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Community Engagement - 50 Years Post Skeffington

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Editorial

2019 is already shaping up to be a busy year here at RTPI Scotland, with the development of a new 10 year corporate strategy, the commencement of our new research strategy and impending changes to our website and Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system - helping evolve the way we manage relationships, information and data. Of course this is going to be a critical year for the Scottish planning system with the anticipation of parliamentary scrutiny of the Planning Bill at stage 3. We are continuing to work tirelessly with key stakeholders to help influence the Bill as it moves to stage 3, and help shape a future planning system that can help deliver a successful, happy and sustainable country.

A key aim of reforming the Scottish planning system was to better empower communities and get more people from a wider cross section of society involved with planning. As the great Jane Jacobs once

said: "Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody." This is particularly fitting in light of the 50th anniversary celebration of the publication of the seminal Skeffington Report, a groundbreaking document arguing for the full inclusion of public scrutiny and debate in the planning system. To celebrate this landmark, issue 177 is dedicated to highlighting the innovative and diverse community engagement work going on across the country.

On a related matter RTPI Scotland is only as strong as the input from our membership is and we aim to continually reflect on and re-evaluate our offering to respond to the feedback we receive. Due to high demand expressed for a more sustainable solution to packaging we are delighted to announce this issue is arriving to you in a new biodegradable cover.

— Robbie Calvert, Co-Editor

Convenor's Comments: Time, Empathy & Resources - A pathway to effective community engagement



Julia Frost
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Julia Frost, Convenor of RTPI Scotland 2019,
outlines her commitment to advances in
professionalism and community engagement.

Hello

I am delighted to be RTPI Scotland Convenor for 2019, having been involved with the RTPI throughout my 20 year planning career in the public, private and third sectors. I've been active in the Northern, West Midlands, and West of Scotland Branches, Scottish Executive Committee, as an APC Assessor, and judge in the RTPI Awards for Excellence. I feel privileged to be involved in a profession that supports its members so well and encourage you all to get involved in your local branches and chapter committees. There is so much going on and RTPI Scotland needs you, as members, to take an active role. RTPI Scotland has achieved a great deal over the last year in influencing and engaging with the Planning Bill, and I'm very much looking forward to a positive and eventful year ahead.

My theme for this year is professionalism. The duty placed on Local Authorities to appoint Chief Planning Officers in every planning authority in Scotland will put planning in the spotlight – and it is great to hear that the Scottish Young Planner's Network is already thinking about the 'Chief Planners of the future' at their annual conference this year, which I am looking forward to chairing.

The RTPI is recognised and respected worldwide as a body promoting

professionalism in planning, and this professionalism will be key to keeping us at the top table and making our voice respected and valued. I'll be working with HOPS, the private sector, the young planner's network, RTPI chapters, and the RTPI global planning network to champion the planning profession and seek endorsement of the value of membership, to grow membership, and to more closely link it with career progression.

I'll be promoting World Town Planning Day on 8 November, its 70th anniversary, through a live worldwide twitter feed. I'd also like to spark interest in setting up a Scottish International Planning Group to encourage debate and interest about global planning issues and the value of RTPI membership worldwide. As a planner who spent time living, working and travelling abroad, this is an area close to my heart.

Another area of planning close to my heart is community engagement – the theme of this edition of Scottish Planner. As many of you will know I work for PAS, and feel passionately about involving communities in the future of their places. Community engagement, like the planning profession, needs to be adequately resourced, and there needs to be more awareness that effective engagement takes time, empathy and the sharing / developing

of skills. I'm pleased to see mediation being considered as a means to encourage constructive dialogue.

We've been talking about involving communities in planning for a long time – the Skeffington Report on 'People and Planning' is 50 years old this year – but times have changed (has anyone else noticed that the introduction to the report starts with the word 'Gentlemen?') and I feel we're in a new era of public awareness of the need for communities to recognise their future is in their hands, within the framework of a supportive planning system. We need to strengthen the involvement of all members of a community in planning, including young people, for the good of society. To quote the Skeffington Report: "The education of secondary school children about aspects of community life offers the best foundation for worthwhile participation in the years to come...(to)...make children conscious of their future civic duties...(and to)...extend beyond schools to ensure that education about planning matters is part of the liberal and civic studies..".

