

SPECIAL BUMPER EDITION

The *Scottish* Planner

THE PUBLICATION OF THE RTPi (SCOTTISH BRANCH)

No 1 APRIL 1988

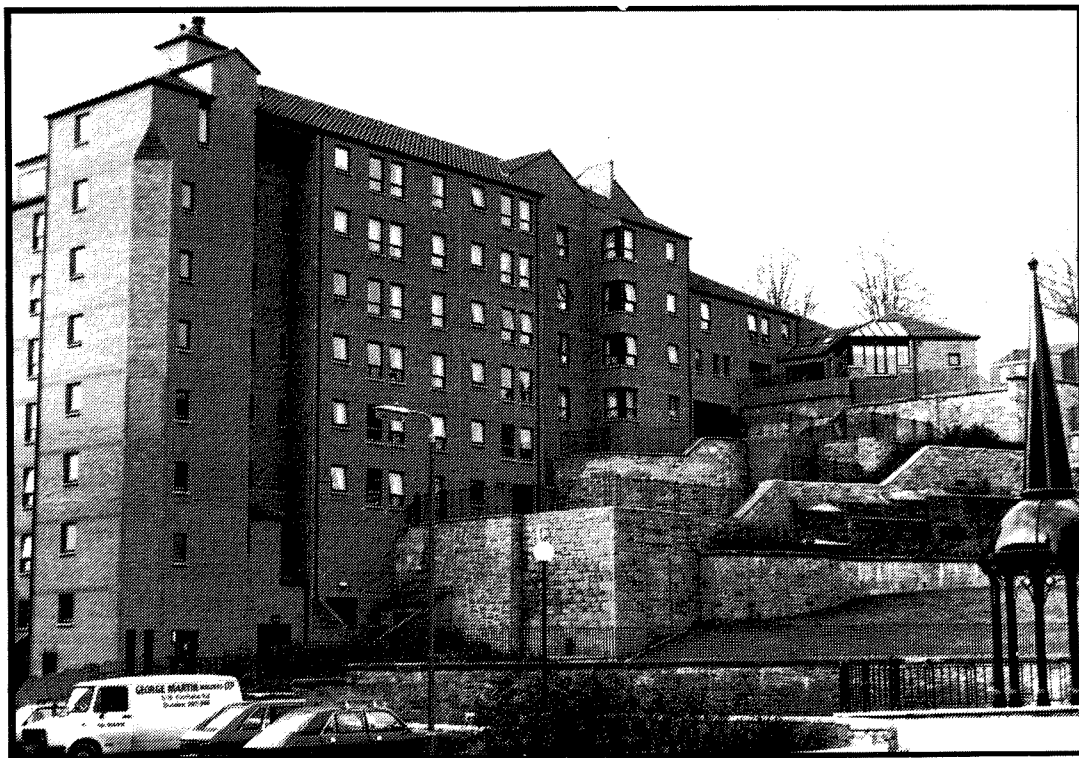
WELL DONE DUNDEE

EVERYONE no doubt knows by now about Dundee's achievement in winning the RTPi's Annual Award for 1987, but a special mention in "Scottish Planner" is obviously called for.

The Upper Dens Urban Renewal Project goes down in history as the first Scottish project to win this prestigious award.

Dundee District Council accepted the Award, emphasising how it is an outstanding example of how a variety of public sector agencies had the confidence to take on such an ambitious development and the willingness to work in a corporate way to achieve such an outstanding result.

A joint Dundee DC/RTPi(s) symposium about urban renewal - with a visit to The Upper Dens site - is to be held on 26th May. See Events Diary - Page 3



2 - 9 STOREY FLATS imaginatively overcome the problem of a stepped site.

FOCUS ON Highland Region

HIGHLAND Region extends over 10,000 square miles - one third of Scotland - and is the largest local government area in Western Europe. It is an area of great contrasts with a wide range of challenging planning problems. Within the Region are Britain's highest mountain ranges which are of international importance for nature and landscape conservation and tourism, a forestry plantation, major oil-related construction sites, Britain's only fast-breeder nuclear reactor at Dounreay, and a large part of Scotland's Gaelic heartland.

First local plan in Scotland

As a general planning authority the Highland Regional Council is responsible for all aspects of statutory planning. The council's first Structure Plan was approved in 1980 and between 1977 and 1981 the Council embarked on an ambitious programme of 30 Local Plans covering the whole region. The Dornoch Local Plan was the first Local Plan to be adopted in Scotland. The Structure Plan is currently being reviewed with more emphasis being given to the planning, development and conservation of rural resources.

A second round of Local Plans is well under way.

More planning applications than any other authority...

Planning applications are handled by a unique system of administrative centres of each District Council. The council deals with about 4,000 planning applications each year, the largest number in any planning authority in Scotland.

The vast majority of these applications are determined by a Divisional Planning Officer or his Committee which includes both Regional and District council members. Major plan-

ning applications are dealt with by the Regional Planning Committee in Inverness which also establishes Structure and Local Plan policies.

The Regional Planning Department has 53 staff, 27 being Members of the RTPi. Almost half the professional planners

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- PAN 32 - "the way forward for local planning" **pages 4 & 5**
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- Planning Appointments **page 12**

From the new Chairman...

BOB COMMENTS

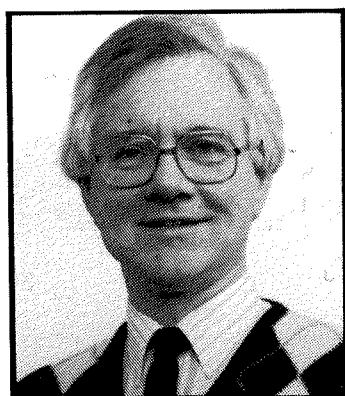
THE Branch Chairman usually starts the year by outlining his objectives for it and setting a programme to achieve these objectives. Like the National President, I had hoped to give my interest in Urban Design a higher profile and perhaps this will come out in some aspect of the conferences this year. However the reality of office soon makes its presence felt and this year's most urgent priority is to get staff help at Rutland Square.

A secretarial Assistant, Joan Sutherland, has been appointed and is now working in Rutland Square two afternoons a week.

You will see an advert for a part-time Branch Administrator elsewhere in this edition of SP. This post is to compliment that of Linda Welsh, who is assisting the Branch with its National role. Our office, which we share with Edinburgh Architectural Association, has recently been equipped with word-processing computer facilities and this should give us considerable benefits.

Last year the presentation of Scottish Planner was improved by our Editor, Frank Howie, using new technology. However, because the equipment was not always available when required, this led to production delays. As it is hoped to bring out 6 issues this year, a local commercial newspaper group are producing and printing the next five copies. Their advertising staff are trying to obtain enough advertisements to help pay for the production.

We are hoping to launch a new venture called "Current Issues". This will consist of full conference papers and other occasional papers produced by the Branch on a commercial basis.



BOB SMART

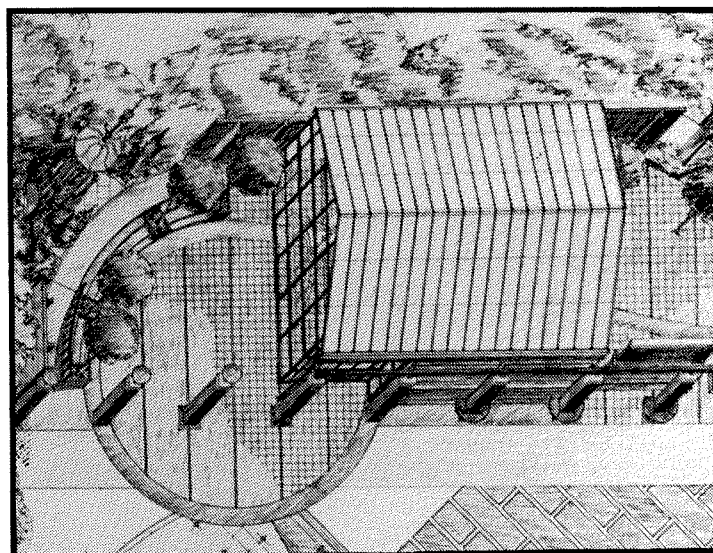
While this is all very serious and important for the Branch, there are a number of suggestions that will perhaps balance the equation.

As one who is wont on occasion to strap on his kilt and give his bagpipes a bit of a blow, it has struck me that the Scottishness of the Branch could do with a bit of a lift. So we are launching a Planner piping tune competition. Other social/sporting events are detailed on page 11.

