

Scottish **planner**

100th ISSUE

Aug 2004

Journal of the RTPI in Scotland

Institute advocates third way on right of appeal

The Institute has responded to the Scottish Executive's consultation paper on "Rights of Appeal in Planning" by rejecting the principle of a right of appeal for third parties. Instead, it suggests a major overhaul of the call-in procedures for development plan departures and development in which a planning authority has an interest with the introduction of a Public Right of Notification Procedure (PRNP).

Improving public confidence

While we offered a very tight deadline for responses to our questionnaire in the last edition of Scottish Planner, those responses which we did receive made it clear that planners overwhelmingly were against a third party right of appeal. Many responses did, however, reinforce the Scottish Executive Committee's view that some means had to be found to improve public confidence in the way in which some types of planning application are determined.

The concern of the Planning Bill Task Group, which carried out most of the work, was that there was no future in provoking entrenched views in the Scottish Parliament, at the time of any Planning Bill, by seeking to take sides in the increasingly polarised arguments between those for and against third party appeals.

While concerned that there should be more transparency over development plan departures and local authority property interests, the Institute felt that a third party right of appeal, after the issue of a legal planning consent, would have untenable consequences for property deals and investment confidence, as well as the democratic process. In addition, there had to be some way of restricting the right of any individual to take a case through full appeal procedure just because they disagreed with the decision.

Decision to call-in

The Institute's proposed solution is based upon a major rethink about the existing arrangements for ministerial intervention

through call-in. It proposes that departures from the development plan and developments in which the planning authority have an interest should be the subject of a right for an objector to require consideration for call-in, prior to the issue of any consent. There would then be a two stage process starting with screening in the name of Ministers in which a decision whether or not to call-in would be dependent on a range of criteria relating to procedure and levels of interest in the local community, as well as the established criteria based on national policy.

Contrary to a suggestion in the Executive's consultation paper, the Institute did not feel that applicant appeals would require to be treated in the same way. It is pointed out that the stakes for applicants are quite different and that human rights issues might apply.

Development plan departures

Bringing a greater focus on development plan departures inevitably means a tightening up of the development plan system both with regard to maintaining up to date and relevant plans and with regard to the clarity in the writing of policies.

While it is third party appeals which have grabbed the headlines in recent months, the parallel consultation from the Executive on "Making Development Plans Deliver" contains far more fundamental issues for the future of planning. The Institute has called for radical changes which will allow development plan departures to become a true barometer of the success of the system. In particular, the Institute has supported a statutory five year

review cycle for development plans with greatly increased emphasis on the process of plan inception with the involvement of the public and other stakeholders.

The Institute's responses to both consultations can be found on the website at www.scotland.rtpi.org.uk/policies/index.html



Collège des Ecosais, Montpellier complete with Outlook Tower, founded by Patrick Geddes in 1924. See page 9.

Details inside of RTPI in Scotland's first Annual Sir Patrick Geddes Commemorative Lecture in association with the Saltire Society, and this year's Annual Conference (see pages 8 and 12).

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Convenor's **Comments**



'I sense a growing confidence amongst the profession'

So what do you remember of June 1981, date of the first edition of the Scottish Planner?

That first edition was pre-occupied with the introduction of charges for planning applications and concerned that local plans could cost "as much as £4 or £5" per copy.

Elsewhere, bigger beasts were stirring. Mrs Thatcher had been elected two years previously. Just over a year before Geoffrey Howe had announced both tax increases and swingeing cuts in public expenditure and as recession started to bite, English inner cities exploded with rioting in Brixton in April 1981 and Southall and Toxteth in July. No doubt, the Government hoped that the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales at the end of July would prove a pleasant distraction.

I was too absorbed with adolescent pursuits such as the rise of New Romantic pop music to have much of an idea what it was like to be a planner in June 1981. But my instinct is that as a profession, we were about to move into a period of sustained assault on the merits and values of town planning which was to last for the next two decades.

One consequence of those riots was the conservative government's drive to regenerate inner city areas. Michael Heseltine strode around Manchester, Liverpool and the London Docklands (I don't think he made it this far north), his blonde mane streaming in the breeze, preaching the gospel of deregulation and the need to remove the planning restrictions which fetter development. Urban Regeneration Companies and Simplified Planning Zones have their roots in this period and there's no doubt that the huge public investment pumped into parts of Manchester, Liverpool and east London produced results. But the popular take on planning at the time seems to

cast it as a throw-back to the post-war social contract of 1947 which hindered redevelopment rather than encouraged it.

Was it significantly different here in Scotland? I don't know. Some of you are far better placed to say. But I suspect the most common instinct amongst local authority planners was to keep their heads down and protect the integrity of the planning system as far as possible rather than promoting it as an alternative to a market free for all.

And yet, we haven't gone away. The number of professional planners in the UK has almost doubled, from 7,500 in 1981, to 14,000, and is still rising. For whatever reason, people are continuing to pursue careers in planning. The RTPI needs to make sure that we continue to be the type of profession which attracts the type of person who can get passionate about the environment, about society, about regeneration, about inequality, and is articulate and mature enough to make a difference.

The challenges are still there. It's still far too easy to accuse planning of over-regulation and planners as being naïve or unrealistic. But I sense a growing confidence amongst the profession and a renewed enthusiasm for planning as a career and even from politicians. We need to make sure we're ready to step up to the mark.

When I was trying to remind myself of the flavour of June 1981 for this column I found a fantastic website which tells you the No 1 record on any given day. For the first two weeks of June 1981 it was "Stand and Deliver" by Adam and the Ants. Which just happened to be the theme of this year's RTPI annual conference in London.

Do you think someone is trying to tell us something?

Alice McGlone

Any comments to
secconvenor@rtpi.org.uk

Editorial

One of the gratifying things about our research for this 100th edition of the Scottish Planner has been noting how the publication steadily improved from its early days through the unstinting efforts of volunteer editors. From this sound basis, it has become a standard routine now in the office to prepare the Scottish Planner in parallel with our ongoing policy and member services work. When the stalwarts of the Branch Committee edited it, however, it was a case of a sometimes fraught collection of material and one or two weekends spent wrapped in the proverbial wet towel.

We also have an admission to make. Having promoted the notion of 100 editions over a period between 1981 and 2004, we eventually noticed that the "special bumper edition" in April 1988 had gone back to number 1! In fact, there have been 3 series of Scottish Planner commencing with a number 1 since 1981 and this is not to ignore the various forms of newsletter which existed prior to that.

Some of my favourite front pages include a picture of the Royal High School building in April '96 as the Scottish Planner sought to anticipate devolution. In April 1993, the aim of redeveloping the Ravenscraig site was announced but, over ten years later, it is still frustrated by legal action. And, just as government is commissioning research into the growing menace of landslips, the Scottish Planner highlighted the issue as long ago as February 1991.

We are delighted to have a variety of retrospective comments from past editors and officers of the Institute in Scotland in this edition. Their underlying message confirms the value of the contribution which the profession has made over the years. It is clear that planning is no less important today judging from the way that our policy briefing pages have had to expand.

The debate as we approach a Planning Bill and as the Executive continues with its research into resources for planning will confirm what the future holds. The Scottish Planner grew out of a need to ensure that the Institute continued to develop its role through effective communication with its members. We have every intention that the Scottish Planner should continue to improve in this role.

Graham U'ren

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Editor Graham U'ren
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Conference Diary and training events 2004

Information on all events is listed on our website at www.scotland.rtpi.org.uk/diary/

■ 16 September

Urban Design Week

Event organised by West of Scotland Chapter

Contact Ross Nimmo 01389 737215
Email: west.scotland@rtpi.org.uk

■ 16 September

Stirling Alloa Kincardine Railway reopening project at Alloa Tower

Event organised by Central Chapter

Contact Ronnie Beveridge 01259 452613
Email: central.scotland@rtpi.org.uk

■ 28 September

Housing Quality - Scotland vs Bavaria

Event organised by Edinburgh Lothian Borders Fife Chapter at Royal Fine Arts Commission, Edinburgh

Contact Catherine Quigley 0131 311 6550
Email: elbf.scotland@rtpi.org.uk

■ 1 October

RTPI in Scotland's inaugural Sir Patrick Geddes lecture

Royal Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh

Contact RTPI in Scotland 0131 226 1959
Email: scotland@rtpi.org.uk

■ 1 October

Sir Patrick Geddes commemoration

Event organised by Grampian Chapter at Ballater

Contact Alistair Stark 01224 318536
Email: grampian.scotland@rtpi.org.uk

■ 2 October

Ideas in Evolution

Symposium organised by Sir Patrick Geddes Memorial Trust in Edinburgh

Contact Stephen Hajducki, 53 Albany Trust, Edinburgh EH1 3QY

■ 7 October

Planning Law Update

Event organised by RTPi/IDOX at COSLA, Edinburgh

Contact i-documentsystems
0141 574 1910
Email events@idoxplc.com

■ 27 October

New and Expanded Communities

Event organised by RTPi/IDOX at COSLA, Edinburgh

Contact i-documentsystems
0141 574 1910
Email events@idoxplc.com

INCREASING SCOTLAND'S HOUSING SUPPLY

In July the Minister for Communities, Margaret Curran, announced the findings from a review of the housing market in Scotland. This was undertaken by Executive officials in the light of concerns about the recent large rises in house prices and the problems they were causing for new entrants to the housing market, particularly those seeking "affordable" housing.