I look forward to meeting you throughout the year and to helping raise the profile of our wonderful profession.

My very best wishes, Julia



Image courtesy of Glasgow City Council

Article: Growing the Place: Glasgow's Canal Regeneration

Heather Claridge, Principal of Spatial Strategy & Projects - Glasgow City Council, explores some of the projects and activities which have supported the transformation of Glasgow's Canal Corridor and illustrate the strong collaborative approach to planning and development.

Introduction

Successful urban regeneration takes time. It requires good partners and an adaptable approach. It must work with and nurture local agency. And it should operate effectively at all scales from the macro to micro. Of course, this is an overly simplified depiction of what is often a very complex process. Yet these are some of the key elements which emerge clearly within the story, thus far, of Glasgow's Canal regeneration, a project which received the highest recognition at the 2018 Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning.

Glasgow's Canal Corridor regeneration has been strategically guided by the Glasgow Canal Regeneration Partnership. Operating in some form for the last 10 years, the core partnership was renewed in 2015 to include - Scottish Canals, Glasgow City Council and BIGG Regeneration.

Collectively, these organisations have helped assemble and curate much of the strategic activities and financial investment in the area. Although dealing with uncertainty is a challenge for any development partnership, the Canal Regeneration alliance has actively promoted the corridor as a place for the urban pioneer to innovate and experiment. This culture has not only manifested itself in the wide spectrum and scales of organisations who have relocated to the Canal, it has helped forge a new identity for the area as an emerging creative quarter and has generated the establishment of a local Canal Cooperative in early 2018, which now formally includes over 12 local organisations.

During the last five years, the strategic partnership has helped set the conditions for the area to develop. This has been aided through the use of a range of planning engagement techniques and policy tools and

Heather Claridge
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Services. Glasgow
City Council



has successfully moved forward projects focused on new housing, urban nature, infrastructure and activities to foster a greater sense of place. A snapshot of some of these projects are discussed below.

Port Dundas Charrette & Dundashill Masterplan

In 2014, the Port Dundas charrette was undertaken and this identified the former distillery site 'Dundashill' as an opportunity for large scale residential-led development. In 2015, building on this concept, a masterplan for the 6 hectare site was produced for Glasgow's Canal Regeneration Partnership. This set out a development which will provide 600 new homes, including a small pilot scheme of custom-build. The development of the masterplan was supported by Architecture and Design Scotland's design review process and in summer 2015, an

additional design competition was held to source ideas for potential art infrastructure for the site, which could generate clean energy.

The partnership approach helped contribute to the business case for Glasgow's City Region City Deal investment, resulting in a contribution of over £5 million towards site remediation. In addition, around £3 million investment will be made over the next few years to connections and public realm improvements along this part of the canal corridor. The partnership approach, looking beyond the red line boundary of the development, will help transition this gateway area from industrial in to a future mixed use residential community.

Canal Hamiltonhill Development Framework and Claypits Local Nature Reserve Improvement

In 2015, the creative arts led charrette (titled 'What Float's Your Boat') was held to establish a new vision for the next stretch of the Canal corridor, north-west of Port Dundas. This involved the communities of Hamiltonhill, Firhill, Woodside and Applecross Basin. During late 2015 and 2016, the partnership worked collaboratively to help evolve the outputs of the charrette in to a solid planning strategy - Canal Hamiltonhill Development Framework, which would strategically support the future development of this area.

The overarching themes within the development framework included:

- Providing an accessible and meaningful linear park along the Canal Corridor.
- Celebrating the unique heritage and culture of the area through respecting archaeological and historic structures and integrating new art and cultural elements.
- Creating an active travel network, including new canal crossings, to provide better pedestrian and cycling connections between communities.
- The provision of sustainable homes and neighbourhoods, offering a variety of house and tenure types, integrated with local green infrastructure.

