

Scottish Planner

The Journal of RTPI Scotland



RTPI Scotland

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SP

Summer Issue / #170 / June 2017

www.rtpi.org.uk/scotland

Heritage and Identity: A Place for Planning?

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ISSN 1353-9795

The RTPI is a registered charity
Scottish Registered Charity
No. SC037841
Registered Charity No. 262865

Registered office:

Royal Town Planning Institute
41 Botolph Lane
London
EC3R 8DL

Printing:

Cover: 150gsm Recycled Offset
Inners: 100gsm Recycled Offset
4 Colour Process by WATERLESS
offset using vegetable-oil based
inks to ISO 12647 standards.



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Editorial

Welcome to the summer 2017 edition of Scottish Planner.

During the Scottish Government's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology an edition devoted to just what it is that makes Scotland 'Scotland' was high on our agenda. Your English co-editor was all set for using my opening words to wax lyrical on shortbread, kilts and whisky, before my colleagues put me right...

Of course not, I may be a resident of merely a year, but I have learned anything in those twelve months of calling 'the birth-place of Valour, this country of Worth' home, it is that there are many 'Scotlands'. All seen through different eyes and different perspectives, and all equally authentic. Scotland may be a small country, but its physical and social diversity is renowned and inescapable.

I hope that taken together the contributions in this edition reflect a Scotland that you know and recognise. They demonstrate the crucial and often complex role of planning and planners in not just protecting the best of our past, but also building tomorrow's icons. 'A sense of place' is always a priority for planners, and our articles look at how we can use

redevelopment opportunities, Conservation Areas and specialist skills to make the most of Scotland's rich heritage in today's placemaking. We also look at the context; the work that Historic Environment Scotland is doing to better understand that diverse Scotland referenced above, and what the planning review will mean for heritage practice.

In addition to our focus on heritage we hear from Colin Mair and Irene Beautyman of the Improvement Service. Following on from council elections in early May they pick out the opportunities for planners as new administrations take form and bed in. The collaboration agenda that has permeated the planning review is a strong theme here; planning is neatly described as 'working in the overlap'.

I hope that this quarter's edition might give you some inspiration both for day trips worth making during the summer months, and for ways of working that will help us leave our mark on this most special of places.

Kate Houghton MRTPI
Co-Editor

Convenor's Comments:

'Placing' planning at the heart of policy and politics



Stefano Smith
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Stefano Smith, Convenor of RTPi Scotland, reflects on lessons learnt from recent lectures, visits and awards, and on the value of developing skills, behaviours and knowledge of planners to deliver outcomes.

We are now entering the quintessential Scottish summer – all seasons in one day! It promises to be another busy and exciting period in planning. The analysis of approximately 450 responses received to the consultation on the future of the Scottish Planning System is due to be published and should give an indication of the shape of the future planning bill. The summer months also herald an exciting period of lectures, visits and awards.

RTPi Scotland aims to 'place' planning at the heart of politics and policy. That is why I was delighted to chair the recent Sir Patrick Geddes Commemorative Lecture 2017, given by Naomi Eisenstadt, on Poverty, Places and Equality: A Role for Place Based Approaches. Naomi, who is the independent advisor to the Scottish Government on Poverty and Inequality, talked about how places and the built environment are factors in creating and reinforcing poverty, outlining how areas of concentrated poverty generally offer poor job prospects, poor public transport and lower attainment in schools. She said that market driven improvements in housing stock usually lead to gentrification and suggested that we need to look towards inclusive growth as the way forward. This will require a shared

mission and taking a more entrepreneurial 'whole-place leadership' approach, where everybody at every level – from the national to the street – has a role to play and is recognised as an important part of the solution. Naomi agreed that this isn't easy, saying, 'It's not rocket science, it's harder than that': We need to be clear about where responsibilities for different levels of power lie.

Naomi's lecture resonated with the recent visit to Scotland by RTPi President Stephen Wilkinson. He was taken to key projects in Glasgow – Laurieston, Gorbals, Commonwealth Games Athlete's Village and Sighthill – and shown how planners are working with a range of partners to transform places, in this case regeneration areas. He also saw planners working across boundaries and disciplines in Dumfries and Galloway to deliver the new Royal Infirmary and improvements in Dumfries town centre. Stephen was very impressed with the way planners in diverse settings across Scotland are key drivers in making a difference. These are the messages RTPi Scotland is putting forward through the planning review – planning helps to meet aspirations and ambitions; it is positive in establishing a

routemap; it is not merely something that you 'need to get through' at the end of the process; it is solution focussed and aims to promote collaboration.

We should see evidence of this, given that the season of awards is upon us: celebrating the successful achievements of planning ahead and shouting about the skills within the built environment and planning professions at the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning (SAQP), the Homes for Scotland awards, the RICS Scotland awards and the RTPi Excellence Awards in London, where Scottish projects did well.

I am keen to hear your thoughts on these issues, particularly in a post General Election 2017 world of planning and its impact on the nation's built environment, heritage, place and identity.

Finally, many thanks to all you 'tweeters' out there that have helped me achieve one of my three manifesto targets – breaking the [@ConvenorRTPIS](#) 1000 followers target, which at the last count is 1,004 followers! Let's keep in touch and make a difference together in this pivotal year for planning by planning ahead! ■



Article: Planning Futures Together

Colin Mair and Irene Beautyman look how councillors can work with planning, and vice versa.

Spatial planning is about working in the overlap. Bringing different perspectives together. Serving the public interest. As new administrations form across Scotland there are opportunities for planners to be powerful allies in the collaborative work that lies ahead. Working to advance and implement policies and projects that contribute to political and community aspirations for health, education, economy and, most of all, for equity.

To be effective and “to make everywhere somewhere” needs strong vision and priorities, all the more given the high proportion of minority administrations or

coalitions across Scotland. Not setting priorities inevitably means someone else will set them for you. And the chances are good you will not like what they have planned. Central Government, business, developers, landowners, key agencies and communities are all key influences on the places we live in. Many function unconcerned about their impact on each other, or other communities or places.

As the new councils bed in across Scotland, newly elected councillors will be undergoing a substantial induction process across the next few months. Education Directors will be emphasising the economic

“...elected members are focussed on the people and places they represent and are passionate about improving people’s lives by making places better”

and social importance of getting it right for Scotland's children, and the need to continue improving attainment in our schools. Health and Care Directors will rightly emphasise the demographic pressures they face and the need to strengthen capacity to meet demand.

All of this will be set within the wider national commitment to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities through prevention and early intervention. How will planning be presented? Our guess is it will be as a technical, quasi-judicial function, governed by strict rules and regulations, and much of the emphasis will be on what elected members cannot do rather than how it can help elected members achieve their ambitions for places and communities.

"Elected members and planners need to talk about their ambitions"

It is, of course, right to have a focus on function and process but not at the cost of purpose and impact. After induction, will new councillors understand that planning is the earliest intervention and if we get the design of place right, all other outcomes get better? Will they appreciate that development planning and control is fundamental to creating places where children will be able to learn, grow and thrive? Will they see planning as an essential part of their ambitions to support older people to age well through ensuring good, appropriate housing opportunities, intelligently designed streetscapes and place design that supports inclusion of frail and vulnerable people? If they don't get all of that, something has gone wrong because all the above is true.

