



RTPI South West
Royal Town Planning Institute

RTPI South West Annual Review 2018

Highlighting what your Region achieved
for its Members and in profiling the profession



RTPI South West Annual Review 2018

Chairs Foreword

My main aim for 2018 was to make the RTPI in general and more specifically the South West region, more relevant and accessible to all its members. I particularly wanted to have more informal events, outside of the well-established CPD programme, for networking and learning, in a similar vein to the excellent Young Planners events for those who felt those events were not for them.

Event Highlights

2018 saw the launch of our now annual CPD day in Exeter. This was an exciting, if somewhat challenging to organise, event that allows delegates a more hands on approach to their learning. Delegates had a choice of 20 different workshops to mix and match their skills and hear from a range of experts.

A particular interest for me is sustainable and inclusive communities. 2018 finished with an interesting event in Cheltenham focussing on this, which included an emotive and intriguing look at how planning interacts with the travelling community, and different ways of working with them to provide suitable sites.

The informal events continued into 2018 with a lovely summers evening spent visiting the Bath Waterspace project and seeing a different side to our profession. Several private consultancies also set up their own events, showcasing some of the best practice from across the region. I look forward to these events continuing into 2019.

Personal Highlights

There was a change of pace for the dinner with both a new venue, 'We the Curious', and the inspirational Claire Lomas, sharing her experiences following a life-changing horse riding accident. The dinner was a fantastic success, which raised a record breaking amount of money for Bristol Mind. Thank you to our sponsors, without whom we wouldn't be able to make the dinner the hot planning ticket in town.

The annual visit by the RTPI President, once again brought the hot weather to the South West, as we visited regeneration sites in Cheltenham and Gloucester, before discussing exciting new retail developments in Bristol city centre and finishing with a trip down the River Avon in Bath.

The Regional Awards once again showed the vast array of projects that planning can influence, from green space to a nuclear legacy, which culminated in a tour of the Nuclear College in Bridgwater, showing the importance of legacy planning for large developments.

I also represented the region at both the RIBA awards dinner and the Federation of the Built Environment dinner, the latter of which had an eye-opening account of behind the scenes at BBC Breakfast with Steph McGovern.

Thank you

This region is only the success that it is, thanks to the amazing work done by the RTPI SW Regional Management Board and Regional Activities Committee. Without their hard work, we wouldn't have anywhere near the amount and variety of events that are available to members. Particular thanks must go to both Charlotte Daborn, our Regional Coordinator, and our Honorary Secretary, Mike Oakley. Without their invaluable support, my year as the Chair would have been much harder and less enjoyable than it was.

And finally, thank you to you, the members. I am very proud to have represented this region for a year and without you, coming to and participating in events, the South West wouldn't be the brilliant, successful region that it is.



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RTPI SW Awards for Planning Excellence 2018

Out of 14 entries received into the Awards, eight shortlisted entries were judged in three categories: 'Excellence in Planning Delivery' (completed or virtually completed schemes on the ground); 'Excellence in Spatial Planning' (ie. plan making, masterplans, strategies etc); and 'Excellence during the Planning Decision Process (ie. Community involvement, Development Management operations, IT initiatives etc.).

In judging the submissions, the Panel's key decision was whether it was an example of 'Planning Excellence in the South West'; the site visits and presentations to the Panel and the standard of the submission documents were crucial elements in the judging process leading to the giving of Awards and Commendations.

The Award ceremony was held at Cannington Court near Bridgwater on the 23rd January 2019. RTPI South West is grateful that the 2018 Awards were sponsored by WYG and Stride Treglown.

RESULTS

CATEGORY: EXCELLENCE IN PLANNING DELIVERY

**Winner as Best Entry in the Category:
Dawlish Countryside Park
(submitted by Teignbridge District Council)**

The submission related to a Countryside Park on the edge of Dawlish that functions as a Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS) and in doing so provides a green lung for local communities, in particular in an adjacent 1,700 house extension to Dawlish. The Park provides both a crucial response to the need to protect European protected habitats and also gives residents in the area an invaluable community facility and access to the countryside on their doorstep. Teignbridge planners led a multidisciplinary team of stakeholders all the way from site search to ribbon cutting and beyond. Through a prompt and purposeful process, planners ensured a competent delivery of the Park, which the submission document states is now regarded as a huge success and a blue print for similar projects in the Greater Exeter area.