The Executive's review followed a more detailed review undertaken in England for the Chancellor of the Exchequer by Kate Barker and colleagues. This is known as the Barker Review and although it was primarily concerned with the English housing market much of the analysis and many of its conclusions are applicable to Scotland.

The Barker Review's dominant conclusion was that the main cause of the massive increases in house prices was a shortage of supply. The building industry has not been able to respond to the rising demand, particularly for affordable or social housing. One of the key reasons for that was the widespread difficulty in obtaining planning permission, notably for greenfield sites. The Barker Review made various recommendations intended to increase the supply of housing.

The Executive's review paints a rather different picture of the house building industry in Scotland. It shows that house price inflation has been much less of a problem here than in England. It concludes that our housing supply is more responsive to increases in demand than elsewhere in the UK, with higher building levels per 1,000 population.

However, the Executive's statistical analysis was based largely on the period 1971-2001. In the last two to three years most parts of Scotland have experienced large rises in house price inflation, which suggests that there are now similar supply problems here as in England.

One of the Executive's key conclusions is that up to 7,500 additional houses per year may be required to bring down house price inflation in Scotland to an acceptable level. That figure is 32% of the current annual output of about 23,500.

Homes for Scotland have undertaken a detailed analysis of the Executive's review and agree that there is an urgent need to increase the supply of new homes by about 7,500 to 31,000. Indeed, taking account of the backlog of people who will have been priced out of the market recently, the annual increase could have to be over 10,000 for the next few years.

The members of Homes for Scotland, who account for over 90% of the new homes that are built, accept the challenge to build at least another 7,500 homes each year. We are committed to meeting demand in full across all market segments and are particularly keen to increase the supply of affordable housing, in line with the Government's objectives.

Those objectives can only be met if Planning and Housing Authorities work with the grain of market forces. Initiatives and policies that seek to distort those forces simply slow up procurement and exacerbate problems of affordability by increasing shortages.

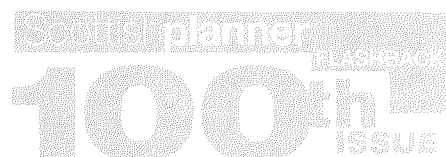
Over the next few months we intend to hold detailed discussions with Ministers, officials of the Executive, local authority planning departments and other interested bodies in order to agree on a strategy to achieve that aim. We very much hope that the planning profession in Scotland will be willing to work closely and positively with us to help solve the serious problems that have emerged over the last two years.

Allan Lundmark, Director Of Planning,
Homes For Scotland

Note. In the next edition, we hope to feature further views on this issue (see also the Joseph Rowntree and Chartered Institute of Housing publications listed in the Bulletin section.)

Carers' fund

Members who have to make special care arrangements in order to attend an RTPI in Scotland event may be able to reclaim their expenses, if an application is made at least one week beforehand. Please contact the RTPI in Scotland office (0131 226 1959) for information.



A free tour around Torness Power Station has been arranged for 2nd November. Booking forms and Geiger Counters are available at
Edinburgh Lothian Borders and Fife Chapter, (Oct 90)

100th issue special

To celebrate the 100th issue of Scottish Planners, previous editors **Mike Hetherington, Aileen Grant** and **John McNairney** and regular contributor, **Cliff Hague**, reflect on Scottish Planner over the years, while **Paul Gregory** looks back 10 years to the opening of the Institute's office in Scotland and **David Leslie** looks at the changes in Planning Aid.



"The Royal Town Planning Institute is pleased to invite you to a RECEPTION in the George Hotel, Edinburgh, on Friday 18 November, 1994, to mark the opening of the Institute's office in Scotland" proclaimed our invitation cards. It hardly seems just 10 years ago. As planners, we spend so much time looking forward to change that we rarely reflect on how far we have come.

From the mid 1980s, especially, successive Conveners and the Executive serving the Scottish Branch had long felt that the Institute in London served Scotland poorly. Scotland's distinctive geography, law and administration pointed firmly towards seeking a justifiable alternative. Just pause to think of what we had at the time: only part-time and

part-area use of the RIAS basement in Rutland Square, a part-time Branch Administrator, a part-time RTPI Scottish Planning Policy Officer (Linda Welsh) in Glasgow, a budget of around £25k and all the rest handled from London. Of course, Chapters had been established in 1982 under Jan Fladmark's Convenership to assist some wider spread membership needs but where was the centre of the entire Scottish planning profession? London? Glasgow? Edinburgh? Is it any wonder that the Media turned to RICS offices (with 18 staff, supported by a budget of £400k, at time) when looking for comments on Planning matters?

So how did change come about? Frustration had reached boiling point at the AGM of the Branch on 18 February, 1992 when the Convener, Hugh Crawford, accepted a motion "to do something about it", appointed a Working Group to advise the Executive on the way forward, invited myself to Chair this Group and report back that Summer. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Branch held on August 20, 1992, attended by 16 members (including a future Minister, Sarah Boyack MSP!) approved a report prepared by the Working Group and it was sent to RTPI HQ in London for action.

The, then, RTPI Management Board met at HQ (in Portland Place, London) on 7th October 1992, to consider a very constructive and supportive paper from its Secretary-General (the late David Fryer OBE). This was approved and was followed by an intense period of work by the Institute's officers and the Scottish representatives on the RTPI Council. Lobbying by the Branch, SSDP (under Gordon Mann's chairmanship) and some MPs all helped. As one English RTPI Council member stated, humorously, when the Council approved new arrangements for Scotland on 17 March 1993, "the shower of tartan arrows had been so intense as to cause the RTPI Council relent!"

So, what was established in the following 18 months of gestation for the future of the Institute in Scotland?

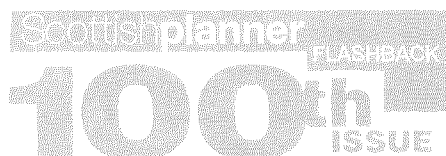
A much bigger Scottish budget was approved, the first Scottish Director and

Planning Policy Officer (Craig McLaren) was appointed, and new offices in Northumberland Street were rented and furnished. Hugh Crawford's professional practice kindly squeezed into less space to provide a base for the new organisation in Scotland. Even the Convener's chain (hitherto carried around in a Supermarket shopping bag!) was refurbished, valued by Hamilton and Inches and was found to be worth many thousands of pounds. The rest you all know about. Scotland now has a real HQ in Edinburgh.

Was it Scottish revolution or devolution that got us there? Perhaps it was English inspiration or desperation in London. Who now cares? It was more like dedication and perspiration for those of us involved at the time! Graham U'ren, our full-time Scottish Director, is now able to do so much more on our behalf with his two members of staff, (Shirley James and Annette O'Donnell) in Melville Street.

Visit them one day and see what has been won for you!

Paul Gregory, Scottish Branch Chair 1994



The creation of a democratically elected Scottish political forum could do much to give the Scottish people control over the planning system as a whole. It would introduce greater accountability into decisions on national planning.

Jim Boyack, Towards a democratic structure for planning in Scotland (Dec 89)



Planning Aid for Scotland



One challenging aspect about celebrating a centenary of a publication is the ability to remember what one was doing at the time of its launch. **David Leslie** looks back on how the Planning Aid service has changed since it was first covered in the Scottish Planner.