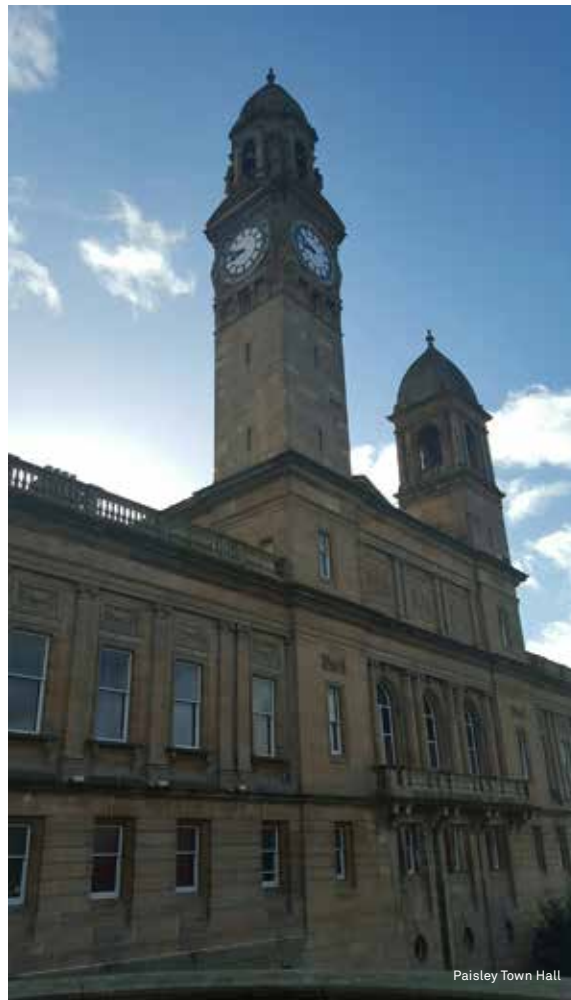
In our experience, elected members are focussed on the people and places they represent and are passionate about improving people's lives by making places better. They know that high level slogans about "inclusive growth" or "reducing inequality" means very little if they are not linked back and anchored in the places people actually live. Planning is precisely about creating that linkage and anchorage and is therefore central to members' ambitions. With an over 50% turnover in elected members in the recent election, there is a good opportunity for planning to reset the narrative and engage with members around their ambitions for the communities they serve. Planning is about children thriving, older people living well, disabled people being included by design and so on. It is also quasi-judicial in process but that is the process, not the point.

Elected members and planners need to talk about their ambitions. They need to prioritise actions planners can implement to work with others and influence improved

health and wellbeing and the opportunities people have access to. A useful start to that conversation can be the Place Standard tool with its structure that pulls people to work together across sectors and boundaries. It moves a conversation about land use and places on to social equity and collaboration in pursuing the public interest. It begins the process of targeting the work of planners to where it is most needed.

Planning evolved in Scotland out of a recognition that uncontrolled development of cities was catastrophic for the health and wellbeing of the population. The major advances in outcomes across the last 150 years were due to planning, regulation and investment in infrastructure, not personal medical or social services.

Planning began as a big, bold proposition about improving lives by designing places better. Given the pressures of finance and demand we face across the next period, we need to revive that ambition and create a new narrative for planning as at the heart of improving lives and opportunities in Scotland. ■



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Q&A

Public Enquiries



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Alastair McKie, Partner at Anderson Strathern and Convenor of the Law Society's Planning Law Sub-committee, answers our questions on planning, planners and the planning system.

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

Alison Gorlov, Partner and solicitor at Winkworth Sherwood has been pivotal in inspiring my career. She has immense knowledge and experience in the authorisation and delivery of major projects. Her projects include the Channel Tunnel and London Crossrail. She drafted the legislation that made the new Alloa-Stirling and new Scottish Border Railway possible. In those projects, I was advising on the Planning Law aspects on behalf of the Promoter and undertook inquiry advocacy. I had no prior experiences of railways and Alison took time to impart me with sufficient knowledge and inspiration to raise my game. She possesses all of the qualities that one would hope for in a solicitor including; being a great communicator; having excellent judgement and powers of analysis and possessing great stamina and perseverance.

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

In terms of planners working within planning authorities, I consider that the biggest issue is one of limited resources and the need in some cases for stronger leadership. Whilst I agree that the planning profession needs to be visionary and create great places for people, it cannot do this without a well-funded and resourced service.

Overall I do think that the service has improved and we have witnessed many local authorities adopting a "can do" approach. However, adequate funding is needed to ensure there are sufficient planners to deliver the service. It is not difficult to see why developers on the back of the recent hike in planning fees wish to see a linkage between increased fees and performance. Unfortunately these increased fees will not be hypothecated for the planning service.

3 Why is planning important?

That's an easy one and as I frequently say "planning decides what gets built and where".

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

I consider that the redevelopment of Dundee's Waterfront including the new V&A Museum best exemplifies creating great places for people in Scotland. As a former graduate of Dundee University, you might say that I would say that but the transformation has been nothing short of incredible with the Museum due to open in 2018. I truly believe that this development will propel the city to international acclaim and that success will be due in no short measure to the visionary planners of the Council and Council Members.

5 What do you think the main provisions should be in the forthcoming Planning Bill?

Focus only on what is broken and enhance what is working. A greater focus is needed on not just who will ultimately fund new infrastructure (in the back loaded sense) but also on who will actually build it to enable development to commence. With the likely abolition of Strategic Development Plans, I am concerned that the gap that will be created can be effectively fulfilled by informal "regional partnerships" in circumstances where these partnerships will not have any legal powers or duties. I would suggest that careful consideration is given to imposing a legislative framework for partnership working to minimise potential conflict of outcomes and priorities.

6 How does a planning solicitor add value?

Planning solicitors are able to provide specialist advice on the complexities of town and country planning, highways and compulsory purchase and compensation and provide hearing and inquiry advocacy. Further reforms in planning are imminent with a new Planning Bill later this year and their services will be in demand. ■

Immaterial Considerations

An irreverent look at the world of planning...

Wall to Wall Planning

Thanks to RTPI Member Gillian Dick for letting us know about the latest DIY craze to hit the country – wallpaper maps and plans! Redcliffe Imaging (see <https://www.custom-wallpaper-printing.co.uk/custom-wallpaper-maps.html>) can help you create your own custom Ordnance Survey maps including Detailed Local Wallpaper Map (Ordnance Survey 1:10 000); Explorer Wallpaper Map (Ordnance Survey 1:25 000); Landranger Wallpaper Map (Ordnance Survey 1:50 000); Regional Wallpaper Map (Ordnance Survey 1:250 000) and Historic Ordnance Survey Wallpaper Maps sourced From OS Maps of England, Wales & Scotland between 1888 to 1913. We like the example on the website (pictured below) which looks like it might be the Highland Council planning department's tea and coffee break area...



High Hopes for High Hedges

As planners we can, sometimes, be accused of being overly obsessive about the detail and specifics of legislation and regulations. But, hey, we all know these are important, right? Given this, it was great to see planners involved in the Scottish Parliament's "post-legislative scrutiny of the High Hedges (Scotland) Act 2013", as shown in the photograph above. Alas, the lack of anyone at all in the public gallery meant it hadn't appeared to capture the public's imagination too. If only...

CiTees shirt

Are you a planner looking for that trendy item of clothing to take to the beach this summer? Yes? Then look no further than the new funky T-shirts emblazoned with the street map of your favourite city. Graphic designer Alex Szabo-Haslam had trouble finding T-shirts and other goods emblazoned with a map of his hometown, Sheffield so decided to print his own. Using data from OpenStreetMap, Szabo-Haslam's line of Citees shirts depicts nearly 80 cities around the globe. Both Glasgow and Edinburgh are on the list (see right), and you can see more at <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/szabohaslam/citee-fashion-city-maps-printed-on-t-shirts>



A Creative Boom in Cities?