Perhaps the most important event of the year is the Garden Festival and the Branch's participation with the RIAS and the LIS in building a pavilion and garden/activities area. The Institutions have formed "The Environment Show 88 Ltd" to promote a presence and work has started on the site. While enough sponsorship has been raised to get to this stage, sponsorship is still being sought to help pay for the overheads and activities. Any ideas? So far Planners have not produced too much cash, and while our contributions will be in the organisation of the events, it would be helpful too if we could produce a few sponsors out of the hat.

Notwithstanding the above, visit the Garden Festival and your pavilion.

BOB SMART



The Environment Show is on!

SCOTTISH Branch is pleased to announce that it is one of the promoters of a major event in the Glasgow Garden Festival which starts at the end of April.

The Environment Show is being jointly promoted with the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland and the Landscape Institute Scotland, and has come about as the result of two years of planning.

The Environment Show will highlight the work of the three professions in a way which will

EDITORIAL

THIS issue of the Scottish Planner marks a new era in the Scottish Branch's activities. Not only is the Branch now employing staff (albeit on very much a part-time basis) but this journal is now being typeset and printed by a commercial firm, a community business. In addition, we are hoping to attract advertising and to make it pay its own way. It will be coming out regularly on a two month basis, and if successful this will be stepped up to a monthly issue.

The new format of SP is one which we hope will soon become familiar to you. Courses will be advertised and also mentioned in the CPD Diary column; regular features on topical issues will be run; new developments in practice and education will be highlighted. Above all, the **Scottish Planner** is your journal, a forum for debate on planning matters.

This special bumper issue features discussion on the subject of PAN 32 important new advice from S.D.D. about development opportunities and local plans. Countryside matters also loom large, particularly now at the end of European Year of the Environment. Articles are included about forestry and a report of last year's Autumn Conference which was about the Countryside. And of course there is the usual Branch news.

Happy Reading!

AMG

appeal to the public - 4 million of whom are expected to attend the Festival.

Scottish Branch has chosen to publicise Environmental Education as its main theme and has successfully co-ordinated a number of exhibitions. These include initiatives undertaken by Glasgow's Planning Department, a planning-led primary school environmental education project, Glasgow's Environmental Programme and the RTPI's own national display promoting environmental education. There will also be a display by the Society of Town Planning Technicians.

A full programme of indoor and outdoor events will be published in the next edition of **SCOTTISH PLANNER** which will feature a major article on the Festival.

All in all the Environment Show promises to be an exciting and varied event.

● **GLASGOW GARDEN FESTIVAL RUNS FROM 28th APRIL TO 26th SEPTEMBER 1988**

Opportunities Available

Opportunities are still available to stage exhibitions at the Environment Show in the Garden Festival. If you have a conventional display or a video of relevance to town planning, architecture or landscape architecture and you are interested in renting some space, please contact Willie Dick, 27 Victoria Park Drive North, GLASGOW G14 9DL. Tel: 041-959-2498 as soon as possible.

Should we offer Associate Membership of the Institute?

COUNCIL of the RTPI has recently consulted all Branches on its proposal to introduce a new non-corporate class of Associate Members. The objective behind the idea is to enable those in planning-related areas of work to become involved in the Institute, to the mutual benefit of both the Institute and the individuals.

Who would be these new Associate members?

Countryside Working Party

OUR countryside is clearly a key current issue. The Scottish Branch's Countryside Working Party has been formed both to articulate better the Scottish standpoint within the Institute nationally and to raise the profile of the Scottish Branch (and planning) as an acting and thinking contributor to the debate.

The CWP has had regular meetings and gathered its thoughts last Autumn, subsequently commissioning Dr Paul Selman to prepare a review paper of issues and the role of the profession. See his short article on page 7.

A countryside Workshop is to be held in Stirling on May 6th. This will be your opportunity to comment and help to formulate the Branch view. Please submit comments in advance to Paul Selman and also claim a 5 minute speaking slot in the afternoon's programme. A busy, critical and important working afternoon is promised. Do contribute. **RS**

The main groups of people who could be eligible are:

- related professionals (eg architects, surveyors, engineers)
- those involved in specialist areas of planning (eg economists, ecologists)
- others with substantial practical experience in planning but unable to satisfy the academic requirements for corporate membership.

Associates would not be able to use designatory letters (ie they could not call themselves ARTPI) and there is no proposal at this stage to create a "bridge" between associateship and corporate membership. Council have suggested that the entry criteria for Associateship should include a degree or similar academic attainment as well as corroborated practical experience (possibly 2 years in planning related work). Applications would have to be supported by a corporate member.

At the last executive meeting of 25th February, a vote was taken on the principle of Associate Membership and the result was 10-6 against the proposal. Scottish Branch has sent a letter to Council stating that we do not support the proposal and pointing out that there is concern over the motives of those wishing to take out the proposed new class of membership. It was also stated that we welcome the idea of involving those in specialist areas (and indeed some are already involved in specialist working parties) but we feel that the new class of membership is not the way to do it.

This is an important issue and may affect the future credibility of the institute. Do you have any views on the issue? Write to us at 15 Rutland Square, Edinburgh if you do! **DR**

WHO'S WHO

THE Scottish Branch Executive for this year are:

Chairman - Robert Smart
Senior Vice Chairman - Roy Stirrat
Junior Vice Chairman - Chris Claridge
Hon Secretary - Bill Amcotts
Hon Treasurer - Rob Tinlin
Ex Officio - Eleanor Morris
Other Members - Jim Boyack, Hugh Begg, Marion Chalmers, Anthony Coon, Hugh Crawford, Aileen Grant, Peter McGovern, John Moir, Brian Muir, Brian Parnell, David Russell, Mike Thomson, Steve Turnbull, Robin Boyle, Alistair Landells, Ian

McLarty, Paul Selman.
Student Members - Patrick Clarke, Kevin Bazley, Chris Alcorn, Lesley Hilley, David Littlejohn.

Branch Executive Meetings are scheduled for:
21st April in Dundee
16th June in Stirling
15th September in Glasgow
10th November in Edinburgh
15th December in Edinburgh.
All members are welcome to come along and watch the Executive at work! For more details phone RTPI(S) at 15 Rutland Square in the afternoons - 031-229 7205.

C P D Diary

Wednesday 13th April

ENVIRONMENTAL & PLANNING IMPLICATIONS OF THE GROWTH OF FORESTRY

RTPI(S) Sessional Programme. Debate involving D. Goss of David Goss & Assocs, Mr Beadle of Caledonian Paper plc and J. Burlison of NCC.

Station Hotel, Ayr at 7pm. Cost - free.

Details: A. Landells, Ayr.

Fri, Sat, Sun 15-17 April

COUNTRY LIVING - ILLUSION & REALITY

Scottish Civic Trust Conference. Speakers include Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, MP, Colonel Swan of Rural Forum, Paul Gregory of Borders Regional Council, Jan Fladmark and John Arnott of Countryside Commission. Visits to Jedburgh, Melrose and Thirlstone Castle.

Galashiels College of Textiles.

Total Min Cost £65, but part programme options available. Phone Mrs Douglas on 041-221 1466 for details.

Saturday 16th April

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION - FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

Scottish Environmental Education Council Speakers include education advisors in Art, Primary, Science etc.

Motherwell Civic Centre at 9.30am.

Cost - £9.50. Details from SEEC, c/o Dept of Biology, Paisley College of Technology, High Street, Paisley.

Thursday 21st April

EUROPEAN YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT - WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

RTPI(S) Sessional Programme. Speaker - Margaret Fraser, EYE Scotland,

Matthew Building, Duncan of Jordanstone, College of Art, Dundee at 6pm.

Monday 25th April

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AT RISK

Planning Exchange/Scottish Civic Trust. A seminar to discuss what can be done to make better long term use of listed buildings.

King James Hotel, Edinburgh.

Cost £57.50 for P.E. Member (£96.25 non member). Phone Sandra Heberton on 041-332 8541 for details.

Friday 6th May

COUNTRYSIDE WORKSHOP RTPI(S).

See Page 7. Central Regional Council Offices at Viewforth, Stirling. 2-4.30pm.

Thurs-Sat 12th-14th May

DESIGN FUTURES IN THE REGENERATED CITY.