Following ongoing local engagement to help finalise the Framework, in November 2016, it secured Council Committee endorsement, awarding it material planning status. As a result, this has helped enable planning applications to come forward for the environmental enhancement of the Hamiltonhill Claypits, (designated Local Nature Reserve status in May 2016); the creation of a new bridge link across the Canal, linking communities on the north bank to facilities in the south-west, including a new Health Centre; and the development of a masterplan for Hamiltonhill for 600 new homes over the next 10 years.

The Dundashill and Hamiltonhill developments, along with Sighthill, Cowlares and Maryhill, will contribute to 3000 new homes planned for North Glasgow over the next 10 years. Supporting the delivery of new housing on brownfield land is the construction of a 'smart canal', a first for Europe.

Smart Canal

Glasgow's 'smart canal' is one of the most innovative aspects of the canal regeneration story. This £17 million project is being delivered through a specific partnership between Glasgow City Council, Scottish Canals and Scottish Water and guided through the long established Metropolitan Glasgow Drainage Partnership. The project will use predictive meteorological technology to provide advanced warning of heavy rainfall. Following this, sensor technology will trigger a lowering of the canal water level to create the necessary increase of capacity for surface water run-off.

The capital funding for this scheme has been secured through a range of sources, including Glasgow City Region City Deal, the Green Infrastructure Fund administered by Scottish Natural Heritage and funding from Scotland's 8th City - the Smart City.

Test Unit Programme

Yet it is not just the strategic partners leading on the area's regeneration. Test Unit is a canal-based professional summer school which was developed in 2016 by a local creative agency, closely involved in the establishment of the Glasgow Canal Cooperative. The purpose of the school is to explore cross-disciplinary approaches to city development. Through an intensive week, the programme aims to turn 'talk into action' by testing ideas in public space. The summer school has been running for the last three years and typically inhabits an underused space and learns through engaging with ideas, materials, people and place.

Throughout the running of the programme, the Glasgow Canal Regeneration Partnership has actively supported this locally calibrated approach by providing seedling funding, helping secure leases and by offering expertise in to the themes explored. In addition, for the last two years, Glasgow City Council has funded places for three members of the Planning Service to participate in this grass roots initiative.

Glasgow Canal Festival

In addition to supporting the physical transformation of the area, the partnership has helped the Glasgow Canal Cooperative and local organisations to foster a greater

sense of place. In July 2017, the first ever Glasgow Canal Festival was held within the section of canal between Applecross Basin and Port Dundas. This was successfully designed, organised and delivered by the wider partners including support from local businesses. The family focused, free event involved a wide range of activities to showcase the built, natural and cultural heritage and to reflect the ethnic diversity of the area, particularly the large Chinese population.

The festival programme included a range of activities such as Chinese crafts; dragon boat racing; guided tours of the creative Whisky Bond; pirate mini-boat build with Glasgow

Tool Library; Queens Cross Housing Association community stall; a makers market and creative workshops; sculpture club workshop; educational talks on natural heritage of the canal; and walking theatre.

“£3 million investment will be made over the next few years to connections and public realm improvements.”

The 2017 festival attracted over 2,000 attendees, including a mix of people who live, work and visit the area. In August 2018, the second of Glasgow Canal Festival was held, building on the strong local partnerships development and was able to attract over 5,000 visitors to the area. The festival was held in conjunction with the canal-side Youth Urban Games event, as part of main programme for Year of Young People.

Reflection

Overall, without the collaboration and strategic governance of the area, the scale, pace and diversity of initiatives, would not have materialised. With the establishment of the Glasgow Canal Cooperative and the delivery of major infrastructure projects, the next 10 years of partnership working in the canal corridor will be equally as creative, transformative and locally calibrated. ■



Image courtesy of Glasgow City Council

Q&A

Public Enquiries



Dr Dumiso Moyo
MZIRUP, MRTPI, FHEA
Academic Lead-
Urban Planning:
University of Dundee

Dr Dumiso Moyo, Academic Lead-Urban Planning: University of Dundee answers our questions.