We liked the feature on the Creative Boom website setting out 10 city rebrand projects from students to spark some inspiration and leave you pondering how you might shake up the identity of your own local metropolis. The Sarajevo example is featured above, and you can see more at <http://www.creativeboom.com/inspiration/10-cities-beautifully-rebranded-by-celebrated-graphic-design-students/>

In Focus:

Inclusive Growth and Placemaking

Lesley Martin reflects on the development of a new lens through which to view and tackle socio-economic challenges.



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With barely a mention in government policy a decade ago, inclusive growth is now peppered through Scottish Government strategies, debated by international bodies such as the OECD and IMF, and indeed is a focus for this year's Planning Convention. Encompassing both redistributive and participative ideals to create 'an economy that works for everyone' (RSA, 2017), it embraces themes dear to planners' hearts: placemaking, sustainability, 'social infrastructure' and citizen participation. But it is the wider calls for devolution of power which open up possibilities for a more innovative and even radical agenda.

Mindful of the currency of these ideas, the RTPi recently joined forces with PAS, the RSA (Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce) and Anderson

Strathern to unpick the issues. Chaired by Sarah Boyack, now Head of Public Affairs with SFHA, a refreshingly multi-disciplinary event shared views from international, academic and practice perspectives. This allowed useful links with the New Urban Agenda and Open Government Initiative.

Some participants were worried by the 'growth' element of inclusive growth, concerned by the sustainability implications. We were reminded though that 'growth' should not be myopically bounded by GDP. Instead planners should take the global view, recognising and responding to the inescapable reality of population and housing growth.

The Place Standard Tool has formalised and articulated the contributing elements of an inclusive place - accessibility, affordability, safety, quality. And as Cliff Hague noted, placemaking has grown from 'cottage industry to global phenomenon', influenced by such catastrophes as Hurricane Katrina which illustrated the devastating impact on people of the loss of their place. In puzzling over definitions, Cliff Hague suggested that thinking about what 'exclusive growth' might look like could also be instructive. How about car dependence; gentrification; loss of civic assets; and weak regulation for starters?

A possible 'gamechanger' for inclusive growth in the Independent Review of the Planning System is the proposed 'community right to plan'. But as Julia Frost noted, power cannot simply be 'handed over'. Building trust, confidence and capacity to engage takes time, particularly in less affluent areas. In demonstrating the inspiring range of community initiatives underway, she quoted Haemin Sunim's reminder that societal change is brought about by youth - one reason for its emphasis by PAS.

It seems that building the evidence for 'what works' is increasingly emerging from



Global growth - an inescapable phenomenon.
Luanda, capital of Angola Photo credit - Cliff Hague

the academic sphere. Michael Kordas, describing his ongoing doctoral research on charrettes, provided a historical perspective on the fall of 'heroic planner' model to today's somewhat more tarnished image. Is the model repairable? Evolving planning from something 'done' to people to a more empowering ideal still seems an elusive goal, evidenced by a scan of the now nearly 50 year old 'Skeffington' report 'People in Planning', large chunks of which still appear surprisingly relevant.

While placemaking is only one element of inclusive growth there is no doubt that it is essential. Land use and the economy are inextricable. As the Scottish perspective on inclusive growth takes shape, planners need to make sure that they are part of the conversation. ■

The RSA's Commission on Inclusive Growth report is available at <https://www.thersa.org/discover/publications-and-articles/reports/final-report-of-the-inclusive-growth-commission>; a Scottish launch took place on 15 June at University of Edinburgh Business School.



Confidence and capacity to engage takes time
Photo credit - PAS

In Practice:

Pilot Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters Marine Spatial Plan

James Green outlines marine spatial planning in the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters.



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Marine Scotland, Orkney Islands Council and Highland Council developed the Pilot Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters Marine Spatial Plan. Now approved by Scottish Ministers, and both Councils, the plan provides an integrated planning policy framework to guide marine development, activities and management decisions in the plan area.

Marine spatial planning (MSP) is an emerging public process that aims to improve understanding of the distribution of human activities in marine areas, balancing priorities, to achieve environmental, economic and social objectives. MSP is being introduced from an almost zero baseline with limited experience and guidance within a global context. The last fifteen years have seen a marked change from the management of individual marine sectors to a more integrated strategic approach starting to be delivered through MSP.

The dynamic three dimensional nature of the marine environment brings new challenges, new governance structures and new ways of understanding space into the planning process. The layering of multiple uses and legal rights across the seabed, the water column and sea surface necessitates innovation in spatial planning and policy development. This project has piloted the preparation of a regional marine plan. Prepared alongside the adjoining local development plans in Orkney, Caithness and Sutherland, the marine spatial plan forms part of an integrated land use and marine policy framework across the land and sea boundary.

The plan area is a designated Marine Energy Park with some of the best resources of marine renewable energy in the UK. The Orkney-based European Marine Energy Centre provides a globally unique facility for testing wave and tidal energy devices at multiple locations across the islands. Against

this backdrop of innovation in technology, the challenge for planning has been to reconcile the requirements of traditional marine industries (e.g. commercial fishing, shipping and recreation) with the aspirations of growth sectors such as marine renewable energy and aquaculture. The marine spatial plan was required to strike an appropriate balance between the needs of local communities and the sustainable growth of economic sectors, whilst protecting the environment on which they depend.

The success of this project was built on a multidisciplinary approach. A marine scientist, marine ecologist and a planner have led the development of the marine spatial plan drawing on a wide range of expertise including mariners, fishermen, economists, GIS specialists, engineers, energy specialists, fish farmers and academics to name a few. Alongside a suite of supporting guidance, assessments and data, a Lessons Learned Report has been published to disseminate detailed knowledge and practical guidance for future marine spatial planners across Scotland and beyond.

This pilot project has highlighted that the nature of the marine and terrestrial environments are very different and often require very different planning solutions. The pilot has also demonstrated that the knowledge, skills and experience of planners are directly transferable to the marine context. In recognition of that, the pilot marine spatial plan won an award under the partnership working category in the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning 2016 and won the Excellence in Plan Making category in the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence 2017.

Marine planning is an exciting new frontier that we planners should embrace. The sustainable management of our oceans, seas and coastal areas relies upon good planning based on sound science. ■

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You can find out more here: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/seamangement/regional/activity/pentlandorkney>



Mr Clancy, The Lauriston Bar, Glasgow
Photo credit - Historic Environment Scotland

Article: What's Your Heritage?

Barbara Cummins, Director of Heritage at Historic Environment Scotland reflects on the meaning of 'Past, Places and Traditions' as explored in the recent 'What's Your Heritage' project.

From November 2016 to March this year Historic Environment Scotland (HES) ran the What's Your Heritage? project. Many of you will have seen the promotional material about it and made your own personal contributions either to the survey or workshop events held across Scotland. The project is the first part of a commitment from HES to review our Policy Statement. It is also the first ever informal exchange of ideas we have had with the people of Scotland about heritage, and we will use the feedback to directly drive policy change.

You might well ask why we went about a review of policy in this way rather than the more traditional route of drafting a new document and sending out a formal consultation. As a new organisation we wanted to demonstrate that we are open to new ways of working. This meant establishing a compelling narrative, and baseline information about what the people of today's Scotland think we ought to be doing to support the recognition and management of our historic environment; rather than presuming we know what's best.



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We asked people what are the places and buildings that are important to them – the things that make them feel proud and that have special meaning for their community. We asked which of Scotland's places, buildings and monuments should be designated, acknowledged and celebrated. We also asked about how change to designated sites and places should be managed and what sort of development is appropriate for these special places.