I cannot claim to have personal experience of Planning Aid back in 1981, having joined as a volunteer as recently as 1985, but I do know some planners who were volunteers way back then! Additionally, I possess a historic second edition copy of Scottish Planner from August 1981. It contains a "Scottish Planning Aid Bulletin" in which the contemporary issues of volunteer numbers and funding both feature prominently. Some things remain constant in the voluntary sector!

Planning Aid had begun in the mid-1970s and by the early-1980s there were four volunteer groups operating in Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow. There was no central support to volunteers. A few local volunteers met the burden of casework co-ordination. They operated contact lines through home telephone numbers and picked up enquiries when their day-job finished. The late Jim Boyack was the representative from the RTPI Scottish Branch who promoted Planning Aid interests and advised the volunteer groups.

By the late 1980s, the volunteer effort could barely meet the demand for advice after the dissolution of the groups in Dundee and Aberdeen and severe reductions in the number of Glasgow-based volunteers. The remaining volunteers in Edinburgh were faced with the challenge of justifying a service and expanding it to cover the whole of Scotland. Working with the RTPI Scottish Branch, we commissioned a feasibility study. The public demand for a service was clear, a survey of planners revealed high levels of support, but the funding

of central co-ordination remained a seemingly unattainable goal.

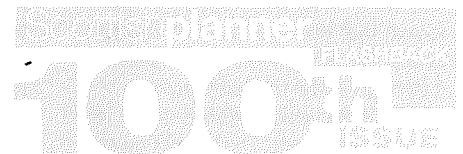
After four years of campaigning, we achieved our goal with the establishment of Planning Aid for Scotland as a charitable limited company. News of our inaugural meeting made it onto page 5 of the Scottish Planner in April 1993. As an independent service we retained the links with the RTPI by including a nominated director on our Management Committee; a feature that continues today. Our first appeals for volunteers were publicised through the Scottish Planner and regular articles on our activities have been published for the last ten years. This publicity, the early support of the RTPI Scottish Branch and a start-up grant from the former Scottish Office were catalysts to obtaining support from planning authorities.

When Planning Aid for Scotland celebrated its 10th anniversary last year, we recognised the significant change in expectations for the service. Back in the 1980s we were struggling to justify the value of the voluntary service. With a few exceptions, central and local government failed to recognise the complimentary nature of the service. The RTPI was debating perceptions of conflict of interest with the consultancy sector and offering little to support the expansion of much needed volunteer support. Twenty years later, the position could not be more different. Planning Aid is now a mainstream activity of the RTPI. And there is strong support from government at all levels.

In the early 1990s our objectives were to create

a Planning Aid service that could support proactive community development work to promote public involvement in planning issues. This was intended to complement the casework advice service in which volunteers react to requests for assistance on current planning proposals. In recent years, Planning Aid for Scotland's achievements have been justly recognised in awards for community training programmes and the financial support of National Lottery programmes and more recently the Scottish Executive. Casework volumes continue to rise and planning authorities actively promote our services as best practice in public participation.

If you want to help in the continued development of Planning Aid for Scotland, please check our website on www.planning-aid-scotland.org.uk or contact Jenny Pendreigh on 0131 555 1565 or by email office@planning-aid-scotland.org.uk



The new Scottish Parliament presents both opportunities and challenges to the planning profession.How can the profession ensure that its views are heard?
(Nov 97)

The Scottish Planner was launched at a time of tension in the profession. The outcome of the devolution referendum of March 1979 had cast a pall over Scotland – a majority had voted for an assembly, but the vote was not sufficient to deliver it. This result directly paved the way to the election of the Thatcher government two months later.

A decade earlier the Wheatley Commission had declared that "Planning is a big and growing task as far as local government is concerned. Authorities must plan how our towns and cities are to be redeveloped, where new communities are to be built up, where industry should be located, where new highways ought to run, which areas ought to be set apart and developed for recreation. In a sense planning is the widest of all local government functions, because it

determines how the resources of the authority are to be used, and so it has a bearing on all other functions."

In contrast, Alice Coleman in a proto-Thatcherite article in the Architect's Journal in 1977 had written "A great deal of planning activity is not only unnecessary but positively retrograde, worsening the situations that it is expensively maintained to improve. In a time when public expenditure has to be drastically cut back, planning machinery would seem to be a suitable candidate for a slimming course."

These contesting perceptions explain why "Planning charges" – the proposal that applicants for planning permission should pay a fee – were such a cause of consternation in the first issue of The Scottish Planner. The hegemony of New

Right thought has been so complete in Scottish planning for a generation that only those of us who are geriatric will recall why the idea was so controversial.

Planning was a public service. It existed to benefit the public. Like other public services it was paid for by all of us, through a system of progressive taxation. Paying for a planning application was a crucial first step to the commodification of planning. It was nothing like so dramatic as selling council houses, but it was decisive in restructuring the nature of the planning service. Planning would be confined to those practices that customers would pay for, reactive statutory regulation of development. Strategic, integrative spatial planning has been marginalized ever since.

Cliff Hague

100th issue special

The call to put pen to paper for the 100th edition of *The Scottish Planner* arrived at my desk in rural Dorset, where I am now based as a Planning Inspector. One ignores a summons from the editor at one's peril, as I kept trying to tell people when I was doing it, so here are some brief thoughts from afar.

I arrived at *The Scottish Planner* in 1990, when I joined the editorial team that had been set up by Aileen Grant. Aileen had resurrected the journal and set it on its way, broadly in the format that you now see before you. She edited it until 1994, and steered it through some difficult patches – notably the sudden demise of its original publishers. The journal owes a lot to her drive and enthusiasm.

The task then passed to myself and John McNairney, and I took on sole editorship in 1995. However, Aileen and John remained part of a strong editorial team, together with Will Garrett, that provided much needed support, advice and (where needed) coffee or something stronger. Nevertheless, after four years I found that the work involved was taking up far too much of my time – an impression that was strengthened by the lack of volunteers to succeed me!

That period, the end of 1998, was an important time for planning in Scotland. The government had

issued a consultation exercise upon the future of the planning system and the role of planning in the forthcoming Parliament was being widely discussed. At the same time, the RTPI was reconsidering the structure of its services north of the border. All of these factors pointed to the need for an enhanced branch journal.

It is good to see that the present editorial team has risen to the challenge. The increase from 12 to 16 pages has allowed much greater coverage of the distinctive Scottish planning agenda. However, the essential "feel" of the publication has been retained. It is immensely pleasing that the journal remains in such good health.

**Mike Hetherington,
Editor 1994-1998**

This article represents the personal views of the author.



Over the years that the *Scottish Planner* has been published there has been little difficulty in identifying topical issues to cover. Planning

and environmental issues have also moved up the agenda. My experience as part of the editorial team was that it was easier to encourage other people to write the articles and I think that planners have always been willing to support the journal by doing that whenever asked.

Some of the issues concerning the profession in the late eighties when I joined the team are still with us today and there have been significant changes for the profession to get to grips with over the period.

Local government reorganisation in 1995 was a key one, not least because of the consequential restructuring of many planning services, some of which became part of wider Departments. While that was a period of uncertainty for some planners there was growing enthusiasm that the profile of planning in Scotland would be raised following devolution and that Scottish planning was distinctive.

Post devolution there is little doubt that the range of initiatives associated with modernising the planning system in Scotland – the National Planning Framework, the review of development planning, a focus on quality, greater public involvement, the cities review and a forthcoming Planning Bill – reflect the higher profile planning now has. Some of the changes are radical. However, the central policy making process has also become more inclusive and transparent in recent years with an increase in planning consultations. Despite this busy agenda, the *Scottish Planner* has consistently been an effective vehicle for contributing to the debate and keeping members in Scotland up to speed on a range of initiatives.

It's good to see that the *Scottish Planner* has gone from strength to strength under the current team.

John McNairney, Editor 1994

This article represents the personal views of the author



Perhaps no one else could be presented to you who, literally and figuratively, has so comprehensively stamped himself upon the face of Scotland.

Presentation of Sir Robert Grieve for the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws at University of Strathclyde, April 1984 (Sept 84)

10 things I love (and hate) about planning

It's a while since I edited Scottish Planner. I miss my editorial days, but 10 years on, I still have a passion for planning – and still think more radical thinking is called for. So, here are 10 ideas which would change our planning world for the better.