The Judging Panel concluded that this submission relates to an excellent project that incorporates a number of features of good practice that other local authorities could well follow when faced with issues arising from development close to areas of major conservation importance, in particular the planning and implementation of SANGSs.

**Highly Commended:
The Carriage Works, Swindon
(submitted by Swindon Borough Council)**

**Finalists:
Regeneration of the Railway Lands in Radstock
(submitted by the Norton Radstock Regeneration Company)**

**Waking the Watergate, Bridgwater
(submitted by Sedgemoor District Council)**

CATEGORY: EXCELLENCE IN SPATIAL PLANNING

**Highly Commended:
Plymouth and SW Devon Joint Local Plan
(submitted by Plymouth City Council)**

The Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan, covering the three LPAs of Plymouth City, South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council, is one of the only joint plans in the country setting out both strategic and local policies, including site allocations, in one plan. It sets out a strategic spatial strategy which meets the needs for homes and jobs in full, and has been prepared on a timetable projected to culminate in adoption of the Plan just three years after work commenced. The submission states that the Joint Plan is an example of successful and effective collaboration between local authorities committed to meeting the needs of their communities creatively and efficiently. The Judging Panel's view was that although the Plymouth and SW Devon Joint Local Plan is not a unique ground breaking local plan format (other such plans in the South West include the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy), this submission relates to a project that includes excellent examples of practice, in particular a committed and effective Member Steering Group supported by a joint officer group solely devoted to work on the preparation of the Joint Plan. Further features include the comprehensive up to date consistent data base established across the whole Plan area and the wide ranging community involvement drawing on the expertise of the City Council. The Judging Panel concluded that this submission is clearly an example of 'Planning Excellence in the South West'.



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CATEGORY: EXCELLENCE DURING THE PLANNING DECISION PROCESS

Winner as Best Entry in the Category:

Planning to Ensure Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Realise Tangible Legacies
(submitted by Sedgemoor District Council)

The innovative planning approach taken to deliver legacy benefits of the Hinkley Point C Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) is resulting in the delivery of significant projects on the ground including the National College for Nuclear, Cannington, the Somerset Energy Innovation Centre and Bridgwater Gateway employment sites within Bridgwater as well as new education facilities at Bridgwater and Taunton College. These developments are delivering high value jobs, supporting SMEs to engage with the nuclear supply chain, revolutionising the way people are educated through innovation and collaboration with industry and creating positive legacy benefits for the community, economy and environment. It was clear to the Judging Panel that a key action by Sedgemoor Council was the establishment of a Special Projects Team concentrating on the planning and implementation of the wide range of projects associated both with the development of the Power Station itself and associated developments, examples of which are set out above. The submission document states "Delivery of these developments is just one result of many years of hard work that has gone into planning to ensure the local community derives maximum benefit from the HPC project". The Judging Panel concluded that the manner in which this largely rural Local Authority, working with West Somerset Council and the County Council, has set about dealing with the development management procedures and other implications of the massive Hinkley Point C and other related development must be judged as impressive by any measure. It also demonstrates other hallmarks of excellent planning: partnership working, community engagement and delivery of a fine legacy for future generations in Bridgwater and the surrounding area. In the Panel's view Sedgemoor Council's NSIP project is clearly a very good example of 'Planning Excellence in the South West' and is not only the 'Winner as Best Entry in the Category 'Excellence during the Planning Decision Process' but also the Overall Winner of the 2018 RTPI SW Awards for Planning Excellence.



National College for Nuclear
Credit: Bridgwater and Taunton College

Highly Commended:
McArthurs Yard, Bristol
(submitted by the Nash Partnership)

Finalist:
'Making Changes'
(submitted by the Bath Preservation Trust)

OVERALL WINNER OF THE RTPI SW AWARDS FOR PLANNING EXCELLENCE 2018:

'PLANNING TO ENSURE SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS REALISE TANGIBLE LEGACIES'
(Submitted by Sedgemoor District Council)



Councillor Mike Cresswell (Council Chairman), Emma Norman (Sedgemoor District Council), Graham Stephens (Stride Treglown Sponsor), Sam Harper (Sedgemoor District Council), Claire Pearce (Sedgemoor District Council), Rebecca Miller (Sedgemoor District Council), Rebecca Randall (WTG Sponsor) and Suzanne D'Arcy (RTPI SW Chair 2018)

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Presidents Visit

John Acres, RTPI President, had a whistle stop tour of the south west in his visit to the region in late July. The visit started with a trip to the very north of the region, beginning in Tewkesbury with a presentation on the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy (JCS) and the Gloucestershire 2050 vision. This is a collaborative and strategic approach to planning across north Gloucestershire. The president was then taken on a tour, featuring the strategic growth sites and the regeneration work that is being undertaken in Cheltenham and Gloucester city centres.