“there is widespread support for recognising special buildings and places”

You can see the full results of What's Your Heritage? in the report on our website. However, there are some key themes that all of us working in the planning system in Scotland will need to respond to. You will see that they chime with the work already ongoing to deliver planning reform and it is good to see these synergies.

The feedback we received demonstrated that there is widespread support for recognising special buildings and places but that processes around that, such as listing, are seen as obscure and inaccessible. We also found there is a lack of understanding about who does what in the planning system and that HES is viewed as acting 'nationally' and not always on what matters at a local level. However, it was reassuring to us to be told that our knowledge and expertise is respected.

We were unsurprised to hear that people think current consultations within the system are seen simply as tick box exercises. Respondents and participants saw local knowledge as key and wanted it to be used to enrich decision-making. They also told us that protecting, recording and promoting intangible heritage linked with buildings and places is very important. Examples cited ranged from the Common Riding in the Borders to local dialect.

“We need to think about the consequences of listing; what are the change management consequences?”

It was equally reassuring to us to find that there is widespread acceptance that change to buildings is inevitable to keep them alive. We were told that this should be informed by need and/or the proposed use and that

existing buildings should be adapted in sympathy with the local environment.

We asked some specific questions about designation and change. For some time we have been struggling with how we apply designations criteria in some cases so we asked specifically about the cottage on Jura shown here, where George Orwell wrote “Nineteen Eighty-Four”. 95% of people thought the fact that George Orwell wrote the novel at this house meant it should be recognised. 83% would like to see it recognised by a plaque and 70% would like to see it recorded in our digital archive. It was interesting that the public are as split as we are with 50% wanting to see the property listed. We need to think about the consequences of listing; what are the change management consequences? If we listed the building would the owner need listed building consent to alter it if it isn't the physical fabric that matters in this case? These are questions that we need to think about over the coming months.

When people were asked directly in workshops what heritage means to them local identity and community anchored all conversations. People, stories, dialect and traditions are all linked to, and create special meaning for the buildings and places the people of Scotland enjoy. Groups shared examples of hidden or lesser-known features of the built environment in their local area and reflected on the importance of traditions, both old and new.

The majority of contributors felt that the historic environment is something that you inherit, and that you have a responsibility to look after it for the next generation to enjoy. Participants explained that ensuring that communities feel informed, empowered and included in decision-making at a local level is very important. We need to consider how we will address that in our policy and practice just as the review of planning in Scotland is wrestling with the same issues.

So, what next? HES is going to continue to analyse the results of the survey and workshops so we can better outline the key issues raised. We will meet with the wider heritage sector in the autumn to talk about the results and the key issues and we will develop key actions for the short, medium and long term with a timetable for their implementation. We will undoubtedly need to revise the designation criteria and advice and consents policy in the Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement, and that will follow. Importantly, we plan to keep everyone informed about how their input has changed

what we do and, most importantly, we will keep the conversation about our heritage going with the public and the heritage sector. ■

“the historic environment is something that you inherit, and you have a responsibility to look after it for the next generation to enjoy”



Barnhill cottage - where Orwell wrote 1984
Photo credit - ©Dutyhog at geography.ork.uk/p3172079

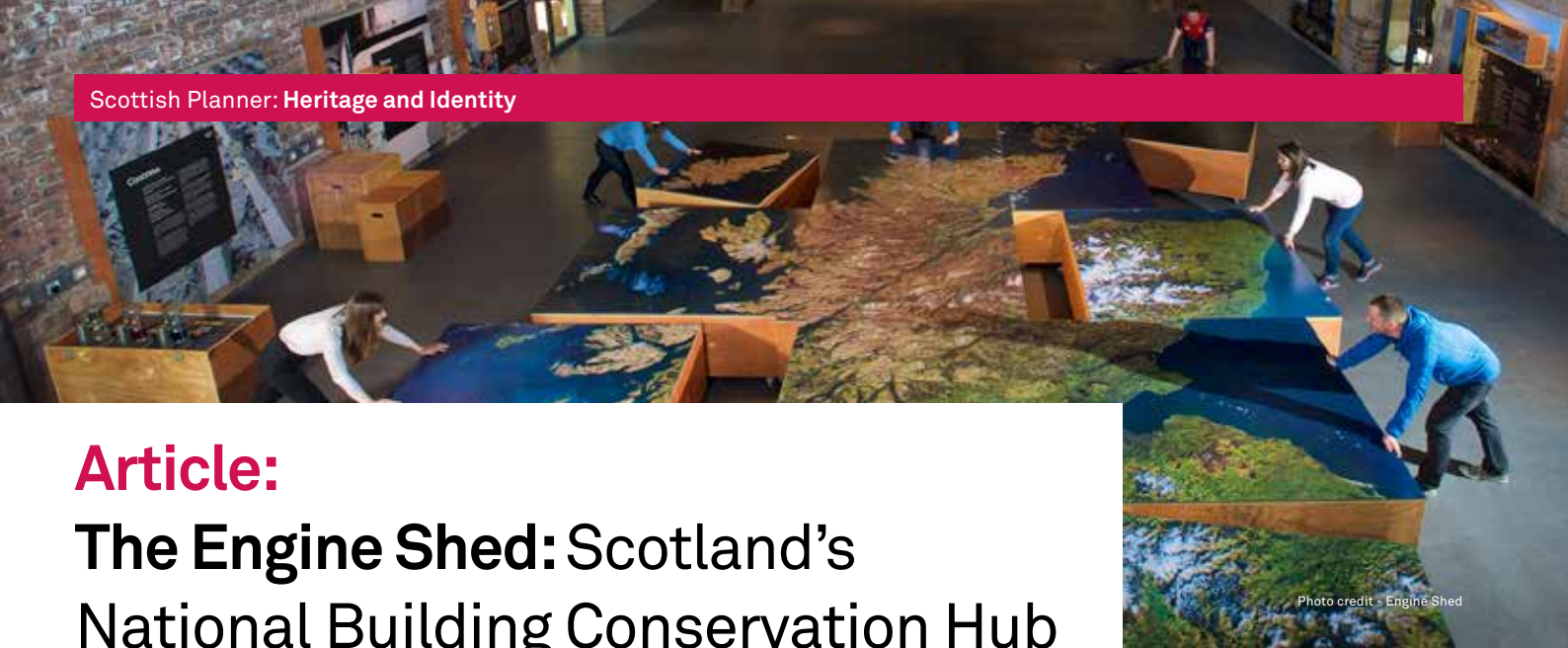


Photo credit - Engine Shed

Article:

The Engine Shed: Scotland's National Building Conservation Hub

Dorothy Hoskins, Technical Outreach and Education Manager at the Engine Shed and **Colin Tennant**, Head of Technical Education and Training at Historic Environment Scotland.

Historic Environment Scotland's ambitious Engine Shed project will bring Scotland's built heritage to life through technology and hands on activity when it opens later this year.

The former military building will provide a central hub allowing visitors to explore their built heritage, and engaging the next generation with Scotland's historic environment via interactive exhibits, 3D theatre and augmented reality experiences.

Scotland suffers from a shortage of 5,000 skilled construction workers, while being home to over 450,000 traditionally constructed buildings. Many of these traditionally constructed buildings are still used for living and working in every day, resulting in a requirement for continued conservation work and development in techniques, technologies, use of materials, and skills. The Engine Shed seeks to raise standards in caring for Scotland's built heritage; a crucial part of the country's culture and economy.

The Engine Shed itself uses traditional and natural materials in new and unique ways. The main building dates back to roughly the 1800s, and its refurbishment has seen the addition of two new extensions which are built using timber glu-laminated frames clad in light-weight zinc.