1. Banish Green Belts. Green Belts are the antithesis of proper planning for growth. They are a popular – or populist – planning policy. Any proposal to release green belt land for development meets with a knee-jerk public outcry. We seem to learn nothing from past mistakes – town cramming is back on the agenda and planning seems less able to resist it now than in the 1990s. Planning for growth – growth of development and growth of open space, recreation and biodiversity – is the only way forward. Banishing Green Belts would clear the way for visionary thinking.

2. Listed Buildings. We have so many now that they're suffocating our cities. Do we really need to keep so many monuments to the worst excesses of 1960s architecture? We need to make bolder decisions on whether or not to list buildings. Let's conserve the best of our history and not be afraid to jettison the mediocre.

3. Better Betterment. Another old chestnut is betterment – or alternatively planning gain, developer contributions or land value taxation. We still debate what to do about harnessing some of the profit on land transactions to pay for public investment in infrastructure, and we still have no effective and workable solution. Bring back the Community Land Act, I say, but this time let's put it fully into operation.

4. PPPs. My greatest concern today is about how planning has become muddled in the mire of PPPs, giving us a bad press. In principle, it is good practice for planning to be at the heart of council decision-making. However, when decisions are made to build schools on open space without public scrutiny early enough in the process, this subverts the planning system. In years

to come, we will discover – too late – that we have lost far too much open space in our cities and towns. And, of course, planners will be blamed...

5. Public Relations. We planners are still amateurs at public relations. We don't address the people factor, and can't get people interested in local plans (except lawyers, of course). We are not getting our message across. And what's the core message? "If you think it's bad now, it would be worse without us..."

6. Training. We may have lots to say, but how effective are we in reality? Words are cheap. Writing policy is easy compared to making it stick. Leadership, creativity and attention to detail are needed. The gulf which has opened up between development control and policy-making has made it more difficult. We need to train our staff better and encourage planners to gain broader experience of both making and implementing policy.

7. Design. Too many planners worship at the high altar of design. There is good and bad about this. On the bad side, much of the debate is conducted through words rather than pictures, through the designer-speak of those who talk a good game. In Scotland we would benefit greatly if we had the leadership of CABE. But, despite promises, we still have the Royal Fine Arts Commission. CABE has moved the design debate forward impressively south of the border, providing practical advice. It's high time we had a Scottish CABE – maybe we should call it CABER – but hopefully Architecture and Design Scotland will do the job. This change is long overdue!

8. Materials. We need to be the fashion police. How much timber cladding will it take till we get fed up with it? Will we

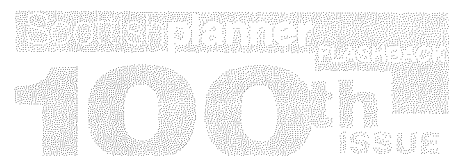
wait till it rots? How much blue walling can we stomach? Will the Noughties be known as the decade planners lost the plot on colour?

9. Idealists vs Careerists. There has been a cultural shift over the last decade. There are fewer idealists in planning – and too many careerists. In some ways, I envy careerists – life is much easier for them. But the best decisions are the tough decisions, not the easy fixes or "Yes Councillor" decisions. If we want a quality planning system, we must use our professional skills, express concerns and spend time solving problems.

10. Garden Festival. To end on a more positive note, let's organise another Garden Festival for Scotland. Slightly frivolous, you might think, but the Glasgow Garden Festival provided a great opportunity for the Planning profession to join with our Landscape and Architecture colleagues in The Environment Show. We need something like this to raise our profile, lift our spirits and recover some of our idealism.

Aileen Grant. Editor 1988-1994

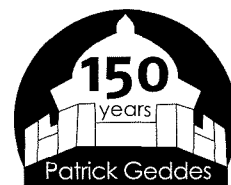
The author would like to state most emphatically that these views are entirely her own and not those of her employer.



Planning decisions will be crucial in contributing towards a sustainable Scotland.

Kevin Dunion, Towards a Sustainable Scotland (Sept 95)

Patrick Geddes, a thinker and a doer



For Patrick Geddes, theory and practice went hand in hand, Lewis Mumford thought of him as both a thinker and a doer. Yet currently, it seems to be more for the value of his thoughts and ideas for which he is remembered. His ideas on sustainability, community, social inclusion, art in the environment and the value of townscape have stood the test of time to the extent that they might now be regarded as tenets of modern practice. By comparison, his practical achievements somehow seem to have been persistently undersold.

Typically, his work in Edinburgh's Lawnmarket, what he referred to as conservative surgery, ensured the survival of a great deal of historic urban fabric and put it to productive use, yet it is doubtful if we have ever grasped the full extent of what he achieved.

I should like to use a project by Tayside Building Preservation Trust to bring a fresh perspective to Geddes' achievements. It involves the restoration of Gardyne's Land which is a generic name for three buildings which group around a courtyard in the centre of Dundee. Two of the buildings face onto the High Street – one is a tenement of c1640 the other is a Victorian retail outlet of c1865 – while to the rear is a merchant's house of c1560, whose first recorded owner was John Gardyne. In late 1999, the trust acquired them for £1 from the Prudential Assurance Company from whom it was able to secure an endowment of £277,000. Over £250,000 was then spent on making the buildings wind and watertight. Grant was obtained against this expenditure and was used to acquire two adjacent properties, the top floors of a tenement of c1790 and a billiard hall of c1820.

The Trust has now raised almost £4million and will shortly let a twenty month building contract which will restore and convert the whole complex of five buildings to a ninety bed youth hostel. The funding has been assembled through grants from the Lottery, Europe, Historic Scotland, Scottish Enterprise and numerous charitable trusts, businesses and private donations. The list is almost endless and the whole process while satisfying, even exhilarating at times, has also been laced with frustration and a measure of despair.

Generally, it is inappropriate to judge something that happened a century ago by the standards of today, but in this particular instance there is a certain logic. Geddes must have experienced all of these emotions during his work on the Lawnmarket. The ingredients of having to raise large sums of money, to cope sensitively with historic fabric, to find suitable and sustainable end uses to comply with the requirements of at times, unsympathetic legislation, are all there.

There is little doubt that Geddes would have liked what is happening at Gardyne's. The Trust is a charity and survives by virtue of work undertaken for it by students on the University of Dundee's postgraduate course on European Urban Conservation. It is reasonably certain that he would have known the buildings. He was Professor of Botany at the University between 1889 and 1919 and seems to have been familiar, through the Dundee Social Union, with most of the city centre around this time. Moreover, the earliest building at Gardyne's, the Merchant's House, is one of few recognisably ancient urban buildings left in Scotland. Direct comparisons in Edinburgh include Baillie MacMorran's house, which Geddes turned into self governing accommodation for Edinburgh University students.

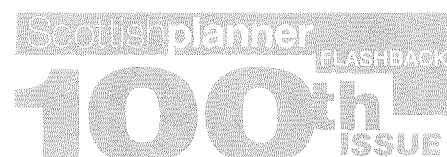
Between 1886 and 1896, roughly the same length of time it will take to see Gardyne's through to completion, Geddes undertook a number of major schemes in the Lawnmarket area which amount to at least six times the area of Gardyne's. He was also organising extensive new builds the most notable of which is Ramsay Garden.

While he had help, and there was a general sympathy towards the plight of the old town, he had no mentors, and he seemed to take almost sole responsibility. He had selected great architects in Capper and Wilson and to a lesser extent George Shaw Aitken but had a close, hands on, involvement with everything that they did. He financed this work independently and the effort involved in raising funds from supporters and everything else involved in getting this work on the ground must have been immense. He might not have had to prepare feasibility studies or business plans or conservation plans but he would presumably have had to justify his expenditure by other means. Even so, by 1896 he was in financial difficulties and the Town and Gown Association was formed to bale him out. Helen Meller in *Patrick Geddes: Social Evolutionist and City Planner* lists the debts as:- acquired property £41,000, developed new projects £6155, Student halls and small improvements £4500.

In today's terms this total is worth almost £3million, so it seems reasonable to assume that he was able to acquire a great deal of property. The £3million is probably misleading in that labour would have been exceptionally cheap and a tolerant attitude to issues such as health and safety meant that his money would go a lot further than it would today. Control on what he did was exercised through the Dean of Guild Court. This was mainly concerned with matters of sanitation and light which Geddes would have wanted to comply with but it exercised little aesthetic control. Geddes went beyond what would have been acceptable with superb interventions, some minor in scale such as the balcony details by Capper in James Court, to major works like the new build of 453-461 Lawnmarket by the same architect.