Tracey Crews, Director of Planning at Cheltenham Borough Council, led a tour through Cheltenham city centre, where pedestrianisation works are underway and a new John Lewis store will shortly open to anchor the high street. There were interesting discussions to be had along the way, including the difficulties in the recruitment and retention of suitably qualified professionals to Local Planning Authorities and the impact this has on development and communities.

Lunch was hosted by Gloucester City Council in their offices, which comprise converted warehouses on the docks. This gave the president an opportunity to meet officers and members from the three JCS authorities as well as representatives from local planning consultancies.

The afternoon began with a walking tour of Gloucester's historic docks, finishing at Gloucester Cathedral. The tour was led by Charlotte Bowes-Lyon, Principal Conservation Officer at Gloucester City Council, who explained the Council's involvement in the regeneration work and these were reinvigorating a forgotten part of the city centre. The tour finished in the public open space surrounding the cathedral, which beautifully demonstrated how careful planning and design can enhance the environment and be used for interpretation of the local area.



John said of his trip to Gloucestershire *"Communities across the sub-region are really benefiting from this close working relationship, whether that's in the town centre in Cheltenham or the docks and city core of Gloucester. Both are undergoing careful revitalisation – led by the council's planners – to ensure that these historic town centres remain at the heart of their local communities against a background of major change in the retail market. It's fantastic work which other places could learn from."*

In the evening, John hosted a dinner for representatives of the Young Planners from across the South West, in Bristol's historic Welsh Back.

Continuing from the previous day's theme of collaboration and partnership working (not to mention the beautiful weather!), the second day highlighted how cross professional working can deliver successful spaces.

Beginning at Turley's offices in Bristol, where John was introduced to members of the team and given a tour of the office, Jadine Havill (Assistant Planner), supported by Philip Jones (Director), Emily Johnson, (Assistant Planner), and Niamh Hession, (Associate Director) gave a presentation on the West of England Joint Spatial Strategy and local policy context, as well as some of Turley's successful and challenging projects across the south west region. Among these successes was the redevelopment of Bristol's



President meets Turley Planning Team

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Shopping Quarter, which comprises of both the RTPI SW award-winning Cabot Circus development and the new Callowhill Quarter development. Throughout the various presentations, there was lively debate and discussion around densities and how technology in the future will change the way we plan housing developments. During the discussions it became apparent that the key to successful placemaking is collaborative working between consultants, local planning authorities and communities.

After the presentations Jadine led a walking tour around the Bristol Shopping Quarter assisted by Suzanne D'Arcy and Julie O'Rourke. The tour enabled John to see where the proposed redevelopment would be situated at Callowhill Court and how it would address the issues around transport routes which segregate Cabot Circus from Callowhill Court, how pedestrian and cycle movement can be enhanced, and how the older retail units don't meet the current space and configuration requirements required for modern day shopping and leisure. The consented scheme would offer leisure facilities, retail units, hotel spaces and residential units to transform the area and enhance its role as a retail destination for the south west.

Lunch was a relaxed affair at the Severnshed overlooking the river and enabled John to network with the Heads of Planning and with consultancy representatives who support the RTPI. This allowed him to talk to the invited guests and to get a better understanding of the vast array of projects currently in planning or under development across the region.

After lunch, John was taken to Bath and given a presentation on the RTPI SW award-winning Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) Council WaterSpace Project by Cleo Newcombe-Jones, (Project Coordinator, Public Realm and Waterways). Cleo explained how the WaterSpace Study developed an evidence base and undertook public and stakeholder consultation to identify opportunities for enhancements to waterways and adjoining land along the Avon River and Kennet and Avon Canal.

