org.uk with any comments.
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