In many ways his work was anticipating the aesthetic control of modern statutory planning by some forty years. He was also ahead of his time in the way he worked in partnership with the council to achieve spectacular results at places such as Wardrop's Court and the Lawnmarket frontage to Riddle's Court. He aimed to save old structures by using them and the vernacular tradition, an interaction between people and place was essential in his analytical triad of place-work-folk. As such he was anticipating modern conservation practice which rightly places huge emphasis on the understanding of what is significant about an asset. Even on the basis of this brief resume, it is clear that his was a remarkable catalogue of achievement.

Neil Grieve



The first female chief executive of a Scottish city council has been appointed by Aberdeen DC, Anne Mears, a chartered town planner. (Aug 94)

A Scot in the South of France



2004 is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sir Patrick Geddes, the centenary of his plan for Dunfermline, the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Scots College by him in Montpellier, the centenary of the Entente Cordiale and very roughly the 700th anniversary (who knows?) of the Auld Alliance. What better time to follow the footsteps of Patrick Geddes to Montpellier in the South of France?

Unlikely though it may seem, Viviano Rossi is the Honorary Scottish Ambassador to the South of France and a stalwart of the Franco-Scottish Society. A native Glaswegian, he is proud of his Italian roots but even more proud of the link between Scotland and France, the home of his departed wife. It is not long before one finds how appropriate he is for his honorary position. This distinguished retired engineer is a human dynamo engaged in projects across "the great south" of France and totally committed to his garden project at the Collège des Écossais, or Scots College, founded by Geddes in one of the remoter academic quarters of Montpellier.

The project is to restore four sections of the gardens immediately around the college building, as originally laid out by Geddes and as last recorded by the Boardman family in the 1930's. The gardens now have reverted to the bare ground and sparse scrub which Geddes undoubtedly found when he bought this seven hectare site originally, among the mature cypresses and other trees planted at the time. Its terracing provides some wonderful horticultural opportunities and emphasises the eminence on which Geddes built his building for a new venture in education complete with his trademark outlook tower.

Unfortunately, the outlook tower has

been closed for a number of years due to unsafe access. Nevertheless, the remainder of the building is sound and is fully utilised as a teacher training centre by the French Ministry of Education. Apart from some token plaques and an installation by Scots sculptor Kenny Munro, the building is not managed or promoted in the name of Geddes, leaving his coat of arms, and other applied sculptures to the building such as representations of his valley section, or the flying pegasus high on the wall, as silent witness to his work and his philosophies.

The renovated garden, to be opened at a ceremony on 1 October, should kick-start more active interest in Patrick Geddes and the Scots College project on both sides of the channel. It seems that Mr Rossi has only recently negotiated an addition to his grant from the Scottish Executive's Entente Cordiale programme and urgently needs assistance with the erection of a memorial to Patrick Geddes in his garden. Any good suggestions should be sent to me in an envelope accompanied by a sizeable cheque.

Graham U'ren

Footnote – Anyone who is seeking to visit the Scots College will be able to visit the grounds, although the building is not open to the public. It is not advisable to go to Montpellier in the hope of finding the college on spec, as at least one member of the RTPI in Scotland knows to his cost.



Patrick Geddes' Coat of Arms with his motto Vivendo Discimus - by living we learn, above a door at the Collège des Ecossais

RTPI in association with the Saltire Society FIRST ANNUAL SIR PATRICK GEDDES COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE

JONATHON PORRITT

Chair of the UK Sustainable Development Commission

Friday 1 October 2004 at 5.30 pm in the Royal Museum of Scotland
Introduction by the Deputy Minister for Communities, Mary Mulligan

BOOKING FORM IN THIS EDITION YOU MUST BE THERE!

Scottishplanner
FLASHBACK
100th
ISSUE

Feng Shui is perhaps the oldest form of systems approach to environmental planning having been practiced for more than 3000 years in China.

Jack Gillon (Dec 96)

Obituary

Robert James Naismith

Robert J Naismith; FRIBA, FRIAS, FRTPI, FSA Scot.; Architect and Town Planning Consultant, died on June 9, 2004 aged 88, at Murrayfield Nursing Home in Edinburgh. During his professional career, he and Mr H A Rendel Govan entered into partnership with Sir Frank Mears with whom they had been working for many years. They undertook a diverse range of projects and it was a feature of the office that the partners held individual appointments in advising over twenty local authorities. Amongst these, Robert Naismith advised the Burghs of Dalkeith and Penicuik for more than thirty years. Other enduring Architectural and planning appointments were held with the Cities and Burghs of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Haddington, Hawick, Inverkeithing, Inverness, Johnstone, Lanark, Perth, Selkirk and Stirling. Following local government

reorganisation in 1975, the execution of these appointments, together with those held with Private and Commercial clients, continued to exercise his skills and interests in urban renewal and expansion. Completed Works included Housing, Civic Buildings, Churches, Cultural and Leisure Centres, Commercial and Industrial Complexes.

He won many Awards in architecture and served the profession on the RIAS and EAA Councils. In Planning matters, he gave evidence as an expert witness in Public Inquiries and service on the committees of the Cockburn Association and the Scottish Georgian Society. He was also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, Scotland. As an accomplished water-colourist, he had a keen eye for detail. Examples of his work were exhibited at the Royal Academy and the Royal Scottish Academy. He travelled widely,

studying the planning and design of cities and buildings in Europe, North Africa, North America, USSR and the Far East.

Robert Naismith was highly regarded and much appreciated by Clients and his colleagues in Sir Frank Mears and Partners, leading the office by example and applying his considerable intellect to deal with the numerous issues of the day. Always a "hands on" Architect, he enjoyed designing and drawing, while maintaining a sound and detailed knowledge of professional practice and procedure. A generation of Architects will recall his Professional Practice lectures at the Edinburgh College of Art.

With a particular interest in traditional Scottish architecture, such details were expressed in his work with great diligence and sensitivity. His later years in practice were largely devoted to the study of buildings of the Scottish Countryside, a cherished interest which culminated in an innovative National research study for the then Countryside Commission for Scotland, carried out by the Practice under his guidance and later published as a book entitled 'Buildings of the Scottish Countryside'. On his retirement in 1986, he undertook the further task of developing and completing a second book, commenced by Rendel Govan, bringing it to publication under the title of 'The Story of Scotland's Towns'.

He restored the flat in which he lived at Ramsay Garden, once the home of Sir Patrick Geddes, father-in-law of Sir Frank Mears, so representing an interesting continuity. In the year 2000, the property was generously gifted to the National Trust for Scotland.

Robert Naismith was a significant figure in each of his chosen professions and has greatly enriched the built environment of Scotland as a result of his life's work and interests.

Hugh WJ Crawford and David GH Waugh

SCOTLAND LOSES PLANNING COURSES

In the last two years Scotland has lost one planning school. Summer 2005, will see the final students graduate from University of Strathclyde. A lack of fit in the Business School was the reason for closure. Aberdeen University has just come back from the brink of announcing its intention to close its top ranked planning school.

At a time when demand for planning graduates outstrips supply and planning has made a political comeback, it seems incredible that institutions are even considering closure. Both Universities have lost out on the opportunity to gain their share of the 144 bursaries for the new 1 year PG programmes, Local planning authorities have lost valuable local research resources. The west coast is without a planning school.

One of the key problems for professions is that Universities appear to be taking decisions in isolation and if a number of institutions in one part of the country do the same the consequences for a profession regionally and nationally can be catastrophic.

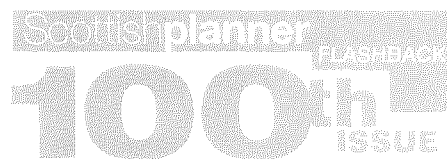
The RTPi supports the UK government's intention to see the funding councils making a 12 month period of notice before the closure of any department a condition of grant. Education is devolved and the RTPi would like to see this apply in Scotland. Funding councils must

be obliged to communicate this notice to the relevant professional bodies and the relevant sector skills councils at the earliest opportunity.

We need to see much stronger relationships developing between practice and academy in the future and this should happen with the new partnership arrangements which replace the old accreditation process.

Dundee and Heriot Watt planning schools remain and have plans for expansion. Both have not yet seen significant increases in applications for their full time courses from students in the west coast. Dundee is a partner in the OU distance- learning course which may now expect to benefit from an increase in demand. Heriot Watt will have 12 bursaries for its new 1 year PG course which comes on stream this September and Dundee aims to follow for 2006.

