

Scottish Planner

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The Change Game

Mix & Match



Planning for Changing Demographics

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Editorial

The Spanish filmmaker Luis Buñuel once said the “Age is something that doesn’t matter, unless you are a cheese”. Witty perhaps, but patently untrue. I turned fifty last month and – believe me – it does matter!

Age is an incredibly important challenge for planners given that the demographic changes we are witnessing will have impacts on how our places need to develop over time. We are already seeing changes in what society needs, changes in what society wants and changes in what we can provide. Be that a need to adapt places to make them more user friendly for older people, changing patterns of healthcare or millennials’ working in very different ways and places from ‘the traditional’ workplace.

That is why this edition of the Scottish Planner is looking at the changing demographics, exploring the health estate, supporting children to play, the challenges of planning for dementia and engaging

young people in decision making about their communities. We don’t pretend that this is going to solve all the issues faced, but at the very least we hope that it will stimulate some thinking on the what we face as planners in making sure that the places we create meet the needs of all parts of our communities.

We also have a timely article on a guide we published recently with Environmental Protection Scotland on the role of planners in tackling air quality issues. This comes at a time when quality of air in our cities is high profile in the media so I would commend the article and the guide to you.

And, of course, we continue to have an eye towards the ongoing planning review. You can catch up with what we have been doing on this on the RTPI pages.

I hope you find this edition useful, informative and enjoyable. Do let us know what you think on scotland@rtpi.org.uk

– Craig McLaren, Co-Editor

Convenor's Comments:

A Pivotal Year for Planning in Scotland



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Stefano Smith, Convenor of RTPi Scotland asks that we adopt a positive, solution-driven approach to the Scottish Government's consultation on the planning system. He reflects on how we can embed an 'infrastructure first approach' and secure funding; issues that many are agreed are key to the success of the review.

Wow what a start to my tenureship as RTPi Scotland Convenor 2017!

The Scottish Government's review of the Scottish planning system - *Places, people and planning* - is in full flow. At the time of going to press we are immersed in big debates on making plans for the future; empowering people to get involved in the planning system; delivering more homes and the infrastructure needed to support them, and; how to maximise value from stronger leadership and smarting resourcing during a period of continued budgetary pressures.

It really is a pivotal year for planning. RTPi Scotland is stepping up to the plate and taking responsibility in proactively engaging with our membership, and other relevant organisations and bodies, to develop 'solution-driven' ideas to inform the ongoing Planning Consultation. One of our key roles is to identify those areas in which planners of all sectors can find common ground, such as the practical dangers of ambiguous or inconsistent language, and to identify what will and will not work.

I have taken responsibility for driving forward the development of these ideas in an area that we cannot afford to miss the mark on - infrastructure planning and delivery.

As part of this I took part in our member workshop on infrastructure in Perth on 15 February, hosted in partnership with the East Scotland Chapter. It was a great opportunity to see RTPi policy-making in practice, with 40 members from across sectors and disciplines contributing their ideas for a better, more effective system.

There was loud agreement that without a strategy for step change in providing the low carbon hard and soft infrastructure that Scotland needs to support a changing population, this review of the planning system will not succeed in its goals.

But, the gauntlet was laid down from the beginning; this was not a space for asking more questions, but for coming up with the mechanisms that will change things for the better.

So what was the answer? Nothing is simple, but while we understand the Scottish Government's commitment to removing Strategic Development Plans from the system, a clear alternative role must be established for strategic planning. We must ensure that all the relevant people and organisations are around the same table, anticipating demand and making decisions on issues whose impact is not restricted to political

boundaries, whether local or national. How those people get to the table will vary by geography and perhaps by issue, but this kind of collaboration is essential to realise the vision for strategic planning that the Scottish Government has.

How planning impacts upon the various generations, particularly the increasingly older generation, is a theme of this edition of *The Planner* with an excellent range of thought-provoking reports and incisive articles.

It's a privilege and responsibility to have this role as RTPi Scotland Convenor, and I'm proud to represent such a great institution with so much energy, vision and attitude. If you're interested in learning more about my priorities as Convenor please view my brief Manifesto on <https://rtpiscotland.blog/2017/01/06/my-manifesto-for-2017/>. As some of you may already be aware, I'm an active 'tweeter' and am putting out a plea to other tweeters to follow me on [@ConvenorRTPIS](https://twitter.com/ConvenorRTPIS) and share your planning thoughts and views. My aim is to break the 1000 followers target by the end 2017. Let's make a difference together in this pivotal year for planning! ■

Article:

Delivering Cleaner Air for Scotland



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Geeta Puri, Policy & Development Officer in Environmental Protection Scotland and **Andrew Taylor**, Air Quality Policy Manager from Scottish Government, outline new guidance on development planning and development management.

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At the annual Scottish Air Quality seminar held on 24 January Environmental Protection Scotland and RTPi Scotland launched the new guidance document on air quality and planning to assist in determining how development may impact local and regional air quality. The guidance is based on a publication by Environmental Protection UK (EPUK) and the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) in 2015 which applied to England and Wales.

Cleaner Air for Scotland Strategy

The launch of the Cleaner Air for Scotland Strategy (CAFS) in 2015 contained a key deliverable: to publish guidance on air quality for application in the planning consenting process. Given tighter limits for key pollutants such as PM10 and PM2.5 in Scotland compared to the rest of the UK, and the Scottish Government's commitment to introduce Scotland's first Low Emission Zone (LEZ) by 2018, this is a timely and appropriate publication. The significantly different planning system in Scotland as compared to England and Wales means that RTPi Scotland and EPS had to re-write a substantial part of the earlier EPUK guidance, to ensure its relevance for Scotland. The audience for

the document is planners, developers and air quality managers in local authorities. It is hoped that it will bring a greater level of understanding on air quality and planning issues to these different groups.

This document sees the publication of one of the first key guidance documents to ensure

“The publication of this guidance is one of the first key guidance documents to ensure air quality is considered appropriately in planning processes”

air quality is considered appropriately in planning processes. One of its key objectives is to raise air quality in the planning process where it may have an impact on the ability of a local authority or region to meet its air quality objectives. This could mean exceeding national limits for key pollutants, or the requirements of an LEZ. Air quality is an important material consideration



(particularly in urban areas) for planning consent deliberations and this is recognised in the CAFS strategy. CAFS also outlines an important role for development planning in proactively tackling air quality. It recognises good placemaking as influential through integrating transport and development to connect journeys, supporting alternatives to car use and creating attractive, safe and pleasant green spaces and places for people. It also sets out the importance of tackling transport overdependence, encouraging active travel and taking steps to help minimise car use.

National Policy

While it is recognised that planning will not solve the air quality challenge overnight, the guidance points to the commitment to air quality at a national level and the planning context for this. It points to the National Planning Framework (NPF) and Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) promoting liveable successful, sustainable places; low carbon places; natural and resilient places; and connected places. Indeed, SPP discusses the importance of “protecting the amenity of new and existing development and considering the implications of development for water, air and soil quality”.

Development Plans

The role of development plans – both at strategic and local level – is highlighted in the guidance. This usefully sets out the adoption processes and milestones where air quality should be explored, as well as sources of information and advice to help.

Supplementary Guidance is also discussed as a useful tool for providing transparent and consistent advice for development management planners and developers. It is seen as a means of assessing the adequacy of air quality assessments.