RIAS/RIBA joint Convention. Various locations in Glasgow. Details from RIAS, 15 Rutland Square, Edinburgh: Tel 031-229 7205.

Fri, Sat 13th & 14th May

LIVING ON THE EDGE

RTPI(S) Spring Conference in association with ISoCaRP. Various speakers looking at initiatives currently taking place to tackle the problems in peripheral estates.

Collins Suite, Strathclyde University, Glasgow. Friday Cost - £35; Saturday Cost - £30. Details in enclosed leaflet or from 15 Rutland Square, Edinburgh.

Thursday 26th May

URBAN RENEWAL - EXAMPLES FROM THE DUNDEE EXPERIENCE RTPI(S)/CITY OF DUNDEE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Speakers from Dundee DC and SDA will discuss various examples and aspects of renewal in Dundee. A site visit to Upper Dens is included.

Stakis Earl Grey Hotel, Dundee.

Cost £25 (students £5). Phone Toni MacPherson on 0382 23141 (extn 4282) for details.

Don't forget the summer school at St Andrews 7th-14th September. Non-residential fees £165 + VAT.

Friday 25th November - RTPI(S) Autumn Conference and AGM. Details later.

PAN 32 - "THE WAY FORWARD FOR LOCAL PLANNING"

CONSIDER the new PAN to be constructive. On the one hand, it clearly underlines the importance of statutory local plans while on the other it takes the view that local planning is not only about the creation and setting out of planning policy, but is also about recognising and promoting development opportunities. I entirely concur with this view although I must register irritation at the suggestion that "policies" are by definition negative and restrictive. After all, the PAN itself is advocating that it is these very policies which would put the development opportunities in an appropriate context!

The Scottish Office obviously feel that local plans are not perceived as being sufficiently positive or promotional and the PAN suggests a more positive way.

In Glasgow, teams of officers prepare and implement local plans. Implementation of planning policy takes two forms; indirectly through decisions taken on planning applications and also directly through promotional initiatives and efforts. This latter approach, in the spirit of the PAN, has been an essential aspect of local planning in Glasgow for many years. To take one example, housing land has been actively promoted for over 11 years with approximately 11,000 houses built. Marketing briefs were prepared for a great many sites - similar to the PAN concept. The briefs showed detailed transport routes, schools, proximity of shops and the various planning policies in the adjacent area. Consultations were made with statutory undertakers, regional services, the Coal Board, etc. The process is continuing: implementation has gone on simultaneously with the development plan review. The PAN could be interpreted as saying "when you have prepared your new plans, promote them." Certainly, with plan preparation

The View From Glasgow

By John B. Watson

well advanced, the promotion of opportunities contained within them is the logical step but such initiatives should not await plan adoption. It has been said before, but *local planning really should be a continuous process*. It is worth repeating.

Local plans themselves are, of course, limited in the extent to which they can initiate and promote. Essentially, they are policy documents including a lengthy democratic process. They are not "implementation" documents as such. Sites with opportunities for development should certainly be shown in local plans and I find it strange that the PAN records that many plans do not do this. Vacant land, and areas ripe for change, are development "collateral" and it is essential that they be highlighted. In addition to this, local plans in Glasgow also draw attention to the many opportunities which exist to improve the environment (ie landscaping, or cleaning, floodlighting or painting of buildings, etc). Local plans, therefore, should deal with the longer term policy issues and the opportunity aspects. The fact that development and environmental opportunities are included in a plan, however, does not mean they will actually happen. Detailed procedures necessary to get projects implemented are beyond the scope of a local plan and, in any event, operate in their own various timescales. There are 41 local plan areas in Glasgow and information frequently requires to be aggregated on a topic basis for City-wide assessment and promotion as well as within individual local plans. The opportunity side of local plans does get out of date quickly, of course, but the PAN approach need not restrict itself purely to sites already identified in a plan. Many sites, as they become available, would surely fit existing broad land use policies even though they had not been indicated as opportunities in the local plan itself. Things are rarely static in Glasgow. As regeneration begins to show benefits in some areas, other

areas find themselves in the throes of change while others re-emerge as a new challenge.

Indeed, from a Glasgow perspective, my criticism of the PAN would be of its *caution*. It restricts itself to sites actually identified in local plans and makes it clear that these sites should be free of problems and capable of early development. This is promotion at the most straightforward level. It could be considered one of three main approaches. The second is more complex because the sites themselves present a greater challenge and a more positive attitude to their redevelopment is required than that suggested in the PAN.

Glasgow contains 1,814 hectares of vacant land but many sites have ownership problems, ground problems or access difficulties and, as the case in the Merchant City and peripheral housing estates some years ago, are in untried market areas. It can often take considerable public sector resources, including powers of acquisition, to promote development and encourage private sector investment. I doubt if many sites could be promoted in Glasgow based on the limited criteria used in the PAN. There is an important role for planning officers in attempting to overcome these difficulties. They should be people with ideas and see themselves as enablers seeking out whatever resources are available public or private.

The logistics of using the PAN approach, could be difficult to implement in Glasgow. With over 700 potential housing sites and over 80 industrial areas, file material would be bulky and difficult to keep up to date. It would certainly be expensive to do so were the excellent presentation of the PAN to be used. The approach in Glasgow has been to target relevant information to particular users, such as Scottish Housebuilders Association. It is for this reason that opportunities are frequently aggregated on a topic basis for City-wide promotion. A City-wide initiative of ideas for

environmental works was brought together in this way in 1985 in the run-up to the Garden Festival. In this initiative the Planning Department has coordinated the efforts of many public and private agencies to create an impact in the City.

This example epitomises a third approach to seeking investment in a district; improving the image of an area by upgrading places such as the City Centre and district centres, major transport routes and other public locations. The sum of many small improvements, each modest in impact, can add up to a changed perception of a place so that development can be attracted. Because of their broader range of interests than many other professions, both inside and outside local government, town planners have (or should have) an in-depth knowledge and "feel" for their areas. It is incumbent upon them to use that knowledge to bring forward and seek to implement the many opportunities of which they are aware even though, in this day and age of disparate sources of finance, they may not always get credit for their initiative.

In conclusion, the thinking behind the PAN is appropriate to what planning should be about and in promotional terms, it presents a good approach within the limitations it has set itself. I am sure some aspects of it could be developed further by authorities. It is re-assuring that the Scottish Office wish to see planning as a positive function. Was the PAN prepared, however, because the Scottish Office are unaware of the range of positive and often unrecorded activity that planners engage in, or because they have established to their satisfaction that too many planning authorities see their role as reactive rather than promotional? Annoying though it is, I suspect it to be the former reason.

Note: The views expressed are those of the writer and do not represent an official view of Glasgow District Council.

J.B. Watson is Depute Director of Planning at Glasgow District Council.

PAN 32 - "THE WAY FORWARD FOR LOCAL PLANNING"

WORKING for one of the three Local Authorities which have been collaborating with SDD on the production of Development Opportunity brochures, my support for this PAN might be taken for granted. However, the enthusiasm is quite genuine.

Here is a document which follows its own advice - good marks for being "more positive, more compact and more relevant" to the needs of potential readers. This PAN addresses another matter of great concern, to all those working with Local Plans - that of effective communication.

If we expect to make a convincing case for the benefits of a "planned" environment, a number of preconditions have to be reckoned with. In particular, there is a need to: (a) target the different consumers of Local Plans, (b) ensure that the contents are relevant, and (c) find ways making the message stick.

A plan for all seasons?

Local plans have become multi-faceted documents aimed at a broad spectrum of potential users. For evidence of this plurality, look no further than the needs of fellow planners. These range from the monitoring of strategic guidance, through implementation in its many guises, to the daily meat and minutiae of development control.

Plans also affect a role in co-ordination and priority setting for Local Authorities, cement relationships with other bodies and agencies and fulfill public participation procedures. Hence plans should be intelligible to the average citizen and credible to the most

By Mike Greaves

esoteric pressure group or developer.

Is it possible for one document to do full justice to such a diverse readership? Plans are inevitably compromises of content, style and format. Notwithstanding some brave experimentation over the years with the likes of newsheets and one-page plans, there has to be room for supplementary documentation - be it promotional, educational or whatever. Development Opportunities brochures can help convey a vital slice of the planning action to an important section of our wider clientele.

The right ingredients?