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

I have been very lucky with the collective generosity and selflessness exerted from the professionals I have encountered in my career. From the beginning of my career in planning I had a unique inspiration from Bulawayo City Council (BCC) the second largest city in Zimbabwe. This local authority has a culture of inspiring its young talent to study for varied built environment professions through provision of higher education scholarships. I had never heard of the word 'town planning' until BCC introduced it to me through a scholarship advert in the local press.

I met a host of inspiring lecturers during University, followed by years of working with one John Manley, who shaped my professional career in public sector planning and property development through his intoxicating drive for impactful planning and planning for a reason. My PhD supervisors inspired me to think in alternative ways and that has been a valuable acquisition.

In academia, I was inspired by Barbara Illsley for her amazing mentoring qualities and great love for planning education. I am also constantly inspired by the talented planning students I have taught over my career, coming from a wide array of professional backgrounds. Being part of future planners' transformative journeys is inspiring in itself and I am always looking forward to the arrival of new planning students from across the globe.

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

Issues facing planners in a global context are many and varied. However, I would say one leading concern is lack of recognition of the role planning plays in making a difference to society. The historical milestones of the identity of planning in relation to concerns to public health and social justice were much more discerning to society than the blurred identities that are adopted in contemporary times that do not resonate much with society. The challenge is thus the need for a professional renaissance. What do planners do that matters in the collective of societies? This remains fuzzy in public perceptions.

3 Why is planning important?

Planning is important for its ability to offer certainty in the world of uncertainty. Planning achieves this through collaborative and cumulative flexibility of promise into the future. Society needs that promise as planners participate in design and reinvigorating places for present and future societies.

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

Those interventions that make a difference to society, with positive impact that passes the test of time. This cannot be achieved by planners on their own but planning can be a catalyst to creation of great places.

To my mind, the best planning I have seen are planning led low income housing development projects in developing countries that provided housing to the poor, and passing the test of time through intergenerational access to housing for such underprivileged communities. Great places must promote affordable homes and enhanced community living.

5 Are there any specific issues planning schools are experiencing that concern you?

Yes, many of them. Firstly there are no more 'planning schools' as used to be and this has implications for planning education. Notably, too, is significant drop in numbers of students with interest to study planning. Such low planning student uptake is in the backdrop of sustainability models at Universities that give priority to high recruiting courses creating big challenges for planning schools and planning education. The resource allocation to small planning schools is a complex jigsaw to manage. Seeing more students from Scottish high schools taking up planning as a career, is a major challenge for the planning profession. ■

Immaterial Considerations

An irreverent look at the world of planning...

Book of Note #1

We loved the tweet from Julia Frost explaining how she had been looking for a notebook to help her through her year as RTPIS Scotland Convenor (see above/ below). The chosen item looks to be very appropriate!

Book of Note #2

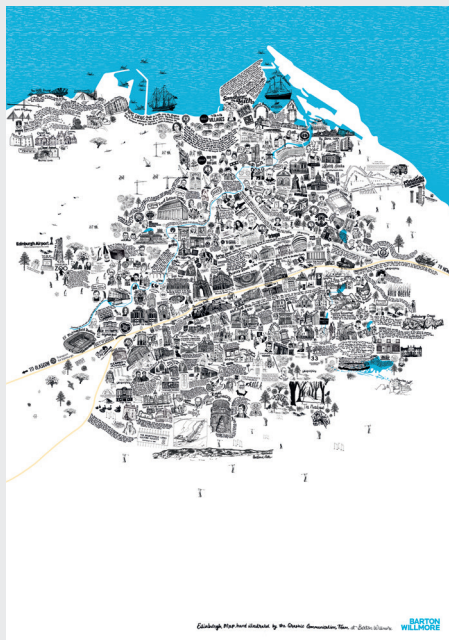
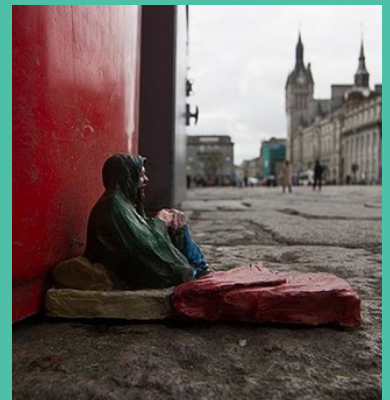
Those of you who are members of the Twitterati may have noticed a number of planners recently tweeting about their favourite books. This has been promoted by the 7 day book challenge which gets people to post photographs of the covers of books that are important to them. This is prompted a number of planners to highlight a wide range of literature from classic novels, children's books, comics and even books that have been written by relatives. Suffice to say a number of influential planning books have been posted including *The Death and Life of American Cities* by Jane Jacobs; *Britain's Lost Cities* by Gavin Stamp; the *Scottish Illustrated Architectural Guides* published by RIAS; *Townscape* by Gordon Cullen; and *Planning* by Neil Collar. So what are your favourite 'planning' books? Do let us know