Development Management

The guidance document usefully outlines the development management process. In doing this it sets out the concept of material considerations and how air quality should be considered in this context looking at factors such as:

- The severity of the impacts on air quality
- The air quality in the areas surrounding the proposed development
- The length of time people are likely to be exposed at that location
- The positive benefits provided

A number of principles of good practice are set out looking at the design phase of the development including avoiding “street canyon” effects and using design to minimise exposure to pollution sources. Operational phase good practice includes promoting



electric vehicle charging points; the drawing up and implementation of travel plans for developments to encourage sustainable means of transport; and the exploration of offsetting measures. The document also discusses the use possible of conditions and Section 75 agreements.

Air Quality Impact Assessment Reports

Guidance is provided on when there is a need for an air quality assessment including the need to look both at impacts of the local area on the development and the impacts of the development on the local area. It sets out what is required in an Air Quality Impact Assessment Report. This should aim to

and the developer on the assessment methodology

- assessing possible cumulative impacts
- setting out the policy context
- describing the relevant air quality standards and objectives
- establishing the basis for determining significance of effects arising from the impacts
- providing details of the assessment methods
- verifying the model to be used
- identifying sensitive locations
- assessing the impacts
- describing the impacts of the construction of the development
- identifying mitigation measures that can be put in place

“Whilst it is recognised that planning will not solve the problem overnight, the guidance points to the commitment to air quality at a national level and the planning context for this.”

demonstrate the likely changes in air quality or exposure to air pollution as a result of the proposed development. Ultimately the planning authority has to use this information to form its own view on the significance of the effects of air quality impacts and thereby the priority given to air quality concerns on determining the application. The assessment therefore needs to provide sufficient information to allow this decision to be made. This will involve:

- agreement between the local authority

The guidance will require regular revision to reflect the forthcoming changes to the planning system in Scotland, and as plans for LEZs along with a new monitoring regime come into force from 2018. In partnership with EPS and to help deliver some of the key actions from the CAFS strategy RTPI Scotland will support the revisions to the guidance, ensuring it reflects the most current planning system regulations.

You can read the document at www.ep-scotland.org.uk/news/publication-of-new-air-quality-planning-guidance ■

Q&A

Public Enquiries



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Elaine Fotheringham, Senior Planning Officer at SEPA and Chair of the Scottish Young Planners Network for 2016-17 answers our questions on planners, planning and the planning system.

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

I didn't appreciate it at the time, but looking back, I'd say my two high school geography teachers, Morag Mackie and Ken Smith from Stirling High School have had the biggest influence on my career. They were both first-class teachers and gave me an excellent grounding in human geography that ultimately led me to a career in planning.

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

The biggest challenge for planners across the globe is how we deal with a rapidly growing population coupled with a changing climate. I think it's really important that we don't lose sight of the big and long-term issues, particularly at a time such as this when we're all focused on a domestic shake-up of procedure and process. In 50 years' time I'm sure that these are the issues young planners will think we should have been addressing in 2017.

3 Why is planning important?

I've always been most interested in the impact that planning decisions - both good and bad - and the quality of the built environment can have on society. I think if you are someone who cares about social justice then planning should be important to you. I grew up in a former mining village in the late eighties and nineties where the relatively poor quality of the built environment had a big impact on my early years.

4 Where do you think best exemplifies planning's role in creating great places for people?

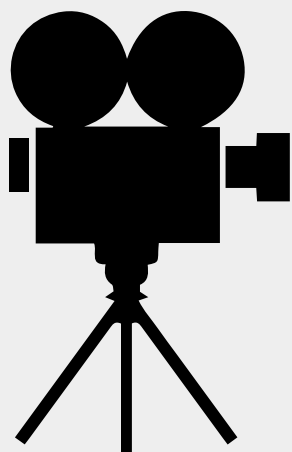
I recently visited Manchester for the first time in a long while and was impressed by the Media City development at Salford Quays. There has obviously been a significant level of investment made in the area, but the quality of the built environment is very high, with a well thought-out public realm and excellent public transport links resulting in what seemed like very few cars on the street. It seemed like a place that had been properly planned for, and it felt like a great place to be.

5 What can the SYPN do to support Young Planners through the changes coming to the planning system?

The SYPN has been actively engaged in the Scottish Government's review of the planning system and we think it offers a number of opportunities for young planners. In particular, we think the proposed graduate intern scheme will be of real benefit to those joining the profession. We'll continue to offer a range of events throughout the year to meet our members' CPD needs, and our conference this year was targeted specifically at those skills the independent review panel identified as being lacking in the profession, such as mediation and leadership. ■

Immaterial Considerations

Planning Document(aries)



Sexy Planning?

A recent piece in The Herald caught our eye with the headline “Let’s talk about sex... or rather engagement in the planning consultation”. Perhaps not quite what you think, but bizarre nonetheless, was that the article discussed a Scottish Parliament session where MSP Andy Wightman asked planning Minister Kevin Stewart if planners could help address residents’ concern about a surge in holiday lets in Edinburgh’s Old Town, some of which hosted “Very audible sex parties”. The Minister’s response was to sympathise with the residents and a request that “Perhaps Mr Wightman could urge the residents to engage in the current planning consultation?” We eagerly await the publication of and the responses to the consultation...



We have been reading the American blog “The Outlaw Urbanist” whose authors describe themselves as “radical traditional urbanists on a mission to expose the heathens who are destroying our cities” with a purpose “to radicalize anew the debate about the future of our cities.” Phew! Interestingly they have set out their “Top 10 ‘Must See’ Documentary films for Architects and Planners”. Amongst a list including “Ben Building: Mussolini, Monuments and Modernism”, “The Human Face of Big Data” and “Poynton Regenerated” a film called “The Social Life of Public Spaces” came top. This 1980 documentary film written, directed, and starring William H. Whyte (based on his 1972 book of the same name) is, they say “still the most important documentary about architecture, urban design and planning today.” You can read the full list at <http://outlaw-urbanist.com/blog/2017/01/08/top-10-must-see-documentary-films-for-architects-and-planners/>



Twittering On...

Regular readers will know that we are always on the lookout for interesting twitter accounts commenting on planning and built environment issues. The most recent Twitterer who caught our eye was the dapper but critical @NewtownFlaneur who comments all things about the Edinburgh new town and its residents. Our current favourite, if rather cruel, tweet is above.

A Shady Pavement Tax

We appreciate that planning authorities across Scotland are looking to see how they can maximise income given the current tight financial circumstances. However, they may have overlooked proposals in Italy where – according to the Guardian – shop owners in Conegliano have, for two years now, been paying a local tax on shadow. The levy, about €100 (£87) per year, has been paid by shopkeepers who create shade on public walkways. The tax is not being charged to store owners for the shade created by their awnings or just for those who put tables or a chair outside their shop – there are other taxes on those – but for anyone who has a sign on their door or shop window that creates shade. Of course, shadow needs light, which generally needs the sun. Which means that it may not generate the same income in an often dark and wet Scotland...

In Focus: Safer Places

Kathie Pollard, founder of Urbanistas Edinburgh, reflects on making sure that public spaces are safe spaces for all



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Fortunately, for UK planners a focus on inclusivity in planning is becoming increasingly more prominent. Yet in 2017 women still experience and navigate public spaces differently to men, often to their detriment. Gender roles and inequalities can be reinforced by patterns of movement, different uses of public services and buildings, participation in public and domestic spheres, the gender pay gap and women's lack of safety and security.