The presentation highlighted the many projects delivered over the last three years including projects to re-wild the river and improve habitats for species like otters and bats, funding a boat and the development of the River Avon Park. Cleo organised a boat trip up the river to enable John to see the project including the River Avon Park and the redevelopment of the Bath Quays. It also demonstrated how people are now using the river for leisure, including for paddleboarding. John said "“Bath used to turn its back on much of the industrial riverside. The Avon waterfront is now being brought to life with new public access. This transformational project is a classic example of planners using engagement and consultation to ensure the community, in particular hard to reach groups like young people, can help to shape their environment.””



The President enjoys a trip on the water with The WaterSpace Project

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Social Events

The RTPI SW Annual Dinner broke new ground this year by holding the event at We the Curious Science Centre at Bristol Harbourside. The event attracted some 190 planners and their guests (see the Dinner Brochure for the guest list) and was well supported by sponsorship from Arup, Burges Salmon, Cotswold Transport Planning, Curtins, Hydrock, JBP, Mott MacDonald, No 5 Chambers and Peter Brett Associates. This allowed us to welcome a table of Young Planners who showed their organisational capacity by producing a table quiz for which you needed to know your Walkers Crisps!

Following the drinks reception which was held amongst We the Curious' hands-on exhibits guests received a thoughtful pre-dinner contribution from Ian Tant, Vice President of the RTPI who commended the Region on the range and depth of its activities. The highlight of the evening however was Claire Lomas' after-dinner talk. Claire suffered a catastrophic spinal injury while horse riding leaving (pictured right) her paralysed from the chest down. She shared her incredible story of anguish and achievement overcoming seemingly impossible odds to complete the London Marathon in a specially designed suit, becoming the mother of two daughters and now taking on the challenge of high speed motor bike racing. She has committed herself to charity fund raising for people facing similar challenges, however her greatest contribution must be the inspiration she provides not just for people with disabilities but for anyone facing tough times.

Fund raising was the purpose of the raffle which benefitted from a many generous prizes donated by supporters and resulted in £1,748 being raised for mental health charity MIND. This was a record perhaps reflecting the power of Claire Lomas' talk or maybe the threat of Suzanne D'Arcy who compered the event and threatened to lock the doors and not let anyone leave unless we set a new record!

Overall the dinner was a great success with very positive feedback on the new venue and the choice of after dinner speaker. However we continue look at ways of broadening its appeal and offering alternative locations so any comments and suggestions would be gratefully received.



Guest Speaker Claire Lomas

With thanks to our sponsors:-



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Networking

As well as the main events programme, RTPI South West encourages RTPI Members to organise their own informal CPD, networking events and site visits. Events in 2018 included.

A second joint event with RTPI West Midlands hosted in the beautiful surroundings of Worcester Guildhall, the home of Worcester City Council. Attendees heard about the issues confronting Worcester City Centre and the wider sub-region.



A return visit to the WaterSpace project in Bath, which won the Overall RTPI SW Awards for Planning Excellence Award in 2017.

The WaterSpace Project aims to improve and encourage development along waterways across the Bath area. The Project is a partnership between Bath and North East Somerset Council, the Canal & River Trust, the Environment Agency and Wessex Water. This event took attendees on a walking tour of the new Quays Waterside Park, Riverside Linear Park and Bath Riverside Development, which runs through the heart of Bath's Enterprise Zone.



A site visit to Wessex Water

Attendees heard about how their networks operate and how they plan to provide capacity to accommodate new development. Following talks attendees were privileged to a tour of Wessex Water's Control Centre will also enable guests to understand the nature of the resources and assets maintained by Wessex Water; the day to day issues and how they are resolved by the people tasked to ensure the safe operation of our waste and water supply services.

Barton Willmore hosted two site visits and socials.

The first took attendees to The Village Quarter in Portishead. This is a mixed-use neighbourhood on the site of the former 'ashlands' where waste from the nearby powerstation was deposited. All of the 1,650 dwellings are now complete, along with a new primary school, employment and retail uses.



The second was a visit to Somerdale in Keynsham. A mixed-use neighbourhood on the site of the former Cadbury Factory, close to the centre of Keynsham. Permission for the development was obtained in 2013 and about half of the 600 dwellings are built, along with the new Somerdale Pavilion, primary school, and the conversion of the factory buildings which accommodate St Monica's Trust care home and retirement complex, office space and restaurant.



RTPI Members are encouraged to organise their own similar events. The RTPI SW will promote the event (and provide the all-important name badges!), so all you need is a date and a plan!