It is easy to see PAN 32 as simply another manifestation of the Government's preoccupation with fostering an "enterprise" culture. That would be a mistake. Most local planners have embraced the spirit (if less perceptibly, the practice) of monitoring. One of the main benefits of rigorous testing of policies and land allocations must be the subsequent evolution of plans that is achieved by regular feedback. A similar performance gain surely awaits those prepared to assume the mantle of the market and contemplate the adequacy of policies at the entrepreneur?

Are Local Plans in Scotland too negative and restrictive? Most of the designations protecting the best of our built and natural heritage emanate from Government and related agencies but Planners undoubtedly have a responsibility to promote the economic and social aspirations of local communities. PAN 32 should be grasped as part of our armoury to this effect.

Our experience in dissecting the Loch Broom Local Plan as a "pathfinder" brochure has certainly taught some valuable lessons.

Local Plans have a limited "shelf-life" and, without a commitment to regular monitoring, it becomes essential that any brochure is published at or around the plan adoption stage.

With the benefit of hindsight, a little more effort at the plan preparation stages could have yielded additional business opportunities - for example, guidance on the potential re-use of particular redundant farm and estate buildings. Conversely, some of the "ten years plus" ideas flagged in the plan, such as the scope for a major Oil Service Base on the West Highland coast, were excluded from the brochure in order to preserve its credibility as a source of practical information. One or two difficulties have also emerged where developers or landowners are now known to be moving in directions away from the guidelines set out in the plan - this could yet create some flak when the brochure becomes public.

Whilst PAN 32 notes the problems arising from dependence upon non site-specific policies in many rural Local Plans, these do have the considerable merit of being more robust and enduring in their applicability to the remoter areas of Scotland. Anyone with the understanding of the social geography of crofting will appreciate this point.

Putting the message across

I am always struck by the range and reproduction quality of the leaflets, action packs and directories displayed by the growing number of promotional agencies. This forms part of a growing barrage of information competing for the prime time of people's short attention span. The printed word has an increasingly difficult task to

compete with more sophisticated media - how long before Local Plans are available on video or compact disc?!

As a previous proponent of the cheap and cheerful school of planning publications, there is an urgent need to take stock of changing standards and expectations. The best plans have increasingly to be measured also for the attractiveness of their graphics, the friendliness of their format, and their ability to provide a good read. Given the fairly desperate state of most planning budgets, a quantum leap in the standard of documentation is unlikely to be just around the corner. PAN 32 is surely correct to advocate a better quality vehicle for the dissemination of planning ideas and advice.

Careful thought should also be given to the distribution of these brochures. Will this be confined to the authority's own offices? Are they suitable for the businessman on holiday in your area? Would a direct mailshot to selected contacts or particular categories of business be useful?

A quick scan of the field suggests that most existing promotional material is industry/employment orientated, often relating to specific sectors or small area-based initiatives such as Enterprise Zones. This suggests that there is indeed a niche for a Local Plan based brochure which spans the whole range of land use and related development prospects over a wider locality. I commend both the experience and the disciplines needed to put this into practice.

Mike Greaves is Principal Planning Officer (Local Plans) in Highland Regional Council.

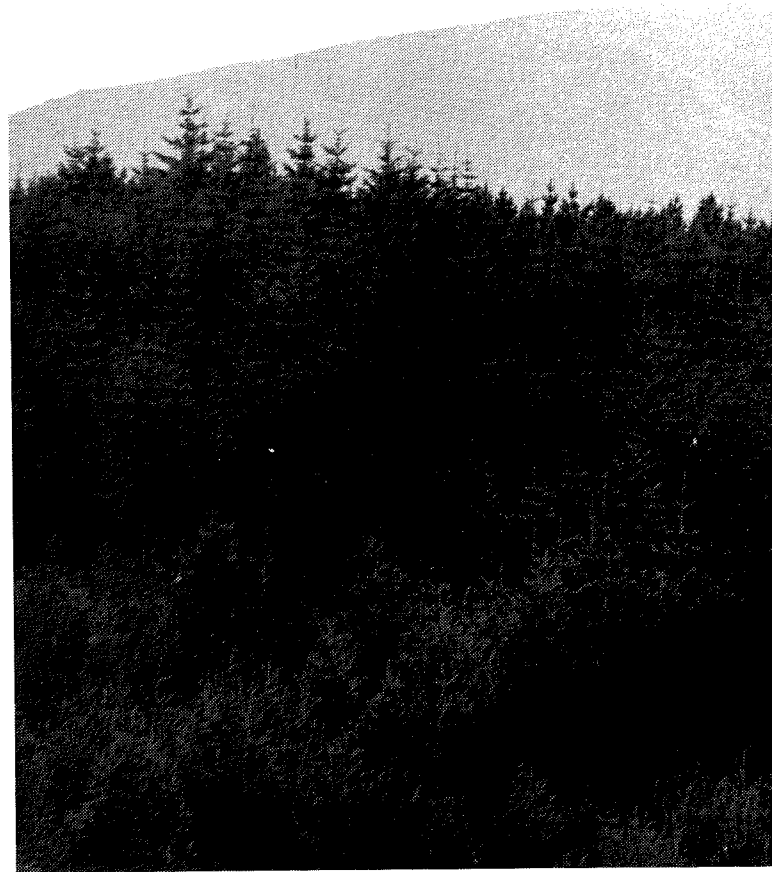
**See page 9 for
'The Pace of Local
Planning'.**

Forestry in Scotland

THE UK imports about 90% of its wood and wood product requirements. This is a market valued at around 4,000 million per annum. Forestry is especially important in Scotland as a land use, as a source of employment and as a factor in landscape and nature conservation. Its importance in Scotland is increasing in both absolute and relative terms relative to the UK. And yet, compared to the situation elsewhere in Western Europe, the percentage of land under forestry is small - in the UK 9%, in Scotland 13.9% compared to an EC average nearer to 20%.

Scotland is naturally a forested country, meaning that before the major clearances from the dawn of the Industrial Revolution onwards the "Great Wood of Caledon" and lesser forests covered much of the land. As late as 1745 the last native Scottish wolf was killed.

But that is history. What is more relevant today, particularly for planners, is encouraging a level of afforestation and forestry practice that integrates this important land-use into the landscape. *F.H.*



PLANNING THE WAY AHEAD

CONVENTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

THIS report represents the policies of COSLA on forestry adopted in April 1987. The report is a basis for ongoing discussion and debate. It considers a range of issues arising out of forestry, particularly the implications for local authorities in relation to forward planning, the safeguarding and provision of infrastructure together with the socio-economic effects. In the process of preparation comments were sought from all planning authorities in Scotland.

The report presents a number of main conclusions and recommendations.

Importance of Forestry

1. Forestry is a vitally important land-use and economic activity in rural Scotland.
2. There appears to be considerable potential for further afforestation in Scotland and scope for speeding up the planting programmes if Government targets (increased to 33,000 ha per annum in February 1987) are to be met.

Planning for Forestry

3. Forestry should be regarded as an essential partnership between a number of individuals, agencies and other organisations.

4. There is urgent need for more effective policies and forward planning of forestry at a strategic level.

5. Regional Forestry Working Parties should be established by Regional Councils as a matter of urgency to produce Regional Forestry Strategies as a basis for Structure Plan policy.

6. Planning authorities should adopt a more positive role in co-ordinating the views of other consultees on forestry proposals, within the context of Regional Forestry Strategies and Local Plans. The present consultation arrangements should be reviewed.

7. The development of forestry is dependent upon a good infrastructure, particularly roads and bridges. The resources of roads authorities in Scotland, not all of which are eligible for national or EC grant assistance, are inadequate to cope with the improvements that are necessary and the Government should give more positive consideration to providing additional funding to tackle what is a national rather than a regional problem.

8. The effects of forestry on water systems including the financial implications for water au-

thorities and River Purification Boards should be more properly recognised and further research undertaken.

9. The relationship between forestry and nature, landscape and archaeological conservation and recreation should be more fully recognised and evaluated. Plans indicating how these interests have been taken into account should accompany all forestry proposals.

10. Planning authorities should ensure that suitably qualified staff are available to take proper account of the wide range of interest involved in forward planning for forestry. The forestry industry, other agencies and organisations together with educational establishments should work closely to provide the necessary training and advice.

Promotion of Forestry

11. Forestry should be promoted in a more effective way in order to enhance and stabilise rural communities, and financial incentives should be changed to encourage the establishment of community woodlands.
12. Further research into the feasibility and viability of reducing the scale of timber-producing plants, in order that the number and location of such plants can produce more lo-

cal direct economic benefits should be widely supported.