Sexual harassment and other forms of intimidation on streets, in parks, public toilets, around schools and offices are sadly a daily occurrence. This reality reduces women and girls' freedom of movement. The website Everyday Sexism records women's experiences of sexism and harassment in public spaces. The End Violence Against Women Coalition conducted a poll on street harassment in 2016, and found that 64% of women of all ages have experienced unwanted sexual harassment in public places in the UK. The Hollaback! grassroots initiative to end harassment and create LGBTQ inclusive places came to fame with viral YouTube videos showing street harassment in New York City.

Indeed, women and girls constitute one of the most vulnerable groups in society. When as part of the 2016 End Violence Against Women Coalition survey women were asked what should be done about sexual harassment in public they said they supported better street lighting (38%), more transport staff (38%) and public awareness campaigns encouraging others to intervene (35%). And, when women and girls can safely occupy a space, more people also occupy it in general. A win-win. Surely, acting on making safer spaces for women and girls can only benefit society as a whole?

Although spatial and transport policy have historically been shaped by men, we cannot simply blame these structures alone for current place inequality. To prevent public places being a platform for such behaviour, there needs to be a multipronged approach:

Shifting culture and individual behaviour with carefully thought out policies. But, planning can have a real impact on making places equally accessible to both women and men, using place making to

influence behaviour.

With their strategic overview of issues including employment, transport, open spaces and housing, planners have the unique skills to make these places better and safer for all. They can analyse the various uses of public places, who uses them, when, and for how long.

Internationally, we are taking positive steps. The New Urban Agenda, adopted by the UN at the Habitat III convention in Quito in 2016, calls for all cities and communities to be secure, positive, respectful and safe places for all people to live and work. UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 5 and 11 - to respectively achieve gender equality and make cities and settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable - are inseparable. Safe, inclusive and affordable housing, transportation, public spaces and public services for women and

girls are central to both.

The UN Women's 'Safe Cities Global Initiative' combines the 'Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls' programme set up to prevent sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces, and the 'Safe and Sustainable Cities' programme. This spans more than 24 cities, over 70 partners, and recognises the importance of inclusive urban planning as a strategy. Results can be seen in Egypt's Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development, which adopted women's safety audits to guide urban planning. In Papua New Guinea Port Moresby is moving forward by improving women's safety in local markets, allocating budgets that take into account the needs of women and men across municipal departments.

Planning can help emancipate women from the reality of insecurity and harassment by making creating safe places accessible to all an inherent part of place-making. We have a challenge as planners to plan for social cohesion. We need connect to different struggles by understanding how different groups experience 'place' in order to support

and build strong communities that are successful, healthy and fair.

Urbanistas amplifies the voices of women to make cities better for everyone. In Edinburgh we meet on the first Monday of every month to share ideas, plan events, and

catch up with other women who work in all areas of the built environment. Follow us on Twitter for details, we would love to see new faces at our next meet! ■



In Practice:

Understanding Scotland's Town Centres – Your Town Audits

Three of the key actors behind Scotland's Your Town Audits draw out how we can better use data to understand our town centres

With the Scottish Government led Town Centre First principle now well established, there has been increasing focus on placing the health of Scotland's town centres at the heart of local decision making. But how can we understand what makes up our town centres, track how they are changing, and benchmark them against other localities?

That is the challenge which Scotland's Towns Partnership, alongside EKOS Economics, set themselves two years ago. It led to the development of the USP: Your Town Audit (YTA), a unique toolkit that provides a consistent approach for understanding towns. YTA has been endorsed by the Improvement Service and is being rolled out to an expanding list of towns – 35 at the last count, across 12 local authorities.

YTA is intended to complement the powerful Understanding Scotland's Places (USP) platform. Recently upgraded and relaunched, the USP website – www.usp.scot – offers instant profiling, but it focuses on data available for the whole town, rather than at town centre level. This is where the YTA model

comes in, with bespoke town centre data providing the appropriate analysis to inform a local tailored approach.

YTA is a simple way of collecting performance data. A key element is an on-street audit of the town centre to capture unique data on the unit mix, allowing for in depth analysis of the town's retail, culture and service offering.

The YTA model has been used to support locality plans and community charrettes and has also informed Regeneration Frameworks

and Local Development Plans. Each audit involves production of an overview report, outlining key insights and issues, as well as two spreadsheet workbooks – one with socio-economic KPI data, the other with details of every unit and physical asset.

To date, STP and EKOS have prepared 35 YTAs for planners, BIDs and community organisations. As more towns are added the database has grown to show an emerging picture of the health of Scotland's town centres.

Key findings show that town centres are growing in population at a much faster rate than towns as a whole, with centres averaging 7% increase over the past decade, compared to 1% at settlement level. Of 35 YTAs, only two have seen a fall in town centre population over the last decade.

While vacancy rates vary substantially across towns – ranging from 0% to 19% – the average has settled at around 9%. Retail uses typically make up less than half of all units, generally only climbing above this in town centres with modern indoor shopping centres.

Most recently YTAs have been completed for town centres across North Ayrshire,

where the results are assisting planners with the Main Issues Report for a new LDP.

"The YTAs have been really useful. The comprehensive analysis allows comparison within and between towns, identifying key strengths and areas for improvement. They're also a toolkit for the future and will support funding bids, community consultation and prioritising project opportunities." Neale McIlvanney, Strategic Planning Manager at North Ayrshire Council. ■



