

EVENTS

Our events this year have included:

- Welcome drinks (sponsored by Adams Hendry)
- Five Year Supply (sponsored by Turley)
- Spring Legal Update
- Viability Update (sponsored by Havant Borough Council)
- Winchester Walking Tour
- New Forest Bike Ride
- Bombay Sapphire Summer Social (sponsored by Park Avenue Recruitment)
- APC workshop (sponsored by Turley)
- Housing Question Time (sponsored by Savills)
- Nitrogen Neutrality in the Solent (sponsored by Barton Willmore)
- Christmas Quiz and Networking (sponsored by Park Avenue Recruitment)

December 2019

Designed by Adams Hendry



COASTAL MATTERS

A word from the chair

Welcome to the winter edition of Coastal Matters 2019!

What a productive year 2019 has been for the South Coast Young Planners Network. I set the committee a target of 10 events for 2019 to help us to grow as a network and aid in the positive promotion of planning! We have smashed this target and have ended up running 11 events and visiting one university.

This issue of Coastal Matters features RTPI updates and opportunities, event write ups including our Nitrogen Neutrality in the Solent by Daniel Ramirez at Persimmon Homes, Licentiate APC workshop by James Cording at Turley and our New Forest Bike Ride by committee member Lawrie Blyth. We also have our 'ask the boss' feature by Caroline Smith at Surrey County Council.

Know any influential members to offer career tips? Any ideas for social events? Fancy writing a future article or have feature ideas? As always, we want to be organising events and addressing topics that our members are most interested in.

If you would like to get involved, please email me at laura.archer@bartonwillmore.co.uk



South Coast Young Planners Network



RTPI Young Planners
Royal Town Planning Institute



RTPI CHAIR MEETING

RTPI Chair Meeting

Three times a year the Chairs of all RTPI Young Planners networks across the UK meet up to share ideas, receive key updates and take part in workshops. In August, the group were treated to a public speaking workshop by Constanze Bell, from Kings Chambers, which got everyone up on their feet to practice techniques – as even the way you stand can have an effect on the projection of your voice! The August meeting was also the first time the Chair meeting was held outside of London.

Lucy Seymour-Bowdery is the current Young Planner Trustee and Chair of the group. In November 2019 she chaired her last meeting after achieving so much over four years including organising many visits, increasing the frequency of the meetings, introducing the Vice Chair role and launching the Chief Planners of Tomorrow. Thank you very much for all your hard work Lucy – you are inspiring!



Chief Planners of Tomorrow 2020

Chief Planners of Tomorrow is a new work-shadowing scheme offering RTPI Young Planners the chance to step into the shoes of a Chief Planning Officer for the day. This was piloted earlier this year and was highly rated by those who gained a place on the initiative. It is a great way to gain another perspective!

The RTPI are now seeking applications from RTPI Young Planners by 5pm on Friday 10th January 2020. Find out more on the RTPI website and don't miss out on this opportunity!

RTPI Presidents Visit

On the 21st November, the South Coast Young Planners Network had the opportunity to showcase Portsmouth to the RTPI President, Ian Tant. The tour started off on Hayling Island to see the Council's areas of key regeneration before hopping on the Hayling Island ferry to Portsmouth. We then headed to St James' Hospital, a Grade II listed building with plans for a residential conversion before meeting up with Natascha McIntyre Hall, Megan Carter and Ian Maguire from Portsmouth City Council and running through the car free proposals for Tipner West. The day was a success and the rain just about held off!





MEET THE 2019 COMMITTEE



Laura Archer – Chair of the South Coast Young Planners Network and Planner at Barton Willmore



Peter Cleveland – Vice Chair of the South Coast Young Planners Committee and Head of Planning at Henry Adams LLP

Meet the 2019 Committee



Emily Fitzpatrick – Planning Officer at Hart District Council



Simon Kennedy – Planning Officer at Havant Borough Council

Committee Members



Lawrie Blyth – Planner at Adams Hendry Consulting Ltd



Katie Rayner – Senior Planning Officer at Surrey County Council



Jamie Hanna – Planner at Vail Williams LLPI



ASK THE BOSS

by Caroline Smith at Surrey County Council

Q: Name and where do you work?

Caroline Smith, Surrey County Council

Q: What does your current role involve?

I am currently the Interim Planning Group Manager and I am responsible for all of the County Council's planning functions. This includes policy and development management but also some specialisms including transportation development planning and historic environment planning.

Q: How long have you been a planner for?

A long time! I started my career at Surrey in 1992 having graduated in Environment Planning in 1991.

Q: How did your career in planning begin?

My favourite subject at school was geography, particularly the human side. Planning was a natural progression from that. My first role after leaving university was at Surrey and I've worked here ever since. I have been very fortunate that the roles have been available for promotion at the times that I have wanted them.

Q: What has been your biggest career challenge to date?