13. There should be more co-ordinated action between planning authorities and other agencies pursuing action to increase planting in urban fringe and green belt areas.

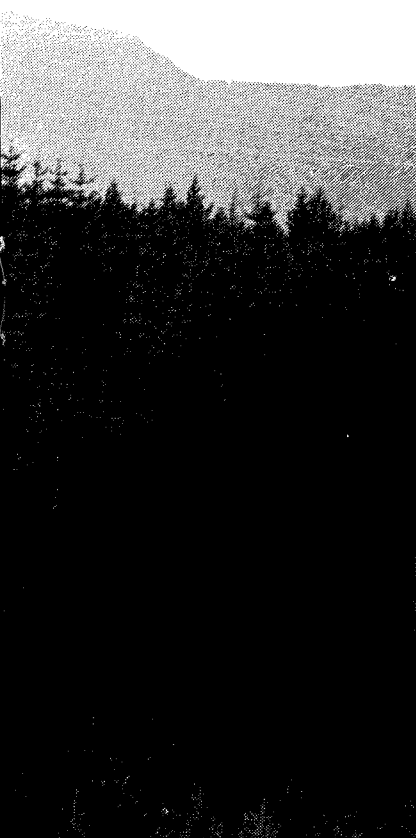
Forestry and Agriculture

14. The integration of forestry, agriculture and other land-uses should be more positively supported. Government Departments and agencies.

15. There should be increased opportunities for various types of farm forestry to be undertaken by owner-occupiers, tenants, crofters and co-operatives.

16. The Government's announcement in March 1987 of the introduction of a Farm Woodland Scheme was welcomed in principle. There is a need however for the Government to provide financial incentives for forestry that match the incentives (grant and tax-relief) currently available for investment-led forestry.
17. It is important that DAFS release policy should be operated selectively to ensure that marginal farms are not released to forestry on a wholesale basis.

18. There should be an improved procedure whereby planning



thorities should be consulted on DAFS grant-aided tree planting schemes prior to such schemes being undertaken and discussions should be held with DAFS and NFU to that end.

Control of Forestry

19. New planting by the private sector should be subject to a planting licence which should be related to fiscal incentives for afforestation issued by the Forestry Commission, and the Forestry Commission's own planting should be subject to consultation similar to that in operation to the private sector.

20. The Forestry Commission, in consultation with the private forestry sector, planning, roads and water authorities, River Purification Boards and other appropriate agencies and organisations should produce a Code of Forestry Practice indicating how the interests of the authorities should be safeguarded in the planning, implementation and management of forestry. The Code should be reviewed every 5 years in the light of new information, experience and research.

21. The Forestry Commission's intention to review the role and composition of Regional Advisory Committees, is welcomed. Planning authorities should be invited to nomin-

DO planners have a role in the countryside? Should we be involved in, or seek greater involvement in, rural land use? Does Housing and economic development in the countryside merit special attention, or is it merely "town planning writ small"?

The Branch Executive is certain of the fact that, as a profession, we have a distinctive and major contribution to make to the future countryside. However, we first have to confirm amongst ourselves what that role is, and how it dovetails with the rural agendas of other environmental professions. Having reached internal consensus, we must broadcast our objectives to other professions, the government and the public, and seek whatever additional instruments we need to fulfil our role most effectively.

To this end, the Branch has formed a Countryside Working Party, which has been meeting since last autumn. As part of this initiative, I have been invited to write a "state of the art" paper on countryside planning in Scotland. A first draft of this was circulated to a limited number of consultees prior to Christmas, and a number of valuable criticisms have been made. However, before finalising the paper I am concerned to solicit the views of the profession at large, so that the Branch Executive can endorse the eventual recommendations with the maximum possible measure of confidence.

The final report will include a review of four factors:

Changing trends in the Scottish countryside. This

The Great Countryside Debate

by Dr Paul H. Selman

is likely to focus on the crisis in agriculture, the rise of conservation interests, movement of economic investment to attractive semi-rural settings, and changing views over new-build development in the countryside.

Changing policies. Here, the role of settlement policies, programmes for agricultural diversification, animation and organisation of entrepreneurial activity, and landscape management and conservation are being considered.

Issues and actions. This section will draw attention to rural services and transport, integrated approaches to the management of countryside conflicts, the need for more rented accommodation, employment generation, privatisation of natural resources, realignment of settlement and green belt policies, and landscape restructuring.

Future agenda. Finally, and most importantly, we must identify from this review the *cardinal issues* affecting the countryside and affirm the need for forward planning of these. As part of this, we must determine the proper scope of the planning profession in rural matters, and address the ways in which we can "close the gaps" with other environmental professions. We must establish what can presently be done to regenerate, safeguard, design

and interpret rural resources, and identify what additional powers and incentives may be necessary to serve the public interest most fully.

I am keen to receive brief views on the above topics, especially with regard to the "issues and actions" section. In particular, it would be helpful if respondents could emphasise what they consider to be the "cardinal issues", and alert me to innovative responses to these issues currently being undertaken by planning authorities in Scotland.

The final paper must be completed by the end of April, so I would ask for contributions to reach me at least a fortnight before that (at Department of Environmental Science, University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA). This report will then be pre-circulated as the basis for the workshop, to be held in Stirling on May 6th (See Page 3). Both the report and the workshop proceedings will then be reconsidered by the Countryside Working Party in an attempt to reach a statement reflecting the views of the Branch. This may subsequently be aired at the Autumn Conference. We are hoping to initiate a "great countryside debate", with the planning profession prominently placed - please enjoy this debate!

"Changes are needed now"

ate representatives. The Secretary of State should consider wider interests when appointing Forestry Commissioners.

The Countryside Commission for Scotland has publicly welcomed the COSLA paper on Forestry in Scotland. It comes to similar conclusions to CCS's own 1986 policy paper. It repeats that public concern over the siting of certain new forest

blocks is growing. Also, that there is little confidence in the existing consultation procedure which is an over-cumbersome and expensive way of determining land use policy - in other words, a failure. Local people and other bodies with a legitimate interest find it difficult to learn what is being proposed, and if they do learn it is difficult to contribute to the debate.

This only arouses acrimony and undermines everyone's confidence in forestry. Changes are needed now.

"Government has set a high annual target for new planting. If this is to be achieved without damaging our environment, our scenery and our wildlife, then forward planning supported by a measure of statutory control is a necessity now."

RTPI(s) AUTUMN CONFERENCE

"Wither Planning in the Countryside?"

THIS conference was held as a contribution to EYE which ends in March 1988. Eleanor Morris, Chairman for 1987, introduced an excellent range of speakers. They addressed issues sure to grow in importance beyond EYE itself, as development in the countryside is "opened up" perhaps allowing industry, housing, green belt development, and raised again the issues of control over agriculture and forestry.

The various contributions are likely to be written up and published as one of the Branch's new "Current Issues" reports (see Chairman's comments). What follows is a precis of the discussion.

David Westwood of UK2000 referred to the need for glasnost in the environment professions, ie an openness to new ideas. Taking a global view, he reminded us that "man as a global infection" is one way to view the environmental damage that is all too common. Rapidly coming down to Earth, the urban fringe became the focus of his talk.

The urban fringe is the landscape most travelled through, most familiar to people and so the green belts, urban fringe management, river valley initiatives are of continuing relevance today. Many experiments were referred to, initially seen as short term, but developing into permanent partnerships. Their Project managers are "Captain Kirks" who must "boldly go" etc. In other words, they are working in unexplored territories and new initiatives must be taken. Operation Groundwork in St Helens, the Central Scotland Woodlands Project, the Clyde Calders Project are key developments with important experience to draw upon. Developing footpaths and tree planting are only part of the picture; equally important is liaison with farmers, community involvement and the broad area of environmental education in changing attitudes to the

countryside. A partnership of action is vital.

Dr Murray Black, the Scottish Agricultural Colleges Co-ordinator of Conservation and Environment, referred to the problems farmers face in the new circumstances. He emphasised that in Scotland where some 75% of the land is upland, the high quality agricultural land often found around cities and towns is of great importance for production. He also believed that over 90% of the population were not interested in farming and its problems.