Dr. Dory Reeves, Chair of the Education and Life Long Learning Committee of the RTPi



The Institute in Scotland will have devolved powers analogous with the new constitutional arrangements for Scotland.
(Apr 99)

Appeal systems

The Scottish Executive's recent consultation does not include review of the appeals system, other than possible provision for third party actions. Since the system has not basically altered in over 50 years, despite major changes in planning in general, I believe that radical improvements are needed if the approaches to planning now favoured are to succeed.

Britain is unique among major English-speaking countries in that appeals are handled by the Executive branch of Government, rather than independent boards, courts or tribunals. Reporters, as civil servants, must follow the Executive's policies. Some of their decisions are only recommendations, which may be rejected by Ministers, as with the Harris Quarry. No court or tribunal would be subject to such action.

Many reporters' experience was only/mainly in the statutory system. The extent to which they understand the "integrated" model and the many new issues involved is unknown. A further deficiency is that "case law" is not created as happens where courts decide cases. All applications are said to be decided "on their merits" and no precedents are to be drawn from them in deciding later appeals. However, the "merits" of a proposal depend on the wishes of those assessing it.

This renders it hard to estimate the likely result of appeals and increases their numbers. Since most involve valid arguments for and against, the key variable is how plan policies can be interpreted and prioritised in varying ways with a high level of chance in appeals succeeding.

As ideas of planning in Australia and New Zealand have changed, new legislation and organisational structures have been introduced to accommodate them.

Combining statutory town planning with environmental planning and regulation is now the norm.

Each state has its own planning system, with appeals bodies independent of the Executive. Statutory plans are legal documents and more specific than British ones. Appeals bodies employ lawyers as well as planners and other specialists. These

deal with matters such as pollution, water management, property valuations and compensation as well as planning appeals..

A brief summary of these state systems is given below. Third Party appeals are permitted in all states except Western Australia. In New South Wales they can only be accepted on legal grounds. Reducing the number of conflicts handled by adversarial processes, the time spent on these and use of lawyers and other professionals are ongoing aims. Use of mediation is on the increase.

The New South Wales Land and Environment Court (LEC) has several judges and commissioners and deals with many matters relating to land and property. Experts indicate in advance their opinions on aspects of applications and only those they disagree on are addressed in court. Mediation and written statements are being introduced.

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) deals with many matters as well as planning ones. Appeals are heard by one or more members and some by mediators but these cannot impose decisions. If no consensus is reached the normal adversarial process ensues. However, to reduce conflict independent experts appointed by VCAT, are used. These must be acceptable to both parties.

Specialist judges of **Queensland's Planning and Environment Court (PEC)** hear appeals dealing with legal and other issues. Normal adversarial processes, with barristers, are followed.

The Environment, Resources and Development Court (ERD) of South Australia requires there to be a conference of parties prior to a hearing to see if

agreement can be reached. If not then a formal hearing takes place.

The Western Australia Town Planning Appeals Tribunal (WATPAT) deals only with planning appeals. Previously these were dealt with by the Planning Minister. The change was made to make the process "more open, simple and efficient". No third party appeals are available.

The Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal (RMPAT) of Tasmania, by contrast, handles several diverse issues, including environmental and water management as well as land planning. **The New Zealand Environmental Court (NSEC)** has similar functions. A judge and two commissioners hear most cases. The latter are drawn from different professions as appropriate to the case.

Although the appropriate system for Scotland can only be devised through rigorous study of local conditions, much of value may be learned from approaches used in other countries. Some changes can perhaps readily be made to the existing Scottish system, eg. use of mediation and/or of independent experts.

However, if development plans become stronger and more specific with up-to-date ancillary policies and standards, with ministers and reporters less tolerant of LPA failings to adopt such, the number of appeals and their complexity can be reduced, with gains to both developers and the general public.

John Munro MA (Edinburgh) MTCP (Sydney) has worked in local and central governments and as a consultant in Australia, New Zealand, Scotland, England, Wales, Canada, Arabia, Indonesia, and Costa Rica.

MEDIATION IN PLANNING

Interest is slowly growing in applying mediation to the resolution of planning disputes. If you are willing to help explore what role the RTPi in Scotland might play, contact the office at 57 Melville Street, Edinburgh EH3 7HL or email scotland@rtpi.org.uk

Scottish **planner** FLASHBACK
100th ISSUE

Dog bites man: planners bite lip.....If [planners] don't bark, they are regarded as feeble guard dogs. If they bite back, they are tiresome terriers. In short, planners are a bloody nuisance.

Mike Stanger (June 02)

Chapter News

EDINBURGH LOTHIAN BORDERS FIFE

On 24th June, the ELBF Chapter members were bussed from Edinburgh to enjoy a tour of the Dun Law wind farm in the Scottish Borders led by members of the Scottish Power Planning and Operations Team. The group was instructed regarding the operations management of the site and were given a close up view of the turbines.

From their presentation Scottish Power were obviously keen to lead in developing renewable energy opportunity sites in light of current Renewable Energy Obligation responsibilities and Scottish Executive targets of 40% of energy produced in Scotland to be from renewable energy by 2020. However, Scottish Power cited current practical difficulties relating to the complexities of multi-agency and often multiple unitary authority involvement during tight project development timescales. Clearer mapping and other supplementary guidance were requested.

Alistair Lorimer, Assistant Head of Development Control for the Scottish Borders Council then set the development context for the area. He stressed the Councils attempts to direct the significant developer interest in the area to the least sensitive sites aided by supplementary guidance produced in conjunction with the Macaulay Institute. A robust debate then followed discussing amongst the numerous attendees regarding for example regional target setting, varying local authority approaches to wind energy and site specific concerns.

A clear enthusiasm was shown in the Chapter organising similar events perhaps to other renewable energy project sites. For contact details for representatives of Scottish Power and more detail on recent Scottish Borders Council supplementary guidance (Visibility Mapping for Windfarm Development, The Scottish Borders 2003) please e-mail Hamish Bell hbell@scotborders.gov.uk. If anyone would like to be involved or be advised of forthcoming chapter events please get in touch with Catherine Quigley at catherine.quigley@rspb.org.uk.

Hamish Bell

GRAMPIAN

There's not much point in writing about a cancelled BBQ, so this report is about hotter issues.

Northeast planners are gearing up to a busy autumn. Aberdeen City's latest local plan is now on deposit, and Aberdeenshire's much-delayed PLI gets under way at the end of August.

Don Mackee is the new Head of Planning for the Cairngorms National Park. We also welcome Christine Gore, who has taken over from Eric Melrose as Director of Planning and Environmental Services for Aberdeenshire. Bob Reid's successor as Head of Planning in Aberdeen City may have been chosen by the time you read this. Meantime, it's business as usual in Moray.

Meantime, on 1st October, the Chapter is looking back to the origins of modern town planning by celebrating the birth 150 years ago of Sir Patrick Geddes. The event will be in Ballater - Geddes' birthplace - and is sponsored by Aberdeenshire Council and the Cairngorms National Park Authority. We will hear from Graham King, an authority on the great man, and Sir Jonathon Porrit in a live relay from Edinburgh.

Make sure that you get details of this and other CPD Series 2004 events by checking that Alistair Stark knows your current e-mail address.

Alistair G Stark

New Members

We would like to welcome the following members who have recently joined RTPI in Scotland.

Corporate

Richard Bowden	Scottish Executive
Sinead Lynch	G L Hearn
Donald Nicholass-McKee	-
Lyndon Westlake	Highland Council
Student	
Andrew Tait	-

We would also like to welcome the following who have recently been elected members of the Institute:

Corporate

Gillian Black	Glasgow City Council
Russell Clarkson	PPCA Ltd (Edinburgh)
James Garry	Clackmannanshire Council
Julie Hanna	East Renfrewshire Council
Fiona Harris	West Dunbartonshire Council
Paul Hughes	East Renfrewshire Council
Jane Macrory	Scottish Executive
Peter McKechnie	Stirling Council
Richard Morris	Walter Fraser and Steele
Laura Robertson	Aberdeenshire Council
Andrew Stewart	East Lothian Council

Student

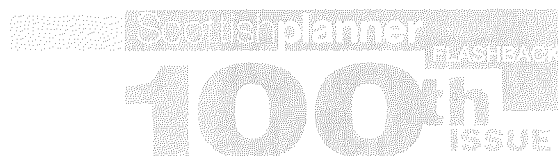
Mhairi Colquhoun	University of Strathclyde
Peter Fusco	University of Strathclyde
Robin Ghosh	University of Strathclyde
Kirsty Gray	University of Strathclyde
Stephen Jack	University of Strathclyde
Alistair Ross	Scottish Borders Council
Joanne Smyth	Cala Homes (West) Ltd

Honours

George Thorley MRTPI, who retired recently as Chief Executive of South Ayrshire Council, and **Andrew Raven**, a judge for the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning for five years, have both been awarded an OBE in the latest Honours List.