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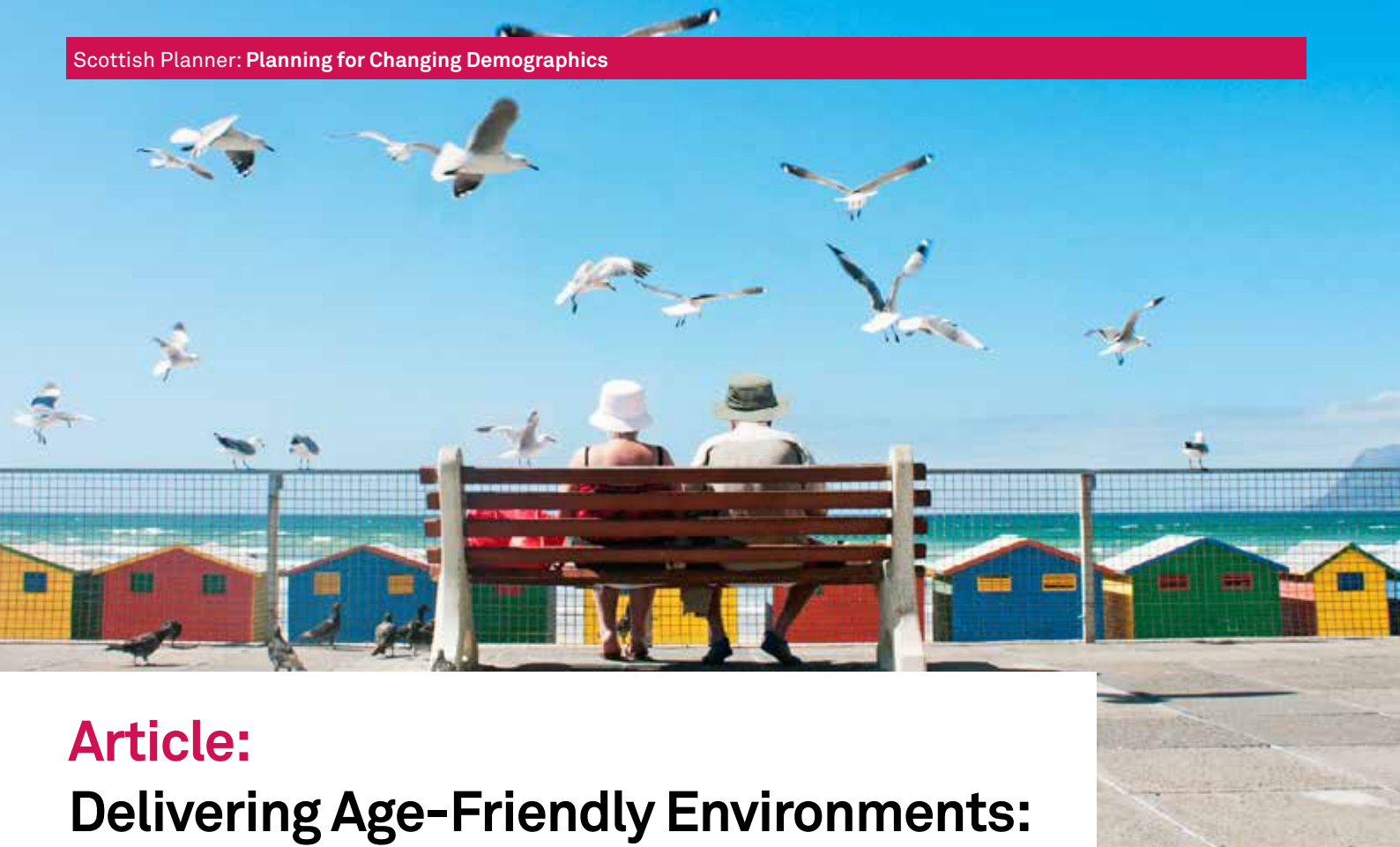


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For further information on YTA, go to <https://www.usp.scot/StaticPage/UsaAudit> or contact Phil Prentice, Scotland's Towns Partnership phil@scotlandstowns.org.



Article:

Delivering Age-Friendly Environments: Social Justice & Rights To The City

Dr Ryan Woolrych explains how current practice in the built environment can exclude older adults from full participation in community and civic life

An ageing population in the UK means new challenges in how to design urban environments that support and promote everyday social engagement and healthy urban living for older people. Older adults can face declining physical and cognitive capacities, changes to their living arrangements and loss of social supports. In response to this, the ageing-in-place agenda has become an important issue in redefining policy for older people. The ageing-in-place agenda says that the preferred environment for older adults to age is in the community, where they can remain active, engaged, socially connected, and independent. Yet ageing-[successfully]-in-place is dependent on older adults having the place-based supports for social participation, mobility and active living.

Increased global life expectancy should be seen as a significant success, yet there is little indication older adults are living more 'active, healthier' lives. Rather, that the period of frailty and dependency in old age

has been extended. As people age and may experience mobility or cognitive difficulties, living in urban environments can benefit older adults. It can make it possible to live closer to necessities of daily living and have access to transport networks and leisure and cultural services. However, this assumes the design, function and form of urban environments are designed to support the everyday needs of older adults. Many urban environments still discourage active ageing, putting older adults at risk of isolation and loneliness and acting as a barrier to accessing social, economic and civic opportunities.

National and international policy and practice has focused on addressing this through the creation of age friendly cities and communities that encourage active ageing. World Health Organisation (WHO) Age-Friendly Cities has driven this, prioritising key aspects of age-friendly environments including the provision of adequate housing and outdoor spaces, and encouraging social participation and respect. Best practice guidelines support



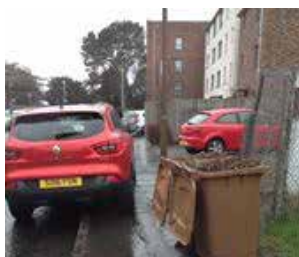
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walkability and the design of inclusive outdoor spaces. These offer specific design interventions which are crucial to supporting ageing-in-place, for example provision of street furniture, resting places, public washrooms and well maintained sidewalks. Whilst these guidelines are important, it is important not to revert to 'one size fits all'. Every place is different, and these broad guidelines are unlikely to reflect sensitivities to emerging cultural and demographic changes or differences in experiences in ageing across age, gender, ethnicity and sexuality.



"In contemporary debates on city design, the lived experience of older adults has been afforded less significance as commercial interests and the 'rebranding' of the City has been directed towards supporting a vibrant youth culture."

In the UK, regeneration programmes over previous decades have brought about significant physical transformation of urban areas yet often failed to build the community, social and cultural capital necessary for sustainable communities. This has significantly impacted older adults; processes of gentrification and 'forced' urban change have displaced many seniors from urban areas, disrupting deeply rooted neighbourhood ties. Older adults are more sensitive to changes in their physical environment and more likely to depend on social networks and close proximity to services and amenities. In contemporary debates on city design, the lived experience of older adults has been afforded less significance as commercial interests and the 'rebranding' of the City has been directed towards supporting a vibrant youth culture. As a result, older adults have reported experiencing a sense of 'lost community'.



The rebuilding of our cities should be seen as an opportunity to design inclusive urban environments which also support the right of older adults to age-in-place.

If the built environment is not designed equitably, it will present barriers to older adults engaging in activities that improve their health and well-being. Equalities legislation provides a framework for promoting age equality in the provision of public services, and issues of diversity in urban planning are at the fore. However, current urban design supports a form of 'architectural disability' where the design of buildings and places confront older adults with hazards and barriers (lack of accessibility, poor walkability) that make the built environment inconvenient, uncomfortable or unsafe. This can 'disable' (rather than enable) older adults, excluding them from participating in leisure, culture and work opportunities and compromising their 'rights' to the city. Similarly, drop kerbs, crossing places, and the availability of benches and 'stopping places' will only fully realise their potential if older adults have somewhere 'to go to' e.g. through transport provision that support a 'whole journey' approach and the availability of services and amenities and opportunities for social participation.

In developing urban environments that support older adults, there has been much debate on the type and extent of citizen involvement, engagement and participation required. Participatory planning (if undertaken effectively) can facilitate ties of mutual trust between older people and planners, and integrate different interests. Public participation in planning is clearly a current major national priority, with changes to the planning system likely to require continuous resident involvement, supportive community action and devolved decision-making. Although more sensitive forms of urban planning and development are starting to emerge, a top-down approach has dominated much of the design process up until now. There has been little practical consideration about how older adults can be involved in the decision making process i.e. from peripheral forms of participation to becoming active 'place makers' in the design

and maintenance of community spaces. The participation agenda has been criticised for not including older adults i.e. where older adults are actively involved in the design of services, using their skills, knowledge and experiences, and allowing them to assume control, rather than being seen as passive recipients. Collaborative tools can challenge this approach, and can facilitate the positive contribution of older adults in the co-design of community spaces.