At the same time, he argued that farmers were aware that change was necessary - novel forms of farming, farm forestry, new crops, new livestock, "horsiculture", holiday homes, caravan sites etc are all part of the picture - but realistic inducements to change established practices are essential. Farmers are not "cosseted villains" and this view of them does no good.

Dr James Hunter, Director of the Scottish Crofters Union took a forthright stance in defence of the crofter. Not in backwards view, but holding up crofting as a model of success and resilience for the rest of the rural population to take note of. Things do not necessarily get worse as you move away from the centres of population. The west coast of Lewis or Skye where new housing is springing up, areas where Harris Tweed and other traditional industries are co-existing with fish-farming, tourism and electronics illustrate the potential. Central to it all is the adaptability of the crofter and his acceptance of a diversity of activities. Such attitudes are common in continental Europe; why not here?

Crofting can support more people per hectare than any other single land use, so the 100 years of hostility from Government and its agencies is wholly unwarranted.

Crofting is a pointer of a way

to a better rural future. It is not an anachronism. What are needed are attitude changes and financial changes. Fish-farming and forestry are now dominated by external forces which do nothing for local communities.

We are at a turning point in rural development. A "happy ending" is not guaranteed. But the opportunities are there if we have the courage to grasp them.

Stimulating and controversial papers stirred up a lively discussion. Why does the HIBD not change its directions? Why was so much of the Western Isles Integrated Development Programme money spent on fencing? Why does land mis-use still continue? Why is rural Scotland such a littered, untidy place? Can farmers become "landscape managers"?

Roy Stirrat tried to sum up the wide range of opinions of the morning session. Not an easy task is ahead of us in rural Scotland. But Roy was certain planners had an important role to play.

Dr James McCarthy, Depute Director of the Nature Conservancy Council, took up the problem of attitudes. Public Awareness of problems of the countryside - or better, "the land" - is important, but inadequate. Participation is essential and this requires both education and interpretation. Schools have a role to play, but so has television and informal "education" through good interpretive techniques in visitor centres etc.

Our view of "the countryside" is dominated by a romantic, 19th century view, perpetuated in food, car and clothing advertisements. There is also a danger that the many excellent television programmes become almost a substitute for involvement.

Is "co-ordination" the answer? - of agencies, interests etc? It has become almost a "holy grail". To get things done, maybe all we need to do is establish common facts and

decide what to do. The guiding view has to be that conservation and development are the two sides of the one coin.

Four workshops attempted to establish views on: the Urban fringe, the Lowlands, the Remote Areas and Better Awareness of the Environment.

The Urban Fringe can too often be constraining. Controls must not be removed, but they may well need changing. Private investment is essential and planning gain offers a way to strike bargains.

In the Lowlands, the high quality land must be protected, but this can permit non-irreversible developments. A wide range needs to be considered. On that basis building must be looked at very cautiously.

A problem of the Remote Areas is one of perception. And we must carefully distinguish between the areas "just beyond the cities" and the truly remote areas ie beyond commuting distance. Crofting, traditional or otherwise, may be appropriate in some areas, but not everywhere. All areas are different and solutions must be responsive to local views. Too often "solutions" are imposed.

Better awareness can improve popular perceptions of rural area but can also influence our political masters. The countryside is still a hostage to political fortune. A "cultural re-identification" with the countryside is necessary for our overwhelmingly urban population.

Jan Fladmark summed up this enjoyable, controversial conference. Land use planning AND management are essential components of the way forward. The conference has revealed the wide range of views that prevail even now when change is already upon us. Co-ordination and integration are essential and the National Planning Guidelines may have an important role to play

Frank Howie

FOCUS ON HIGHLAND REGION

continued from page 1

are involved in development control either in the 8 Divisional Offices or Headquarters. The remainder are allocated to the three other Headquarters Sections dealing with the Structure Plan, Research and Information; Local Plans; and Implementation. The Cartographic Section, which includes qualified planning technicians, is responsible for mapping, display materials and photographs. Staff numbers remain substantially the same since the Region was established in 1975 and are less than the numbers employed by the 8 former planning authorities which were largely absorbed by the Region.

The Planning Department has recently dealt with a number of challenging planning applications. Readers will know about the application for the European Demonstration Fast Reactor Fuel Reprocessing Plant. This was called in by the Secretary of State and was the subject of a prolonged Public Local Inquiry during 1986. The Council's Support for the proposal was subject to the Inquiry establishing that none of the matters in question would jeopardise public safety or health, the environment or the social welfare of the Region. In addition, the Council recommended that the transport of spent nuclear fuel to the plant be through a port in Caithness. The Planning Department spent a considerable amount of time and effort in assessing the application, liaising with scientific consultants, advising the council and preparing and presenting evidence to the Inquiry. In lending its support to the project, the Council took account of the considerable local support from the residents of Caithness and the significant economic benefits to the local economy.

The approval by the Council of another challenging planning application has resulted in the development of Europe's largest "super-quarry" on the north shore of Loch Linnhe, 15 miles south west of Fort William. The quarry which was anticipated in the SDD's national Planning Guidelines is being developed by a Somerset based company, Foster Yeoman. The operation is colossal and involves careful remodelling of a hillside in this environmentally sensitive area. The Planning Department was involved in very detailed assessment and modification of the project from its earliest stage. This involved a number of public meetings. The project is being carefully monitored despite its remote location accessible only by boat or light aircraft. The first load of aggregates was shipped out of the quarry in late 1986 to Texas. Once fully operational the quarry will serve markets mainly in the south of England.

The Council, through its Structure and Local Plans, has attempted to promote and support the development of the Region's resource-based industries. The closure of the pulp mill in Fort William and the aluminium smelter at Invergordon in the early 1980s, together with the recession in the UK economy has raised unemployment to over 30% in some

parts of the region. This has led to a switch in emphasis towards more modest development projects. Fish farming is a good example of a resource based activity which has created several hundred jobs in numerous locations along the Region's west coast. The Planning Department has developed close links with the industry and is heavily involved in co-ordinating the views of local communities and other parties as part of its response to the Crown Estate Commissioners sea-bed licensing procedures.

Forestry is another resource-based activity which has increased significantly in the Region during the past few years. The Forestry Commission consults the Planning Department on all private sector planting and felling applications and a detailed assessment is made, with the expert assistance of the Department's own forestry staff. There is close liaison with the Forestry Commission and the private forestry sector and a senior member of staff has been involved in COSLA's Forestry Working Party. (See this issue - Editor)

"Conservation has attracted a great deal of publicity in recent years... conservation and development are mutually dependent..."

In its current Structure Plan Review, the council will be seeking to balance the need to sustain and enhance the economic and social well-being of the Region's 200,000 population - one third of whom live in and around communities of less than 200 people - with the objective of the World Conservation Strategy. Conservation in Highland Region has attracted a great deal of publicity in recent years, much of it ill-informed. The Council believes that the way forward lies in demonstrating that conservation and development are mutually dependent. The Planning Department has been actively involved in advising the council's Conservation Working Group which is currently considering the functions of conservation bodies, policies and the possible designation of a National Heritage Park, the concept of which might be based on National Parks.

Employment growth in the early 70's caused population growth and a need to plan for the expansion of towns and villages in the Moray Firth area. Massive housing and infrastructural investment were co-ordinated to cope with growth rates faster than those in New Towns. This rapid growth (+10,000 in Inverness between 1971 and 1986) coupled with the recent loss of jobs in the oil-related industries has contributed to the emergence of numerous societal problems. Nevertheless, population growth has resulted in substantial improvements such as the total recon-

struction of the A9(T) road from Perth to Invergordon, major investment in the rail network, shopping development and the provision of a wide range of community facilities including the Eden Court theatre in Inverness.

The Planning Department has sought to adopt a positive approach. One major undertaking was the implementation of a comprehensive development area in Inverness. Numerous other projects and environmental improvement schemes are currently in hand, the objective being to reinvest in the physical fabric of the environment as a catalyst for private sector investment.

The stage is set yet again for further change and it is a challenge for the Structure Plan to anticipate this. The main changes expected to influence land-use and future growth in the Region are agricultural - with knock-on effects on primary industries. Oil-related and resource based industries are expected to mark time until the 1990s. Changes in technology and communications however, may render Highland Region more accessible in many ways.

Prospects are therefore by no means negative. Achievement will be by forward looking, flexible policy and not least by cost-effective targeting of limited resources.