RTPI IN SCOTLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE "TOOLS FOR THE JOB"

Friday 12 November 2004
Business Learning & Conference Centre
Halbeath, Dunfermline, Fife
PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY NOW!



The Branch invites players of the great Highland bagpipe to submit a tune in a competition to be played at this year's AGM.
(June 88)

Policy Briefing

NEWS

■ In August, the Executive published the research report **Review of Greenbelt Policy in Scotland**. The findings confirmed that greenbelts are an important policy instrument for managing urban growth but that there are significant differences in understanding of the role of greenbelts. They should be seen as a tool of strategic long-term settlement planning but planning authorities are not always using them in this way. The 1985 greenbelt policy is overdue for review. While the three functions of preventing coalescence, providing land for recreation and preserving a landscape setting for towns remain important in the rationale, newer responses are required to support urban regeneration and sustainable compact cities. There is scope for the concept of development corridors. The Executive has confirmed that it will now prepare a Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) on Greenbelts.

■ The Executive has published a white paper **Scotland's Transport Future** following its consultation on "Scotland's Transport – Proposals for a New Approach to Transport in Scotland" undertaken at the end of 2003 and as a basis for legislative proposals to be put before the Scottish Parliament in a Transport Bill. Key issues identified in the paper include: -

- a) The introduction of a new National Transport Agency for Scotland,
- b) The creation of Statutory Regional Transport Partnerships,
- c) Legislative change to improve the coordination and quality of road works carried out by public utilities companies,
- d) Powers to enable Ministers to run concessionary travel schemes,
- e) Proposals for stimulating economic Development in Scotland through appropriate transport policy and projects.

■ The **Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004** came into force on 20 July 2004, in time to meet the requirements of the European Directive on SEA. The Executive immediately confirmed that it proposes to replace the regulations with a more comprehensive bill on SEA. It has already embarked on a series of consultation seminars and a one-day conference will also take place on 13 September. Meantime, the Executive has issued a brief guide to local authorities with regard to the SEA process

and the statutory requirements for consultation.

■ In June, the Executive released its **Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics (SNS)** Internet site. SNS is an ongoing programme to improve the availability, consistency and accessibility of small area statistics in Scotland. Recent developments have aimed to increase the breadth and depth of small area data sources, introduce a common set of small area data zones and make information accessible to a wider range of users. The Internet site address is www.sns.gov.uk.

■ In June, the Justice 1 Committee of the Parliament recommended approval to the statutory **Scottish Outdoor Access Code** under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act. It is likely to come into effect in the autumn.

■ The first meeting of the **National Access Forum** took place in May. It comprises mainly countryside users' organisations and government agencies. In addition, there are a number of professional bodies, including the RTPI in Scotland, which are corresponding members. Items for the first year's work programme include draft SNH guidance on liability, monitoring progress with path networks, a summary version of the Access Code, guidance on signage, and guidance to local authorities on the development of Local Access Forums.

■ In June, Scottish Ministers approved the **Edinburgh and Lothian Structure Plan** with modifications. In the approval letter, the Executive attached particular importance to the modifications concerned with ensuring the provision of a five-year housing land supply and requiring early review of the plan. In particular, it hopes that the review will set out a long-term settlement strategy for the region in terms of infrastructure capacity and landscape quality, including the impact of alternative scenarios on the greenbelt. It will expect the strategy to be informed not just by an assessment based on household projections but a finer disaggregation of housing requirements.

■ Prior to the recess at the end of June, the Scottish Parliament approved the **Local Governance (Scotland) Bill**. The bill introduces the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system; brings the age at which people can stand as a councillor down

from 21 to 18; removes certain political restrictions on council employees; and establishes an independent remuneration committee for councillors. The STV system centres around multi-member council wards, each with either three or four councillors. The new provisions will apply for the next council elections in 2006 after which the practical implications of multi-member wards will be of particular interest to planners.

■ At the end of June, three areas of Stirling (Raploch), Clydebank and Edinburgh (Craigmillar) were granted "**Pathfinder**" **Urban Regeneration Company (URC)** status, backed by £20 million from the Executive. The aim is to improve delivery of regeneration projects such as housing, transport and environmental improvements through public body, private sector and community partnerships. Each Pathfinder will operate for between 7 and 15 years and will be regularly monitored with a view to further financial allocation.

■ Following a comprehensive inquiry, the parliament's Enterprise Committee published its **Renewable Energy Report**, in which it called upon the Executive and Westminster to develop a fully-fledged Scottish Energy Policy. It also concluded that the opportunities and benefits of renewable energy are so great that the Executive should invest significantly in the sector but should now focus investment on developing marine technologies. The Committee supported the Executive's ambitious renewable energy targets and confirmed its belief that the short-term target of 18% of electricity from renewable resources by 2010 would be met. With regard to planning for onshore wind farms, the Committee criticised the lack of spatial guidance from the Executive.

Scottishplanner
FLASHBACK
100th
ISSUE

It is important that any changes in the structure of local government do not damage or undermine the strengths of the current system of land use planning. **RTPI response to Government's 'The structure of Local Government in Scotland' (Feb 92)**

Policy Briefing

POLICY BULLETIN

The following documents were published between July and August 2004 (unless otherwise indicated): -

■ **Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004** (*Scottish Executive*)
www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/society/simd04-00.asp
Summary report at
www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/society/siomd-00.asp

Following the adoption of indices for deprivation in Scotland in 2003 and 6,505 data zone as aggregations for Census Output Areas earlier this year, the Executive has published the Index to inform better targeting of regeneration and anti-poverty policies.

■ **Scotland's Biodiversity – It's in Your Hands** (*Scottish Executive*)
www.scotland.gov.uk/biodiversity
The first Scottish Biodiversity Strategy will be designated by Ministers under Section 2 of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 under which all public bodies in Scotland have a duty to further biodiversity, guided by the strategy. The Executive has been advised in preparing the strategy by the Scottish Biodiversity Forum which is now consulting on three draft implementation plans.

■ **Framework Guidance on Preparing a National Park Plan** (*Scottish Executive*)
www.scotland.gov.uk/nationalparks/scotland
The guidance is issued under Section 16 (3) of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000. It provides guidance on addressing the four statutory purposes as well as such other issues as the relationship with land use planning.

■ **Development and Archaeology in Historic Towns and Cities**
(Historic Scotland Technical Advice Note 27)
The aim of the guide is to provide advice to prospective developers on how to manage the archaeological issues that can arise when developing an urban site. It also seeks to highlight the contribution that the historic environment can make to sustainable urban regeneration.

■ **Retail Development Surveys 2001 and 2002 and Five Year Trend Analysis 1998-2002** (*Scottish Executive Development Department*)
www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/
The reports summarise the results of the annual Retail Development Surveys with returns from all 32 local authorities. Active retail developments over 1000 square metres (gross) are analysed. In general, the Trends report confirms that developments are following the guidance of NPPG 8.

■ **An Evaluation of Revised Planning Controls Over Telecommunications**

Development (*Scottish Executive CRU/University of Dundee*)
www.scotland.gov.uk/publications/recent.a.spx
Comprehensive control of telecommunications developments was introduced in Scotland in July 2001. The research monitors the subsequent two year period and confirms that the new regulations are now well understood by planning authorities and operators.

■ **Outdoor Access Strategies – A Guide to Good Practice** (*SNH/The Paths for All Partnership*)
The guidance is not a requirement of Part 1 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 but is designed to assist local authorities who wish to use a strategy as a context for the discharge of their duties with regard to Local Access Forums and the preparation of Core Path Plans.

■ **Sixth Annual Report of the Planning Audit Unit 2003**
(*Scottish Executive Development Department*)
www.scotland.gov.uk/planning
Deals with planning authority performance on applications and development plan coverage and Scottish Executive performance on structure plans and casework.