For societies to adapt to the needs of older people there is a need to build communities that are resilient to the challenges of old age, and provide the necessary supports to enable older adults to age-in-place. Urban environments need to be responsive to change, for example, by maintaining active ageing even when individuals are confronted with changing physical, mental and cognitive abilities. In a time of financial austerity and shrinking formal and informal care support networks (compounded by demographic change), society will need to look towards building adaptation and inclusivity into community design. This includes using physical design features and natural supports as settings for enhancing independence and well-being. For example, there is a desire amongst many older adults for inter-generational communities which create a

sense of community, mutual support, and non-age-specific housing developments. Building places which promote individual, social and community resilience will support participation into old age whilst providing the tools for older adults to meet their own personal 'environmental challenges'.

Urban interventions need to address issues of social

justice, to contribute to the development of age friendly cities and communities which support older adults to make a social contribution and pursue productive lives well into old age. In challenging the broader power imbalances (in designing for and not with older adults), attempts must be made to bring together planners, architects, urban designers, local stakeholders, and academics in a process of collaborative dialogue and knowledge exchange. This will encourage a shift in thinking to a more inclusive and user centred approach to urban planning and decision-making. Societally, the creation of age friendly urban environments that support sense of place is integral to successful ageing. This will ensure that older adults can continue to make a positive contribution in old age, delaying the need for institutional care, and in turn reducing health and social care costs. ■



Data Point:

What are the new demographics? Population change at a glance

% of population per age group

0 - 16



17 - 64

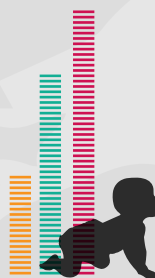


64 +



1981
2017
2039

Change in age of first pregnancy over time



1976
1996
2016

Proportion of all babies born
to women 30 and over

2037 Population of Scotland will rise to 5.78 Million



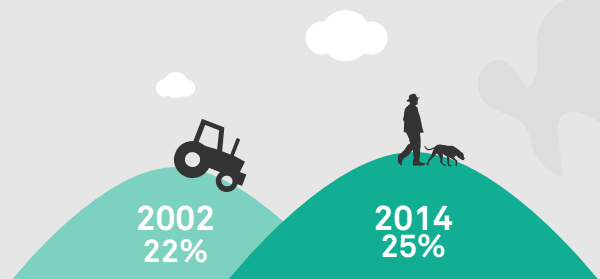
The number of people over 85 is
predicted to **double** in the next 20 years
& **treble** in the next 30

Smaller households are more prevalent



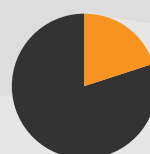
Over the last 50 years,
one person households have gone from
being the **least prevalent** household type,
to the **most prevalent** type

People **over 65** living in **rural areas** has increased



Migrants to Scotland are **younger** than the general **population**

16 - 34



Scottish resident
population



immigration from
rest of the UK



immigration
from elsewhere

Article:

Making Places – Bridging the Gap



Petra Biberbach
Chief Executive PAS
petra@pas.org.uk

Petra Biberbach makes the case for introducing placemaking & planning to the Curriculum for Excellence

There are exciting times ahead:

The Scottish Government consultation Places, People and Planning makes clear the Government's ambitions to involve young people more in decisions about how their places evolve and change over time.

PAS is developing and delivering a new sustained approach to placemaking which is empowering, inclusive and will ultimately lead to the improvement in the wellbeing of people and places.

“...we hope to strengthen intergenerational ties, breaking down some of the barriers between generations and tackling inequality.”

Working for the first time in an all-encompassing partnership with Secondary School Galashiels Academy; Scottish Borders Council; Galashiels Community Council; Development Trust Energise Galashiels; Scottish Government; Creative Scotland, and; Education Scotland, 'Making Places – Bridging the Gap' will strengthen ties between generations and organisations. The purpose is to equip participants with the skills to survey, reflect and plan for their future, and learn about how to get involved in decision making.

Bridging the Gap will engage pupils from Secondary year 2 up to final year in workshops, group work, role play and discussions. Participants will also be trained in the use of the new Place Standard app to survey the quality of place, share their views and learn to express their opinions. Crucially, they will also learn how to participate in decision-making processes. PAS will be using its educational programmes which are aligned with the Curriculum for Excellence to introduce young people to planning and

placemaking. PAS will be working with over 400 young people throughout each year, equipping them with digital and social skills to promote wider participation and active citizenship.

2018 is Scotland's Year of Young People and during that year we will team up with our partners to host an international Youth Camp at the school.

Pupils will be shown how to capture 360-degree images using smartphones and Bubble Pods to build a unique archive of how their place evolves over time. From autumn 2017 pupils will be given the opportunity to team up with elected members, community councillors and others to learn about community and spatial planning and development trust activities, thus providing insights into local decision making structures and active citizenship.

Through this approach we hope to

strengthen intergenerational ties, breaking down some of the barriers between generations and tackling inequality. At the same time we aim to raise awareness of new skills to allow young people to engage more fully in place making, now and in the future. It is hoped that in the end pupils will have increased confidence and will be able to participate effectively in decisions that affect them.

Our partners are Architecture & Place Division of the Scottish Government, Education Scotland, Creative Scotland, Scottish Borders Council both Community Planning and Spatial Planning, Galashiels Academy pupils and teachers, Energise Galashiels and Galashiels Community Council. ■

For more information please contact Petra Biberbach.



Credit Photo - PAS

Article:

Forth Valley Royal Hospital & Larbert Estate: Creating a Healing Environment

Aerial view of estate

Alistair Shaw recounts how in Falkirk planners have worked with the NHS to maximise the value of hospital redevelopment to patients, staff and the local community

A major challenge of an ageing population is the additional pressure placed on healthcare infrastructure. The ongoing funding crisis in the NHS is almost weekly news, and a major public debate is needed on how we resource the health service of the future.

One way of making money go further is to maximise the value we obtain from the NHS estate. At Forth Valley Royal Hospital in Larbert, planning has been at the forefront of securing this added value. We have ensured that a £300m investment in a major new acute hospital created not only a centre of clinical excellence, but also a holistic healing environment.

In 2003 the Larbert House estate was chosen as the location for a new acute hospital. NHS property, it had previously been the site of the Royal National Scottish Hospital. The 19th century designed landscape had fallen into neglect, with woodland choked with rhododendron, the loch clogged with weed and scrub, and the listed house, stables and walled garden fallen into dereliction.

Falkirk Council saw the possibility for the hospital project to deliver a restored landscape, and a new resource for recreation, education and rehabilitation for the hospital and wider community. The project is part of



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the Council's long term Falkirk Greenspace Initiative, which aims to create an accessible green network around the area's main settlements.

The vision, objectives and guidelines for the development of the hospital and wider estate were outlined in a development framework.

A Section 75 agreement attached to the hospital planning application required the preparation and implementation of a landscape masterplan, and arrangements to be made for the long-term management of the estate.

NHS Forth Valley initially saw these requirements as an unnecessary burden and a distraction from the task of delivering the hospital building. Gradually a recognition emerged however, in the words of Tom Steele, Director of Strategic Projects for NHS Forth Valley, of 'a growing body of evidence that greenspace promotes not only health and well-being, but also faster recovery time for patients'.

A major step forward for the project was the emergence of new partners: the Forestry Commission as prospective manager of the estate, and Central Scotland Forest Trust who contributed their design and project management expertise. The Woodland In and Around Towns (WIAT) initiative also provided additional funding.