*Richard Cameron,
Director of Planning, Highland
Regional Council*

The Pace of Local Planning

LOCAL planning authorities are required by the 1973 Act to prepare local plans for the whole of their area "as soon as practicable". The situation twelve years after local government reorganisation in terms of local plan coverage is that adopted local plans still cover less than half the population. Despite massively increased manpower and data resources, local plan coverage has proceeded at a far slower pace than coverage by development plans following the 1947 Acts.

The salient features of the Scottish situation may be summarised as follows:

- almost two thirds of all local plans have been adopted, and these cover about two-thirds of the area
- some 40% of the population is covered by adopted plans, and a further 15% by plans which have been finalised but not yet adopted
- Over the past two years, plans have been adopted for about 4% of the population per year - rather slower than previous years. Trends suggest that this rate will continue
- nine of the forty three authorities have full adopted coverage, and a further three have full finalised coverage; Western Isles is the only authority with no plans finalised

*by Anthony Coon,
Centre for Planning,
University of Strathclyde*

● half the authorities have started reviewing plans, including virtually all of those with full coverage. Of the 191 adopted plans, alterations or replacements have been adopted for 25 plans (15 of them in Highland Region), and finalised for a further 8 plans.

● about half the adopted plan coverage was finalised more than 5 years ago - and 80% of this has not been altered or replaced.

If, say, we define an up-to-date plan as one which has been prepared or reviewed within the past five years then about a quarter of the population of Scotland is covered by up-to-date adopted plans. This proportion has increased only slowly in recent years, and is likely to decrease over the next few years.

Some comparisons with the situation south of the border (where local plans are not mandatory) may be of interest:

- The total area covered by finalised and adopted plans in Scotland is larger than is covered by English plans
- The rate of plan preparation (per cent of population per year), for-

merly much lower in England, is now similar to the Scottish rate

● action area and subject plans are far more popular in England than in Scotland - but their numbers are quite small in comparison to comprehensive plans. The frequency of informal plans is also thought to be far higher in England than in Scotland.

Local plans in England are to be replaced by "unitary" and "district" plans, which will be mandatory. Judging by past performance it will be well into the next century before these are completed! Scotland has made better progress on local plans than England, but it has been far slower than the planning authorities and central government expected. On present trends, it would take a quarter of a century for completion of plans intended to make proposals for a five year period: it seems unlikely that politicians and the public will feel well served by a planning system which takes 25 years to decide what should happen over the next 5 years.

* For further details see "Local Plan Provision: the record to date and the prospects for the future". The Planner - forthcoming.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Progress in Scotland

1988 seems certain to see more developments in Environmental Education in the Branch. The Planners and Teachers Register is growing slowly but needs more in both professions to join. We also want to establish links with education advisers and Her Majesty's Inspectorate in the regions and at the Scottish Education Department.

At the Centre for Planning, Strathclyde University, a new opportunity is emerging for research into the curriculum and the role of Environmental Education within it. There have been several reports of EE activity coming in from Highland Region,

Livingston Development Corporation, Glasgow District Council and West Lothian. Gillian Spears, from West Lothian DC attended a workshop at Loosehill Hall in Derbyshire recently and found out that working alongside teachers preparing EE material for school work was a very rewarding experience and not as traumatic as she had first anticipated! Work is proceeding with the Environment Show at the Garden Festival site and you can look forward to seeing one or two exhibits of members work with school children.

As EYE has now come to a close, may I ask you all to do your little bit for the environment? I know you are desperately busy making Scotland look better, but - PLEASE FILL OUT THE PAT REGISTER! Phone Tim Mitchell on 041 - 227 5759.

T.M.

New Environmental Design School

MARCH 3rd saw the creation of the Edinburgh School of Environmental Design. This new school has been formed as a result of the transbinary review of planning education.

The University of Edin-

burgh, Edinburgh College of Art and Heriot Watt University have collaborated in its formation by linking their Departments and Schools responsible for teaching and research in architecture, landscape and planning.

The new School is considered to be a unique facility in the United Kingdom.

Closer links between Education and Practice

AS another spin-off from the changes brought in with the Transbinary Review, Heriot Watt/Edinburgh College of Art

hosted the inaugural meeting of an Education and Practice Forum on 8 March 1988. The initiative and the potential opportunities debated were much welcomed and long awaited by those around the table. Practitioners from both the public and private sectors in and around Edinburgh were invited to join and promote the Forum by the Department of Town and Country Planning.

Although promoted to develop the programme of CPD seminars initiated by the College, the meeting was used to explore the numerous other avenues of exchange. In summary, the following areas have been identified for future agendas:-

Planning Depts and Ethnic Minorities

THIS topic, or to be precise, "Race and Planning Practice", was the subject of a recent survey conducted by John Russell. He presented the paper to the Executive in December.

The survey was a follow-up to two papers produced in 1983: "Planning for a Multi-Racial Britain" produced by RTPI and CRE, and "Planning in a Multi-Racial Scotland" produced by RTPI(S) and CRE. All planning authorities in Scotland were included in the survey and the intention was to establish the current awareness and the activities of these authorities regarding issues concerning ethnic minorities.

Response to the survey was encouragingly high (only three authorities failed to respond). One of the main findings of the survey was that most authorities were unaware of the existence of the above reports.

Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee and - less predictably - Monklands and Perth and Kinross - were the authorities who had taken positive steps such as translating leaflets into minority languages, briefing staff to make special efforts when communicating with members of ethnic minorities, and attempting to monitor planning applications submitted by members of ethnic minorities. Other action taken by, for example, some of the Regions, amounted only to the establishment of lines of communication with formalised groups or councils representing ethnic minorities.

As a result of John Russell's findings, it has been decided to update the 1983 Paper and to issue it to all planning authorities and to organise CPD training sessions on planning and ethnic minorities. The Planning Exchange are now looking at this idea.

In addition, the Executive intend to express their concern about the lack of awareness on this topic to the majority of Chief Planning Officers.

A.M.G.

- potential of the Planning School of contributing to CPD needs of practice and how this can be best achieved in the area.
- input of practice into Planning Education.
- development of a forum of information exchange and avenues of debate on current and future issues.
- practice inputs into the develop-

EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF ART/HERIOT WATT UNIVERSITY PART TIME MSc IN URBAN DESIGN

Full approval has not yet been given for this course which could be organised into two-year, two-and-a-half evenings per week format, with the third year spent more flexibly on a dissertation.

It is hoped to institute a credit system like the Open University to permit a longer period of study.

A decision should be made soon. Further inquiries to Robert Smart, Edinburgh College of Art.

UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE, GLASGOW MSc or DIPLOMA IN URBAN DESIGN

This course, launched in February, is of variable length depending on the flexibility of the student. It can be full time (12 month MSc or 9 month Diploma) or part time.

The course acts as a bridge between the environmental design professions and involves input from the Centre for Planning, the Department of Architecture and Building Science.

Further inquiries to Prof. Peter Reed, Urban Design Studies Unit, Department of Architecture, University of Strathclyde. Tel: 041 - 552 4400.

Jordanstone looks to stability

DEPARTMENT of Town and Regional Planning, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art/University of Dundee joins the Glasgow and Edinburgh schools in hopefully looking forward to a period of stability following the recent traumas in planning education.

There are at present eleven full-time members of the academic staff. Student numbers are usually around 115 in the undergraduate course leading to a BSc in Town and Regional Planning. The Faculty of Environmental Studies of the University of Dundee awards the degrees of MSc and PhD by research. Head of Department is Dr Hugh Begg.

ment of the curriculum and awareness of its contents.

● where practice can explore with Education the opportunities provided by the new School of Environmental Design.

To take the initiative to the next stage a meeting of the Forum has been agreed for 12th April 1988.

M.C.

E.C.& D.Unit

AFTER something of a hiatus, AECDU is now organising a further series of meetings under the guidance of a steering committee. The next seminar will be on *Planning and Archaeology*, and will be held in Stirling on June 21st.

Future events are planned on fish farming, forestry strategy and design, alternative energy, environmentally sensitive areas, and remote sensing.

Further details from: Environmental Conservation and Development Unit, c/o Department of Environmental Science, University of Stirling. FK9 4LA

Top Planning Awards

SCOTTISH PLAYGROUND OF THE YEAR AWARD - Is there a new children's playground near you? Is it popular? Does it look well-designed? Maybe it should be entered for this award. Entries are sought in two categories: for older children, and for younger children.