■ **Coherent Diversity: Towards a Picture of Interdisciplinary Training for Community Regeneration and Social Inclusion in Scotland**
(*Communities Scotland*)
The report confirms widespread support for improved interdisciplinary training for regeneration, including inter-professional CPD, but the complex organisational and resource issues which arise. Opinion is firmly against a separate regeneration profession in Scotland.

■ **House Prices, Housing Market Trends and Housing Supply Issues in Scotland**
(*Chartered Institute of Housing in Scotland*)
The report examines supply and demand issues in the booming housing market and identifies constraints on mobility and accessibility. Planning issues are examined.

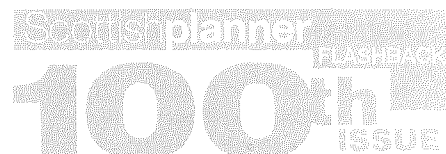
■ **Model Policies in Land Use Planning in Scotland – A Scoping Study**
(*Scottish Executive/University of Dundee*)
www.scotland.gov.uk/socialresearch
The aim of the study was to scope the potential of model planning policies following the decision of the Executive to pursue these as a result of the Review of Strategic Planning in 2002. The main conclusions were that there can be no single universal type of model policy and that policies cannot be read in isolation.

■ **Circular 2/2004 Strategic Environmental Assessment for Development Planning**
The Environment Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (*Scottish Executive Development Department*)
www.scotland.gov.uk/planning
The Regulations are at www.scotland-legislation.hms.gov.uk The Circular deals with the new provisions for SEA with regard to the planning system.

■ **Preferences, Quality and Choice in New Build Housing**
(*Joseph Rowntree Federation*)
Findings are that practicalities of entry date, price and avoiding competition dictate new build purchase decisions, rather than quality. The research suggests that more larger properties could be built at higher densities.

■ **Annual Rural Report 2004**
(*Scottish Executive*)
www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/rural/anrr04-00.asp
Based on the Revised Urban Rural Classification and settlements with a population of less than 3000, the report analyses progress with rural economic development, removing disadvantage, improving access to services, sustaining the natural and cultural heritage and consultation.

■ **Circular 3/2004 The Town and Country Planning (Electronic Communications) (Scotland) Order 2004**
(*Scottish Executive Development Department*)
www.scotland.gov.uk/planning
The Order is at www.scotland-legislation.hms.gov.uk
The Order is made under Sections 8 and 9 of the Electronic Communications Act 2000 and allows for the use of electronic communications for certain procedures within the town and country planning system in Scotland. The new range of electronic elements of the planning system are not intended to replace existing paper based systems.



I see no easy answers but I am determined that the standards of development in urban and rural Scotland should be raised.
Sam Galbraith MSP Minister for Environment Sport and Culture (Feb 2001)

Policy Briefing

POLICY BULLETIN

■ **Harnessing Scotland's Marine Energy Potential** (*Scottish Executive Marine Energy Group*)
The Marine Energy Group (MEG) was established by the Forum for Renewable Energy Development in Scotland (FREDs) in October 2003. In its report the group estimates that 10% of Scotland's electricity production can come from marine resources (wave and tidal energy) by 2020. The economic development opportunities could provide 7,000 direct jobs. An appropriate planning system is required.

■ **Planning and Community Involvement in Scotland** (*Scottish Executive CRU/PPS Local and Regional Ltd*)
www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/pcis.pdf
Research confirms that those who offer views to the planning authority come from a limited cross section of the community, dominated by the middle aged and the elderly.

■ **Community Planning and the Interface with Land Use Planning: Core Script** (*Scottish Executive Development Department*)
www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/cpilup-00.asp
The aim is a symbiotic relationship between the community plan and the development plan. The paper provides a tabulation which compares and contrasts the two systems in common areas of operation.

■ **PAN 69 Planning and Building Standards Advice on Flooding** (*Scottish Executive Development Department*)
www.scotland.gov.uk/planning
The PAN complements SPP 7 Planning and Flooding, published earlier this year. It has been prepared with the advice of the National Technical Advisory Group on Flood Risk.

■ **Review of Greenbelt Policy in Scotland** (*Scottish Executive CRU/Heriot-Watt University/Robinson Associates*)
www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/development/rgbps-00.asp?mode=view
See "News"

POLICY STATEMENTS

The recent policy statements and consultation responses by the RTPi in Scotland are summarised below. The full text of responses can be seen on the website at www.scotland.rtpi.org.uk/policies/index.html

■ In its response to the consultation paper from the Scottish Executive "Rights of Appeal in Planning", the Institute rejected the principle of a right of appeal for third parties but suggested a major overhaul of the call-in procedures for development plan departures and development in which a planning authority has an interest through the introduction of a Public Right of Notification Procedure (PRNP). For full story, see front page.

■ In its response to the consultation paper from the Scottish Executive on "Making Development Plans Deliver", the Institute welcomed the clear commitment of the Executive in developing a plan led system and suggested that radical changes were needed to development planning. Apart from legislation and improved management, however, there was a significant issue of resources to be addressed. In the first place, a more radical package of carrots and sticks at political level and greater empowerment of the planning profession would be required. The way in which statutory duties are expressed in law should be reviewed. The Institute strongly supported the proposals for development plan schemes as set out in the paper along with the option for a statutory timetable for development plan review with much greater emphasis on the review inception process involving issues reports to stimulate public involvement and mandatory contributions from other statutory bodies. The Institute also strongly supported the proposal for a Development Planning Forum in Scotland and suggested that this should have a wide reaching role in standardising processes, developing a common interpretation of national policy and providing a forum for comparative practice. The Institute also supported the proposal for action plans and emphasised that a two yearly implementation plan process should go hand in

hand with a continuous monitoring process in development planning. It also agreed that there would be greater confidence in the system and less time wasted if departures from Reporters' recommendations on local development plan examination were exceptional, with the leave of Ministers only. The proposals for City Region Plans were supported with concerns that the process should not be undermined by wayward discretion of local authorities towards plan boundaries and the operation of the joint committees.

■ In its response to the consultation paper from the Scottish Executive "Developing a Strategic Framework for Scotland's Marine Environment", the Institute welcomed the proposed strategy and in particular supported the introduction of a marine spatial planning system to underpin the strategy. The work of the Institute and the RSPB in the report "Making the Case for Marine Spatial Planning" was referred to. While the Institute was not in a position to recommend a particular approach to the development of a Marine Spatial Planning system, until there had been further debate, the principles of spatial planning which is integrated, inclusive and sustainable clearly apply to the issues emerging for the marine environment with regard to both the need for improved protection of the natural resources of the sea and for better planning with regard to competing uses for the three dimensional space represented by the sea. The Institute recommended further investigation of options for a separate MSP system, a system for preparing an umbrella plan, implemented by the existing regulatory regimes, extension of the existing Town and Country Planning system or a combination of these, divided by the three or twelve mile limits.

CONSULTATIONS

To assist the Institute in preparing a representative response, members' views are invited by post or email (see page 2) on the following documents recently published by the Scottish Executive and other public bodies in Scotland: -

■ **04/35 Draft Charities and Trustees Investments (Scotland) Bill**
Consultative draft bill from the Scottish Executive

■ **04/36 Implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy**
Consultation papers (3) from the Scottish Executive

■ **04/37 Scotland's Transport Future**
Scottish Executive white paper

■ **04/38 Culture Commission**
Ongoing dialogue and submission of evidence

■ **04/40 EU Regional Aid 2007-2013**
UK Government consultation on European Commission proposal

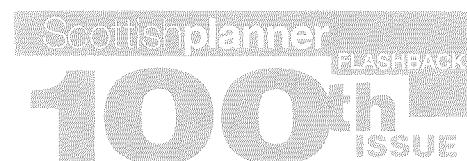
■ **04/41 Water Services (Scotland) Bill**
Invitation to submit Stage 1 evidence to the Environment and Rural Development Committee

■ **04/43 Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive**
Consultative draft guide from UK Administrations

■ **04/45 Historic Environment Grants**
Consultation paper from Historic Scotland

■ **04/46 Investing in Water Services**
Consultation paper from the Scottish Executive

■ **04/48 Maintaining Houses, Preserving Homes**
Consultation paper from the Scottish Executive



Drawing up proposals for a Planning Bill is like trying to solve Rubik's cube.

Alan Prior, Planning Bill Symposium (Oct 03)

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