But the building is much more than an example of high quality heritage conservation. Previously a goods shed and then a store for the military, the Engine Shed now hosts everything from a 4k 3D theatre to a map of Scotland explored using an augmented

reality app, bringing together tradition and technology.

As part of its professional offering, the Engine Shed has launched an Advanced Diploma in Technical Building Conservation aimed at those with experience in the built heritage sector and interested in furthering their career within building conservation. The postgraduate course and other CPD modules taught at the Engine Shed seek to raise the benchmarks in the sector. There is a focus on technical aspects of traditional materials, combining this with learning around conservation science and the latest digital documentation techniques and technologies.

The Engine Shed is working closely with John McKinney, Scotland Manager of the National Federation of Roofing Contractors. He is in no doubt that *'the Engine Shed will provide a vital training resource and support system for the industry and for those looking to develop and advance their knowledge and skills on traditional materials and buildings. Scotland's built heritage is an important cultural and economic asset for the future. The facilities available at the Engine Shed will be a great asset for anyone working with traditional buildings and will provide access to high quality educational resources and formal training all year round.'*

In addition to the Diploma, a programme of events and outreach activities will run through the year, including conferences, exhibitions, workshops, talks, and hands-on activities. This will include a Conservation Summer School; a week-long course providing

an introduction to building conservation and traditional building materials and skills through a mix of talks, workshops, field trips and hands-on activities.

The Engine Shed is not just about maintaining traditional buildings and materials, it is about marrying these together with new and advanced technologies to continue to conserve our heritage and adapt to our changing environment. ■

For more information visit
www.engineshed.org



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Article:

Fifty Years of Conservation Areas

John Pelan, Director of Scottish Civic Trust, discusses the history of, and future for, Scotland's Conservation Areas.

Fifty years ago, in 1967, the first trustees of the Scottish Civic Trust held their inaugural meeting at the University of Glasgow. Their objectives, as set out in a Deed of Trust, drawn up in the year before, included encouraging: 'high standards of architecture; preservation of buildings of artistic merit or historical interest; a sense of civic pride; and the elimination and prevention of ugliness whether arising from bad design, neglect or any other cause.' In the same year, the Civic Amenities Act, with encouragement from the evolving civic movement across the UK, was introduced to "to make further provision for the protection and improvement of buildings of architectural or historic interest and of the character of areas of such interest; for the preservation and planting of trees; and for the orderly disposal of disused vehicles and equipment and other rubbish.' Its greatest achievement was the creation of conservation areas which exist to this day and are now defined in Scotland, according to the subsequent legislation of 1997, the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act as "areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance."

Both the original act and the establishment of the Scottish Civic Trust happened against a background of neglect and, increasingly, destruction of the historic environment, driven at times with modernist fervour. The pace of new developments, in particular housing, was seen by the nascent conservation movement as a juggernaut that needed to be decelerated.

The success and popularity of conservation areas as a way of protecting historic places and buildings is evidenced by the fact there are currently over 660 in Scotland. Conservation area status can provide opportunities for funding through the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme and Townscape Heritage Initiative. Local authorities have a statutory role in controlling and regulating development in conservation

areas but they also have an obligation to preserve and enhance them.

However, development management can only be effective if there are adequate skills in planning departments and planning committees. In Scotland, heritage management capacity within local authorities appears to be decreasing which, along with a drive to build more houses and speed up planning processes, is putting heritage under serious threat. Some local authorities have no conservation officer in post, others are accused of approving too many piecemeal inappropriate developments which erode the character of conservation areas, while others seem to be gung-ho in their approach. We have seen the controversy around the proposal to demolish the Category B Perth City Hall, which sits within Perth Central Conservation Area. Another issue for building conservationists is the proliferation of uPVC window and door frames in conservation areas.

Contrary to perception, conservation areas are not a mechanism just for stifling development but are also meant to encourage the highest quality of architectural design. Unfortunately, too often, criticism of new design can become a very charged issue leading to unsatisfactory compromises. Conservation areas should not be seen as a problem, however. Rather, they present successful models of placemaking, quality design and construction and can generate a sense of civic pride and wellbeing. These are the qualities we should be seeking to emulate. In 2000, the then Scottish Planning Minister, Sam Galbraith, asked famously "Where are the conservation areas of the future?"

If we want to ensure that conservation areas will be around for the next fifty years then consensus-building needs to begin locally on their importance and vulnerability. A good start would be an audit of conservation area appraisals and boundary reviews carried out by Scotland's 32 local authorities over the last ten years. ■



The Scottish Civic Annual Conference, 50 Years of Conservation Areas in Scotland, organised in partnership with the Institute of Historic Building Conservation, takes place on 27th November, in the Trades Halls, Glasgow. Visit www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk for details.



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Article: Aberdeen's Granite Legacy

Lucy Sumner, Planning Consultant at Halliday Fraser Munro and member of the Scottish Young Planners' Network Steering Group, discusses future-proofing Aberdeen's Heritage.

Aberdeen's heritage is one that has been enriched by the North Sea's wealth of resources. It is a City which, for centuries, has been identifiable by the noble tones of granite that line its streets. Today, most of these granite tones exist just as they always have - perhaps this is thanks to conservation, good design and the careful reuse of materials. As planners, the importance of 'protection' and 'conservation' is instilled in us from the outset of our education and in practice, but the real challenge comes when we try to future-proof 'heritage' by achieving both its conservation and re-use.

In Aberdeen the oil and gas economy is quite often (and fittingly) described as either

'buoyant' or 'turbulent'. With its micro-economy, there is a common turnover in property within the City as oil and gas-based businesses' requirements change with the tide. This means that in periods of uncertainty, large numbers of people who live, work, and use the City are forced to leave - and it can take a long time to replace them.

Furthermore, many businesses once located in the centre of the City or the west-end office area are now seeking higher quality, more adaptable office space. This is something that is often difficult to deliver in historic buildings, constrained by little car parking and room for expansion. High-quality business parks have grown up on



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Photo credits -
Halliday Fraser Munro

the outskirts of the City in recent years, addressing a longstanding backlog of demand for quality commercial space. The people employed in these areas will inevitably follow, leaving the city centre behind, at a time when the strategic focus from the public and private sector is on the renaissance of the city centre.

But this opens up other opportunities. It is essential to diversify Aberdeen's economy beyond the oil and gas sector - and other sub-sea industries - in order to provide a more varied offer for people coming to Aberdeen to live, work or visit. This is vital for a more resilient environment, avoiding the 'peaks' and 'troughs' experienced with these principal sectors.

Halliday Fraser Munro has a complete planning and architecture portfolio in Aberdeen encouraging growth and investment in the City whether it is redeveloping historic buildings or promoting new sites. As reflected in the Aberdeen City Centre Masterplan (adopted in 2015), we recognise the importance of maintaining the City's appeal for business, residential, and tourism/leisure uses - and our clients recognise this too. We are often tasked with projects that require creative, yet commercially-savvy, solutions to ensure sites that are rooted in the urban fabric of Aberdeen become usable again whilst retaining their historic interest, and promoting Aberdeen's identity.

To encourage a varied economy, we must make historic buildings capable of accommodating a variety of uses; make them work again for modern purposes. A number of recent projects in Aberdeen City Centre combining 'old with new' illustrate this ambition:

- Marsichal College - the second largest granite building in world - is Grade A-Listed, and now acts as Aberdeen City Council's headquarters following extensive £80M refurbishment in 2011. It accommodates over 1300 employees who also benefit from the nearby city-centre services.
- Directly opposite Marischal College, on a 1.72 ha site, Marischal Square is a new mixed-use development currently under construction, comprising; office space, food and drink uses, hotel and public space. It is located in the City Centre on the site of the former 1960's St Nicholas House development and adjoins the A-Listed Provost Skene's House.
- A-Listed Triple Kirks also gained planning consent last year for major student accommodation development, following an

earlier permission for office use.