In personal terms, balancing a career and a family. In professional terms, many of the types of developments that we deal with are highly unpopular and controversial, the greatest challenge is managing and balancing the expectations of residents, elected members and applicants and being fair to each.

Q: What was the most important moment in your planning career?

Becoming the Planning Development Team Manager in September 2017.

Q: What advice would you give someone starting off with a career in planning?

Don't expect it to be easy, but you'll never be bored – no two applications or sites are ever alike.

Q: What do you wish you had known before entering the field of planning and development?

Planning at university is a lot about master planning and grandiose visions. The reality, particularly in local authority development management, can be very different to that. Master planning has an important role, but it's only a part of the planning spectrum.

Q: What has been the biggest change you have seen in planning over the years?

There have been a few – the demise of the structure plan, the rise and fall of the South East Plan, the NPPF, Neighbourhood plans, CIL – they have all resulted in significant changes.

Q: What are the biggest issues in the built environment where you work?

Surrey as a county is around 73% green belt with the Surrey Hills AONB and countless other designations. The Borough and District councils are under incredible pressure to allocate land for housing meaning that the available land for County matters such as waste development and mineral extraction is diminishing as a result. There are challenges identifying and then allocating adequate sites. This is an issue that will only get bigger over time.





NITROGEN NEUTRALITY IN THE SOLENT

RTPI Young Planners
Royal Town Planning Institute

PERSIMMON
Homes. and more.

BARTON WILLMORE

Nitrogen Neutrality in the Solent

Date: Wednesday 23rd October 2019
Time: 6pm-8pm (6pm arrival for a 6:15pm start)
Location: The Nelson Room, Old Customs House, Gunwarf Quays, Portsmouth, PO1 3TY

The impact of nitrates on protected European ecological sites is causing significant disruption to development in the Solent sub-region. Join the SCYPN to learn about this pressing planning issue and what measures are being taken to resolve it. The presentation will be given by **Daniel Ramirez** - Strategic Planning Manager at Persimmon Homes (South Coast) - who has been closely involved in the issue. An update will also be given on the South Coast region by **Robin Shepherd** at Barton Willmore.

This event is kindly sponsored by Barton Willmore, Southampton.

Designed by Adam Hardy



By Daniel Ramirez, Strategic Land and Planning Manager at Persimmon Homes

On 11 April 2019, the South Coast Young Planners Network hosted Town Legal LLP to On the 23rd October 2019, the South Coast Young Planners Network held a seminar on the very topical issue of Nitrogen Neutrality in the Solent at the Old Customs House in Portsmouth. This event was kindly sponsored by Barton Willmore (Southampton) and I was invited to give a presentation on the nitrates issue.

Having been involved in this issue for the past 8 months, including as a member South Coast Developers Consortium, I have accidentally become of somewhat of a nitrates expert. The event provided an excellent forum to share my knowledge on the cause and extent of the problem, how to undertake a nitrate budget, flaws in the current methodology and solutions / mitigations proposals being explored.

This event sold out, which is testament to the severity of the issue being faced by applicants and local authorities alike.



Thank you to the SCYPN for organising the evening and being great hosts.



BECOMING CHARTERED LICENTIATE APC EVENT

By James Cording, Planner at Turley, Southampton.

On 12th September 2019, the South Coast Young Planners Network held a seminar for those looking to become Chartered Town Planners through the Licentiate route of the RTPI's Assessment of Professional Competence, known as the L-APC. The event was held at the Southampton Office of national planning and development consultancy Turley.

The seminar was led by Steve Mattin, Membership Manager at the RTPI, who gave a comprehensive presentation on the L-APC process. This included a handy explanation of the updated L-APC guidance, published by the RTPI in June 2019 and due to take effect for submissions made after January 2020. Following an explanation of the requirements for eligibility on the L-APC route discussion moved onto the Log Book, or the Reflective Journal as it is known in the new guidance.



Next up was a look at the formal submission itself starting with the Professional Experience Statement (PES) which allows candidates to show they have sufficient planning experience to meet the RTPI's requirements. This is both in terms of the amount of experience and it being of a suitable type and at a professional level. **TOP TIP:** Remember to draw out and focus on the spatial planning elements of your work and clearly indicate when you did these.

This was followed by an exploration of the Professional Competence Statement (PCS) where candidates need to show they meet all the competencies at the required level through the use of case studies. **TOP TIP:** Write in the active voice so it is clear the contribution you made.

Of course, L-APC matters can only be talked about for so long before needing a break so there was then an opportunity for networking supplemented by pizza and drinks.

After this thoughts then moved onto the Professional Development Plan (PDP) which sets your personal professional development goals for the two years after your submission. It incorporates both an analysis of your current development through a SWOT analysis and a look at your future goals, objectives and action plan for your next two years' CPD. **TOP TIP:** If you are struggling to write your PDP you can find lots of helpful resources from the RTPI at www.rtpi.org.uk/pdpresources including an online learning module, podcasts, advice notes and examples.