The playground nominated can be a new or an improved playground and the only requirement is that work on the playground must have been done over the last year.

Some of the features that the judging panel will be looking for are good design of equipment or structures, imaginative use of landscaping and proximity of playground facilities catering for other age groups. Above all they will be judging the underlying concept of the playgrounds and the extent to which they illustrate a recognition and understanding of the value of play.

For the first time, this year a special award is being made for "Policy and Research". In this section the judging panel will be looking not only for innovative policies or research regarding the social and educational value/benefit of play, but also for well thought out implementation, maintenance and monitoring techniques.

Entries must be submitted by 30th April and the awards will be announced in the Autumn.



The RTPI Scottish Branch is a joint sponsor of the awards.

Info: National Playing Fields Association - Scotland, 20 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JX (Tel: 031 225 4307)

COMMUNITY PLANNING

AWARDS - The RTPI and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations are to make joint awards of £1000 and £250, so that they can develop their work, to organisations and informal groups which can show that they have influenced:

- * The preparation of a local authority's development plan
 - * Procedures for handling planning applications
 - * A particular development proposal
 - * The use of public land
 - * The exercise of discretionary powers
- Or can show in other ways that they have changed statutory mechanisms or proposals for the better.

Entries by 30th April

Info: RTPI, 26 Portland Place, London, W1N 4BE

AMG

OBITUARY

Eileen Geraldine Scott

Friends, colleagues and associates learned with great sadness of the tragic and premature death on 25th November 1987 of Ges Scott, after a typically spirited fight to overcome injuries sustained in a car accident in March. She was 46 and had been Director of Planning for Gordon District Council for 11 years.

Born in Ireland, Ges moved with her family to the West Midlands where she was educated, and in 1962 she gained a BA (Hons) in Geography at Kings College, Newcastle - then part of Durham University. She started her professional career with Colchester Town Council, moving to Essex County Council in 1966. After 8 years there, in various posts, she moved to north-east Scotland with her husband, David in 1974 where she joined Banff County Council. The 1975 Scottish reorganisation of Local Government saw her appointment as Depute to Tom Peattie in Gordon District's Planning Department. When Tom moved to the Scottish Office Reporters' Unit less than a year later, Ges was appointed Director and was thus largely responsible for the creation of Gordon's planning framework and the development of the planning department.

Ges Scott was an enthusiast who fired others with her zest for planning - and for life. Her directness and clarity, combined with her flair for putting issues forcibly and persuasively, won her the admiration of her colleagues and the respect - and often the friendship - of Developers and Councillors alike. Her scrupulous integrity was unquestioned and she treated her staff fairly, with compassion, and above all, with good humour. Ges was a thoroughly professional and highly regarded planner, a strong and reliable colleague and, most of all, a great friend. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

R.T.T.

Women and Planning

THE Sub Committee on Women and Planning have an active agenda. An Effective Communications Workshop for women planners was organised in February at Edinburgh University. This popular and successful course received grant aid from the Equal Opportunities Commission and as it was oversubscribed it is hoped to run a variety of other courses soon.

"NETWORK" magazine was distributed in January and covered a number of topical issues. The National Women and Planning Working Party is putting its report out for consultation in April. The National Conference will be held on Friday 28th October at Regent's College, London - more details later. A seminar series entitled "Planning Gains from Women's Sights - Planning for the 52%" is to be run as this year's Summer School. For more information about Women and Planning, phone Lorna Thomson on 031 - 229 9292, extn 3408.

H.I.H.

Members' News

ROY STIRRAT (F) and Andrew Robinson (M) announce that a new simplified practice name - NORTHERN PLANNERS - replaced PEFS Planners from 15th February. Town planning consultancy, area development and management studies, and urban forestry planning continue as the practice's main services. Same address etc - 11 Alva Street, Edinburgh EH2 4PH; Tel: 031 - 226 3665; Fax: 031 - 220 1975.

MARION CHALMERS has left West Lothian District Council by defecting to the private sector! She has taken up a post with C.A.S.C.O., an Edinburgh-based firm of consultants specialising in urban renewal.

BRIAN PARNELL, Head of the Department of Planning at Glasgow School of Art (now integrated into the new Glasgow Centre for Planning at Strathclyde University) retired in February. He will continue to be involved in planning through his membership of the Branch executive and through his consultancy, Brian K. Parnell and Associates.

Send in news of your job move to 15 Rutland Square and keep us all up-to-date!

Social and Sports Events

THE Scottish Branch is organising a DINNER-DANCE to give members from all parts of Scotland an opportunity to meet socially. The likely date is Saturday 19th November, with the venue being Pitlochry. An 'all-in' package including overnight accommodation is being negotiated. An afternoon tour of Highland Perthshire may be organised as an optional extra.

DO YOU PLAY HOCKEY? Would you like to join a planners' mixed hockey team playing in the Edinburgh summer league? Dave Morrison of SDD is organising such a team. Phone Dave on 031 - 244 4229 if you're interested.

A PIPING TUNE COMPETITION (bagpipes of course) is being run by Scottish Branch. Try your hand at composing a reel, a strathspey or whatever you think appropriate to pipe in the office bearers at the AGM. Further details from 15 Rutland Square.

A GOLF COMPETITION will be run throughout the spring and summer teams of four planners will compete against each other in two-ball foursomes. Teams can be

mixed or single sex and the first few rounds will be against teams in your area. Entry forms and rules from 15 Rutland Square. Entry Fee - £4 per team. Closing date for entry - 3rd May 1988.

APPOINTMENTS

SEASONAL PROGRAMME EVENTS

21st January - Light Rail Systems in Urban Areas

- David Scotney

DAVID Scotney gave a fascinating talk illustrated with a comprehensive set of slides of trams and rail systems in the U.S., Canada, Europe and East Germany. The futuristic designs of the trams in Grenoble and Nantes were particularly appealing.

After ranging through the technical design details of vehicles and routes and the various options included in the genre "light rail systems", Mr Scotney gave us more detail on recent British developments such as London's Dockland rail, Newcastle's Metro and described in some detail the stage which Lothian Regional Council have now reached with their transportation study.

Interesting that in Edinburgh a high proportion of journeys is still by public transport (40% as opposed to 15% in some other cities), so Edinburgh has perhaps less advantage to gain by introducing some light rail system. Would the conservation lobby ever countenance overhead wires in Princes Street - despite the obvious environmental gain of less petrol/diesel fumes?

An interesting scenario and one obviously to watch out for in forthcoming months as the study nears completion. From the discussion it sounds as if Strathclyde are about to embark on a similar study for Greater Glasgow. The meeting was well-attended and heard an excellent speaker who discoursed with confidence and conviction on a fascinating topic.

A.M.G.

18th February "Japanese Urban Renewal"

- Chris Bentley

"URBAN renewal by partnership: the Japanese method" was the subject of a talk by Chris Bentley to a small, but intrigued meeting. Land re-adjustment, "the mother of land use planning", originally derived from 19th century land reform where land was cleared and redistributed among the community. Each owner would receive a reduced area, but it would have gained in value. Public open space could then be created.

A complex procedure was outlined involving partnership between the community and the Executor, usually the Local Public Authority, who reserved some land to be sold to offset costs. Advantages include quick implementation, fairer compensation and the use of all precious land.

West Akabane, a working class residential area to the north of Tokyo was highlighted. Despite good accessibility the area's population had declined after the war. Rebuilt piecemeal, by the 1960s it consisted of dense, low-cost public sector housing of 2 and 3 storey wooden frame buildings. Over half of the people "with rights" were required to favour the project. A small minority of initial objectors acquiesced despite the Housing Corporation having no compulsory purchase powers.

COMPARISONS

Unlike Britain, Japan has no conservation lobby - the quality of environment is low and redevelopment is seen as improvement and buildings as replaceable. The Japanese Urban Renewal Act is concerned with removing timber buildings to create fire breaks in the event of earthquake. Any delays encountered were of a financial nature. Planning blight was not evident, despite redevelopment being a prospect for over 30 years. The main principle of Japanese re-adjustment schemes, the dramatic increase in density, is unlikely to be acceptable in Britain.

The Aberdeen Bon Accord development was cited as one where a partnership scheme may have resolved early problems and avoided antagonisms. The discussion highlighted the unending demand for housing in Tokyo and the lack of a Japanese conservation lobby. So, though the approach is not directly transposeable, partnership aspects are of interest.

Chris Alcorn

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