- The Capitol is a B-Listed former 1930's art-deco theatre now restored and redeveloped for 12-storeys of office accommodation to the rear of the iconic façade.

Although these are 'successful' case studies, it is important as planners to be mindful that

these examples have been made possible as a result of striking a delicate balance. This is not only a balance between 'conservation' and 'development' (which is sometimes the extent of our rationale), but a balance between

economically 'viable' and 'unviable'. The success of projects such as these therefore depends on a degree of compromise from both the Planning Authority (awareness of project viability) and the developer (in committing to higher costs to deliver high quality development).

Surely the re-establishment, re-use and future-proofing of heritage-rich sites is a vital component of 'sustainable development' - development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, who will continue to enjoy and use them for generations to come?

We should always hold our historic assets in high regard as these provide the context

“the real challenge comes when we try to future-proof ‘heritage’ by achieving both its conservation and re-use”

“We are often tasked with projects that require creative, yet commercially-savvy, solutions”



Provost Skene's House and Marischal Square

and sense of place to our built environment. A pragmatic approach is essential in striking that balance though - and Planners should be simplifying the process to ensure success for all.

The importance of development viability in planning today is now evident with the additional criteria included in the RTPI Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) process. Young Planners are now required to demonstrate an understanding of the 'Economic Context' of Planning. Perhaps an appreciation of historic development requirements should also be integrated into Continual Professional Development to

ensure best practice?

We are fortunate to be seeing brave and forward-looking regeneration happening in the City through projects like these. ■



Marischal Square

Article: Partnership and the Forth Bridge World Heritage Project

Photo credit - Fife Council

Douglas Speirs, Development Plan Archaeologist at Fife Council, explains why partnership working was key to achieving World Heritage status for a Scottish icon.

The Forth Bridge is a marvel of Victorian engineering, the pinnacle of 19th century steel bridge construction and arguably the greatest cantilever bridge in the world. It's no surprise then that it has won so many accolades. But the success secured in the 2016 Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning was not a recognition of the Bridge's engineering, aesthetic or cultural qualities. No, this was an award for the multi-agency public/private/community collaborative partnership that underpinned the success of the world heritage bid, a way

of working that has not only become the norm since the Bridge's inscription but one that provides a transferable lesson relevant to any large-scale heritage-led, place-making or regeneration project.

“Advancing the frontiers of partnership working - which is what happened- was never part of the plan”



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At its core, the nomination bid was a multi-agency partnership project with three objectives: secure world heritage listing; devise, resource and implement a long-term management strategy, and deliver wider socio-economic benefits. Advancing the frontiers of partnership working - which is what happened - was never part of the plan.

“Opposition groups were also invited to join to provide a fully representative picture of interests”

This was not the first attempt to have the Bridge inscribed. Its global cultural significance had been recognised as early as 2000, when there were attempts by Historic Scotland to have it inscribed. Back then, bids were driven mostly by central government, often with very limited local consultation. The result was a chequered history of success. Undoubtedly, the inscription of some of Scotland's more significant heritage sites was achieved, but usually without any wider understanding, buy-in or local support. The first Bridge bid was a good example of the unsustainability of this approach. It achieved Tentative List status in 2000 but then languished there for ten years for want of the will, resources and support to ever mount a full world heritage bid.

All this changed when in 2010 a short window of opportunity to nominate new world heritage sites appeared. By this time bids were driven locally rather than nationally, with costs being incurred primarily at a local or regional level. Moreover, the new more community engagement focused requirements of UNESCO and the greater interest in world heritage status more generally, had created a more competitive environment in which the costs and quality of each nomination were now significantly raised. Fife Council had nominated the Bridge, but delivering it would be a considerable challenge made no easier by the fact that the Department of Culture Media and Sport wanted a speedy move from proposal to full nomination bid.

It was quickly recognised that the bid could only be delivered using a multi-agency public/private/community partnership approach. Under the umbrella of the Forth Bridges Forum, Fife Council, the City of Edinburgh Council, Historic Environment Scotland, Transport Scotland, Network Rail

and the Forth Estuary Transport Authority came together to form the Forth Bridge World Heritage Nomination Steering Group. Local interests were represented on the Group by community councils and heritage groups from both sides of the Forth. Opposition groups were also invited to join to provide a fully representative picture of interests.

Strong leadership and a robust governance structure undoubtedly did much to underpin the project's success. But it was the diversity of experience within the partnership that ensured the wide spectrum of informed, innovative and original ideas that supported every stage of the project's planning, engagement and delivery. The formalisation of a Project Management Agreement (PMA), to address Development Management issues relating to the listed status of the bridge, is just one example of the many partnership innovations and legacies that could be cited.

The Bridge is a fully operational category A listed structure straddling two Planning Authority jurisdictions. Inevitably therefore there were, and still are, a number of competing interests in its management. Accordingly, Fife Council, the City of Edinburgh Council, Historic Environment Scotland and Network Rail, along with input from ICOMOS UK, collaborated to develop a Project Management Agreement (PMA) to ensure a streamlined, yet consistent and practical regulatory approach to change that respected the historic integrity of the Bridge (and satisfied UNESCO) yet did not unduly compromise the operational interests of Network Rail. The requirement for Network Rail to annually submit its list of proposed developments on the Bridge has done much to facilitate the process. Meanwhile the commitment within the PMA to define the length of time taken to process applications amounts, in effect, to a joint Processing Agreement between the applicant and the

“The Bridge is a fully operational category A listed structure straddling two Planning Authority jurisdictions”

determining planning authorities. All of this has been made possible by partnership, by trust and sharing experience. Cross-authority supplementary planning guidance has been another approach developed through the bid. Using Edinburgh's established experience of view cone visual impact analysis, Fife, West Lothian and the City of Edinburgh have now all developed landscape setting supplementary planning

guidance to safeguard key views to the Bridge, yet another demonstration of the partnership working and sharing of knowledge that has become the hallmark of the Bridge nomination bid.

In the same vein, partners on the Forth Bridges Forum's Tourism Project Group, under the guidance of Visit Scotland, are now developing a sustainable tourism strategy which will set out a framework for the promotion of the wider Bridgehead area as a tourism destination. A Forth Bridges Tourism Business group has also been established with partners from both sides of the Forth working collaboratively to develop and promote joint offerings to visitors to the area. A number of local people have even been appointed as Forth Bridge Ambassadors and are working to share their passion and knowledge of the Bridge with schools, visitors and other interested groups.

There's no suggestion that the true potential of partnership working has yet been reached. But, the story of the Bridge world heritage bid does hint at the shape of things to come; a world where partnership is the norm. It is an approach championed

“A number of local people have even been appointed as Forth Bridge Ambassadors and are working to share their passion and knowledge”

by government, increasingly a prerequisite of funding bids and often now reflected politically. Quite simply, mixed skill-sets and pooled resources are more effective,

they deliver greater innovation and are more resource-efficient. Partnership then is a tried and tested method, not always easy to deliver, but one shown by this project at least to produce better results than traditional unilateral planning approaches.

The Forth Bridge World Heritage Project was a winner in the SAQP 2016 Partnership category. ■



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Article:

Heritage and planning reform

Jo Robertson, Senior Policy Officer at Built Environment Forum Scotland looks at what the planning review could mean for heritage.

What can we anticipate in a forthcoming Bill on Scotland's planning system? In particular how will proposals affect Scotland's historic environment? The recent Government consultation focused on four main areas for reform – plan-making, empowering communities, building more homes and delivering infrastructure, and stronger leadership and smarter resourcing.