The hospital opened in 2010, with the estate restoration completed in 2012. The estate now supports a wide range of recreational and educational activities overseen by a Forestry Commission Ranger. Rehabilitation programmes for cardiac and mental health patients include health walks. Two new outdoor classroom areas are heavily in demand from local schools. Staff,

visitors and the growing local community can all enjoy access to high quality semi-natural greenspace.

Larbert House and the estate buildings, some of the area's major buildings at risk, are being sensitively restored and converted to residential use by developer All Saints

Living. A competition run by the Forestry Commission and Architecture and Design Scotland saw the creation of a striking new pier extending

out into the loch. Most recently, the restored landscape has provided an exceptional lochside site for the new Maggie's Forth Valley, which will provide support for all those in the area affected by cancer.

The project looks at health and well-being from the broadest perspective. Good places are healthy places, and as we depend more on healthcare facilities at all life stages, we need them to be welcoming and uplifting environments. The project also demonstrates the pivotal role of planning in seeing the bigger picture; setting out a route map through visionary plans and regulatory frameworks; and bringing together the parties best able to deliver a vision. ■

“a growing body of evidence that greenspace promotes not only health and well-being, but also faster recovery time for patients”





Photo Credit - Jassy Earl Photography

Article: Tinker Town - Play, Place-Making & Planning



Grant Menzies
Architectural
Designer Co-Founder
The City of Play
www.thecityofplay.co.uk

2018 marks the first Year of Young People in Scotland, providing an opportunity to capitalise on national attention and address many of the issues surrounding children and the built environment.

Children's freedom to play and roam is under threat in the contemporary world. The loss of streets and other accepted places to play has restricted children's movement to a small number of designated places and the domestic realm. In these spaces their play has become ever-more sterile, prescriptive and scheduled, ultimately inhibiting the scope of its developmental benefit.

At The City of Play, we realise that our current environments are not meeting the rights of children. By restricting children's play we are raising generations of dysfunctional adults.

We *could* continue to plan with the busy adult in mind, and in the process increase our reliance on motor vehicles; reduce our access to green and natural space; and design according to function rather than human experience.

Instead we should change our focus to see children as both the present and future of our environments: taking into account their playful needs, and prioritising their ability to navigate and connect with their environments independent of adult intervention.

The UN Convention on the rights of the child decrees that children have an inherent

human right to participate in and enjoy their environments. This need not be arduous, but simply requires us to look again at our urban environment and think:

'What does this do for, and say about our children?'

Tinker Town, at the Pollokshields Playhouse, was a children's place-making project delivered by 'The City of Play' for the inaugural Archi-Fringe Festival in 2016. Two hundred and fifty visitors – children and families – used real tools, such as hammers and saws, and scrap wood or pallets to build and create their own pocket of space.

The Playhouse, which had adopted a brownfield site on Glasgow's Southside, was initiated to generate discussion about the form of public spaces within the community. Children are equal stakeholders in our communities, and Tinker Town used this platform to encourage reflection and critical thought about the child's place in the city and the places where their presence and play is legitimised, and to highlight their individual competencies, capabilities and desires.

The lost art of Den Building....

Tinker Town - in stark contrast to the designed opportunities our children have become accustomed to – was an ever evolving, autonomous, creativity and risk based learning experience; a space shaped by and for children; free play space. Its outcomes

revealed that there is a dire need and inherent desire for space which children (and perhaps adults) can adapt and adopt for themselves, if only temporarily.

Lee Ivett, of Baxendale_dco and creative lead at the Playhouse, defines this as *'Make-Space: A new mode of essential public infrastructure dedicated to the conception and organic development of future possibilities.'* As an Architect, Ivett is likely making reference to 'the built environment'. But, as a play advocate, *Make-Space is a mode of essential public infrastructure dedicated to the organic development of possibilities for children's futures!*

Tinker Town, and projects of its ilk, effectively boost every measure of children's development, and say that we acknowledge them as creative, competent and contributing members of society. It's no big secret, children want to play, learn and be challenged. Planning must afford access to opportunities for them to do so.

Watch out for Tinker Town #TT2 in July '17! ■



Article:

Dementia and Town Planning - Creating Better Environments for People Living with Dementia



Sarah Lewis
MRTPI
Planning Practice
Officer RTPi
Sarah.Lewis@rtpi.org.uk

Alzheimer's Scotland has calculated there are an estimated 93,000 people living with dementia in Scotland. Based on current prevalence rates, this is set to double within the next 25 years.

The RTPi's new practice advice note *Dementia and Town Planning* highlights how appropriately designed local environments and housing can help people with dementia to live independently and well for longer. This advice is endorsed by Alzheimer's Society with their Chief Executive, Jeremy Hughes, saying 'I encourage all concerned to take the RTPi's useful advice on board and support those with dementia to live the lives they want to.'

It is vital for their wellbeing that people with dementia stay as active as they can - physically, mentally and socially. However, Alzheimer's Society has found that 35% of people with dementia only go out once a week or less and 10 percent once a month or less. Having access to local amenities and shops, along with green space within safe and comfortable walking distances contribute to keeping people with dementia active and engaged. In turn this leads to better mood, memory, communication and concentration. The design of the external local environment has an important role to play in allowing people with dementia to maintain their independence. Key urban design points to consider are:

- Familiar environment - functions of places and buildings are obvious, any changes are small scale and incremental;
- Legible environment - a hierarchy of street types, which are short and fairly narrow. Clear signs at decision points;
- Distinctive environment - a variety of landmarks, with architectural features in a variety of styles and materials;
- Accessible environment - mixed land uses with shops and services within a 5-10 minute walk from housing. Entrances to buildings conform to disabled access regulations;
- Comfortable environment - open space is well defined with toilets, seating, shelter and good lighting. Street clutter is minimised along with background and traffic noise through planting and fencing;
- Safe environment - footpaths are wide, flat and non-slip, development is orientated to avoid creating dark shadows or bright glare.

The **Place Standard** is being used by local authorities as a framework for consultation to help people talk about how they feel about their place. It could also easily be used by people with dementia and their carers to evaluate their local environment.

Dementia Friendly Communities, which supports creation of dementia friendly places, has been a great success. With 215

communities already registered, this initiative demonstrates the level of public interest in this issue. Organisations like Dementia Friendly East Lothian recognise the role of planning in creating the right environments, but also that this potential role has not yet been fully realised. Perhaps there is a role for planners to take the lead in engaging?

A small scheme between Angus Council, Historic Environment Scotland and a local dementia charity Kirriemuir Connections as part of a Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme has resulted in the creation of a dementia friendly garden. It has also reduced clutter within the public realm to provide a sympathetic approach to meeting the needs of both the historic built environment and people living with dementia.

Many local authorities now include health and well-being policies in their local plans. However, so far there is little evidence of policies that specifically address dementia in the UK. Exceptions are the Plymouth Plan and Worcestershire Councils SPG, but please prove me wrong, and send examples of good practice to sarah.lewis@rtpi.org.uk ■

Dementia and Town Planning can be found here: <http://rtpi.org.uk/knowledge/practice/dementia-and-town-planning/>

Update: Scottish Government



Places, People and Planning

On Tuesday 10 January we published a consultation on the future of planning in Scotland. The consultation paper "Places, people and planning" sets out 20 proposals for change which aim to strengthen the planning system and support sustainable economic growth across the country. The proposals build on the recommendations of the independent review of the planning system.