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Supporting & Growing Membership

CPD Events

A continuing important role for RTPI South West is to stage a series of professional events on planning theory and practice to assist in meeting the CPD requirements of RTPI Members in the South West. During 2018 13 full day seminars took place and were held at venues across the region ranging from (Plymouth to Swindon to Cheltenham and Salisbury) . A total of some 1507 delegates attended these, an average of 116 delegates at each event.

ROOM@RTPI

In 1999 the National Housing and Town Planning Council merged with the Housing Centre Trust and became 'ROOM'. One of the purposes of ROOM is to bring different professionals both public and private together with politicians, developers and service providers to generate open dialogue concerning housing issues and challenges. In 2018 the RTPI SW staged two ROOM'@RTPI events.

Feedback

Overall feedback from delegates was generally very positive. An important view was that they were good value for money, a key issue when the training budgets both in local planning authorities and private practice are under significant pressure. A particular success was the 'Delivering Development CPD Day' event at which delegates were able to tailor their day to meet their CPD needs by attendance of their choice at a number of the 19 workshops on topics relating to both Development Management and planning policy.

DATE	EVENT TITLE	VENUE LOCATION	DELEGATE ATTENDANCE	TOPIC RATING*
24th Jan	Self & Custom Build Seminar (in conjunction with Three Dragons)	Taunton	82	97%
8th Feb	Planning and Climate Change	Bristol	127	97%
6th Mar	Planning Law up-date (sponsored by Ashfords)	Exeter	156	82%
22nd Mar	Housing White Paper - 3 perspectives on what next (ROOM @RTPI Housing Seminar)	Taunton	92	94%
25th April	The Future of Planning - Conference & Exhibition (in conjunction with the West of England Young Planners)	Bristol	122	100%
22nd May	Delivering Development CPD Day	Exeter	213	100%
28th June	Exploring Tensions between viability and planning	Plymouth	83	93%
17th July	Politics and Planning	Swindon	82	82%
12th Sept	Heritage and Historic Landscapes (sponsored by Lichfields and supported by the Landscape Institute and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists)	Salisbury	118	92%
4th Oct	Delivering more Homes with small Builders (ROOM@RTPI Housing Seminar)	Plymouth	73	92%
17th Oct	Planning Law Conference (sponsored by Burgess Salmon)	Bath	170	63%
8th Nov	Planning & Health	Taunton	93	98%
5th Dec	Sustainable Communities & Social Inclusion	Cheltenham	96	98%

**Taken from survey feedback. Percentage of those respondents that assessed the topic selection as been good or excellent.*

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Liaison with Planning Schools

During 2018 RTPI South West continued to work with the University of the West of England (UWE) and the University of Plymouth to meet the needs of planning students studying in the South West. This included reduced fees for these students to attend RTPI SW events.

University Prizes

RTPI South West awards up to 6 prizes a year to exceptional students at the two partnership universities in the region – UWE and Plymouth. In 2018 the prizes were awarded to:

UWE:

RTPI South West Award for excellence on the Master of Planning course: Victoria Gee

The Planning School's Agency Project:
Emma Gillespie and Thomas Smith

Nationally the RTPI recognised Jake Mace as being the best undergraduate student on an Institute accredited degree;

James Cook received the same accolade for his work on the MSc Urban and Rural Planning, the online course in planning that UWE delivers in collaboration with Dundee, South Bank, Leeds Beckett and the Open University.

University of Plymouth

RTPI SW Prize for best full time student:
Jennifer Joule

RTPI SW Prize for best part time student:
Helen Gover



Graduating students from UWE's Master of Planning course: Perry Lowson, Tom Simpson, John Grierson, Sam Pugh, Mia McAndrew and Victoria Gee.



RTPI South West Membership Figures

MEMBERSHIP CLASS	2016	2017	2018
Retired Member	352	359	340
Chartered Fellow	10	8	7
Chartered Member	1549	1605	1610
Legal Associate	15	16	16
Licentiate	240	228	256
Affiliate Member	30	39	44
Student Member	316	362	321
Associate Member	41	43	44
Honorary Member	3	3	3
Total	2557	2664	2641

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Supporting & Growing Membership

South West Young Planners

During 2018 a range of activities were undertaken by the four established RTPI SW Young Planners Groups: West of England (Bristol area), Devon and Cornwall, Dorset and Somerset (founded in January 2018). Initial work was also undertaken on the formation of a Group relating to Gloucestershire, the Group being established early in 2019.