In reviewing BEFS' member responses, it is apparent that there is support for a planning system that inspires, is influential, enables development to happen in the right places and is outcome-focused. This will require an enhanced status for planning as a corporate function within local authorities and improved spatial alignment between the National Planning Framework, Local Development Plans and Community Planning Partnerships, with community planning given a stronger place dimension. There is support for the aspiration to involve communities and the proposed Local Place Plans (although these will require significant capacity building at local level).

There is arguably an inherent tension throughout the consultation document in its ambition to involve people while, at the same time 'streamlining' the system. BEFS would like to see greater emphasis within the Bill on how the planning system delivers for the existing built environment – proposals are currently weighted towards housing and infrastructure delivery.

BEFS will be following the Bill as it progresses through the Scottish Parliament later this year. On specific proposals BEFS will:

- Resist the proposal to remove provisions for statutory supplementary guidance, since this guidance is crucial in informing development. The proposed loss is particularly concerning within the context of extending the plan review cycle to ten years.
- Agree with the Scottish Government that planning permission in principle should not be afforded to sites allocated in the Local Development Plan, due to concerns over resourcing the necessary upfront environmental assessments. The proposal to release more 'development ready' land for housing has raised similar concerns around resourcing archaeological investigations to ensure that the historic environment, over 90% of which is not statutorily protected, is appropriately managed through the planning process. BEFS will be seeking dialogue with civil servants over the meaning of 'an evidence base for local development plans [that is] more streamlined and effective', and on the proposed removal of the blanket restriction for simplified planning zones in conservation areas.
- Argue for stronger enforcement. The Government-commissioned research paper on this theme reports that much enforcement is informal and makes a

number of recommendations, including the need for conditions that are enforceable and the need to tighten regulation around securing retrospective planning permission.

- Argue for land value capture for public good: Research commissioned by BEFS endorses the Government's view that an infrastructure first approach is key to solving the challenges of housing development, but argues that an infrastructure levy is not the solution. Rather, it calls for a system of land value capture which could, for example, unlock around £8.6bn of additional funds for the Edinburgh City Region alone, to finance infrastructure over the next 20 years. ■



Nicolson Square

Update: Scottish Government News



The formal consultation period for the **Planning Review**, Places, People and Planning closed on 4 April. The 470 responses, which are available online at <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/planning-architecture/a-consultation-on-the-future-of-planning/>, are currently being analysed independently. The analysis will inform decisions by Ministers on what should be included in future legislation.

The policy development process is being supported by a range of research projects. Published reports on: planning permission in principle for sites in development plans, 3-D Visualisation, barriers to planning enforcement, options for an infrastructure levy, skills development, barriers to involvement in planning, progressing a graduate intern scheme and shared services can be viewed online at <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/planning-architecture/reforming-planning-system/>

Ongoing research covers validation, simplified planning zones, permitted development, strategic environmental assessment and comparative planning (appeals and examinations). Reports will be available on the above link on publication.

In collaboration with Young Scot, the Scottish Government funded a survey of the views of children and young people on planning places. Having considered the applications, the report on the views of over 100 children and young people will be published shortly.

Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning 2017
This year saw nearly 40 applications for SAQP2017. The applications came from across Scotland. The judges have shortlisted over half the applications, with details available soon on the Scottish Government website. Interviews and site visits will take place in September with a ceremony to be held in Edinburgh in early November. Follow [#SAQP2017](#) on twitter to keep informed of progress.

RTPI National Awards

Congratulations to all the winning and shortlisted Scottish projects of the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence 2017. This included in the Excellence in Planning for Well-Being category, a joint submission by The Scottish Government, NHS Health Scotland and Architecture & Design Scotland on The Place Standard. The results were announced on 15 June 2017 <http://rtpi.org.uk/briefing-room/news-releases/2017/june/>

Legislation

Environmental Impact Assessment

The new Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 came into force on 16 May 2017 and can be viewed at www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/102/contents/made The Regulations transpose the requirements of the amended Environmental Impact Assessment or 'EIA' Directive into the Scottish planning system. Planning Circular 1/2017, which offers practical guidance on the 2017 EIA Regulations, supersedes the previous EIA Planning Circular 3/2011. It can be viewed at <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/05/6292>

Fees

On 25 April 2017, the Scottish Government published an analysis of the consultation on raising planning fees <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/consultation-raising-planning-fees-analysis-consultation-responses/> Having reflected on all the detailed comments within the responses and on other discussions as part of our engagement with the planning review, it has been decided to raise the fee maximum for major applications across most categories of development to £125,000 and for applications for permission in principle to £62,000.

The Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications and Deemed Applications)

(Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017 came into effect on 1 June 2017. They can be viewed at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/120/contents/made>

Telecomms

Following publication of Research on Permitted Development Rights and Planning Guidance for Electronic Communications Infrastructure, we consulted on detailed legislative proposals for the further Relaxation of Planning controls for Digital Communications Infrastructure. The analysis of consultation responses was published on 25 May, with legislation laid in Parliament on 2 June (due to come into force on 31 July).

Below is a link to the analysis of responses and to our development management web page, which has links to the legislation and a note of the changes:

Analysis of Responses - <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/consultation-relaxation-planning-controls-digital-communications-infrastructure-analysis-responses/>

Development Management web page - <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/planning-architecture/development-management/>

Seventh annual report on the operation of Section 72 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

The report, which can be viewed at <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/climate-act-report/> provides information and conclusions on how well section 72 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 has been implemented over the course of the last year.

Our national policy position is explained, and policies on greenhouse gas emissions and low or zero carbon creating technologies are set in the context of how they affect strategic and local development plans. ■

Update:

RTPI Scotland Update



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

President's Visit

The RTPI President, Stephen Wilkinson (pictured), visited Scotland on 18 and 19 May. He saw how Dumfries and Galloway Council put into practice its own lighting policy in the Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park; the construction of the Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary and the regeneration of Dumfries town centre. He also visited a range of inner city regeneration and large-scale housing projects in Glasgow. These included several Transformational Regeneration Areas including the New Gorbals and Lauriston Regeneration Area, the former Commonwealth Athletes' Village, and Sighthill.



President's Visit

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

Media

On 19 May the Director of RTPI Scotland was on the Stephen Jardine show on Radio Scotland discussing the future of new towns.

Social Media

The @RTPIScotland twitter account now has 3023 followers and the @ConvenorRTPIS account has 985 followers.

The following have been posted on the RTPI Scotland blog:

- Getting to grips with SketchUp – what do planners have to gain from 3D modelling?
- Adapting to Climate Change in rural Scotland – learning from the USA
- Making an infrastructure first approach a reality
- Making Local Place Plans work – collaboration rather than conflict
- The Local Government Elections – What is being said about planning?

They can be read at www.rtpiscotland.blog

Sir Patrick Geddes Commemorative Lecture

The Sir Patrick Geddes Commemorative Lecture 2017 was held in the early evening of 7 June in The Lighthouse, Glasgow. Naomi Eisenstadt, Independent Advisor to the Scottish Government on Poverty and Inequality, gave an wide ranging and thought provoking presentation on "Poverty, Places and Equality: A role for place based approaches?". You can read more at www.rtpi.org.uk/scotland

Deaths

We regret to announce the deaths of the following RTPI members;

- Mr Robert Walter Thomson BArch RIBA MRTPI(Rtd), Glasgow
- Mr Graeme Ewen Ballantine MA DipTP MRTPI(Rtd), Auchterarder
- Mrs Joan Munro MRTPI(Rtd), Inverness
- Ms Elaine Murray BA MRTPI, Drymen

EVENTS

Participatory Land Use Planning and Integrated Environmental Management

The UK's Ecosystems Knowledge Network is running a CPD-level training course on participatory land use planning and integrated environmental management on 6th September 2017 in Glasgow. It is being delivered by Collingwood Environmental Planning Limited who developed and conducted the participatory land use planning exercise in the Pentland Hills. The course will enable participants to understand when participatory land use planning might be useful and why, as well as how to put it into practice. For more details, see <http://ecosystemsknowledge.net/events/training-participatory-land-use> A 15% discount for RTPI members is available by entering the discount code RTP15.