The consultation closes on Tuesday 4 April 2017. The consultation paper and copies of supporting documents are available at: <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/planning-architecture/reforming-planning-system>. We are keen to hear the views of children and young people, including on those proposals in Places, People and Planning which may directly affect them. Working with YoungScot, we have commissioned a short online survey to seek views of children and young people on how the place where they live, work or go to school should change in the future. You can access the survey here: <http://www.surveymoz.com/s3/90029151/05e0182d3299>.

Awards

The 2017 Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning were launched by Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government and Housing on 15 March. SAQP2017 will build upon the success of last year which introduced two new personal achievement in planning and people's choice awards. Further details can be found at <https://blogs.gov.scot/planning-architecture>. The closing date for applications is 19 May 2017.

The annual Designing Places Student Award took place on 11 March at The Lighthouse. Students from Strathclyde University, University of Dundee and Heriot-Watt University took part in the masterplanning training and competition, taking the number of students who have taken part in the annual event to over 300. The focus of this year's completion was on masterplanning a site in Tweedbank linked to the new Borders Railway. The winning team was The Pentagon (Dakota Wilson, Callista Lim, Kai Zhu, Linda Velika and Anna Larsen Moldenaes) for their project The Boardwalk.

Legislation

The Town and Country Planning (Miscellaneous Amendment and Transitional Savings) Order 2016 came into effect on 10 February. Any change of use of premises to a pay day lending or betting shop is therefore likely to require a planning application. The Order also amends the General Permitted Development Order so that, as before the amendments, changes of use from a Betting Office or from Pay Day Lending to Class 1: Shops or Class 2: Financial, professional and other services do not require a planning application. The Order can be found on www.legislation.gov.uk.

Consultations

The consultation on the Relaxation of Planning Controls for Digital Communications Infrastructure closed in November 2016. We intend to publish an analysis of responses shortly and work is progressing on legislative changes in light of responses. The consultation on Fees for Monitoring Surface Coal Mines will close on 9 April 2017. It can be viewed here - <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/special-projects/fees-for-monitoring-surface-coal-mines>.

The consultation on raising the fee maximum for major applications for most categories of development closed on 27 February 2017.

We will be considering wider changes to the fee structure, including scope for further discretionary charging, taking account of changes to the planning system flowing from the review. Scottish Ministers will reflect on the need for further changes to resourcing the planning system and will consider, together with the High Level Group on Planning, how the link between fees and performance can be maintained and strengthened.



Photo Credit - Designing Places Student Award Winner

Update:

RTPI Scotland Update



Scottish Executive Committee

Julia Frost has been appointed as Junior Vice Convenor for 2017. No nominations for Junior Vice Convenor were received during the elections process in late 2016. A call was therefore made for candidates to propose themselves for co-option to the role. Following this request we received more than one nomination. The final decision on the appointment, based on submissions by the nominees, was therefore taken by the RTPI Nominations Subcommittee.

As the appointment was made by co-option, an election for the position of Senior Vice Convenor for 2018 will be held in December of this year.

Places, People and Planning – Scottish Government Consultation on the Future of the Planning System

On 19 January the Scottish Government launched its proposals for the future of the planning system, outlined in the consultation paper Places, People and Planning. RTPI Scotland will submit a substantive response to the consultation. We hope that our recommendations will help the Scottish Government refine their proposals into

practical improvements for implementation through legislation and guidance.

To ensure that the response is representative of our members' views, we have worked closely with the Scottish Executive Committee and the Chapters in its development.

A series of workshops were held across Scotland during February. Events in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Perth, Aberdeen and Inverness each tackled questions under the five main themes of the review; Leadership, resources and skills; Housing; Infrastructure; Collaborative Planning, and; Development Plans. Scottish Government also attended each event and gave an overview of the consultation paper as a whole.

The outcomes from these workshops have been collated into a series of thinkpieces by working groups composed of members of the Scottish Executive Committee. These outline workable changes to the planning system that could help the Scottish Government achieve its ambitions for a more 'inspiring and influential' system.

These thinkpieces will be submitted with the main RTPI Scotland consultation response, and will be available to read



Photo Credit - Workshop in Aberdeen 16 February

online at www.rtpi.org.uk/scotland. Also available are the written notes of the conversations that took place at the workshops across Scotland.

Thank you to all members who contributed their time and ideas to the thinkpieces and wider consultation response.

Media and Communications

The following media activity has been undertaken:

- In advance of a Government debate on the planning system, RTPI Scotland sent a briefing on the consultation paper Places, People and Planning to all MSPs. It was quoted several times during the debate on 26 January.
- A news release was issued on 2 February 2017 'Planning could play key role in tackling climate change', RTPI Scotland tells parliamentary committee'
- On 2 March The Planner quoted RTPI Scotland's response to the Scottish Government consultation on raising planning fees in an article about the development industry response to the proposals

The @RTPIScotland Twitter account now has 2907 followers whilst the @Convenor RTPIS account has 900 followers

Deaths

We are sorry to announce the death of Mr Graeme Ewen Ballantine MA DipTP MRTPI(Rtd).



Photo Credit - Workshop in Aberdeen 16 February

Kevin Stewart with SAC team



Update:

Celebrating PAS Volunteers

PAS held its first Volunteer Celebration event in February 2017. Hosted by Hardeep Singh Kohli, about 60 volunteers and (one or two guests) heard a number of volunteers speak about the positive benefits they had gained through volunteering with PAS and the friends they had made, their developing volunteer roles and how PAS volunteers developed their skills through their volunteering roles.

Being involved with PAS is an important part of many volunteers' lives as well as a valuable opportunity to extend their skills and broaden their experience. We have a diverse range of projects coming up for 2017, from charrettes to school projects and advice clinics so if you are interested to find out how you could volunteer with PAS, please contact Robert Pickles: robert@pas.org.uk

'Planning is community. It is society. You can't be a planner if you don't care about people.'

Hardeep Singh Kohli



Update:

Scottish Young Planners Network

In 2016-17 we have held around 19 events for our members, with more in the pipeline.

Recent events have included our always-popular Planning Law event hosted by Shepherd and Wedderburn; an event to mark International Women's Day at the Scottish Parliament hosted by RTPi member and former Chair of the SYPN, Monica Lennon MSP; and another to mark World Town Planning Day, where we gave a screening of the documentary film *Equal by Design*. (If you weren't able to make it along on the night you can view the documentary here: <http://www.equalbydesign.co.uk>)

Our most recent event was the Scottish Young Planners Conference, which this year we held in Stirling on the theme of 'The Skills that Young Planners Need to Succeed'. Thanks to everyone who came along and made the conference such a success. You can still share your thoughts and pictures on Twitter at [#sypc2017](https://twitter.com/sypc2017).

Future activities include another "Ask the Chief Planner" event hosted by the Scottish Government's Chief Planner, John McNairney. This will take place on 11 of April at Victoria Quay. Places at this event can be booked by emailing lorna.aird@gov.scot.

We'd love to hear your ideas for future SYPN events so please send your suggestions to sypn@rtpi.org.uk - we can also add you to our mailing list so you'll receive event information and our quarterly newsletter. You can also follow our activities on Facebook (Scottish Young Planners' Network) and Twitter ([#sypn2017](https://twitter.com/sypn2017)).