Finally there was a look at the different assessment outcome options and a reminder of the benefits that can come having a mentor to guide you through the L-APC process.

Chartered Planners, James Cording of Turley and Jamie Hanna of Vail Williams, were then on hand for a Q&A to give their experiences for completing the L-APC. Their **TOP TIPS** included:

- Read and re-read the guidance and always have a copy to hand when writing your submission.
- Keep on top of the Reflective Journal / Log Book. Find a time that works well for you to complete it such as for an hour before work or on a Friday afternoon.
- When writing your PCS, always ask why? Why did I do this? Why did I not do that? Why was this a problem? Why was this a good solution? This will help you get in the mind-set of reflection the RTPI expects to see throughout your PCS.
- Try to have a complete draft of your submission a few weeks before the submission date. This will give you, your mentor, colleagues and friends and family time to look it over and make any amendments so your submission is the best it can be.
- Give yourself time to complete the administrative tasks that go with the submission such as completing the application form and getting written statements from your corroborators.

The seminar proved very informative to those attending with the advice and tips given no doubt coming in handy as they prepare their L-APC submissions.

Turley would like to thank the SCYPN for organising the event and to Steve, James and Jamie for presenting and giving some really useful advice.

Good luck to all those making APC submissions in the coming months. If you have any questions about the APC, the RTPI Membership Team are always on hand to help.





NEW FOREST BIKE RIDE



New Forest Bike Ride with Lawrie Blyth, SCYPN committee member and Planner at Adams Hendry Consulting Ltd.

In July, SCYPN hosted a cycle event in the New Forest which was the first event of this kind for the SCYPN Events Calendar and we hope to host more like this next year!

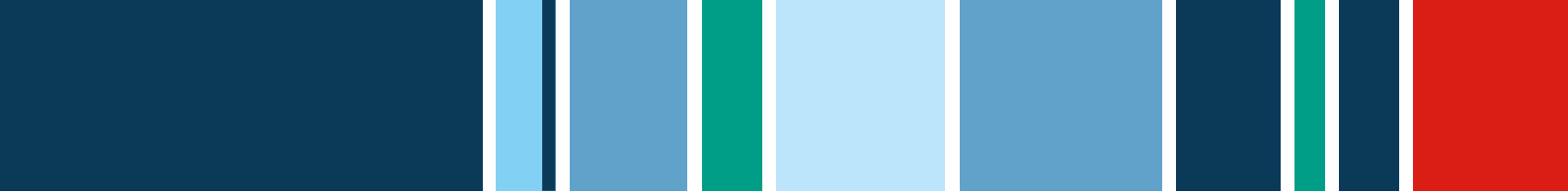
The group all met up on a sunny Saturday morning outside the New Forest Cycle Experience Hire in Brockenhurst. After introductions (and queries regarding the number of hills), we all set off. The route initially took us along the Rhinefield Ornamental Drive, through the Blackwater Arboretum, which is where some of the tallest and oldest Douglas Fir and Redwood trees in the New Forest grow. The Route then turned off road, into the Burley Inclosures'. Here, you are able to really appreciate the tranquillity of the Forest without the noisy road traffic. As we rode along the gravel tracks, we saw an array of wildlife as well as the renown New Forest Ponies grazing amongst the trees.

As we approached the halfway mark and queries regarding lunch peaked, we stopped in the historical village of Burley. Burley has a long history involving smugglers and witches (and yes, they even have a shop dedicated to the latter). We clattered our bikes down outside the Burley Inn for a well earned pub lunch and more importantly, cider. This was a great opportunity for some informal networking and a chance to compare notes on who had the most unreliable bicycle.



We rode the last section of the Ride along the Old Railway route linking Burbush to Brockenhurst. Pedalling through an open heathland landscape, this was in stark contrast to the woodland enclosures of the morning, yet equally picturesque. This was good opportunity to spot birds of prey swooping overhead, as well as debate the solitary 'custom build home' adjacent to the gravel track (only on a Planners' bike ride!). The Old Railway Route brought us back into Brockenhurst, where we dismounted and toasted the ride in the Snakecatcher's beer garden before heading off home.

Thank you to all those who participated in the preparation of this route and taking part on the day itself. If you enjoyed the ride or you enjoyed reading about it here, then we will be organising more rides next year, watch this space.



JOIN THE COMMITTEE

We are now receiving nominations to join the South Coast Young Planners Network. The committee aim to meet twice a year in person and be available for conference calls for event organisation.

What will you get out of the committee:

- Team work with other committee members.
- Become excellent at organising events.
- Network with others in similar professions in the region.
- Raise your profile through events or writing articles in the newsletter.

What we expect from you:

- Be a professional representative of the RTPI.
- Lead on one event (on your own or in pairs).
- Offer support and assistance at events.
- Share SCYPN promotion on social media.

Please get in touch if you are interested!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