The Scottish Compulsory Purchase Association (CPA) National Conference

Compulsory purchase is a major tool in land assembly and is used to deliver major and high profile projects in Scotland. However the system groans and frustrates promoters and causes despair and anger from claimants. It is in this backdrop that the CPA Scotland poses the question; where is best practice and how do we achieve it? At the same time, reform is coming to Scotland. The Scottish Government committed in its recent Programme for Government to taking forward improvements to CPO in advance of legislation, with a particular focus on bringing vacant and derelict land back into use and facilitating the delivery of housing. Details at <http://www.compulsorypurchaseassociationscotland.org/scottish-cpa-national-conference-2017.html> Non Members price: £100 + VAT valid until 30/06/17 (use promotional code NM1109); Full Price £130 + VAT

Update:

HOPS



Jim Birrell, Planning Review Programme Manager, Heads of Planning Scotland (HOPS).

Recent planning activity has been frenetic and the agenda has been all about “root and branch”, “gamechangers”, “repositioning” and a “once in a lifetime” opportunity to radically change the planning system. As an integral part of this proposed planning renaissance HOPS was tasked by the Government with a series of discrete workstreams. These are now all completed, and the outcomes summarised below.

Validation

We have produced a national standard for the validation of planning and related applications. This is designed to speed up the process by using a standardised checklist, therefore reducing referral back rates to applicants and agents. The standard is being shared with other professional bodies with a view to endorsement and will be formally published shortly.

Shared Services

While quite common in England, adoption of shared services has been slow in Scotland. HOPS has highlighted examples from both nations showing how shared services can be used in partnership approaches and joint commissioning where councils agree on common ground and outcomes. Resources and expertise can be shared to good effect. But, we have cautioned that they are not a “silver bullet”.

Permitted Development (PDR)

PDR can be extended across all classes of development provided there is a proportionate balance between more freedoms and amenity and environmental considerations. Advert Regs and Use Classes also need refinement and brought up to date. HOPS has set out a possible 3 tiered approach for the forthcoming Consultation Paper on PDR including some radical options from previous research papers for wider assessment.

Fees and Performance

HOPS submitted a comprehensive Input Paper setting out clear views on new income streams and the need for linked performance enhancements. Full cost recovery and income to be guaranteed to the planning service were the key recommendations.

HOPS also submitted full responses to the Independent Review Panel Report and the Scottish Government consultation paper Places, People and Planning. We also updated the Planning Performance Framework guidance and hosted three workshops across Scotland to look at improvements.

The next 12 months will be equally challenging but HOPS will continue to play a key part in the consideration of options and proposals to ensure that its three strategic goals of “repositioning, streamlining and resourcing Planning” are achieved. hops@improvementservice.org.uk

Update:

Scottish Young Planners' Network



On 22 March we welcomed over 120 delegates to the Scottish Young Planners' Conference 2017, held in Stirling for the first time. The conference tackled 'The Skills that Young Planners Need to Succeed', and the whole steering group was delighted with the high attendance and inspiring debate on the day.

We are pleased to welcome four new members to our steering group this year, from diverse backgrounds across the public and private sectors. These posts were oversubscribed with applications of the highest standard, leading to tough decisions for the steering group in casting their votes, and demonstrating how the strength of our network grows year on year.

New members also means we say a fond farewell to some valuable steering group members. Thank you and best wishes for the future to Emma Fitzgerald, Lorna Sim, Malcolm White and Alex Candlish.

Looking forward, we have a busy year ahead with an ambitious events programme in the pipeline.

Our new Vice Chair, Alasdair Adey, will be representing the SYPN at the 3rd European Climate Adaptation Conference, to be held in Glasgow 5 – 7 June. Alasdair will share a plenary speaking session with representatives from the UK Committee on Climate Change, the New York City Mayor's Office and the Lisbon Deputy Mayor's Office. This is a great opportunity for us to promote the positive impact that planning can have at an influential international climate change conference.

On 25 May we will be supporting the Scottish Young Lawyers' Association, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Matrics Edinburgh, and the South East Scotland Chapter at their Interprofessional Networking Event in Edinburgh.

And before the summer is out we will of course be inviting you all to join us on 11 August for our SYPN Summer Social.

Lesley McVeigh, SYPN Chair 2017

Tickets now on sale for Young Planners' Conference 2017!

The North West England Young Planners Committee will be hosting this year's Young Planners' Conference - Healthy, Happy Places and People: Planning for Well-being. It will take place at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester on the 3rd and 4th November 2017. Tickets are now on sale and we are booking up fast so ensure you get in early and start planning your visit to this vibrant, cosmopolitan city! View the programme and book your ticket at www.rtpi.org.uk/ypc2017

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.

Since the formal consultation on the Scottish Government paper Places, People and Planning closed in early April, we have been busy engaging with a further diverse number of policy consultations and Parliamentary Committee calls for evidence. The review of the National Transport Strategy is in its early stages, and the Scottish Law Commission has opened a consultation on its tenth programme of law reform.

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 contribute to our responses to national consultations.

THINKPIECES

As well as submitting a substantive response to the Scottish Government consultation Places, People and Planning, RTPI Scotland has prepared a series of thinkpieces, advancing ideas on how to implement some of the Government's aspirations for the planning system. The following thinkpieces are available to read on our website:

- A Statutory Chief Planning Officer in Local Authorities
- Making an infrastructure first approach a reality
- Making Local Place Plans work – collaboration rather than conflict

Thinkpieces tackling Local Development Plans and housing will be published soon.

NATIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY REVIEW – CALL FOR EVIDENCE

The Research and Evidence Working Group of the National Transport Strategy Review has published a call for evidence to support the policy-making aspects of the review. Quantitative evidence is sought on economic growth and inclusive growth; transport mode choice and demand; environmental impact of transport; active travel; safe and resilient transport; transport governance, and; potential changes in society and technology.

SCOTTISH LAW COMMISSION TENTH PROGRAMME ON LAW REFORM

The Scottish Law Commission is seeking submissions for consideration for the next programme of law reform. The criteria by which areas for reform will be selected are:

- Importance, the current law should be unjust or out of date, with benefits to be gained from updating it.
- Suitability, the issue should be legal, not political, in nature.
- Resources, the likely demand on Commissioners, legal staff, and potential need for consultants.

POLICY RESPONSES

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

- Scottish Government National Transport Strategy Early Engagement Survey
- Scottish Government Consultation on the Future of the Scottish Planning System, Places, People and Planning

- Scottish Government Consultation on Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies, and Regulation of District Heating
- Scottish Parliament Local Government and Communities Committee Call for Evidence on the High Hedges (Scotland) Act 2013
- Scottish Parliament Local Government and Communities Committee Call for Evidence on City Region Deals
- Scottish Parliament Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee Call for Evidence on Air Quality in Scotland
- Scottish Government Consultation on the Scottish Energy Strategy: The Future of Energy in Scotland
- Scottish Government Consultation on a Draft Onshore Wind Policy Statement
- Talking 'Fracking'; A Consultation on Unconventional Oil and Gas (Scottish Government)

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