In addition to regular events relating to Planning Law up-dates, APC advice, pub quizzes and a Christmas social held by many of the Groups other events included:

- Boat trips around Bristol Harbour (West of England Group) and Poole Harbour (Dorset Group)
- Tour around the new Wapping Wharf development in Bristol (W of E Group)
- Visits to the Award winning Dawlish Countryside Park and King William Yard in Plymouth (Devon & Cornwall Group)
- Hosting of the RTPI SW main event on the 'Future of Planning' that focussed on the use of modern technology (W of E Group)
- Somerset Young planners first event with a site visit to Hinkley Point C
- Attendance at the annual RTPI SW Dinner including a special 'Young Planners' table (principally the W of E Group)



Young Planners on a site visit to a SANGS area in Dawlish

Young Planners on a visit to Amos Vale cemetery, Bristol as part of their Planning for Death Seminar



(left) Young Planners on a site Visit to Hinkley Point C

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Supporting & Growing Membership

Newsletters

During 2018 three editions of the newsletter 'Branch out' were published edited by Chris Balch and Charlotte Daborn, the Regional Coordinator. In full colour and electronically distributed, they incorporated a range of articles and features on planning issues in the South West. Also included were updates on the RTPI South West events.

Getting to grips with Curtilage Listing

Curtilage listing continues to cause confusion amongst owners and practitioners alike. Its important because owners need the listing for eventual consent. It's not just about the building but the land around it. The Local Authority's approach, including the use of aerial photography, is often inconsistent and can be challenging to navigate. This newsletter provides a clear guide to the process, including the importance of the Local Authority's curtilage listing and the implications for owners and practitioners. It also discusses the challenges of curtilage listing and the importance of the Local Authority's approach.

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Spotlight on Dartmoor National Park

Dartmoor National Park is a beautiful landscape with a rich history. This newsletter provides a detailed overview of the park, including its key features, the challenges it faces, and the efforts being made to protect and enhance it. It also discusses the importance of the park to the local community and the wider region. The newsletter includes a section on the park's management and the role of the Dartmoor National Park Authority.

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The new National Planning Policy Framework - Impact on rural areas and promotion of affordable housing

The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has significant implications for rural areas and the promotion of affordable housing. This newsletter provides a comprehensive analysis of the NPPF, highlighting the key changes and their impact on rural planning. It also discusses the challenges of affordable housing in rural areas and the role of the NPPF in addressing these challenges. The newsletter includes a section on the NPPF's approach to rural areas and the promotion of affordable housing.

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Report on CPD Seminar on Planning for Climate Change in Bristol, Feb 2017

This report provides a detailed overview of a CPD seminar on planning for climate change in Bristol, held in February 2017. The seminar was attended by a number of planning professionals and was facilitated by Peter Ellis. The report discusses the key themes of the seminar, including the importance of climate change in planning, the challenges of integrating climate change into the planning process, and the role of the planning profession in addressing climate change. It also includes a list of the seminar's speakers and a summary of the key messages.

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The Written Ministerial Statement on Neighbourhood Planning

This document provides a detailed overview of the Written Ministerial Statement on Neighbourhood Planning, issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in December 2016. The statement outlines the government's commitment to neighbourhood planning and sets out the key principles and objectives of the policy. It also discusses the challenges of implementing neighbourhood planning and the role of the government in supporting it. The document includes a list of the key points of the statement and a summary of the government's approach to neighbourhood planning.

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Joint Local Plans - a sensible way forward?

This document provides a detailed overview of the Joint Local Plans (JLPs) in the South West, which are a result of the merger of the Devon and Cornwall Local Authorities. The document discusses the challenges of developing JLPs and the role of the RTPI in supporting the process. It also includes a list of the key points of the JLPs and a summary of the RTPI's approach to supporting the process. The document includes a section on the RTPI's role in supporting the JLPs and a list of the key points of the JLPs.