We hope to see you at an SYPN event soon!

Update:

Planning Fees & Planning Performance



Jim Birrell
MRTPI
Planning Review
Programme Manager
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service.org.uk](mailto:hops@improvement.service.org.uk)

Jim Birrell, outlines HOPS views on the intrinsic relationship between fees and performance.

Fees

Planning fees and planning performance are the inseparable twins of the planning review. You cannot talk about one without linking it to the other. HOPS is arguing for a radical, comprehensive and sustainable review of the fee structure to ensure that the funding generated will achieve full cost recovery. It is disappointing that we are seeing a 2-stage approach being taken by the Scottish Government - The Scottish Government consultation paper on Raising Planning Fees will be followed by further structural changes made through the wider review of planning - We believe this will lead to delays in implementation, frustrating most authorities who are trying to set realistic budgets. But, it does mean that any new changes from the planning review can be factored in to the new fee regime.

The evidence base for increasing fees is well recorded. Planning services need to move quickly to a position of sustainable self-funding if the vision and aspirations for the new planning system are to be fully and effectively realised and implemented.

The Scottish Government consultation indicated that planning fees may be extended to other public agencies and central Government. But, HOPS does not support the 'top slicing' of planning fees as we are concerned that it may lead to these fees being set artificially high. There may also be complexities of proportionality, evidence, justification, collection and rights of challenge.

Parity with England in terms of overall resourcing should be the minimum ambition

of the Scottish Government, and HOPS will work with Scottish Government and others to explore suitable options for achieving this.

Of fundamental importance is the need for the Scottish Government and councils to acknowledge that the additional income generated by an increase in planning fees must be retained by the planning service as a discrete operating budget. The proposed improvements towards excellent planning services cannot be achieved without the

opportunity for planning departments to reinvest in resources and enhanced levels of service provision.

Discretionary fees form a significant part of the income

generated by English LPAs and increasingly LPAs in Scotland have developed new funding streams. HOPS considers that discretionary fees should be legitimised by appropriate legislative and regulatory amendments.

Performance

Increased fees and improved performance are inextricable and must be tackled in tandem. The Planning Performance Framework approach has the strong support of HOPS as it has proved to be a successful model for evidencing performance and quality improvements across all the Scottish local planning authorities. However, we do agree that it needs to be more rigorous, robust and challenging and deliver improvements in performance and quality across all authorities. The Scottish Government wants 'a stronger assurance that performance will improve to a high standard in every authority'. HOPS agrees with this stance.

The improvements suggested in the consultation paper are logical and supported by HOPS, (peer review, benchmarking, public feedback, quality outcomes etc.) and current HOPS workshops across Scotland are testing out these ideas.

HOPS does not consider the use of a Penalty Clause to be conducive to joint working and LPAs working in partnership with the Scottish Government and HOPS has recommended that the penalty clause is repealed and deleted from the legislation.

Our collective challenges

- How to guarantee and deliver improved performance and service levels in a transparent way, to offset the concerns of other parties.
- How to achieve full cost recovery for each LPA, given the financial and statistical complexities involved.
- How to identify overall resources for funding all the proposed changes to the planning system set out in the SGCP.

The full HOPS Paper is available on the HOPS Knowledge Hub and a fuller version will feature in the HOPS response to the Scottish Government Consultation Paper



For further details visit
www.hopsscotland.org.uk

Update:

Policy Update



RTPI Scotland aims to lead thinking in how planning can create great places for people. We do this by:

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

It is currently a busy time for planning and related policy. As well as the Scottish Government Consultation *Places, People and Planning*, we are working on or have already submitted a number of responses to consultations and Parliamentary calls for evidence.

We are keen to receive comments from members on any policy issues. Please contact Kate Houghton, RTPI Scotland's Planning Policy and Practice Officer, on kate.houghton@rtpi.org.uk if you would like to contribute to our responses to national consultations.



DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN (POLICIES & PROPOSALS 3)

The draft Climate Change Plan was laid in the Scottish Parliament on 19 January. This route map towards a lower carbon Scotland targets zero carbon electricity by 2030, near zero emissions in the services and residential sectors by 2032, and a 32% fall in transport emissions; also by 2032.

The Plan clearly recognises the planning system as an essential tool for shaping a low carbon country.

Several Parliamentary Committees are scrutinising the Plan, including the Local Government and Communities Committee. RTPI Scotland Director Craig McLaren gave oral evidence to this Committee. Written evidence was submitted to the same Committee, and those with responsibility for Rural Economy and Connectivity, Economy, Jobs and Fair Work and Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform. Our comments highlighted the importance of the final Plan not limiting the role of planning to a regulatory one, delivering advances in building fabric and vehicle technology. Also important will be using planning to shape places that enable the society-wide behavioural change that is essential if we are to meet the Government's ambitious emissions targets.

SCOTTISH ENERGY STRATEGY: THE FUTURE OF ENERGY IN SCOTLAND

The Scottish Government is currently consulting on an updated Energy Strategy, which looks to build on Scotland's past leadership in energy engineering as it targets ambitious cuts in climate change causing emissions. Two major pillars of the strategy are Scotland's Energy Efficiency Programme (SEEP) and further decentralisation of energy provision.

Alongside the Energy Strategy Consultation, the Government is also consulting on Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies and Regulation of District Heating, and Unconventional Oil and Gas.

POLICY RESPONSES

All RTPI Scotland policy consultation responses can be read on the RTPI website at www.rtpi.org.uk/scotland. Between January and March 2017 we submitted the following responses:

Consultation on Raising Planning Fees

Call for evidence on Building Regulations in Scotland

Written Evidence on the Scottish Government's draft Climate Change Plan (Third Report on Policies and Proposals)

Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement: a consultation

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Historic Environment Scotland Annual Report 2015-16

Published 9 December 2016
Historic Environment Scotland

Asset Transfer under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015: Guidance

Published 23 January 2017
Scottish Government

Air Quality and Planning Published 24 January 2017

Environmental Protection Scotland and RTPI
Scotland

Dementia and Town Planning Practice Note Published 30 January 2017 RTPI

Better Planning for Housing Affordability Published 10 February 2017 RTPI

A Guide to Working Internationally Published 27 February 2017 RTPI

RTPI SCOTLAND CONTACTS



Stefano Smith, MRTPI Convenor

Stefano chairs the Scottish Executive Committee and the Scottish Forum for Planning. He also represents RTPI Scotland at the RTPI General Assembly, and sits on the RTPI Education and Life Long Learning Committee. He is also an RTPI Ambassador.

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Fraser Carlin chairs the RTPI Scotland Policy Sub Committee

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Julia Frost, MRTPI Junior Vice Convenor

Julia chairs the RTPI Scotland Communication, Education and Lifelong Learning Sub Committee and is an RTPI APC Assessor.

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Craig McLaren, MRTPI Director

Craig leads on public affairs, stakeholder relationships, development of CPD and skills, and communications. He is Co-Editor of Scottish Planner and Secretariat to the Communications Education and Lifelong Learning Sub Committee.

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Robbie Calvert, Intern Project Officer

Robbie is a planning Masters student. He is supporting RTPI Scotland's work to develop ideas for planning reform.

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