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Covers and pages from our newsletters

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Shaping & Informing Policy & Practice

The Deliverability and Affordability of Housing in the South West

Following the publication of the report on this research undertaken by Heriot Watt University and Three Dragons consultancy in October 2017, follow up action has focussed on a RTPI Planning Practice Advice Note drawing on the conclusions of the research report. Drafting of this Note was undertaken primarily by national RTPI Research staff with extensive comments being made by members of the RTPI Research and Policy Working Group. The Note was finally published in February 2019 being launched at a Room@RTPI March 2019 event in Swindon.

Planning for a Smart Energy Future

The principal research activity by RTPI South West in 2018 related to the research project 'Planning for a Smart Energy Future' being undertaken by a consortium of Regen, the Landmark Practice, Pell Frischmann and UWE. Principal activities included:

- A stakeholder workshop in September which aimed to shape the focus of the research. Delegates attended from a range of backgrounds including energy storage developers, local authority planners and legal/policy experts.
- Academic and Policy reviews
- An on-line industry and Stakeholder survey

The Interim report was published in late December 2018; Workshops are due to be held in early 2019 at three different South West locations and the Final Report is due in July 2019.

Future RTPI SW Research

Towards end of the year discussions began with RTPI National research officers regarding options for future research involving co-operation between these officers and the RTPI SW Policy and Research Group.

Consultation Responses

RTPI SW continued in 2018 to ensure that the views of SW RTPI Members are communicated to those responsible for a range of planning and environmental issues in the South West. This activity principally involved liaison with the RTPI's National Policy and Research team to which are sent RTPI SW views that can be incorporated in the national RTPI response to government consultations on planning policy and practice issues.

Networking with other SW Organisations

In line with National Institute policy, RTPI SW actively works with other professional bodies /organisations to develop, promote and implement good planning theory and practice. In 2018 these included the Landscape Institute and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists who supported the conference in September 2018 'Heritage and Historic Landscapes'. Guests from a range of other professional institutes like RIBA were also invited to the dinner.

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Empowering Communities

Supporting Planning Aid

Planning Aid England (PAE) activity in the South West is led by a small regional Task Group of 4 chartered volunteers supported by a national RTPI member of staff. The Task Group plays a key role in identifying and developing outreach opportunities for regional PAE volunteers to support. This outreach activity focusses on communities in areas of multiple deprivation and groups not traditionally engaged with planning activity.

Representatives from the Task Group regularly attend and present reports to meetings of the joint RTPI SW Management Board/Activities Committee and also participate in the monthly national PAE Teleconference held to exchange news on PAE activities. In undertaking its activities the Task Group works with the two Planning Schools in the South West: UWE and Plymouth University, in particular the latter. In Autumn 2017 the Task Group commissioned a research project by the MSc Planning students at the Plymouth school as part of Research Methods module. The aim of the research was to ascertain the awareness of PAE services in the SW and to identify the types of outreach work that would best support local groups and communities in the region. The Task Group worked with the students to compile a set of questionnaires which were sent to a sample of Local Planning Authorities, ward councillors and Coastal Community Teams throughout the South West. At a meeting in January 2018, two members of the Task Group attended a meeting with the MSc students to discuss the results of the survey. A number of potential projects were identified where there was potential scope for PAE volunteers to make an input across the region. Subsequently contact was made with a number of these projects.

Three main conclusions could be drawn on the survey: First that awareness of PAE amongst stakeholder groups appeared to be relative low apart from in LPAs where some 60% had used PAE services largely to support Neighbourhood Planning; secondly stakeholder groups felt that PAE might most usefully assist deprived communities through direct face-to-face support rather than remote web-based or printed materials; thirdly there was a divergence of views regarding the extent of public engagement in the formulation of Local Plans. The overall conclusion was that this 2017/2018 project was not only of benefit to PAE in establishing future work priorities but also of benefit to the MSc students in gaining the experience of undertaking an applied survey, the work including questionnaire design, sampling strategy, data collection, processing, analysis and presentation. During Autumn 2018 the Task group commenced another project with Plymouth University following the same principles as the 2017/2018 survey but this time focussing on contacts with parish councils in the SW.

The Task Group held a volunteer training day in June 2018; held in Taunton. It was attended by 20 volunteers and RTPI members; subjects covered in presentations included: A planning legal up-date, the community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) an Development and Flooding.



MSc Planning students at the University of Plymouth during the presentation of their research findings to Planning Aid England on 18 January, 2018.

RTPI South West **Annual Review 2018**

Achieving Good Governance

Regional Management (RMB) and Regional Activities Committee (RAC)

Five joint meetings of the RMB/RAC were held during 2018. During the year two members of staff from RTPI HQ attended these meetings: January (Harry Burchill – RTPI Policy Officer) July (Victoria Hills – RTPI Chief Executive). A further meeting of the RMB was held in August to prepare the first draft of the 2019 RTPI SW Business Plan and Budget.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2018

The AGM which received and endorsed the RTPI SW Annual Review 2017 was held in Bristol on the 25th April 2018.

Special Business General Meeting (SBGM) 2018

Held on the 8th November 2018 in Taunton, the SBGM received the results of the elections for the membership of the RMB and RAC in 2019. During the meeting elections were held to fill vacancies that remained following the formal elections.

Elections

The Rules of RTPI SW state that the Principal Officers comprising the Management Board and membership of the Activities Committee are subject to nomination and if required election by postal ballot of all RTPI SW Members. In the elections for 2019 membership held during the summer of 2018 no formal elections were required, nominations being either equal to or less than the vacancies. The vacancies were in some cases filled, in accord with the RTPI SW Rules, as noted above, at the SBGM meeting held on the 8th November 2018.

RTPI SW Business Plan and Budget 2019

The RTPI SW Business Plan and Budget was agreed by the RMB at its meeting on the 21st September 2018 and subsequently endorsed, with minor amendments, by the RTPI Board of Trustees.

Financial Review

The South West Region's financial position is extremely healthy owing to the success of its CPD programme. This enabled the region to deliver most of the activities it set out to do in its business plan. The end of year accounts show a small profit of c.£2k. The South West Reserves still stand at £17k with a view that is it used to support a research project and RTPI Agent Plan It* in 2019.

**Agent Plan-It is a collaboration with Fun Kids, one of the UK's leading interactive and multi-media channels for 8-13 year olds and their families.*

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The Regional Management Board (RMB) and Regional Activities Committee (RAC) 2018



RMB Members

Chair: Suzanne D'Arcy, Tewkesbury Borough Council
Senior Vice Chair: Chris Balch, University of Plymouth
Junior Vice Chair: Dawn de Vries Sedgemoor District Council
Hon. Secretary: Mike Oakley, Retired
Hon. Treasurer: Mark Felgate, Parkwood Consultancy Services
Past Chair: David Lowin, Lowin Associates
S.W. Region representative on RTPI General Assembly: Andrew England, Bournemouth Council

RAC Members

Angharad Williams Teignbridge District Council
Alice Barnes Bath and NE Somerset Council
Emma Greening Hunter Page Planning
George Marshall Devon County Council
Geoff Walker Retired
Jadine Havill Turley
James Holbrook Mott MacDonald
Janthia Algate Retired
Jo Widdecombe Consultant
Jonathan Drew Cornwall Council
Julie O'Rourke Tetlow King
Julie Tanner Creating Excellence
Katherine Graham Plymouth City Council
Katherine King PINS
Marcel Venn Marcel Venn Associates
Mark Herbert Bristol Airport
Nick Smith UWE
Olivia Wilson University of Plymouth
Paul Barnard Plymouth City Council
Peter Ellis Freelance
Philip Bisatt Taunton Deane Borough Council
Rebecca Miller Plymouth City Council
Richard Williamson Retired
Simon Williams Footprints Future - Planning & Regeneration
Sarah Bannister UWE Student



RTPI South West

Royal Town Planning Institute

About the RTPI:

The Royal Town Planning Institute champions the power of planning in creating prosperous places and vibrant communities. Using our expertise and research we bring evidence and thought leadership to shape planning policies and thinking, putting the profession at the heart of society's big debates. We set the standards of planning education and professional behaviour that give planners, wherever they work in the world, a unique ability to meet complex economic, social and environmental challenges. We are the only body in the UK that confers Chartered status to planners, the highest professional qualification sought after by employers in both private and public sectors. We support our members – 24,000 worldwide – throughout their careers, offering them a wide range of opportunities to learn and share ideas and skills.

RTPI South West is a branch of the RTPI and through a committee of members supported by a Regional Coordinator delivers a range of activities to benefit its 2600 members including conferences, policy updates, future planners initiatives, commissioning research, organising interprofessional networking opportunities as well as raising the profile of planning.

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