Plastic Fantastic

The Herald recently reported that a Scottish company is attempting to square the issue of road maintenance and scourge of plastic pollution. MacRebur say they have come up with a way to turn plastic bags into hard-wearing roads which last more than 60 per cent longer than normal. And they don't form potholes. The company is taking its next step, by opening its first factory in Lockerbie. All roads may lead there...

Small Wonders

We were intrigued by reports of 15cm sculptures appearing in cities across Europe – including Aberdeen – as a social commentary on the spaces they inhabit. Isaac Cordal's project *Cement Eclipses* produces the miniature street art and, so it said in the Guardian. "they often represent a social stereotype as a critical observation on capitalism, power and bureaucracy." These tiny cement figures can be found in cities across Europe, sitting on top of bus shelters or drowning in gutters, small interventions in the big city. The artist says that "Nowadays there is a fear of not being seen in the public realm, so everything is always big and bold. We become a product of this and do not focus in as much. I think it is good to pay attention to small details and my work is a reward for those who do." You can see his work on the Instagram account @isaaccordal.



Mapping Out Edinburgh

This journal's designer Barton Willmore have been busy recently, creating a hand-illustrated map of Edinburgh in conjunction with Invisible Edinburgh, a charity that works with people affected by homelessness and trains them to become walking tour guides. Comprising over 300 drawings the map will be available for purchase soon.

Watch this space!



In Focus:

Understanding Obesity Prevention and the Impact of Place-Making

Shruti Jain explores how planning can help promote healthy communities

Today the majority of the Scottish population have excess weight. 29% of adults and 13% of children aged 2 to 15 years old have obesity, and even more are overweight and at high of risk of obesity later in life¹. While figures in Scotland are no longer rising as in previous decades, alarmingly we still have some of the highest rates of obesity in the world².

The challenges of the obesity epidemic are complex. Fuelling the problem is the availability of cheap energy-dense, ultra-processed food and drinks, and a built environment that causes physical inactivity and sedentary lifestyle³. Our environment influences our behaviour every day, considerably impacting on our health.

In July 2018, Scottish Government published A Healthier Future - Scotland's Diet and Healthy Weight Delivery Plan⁴ and A More Active Scotland: Scotland's Physical Activity Delivery Plan⁵. The UK Government published Childhood Obesity: a plan for action Chapter 2⁶. These documents recognise obesity as a pressing public health and policy concern, and include a wide range of measures to tackle the issue. Proposals, such as tackling junk food advertising and restricting promotions, move beyond traditional education and behaviour change strategies, to take important early steps to change the environment around us. Individual-focused changes are necessary in obesity prevention, however must be supported by actions that bring about wider changes if we are to make an impact^{3,7}.

Local authorities and communities can respond to the obesity challenge through licensing, planning and shaping the local environment.

They can ensure access to safe, attractive and well-maintained greenspace and facilities which can help to increase the opportunities for outdoor play, walking, cycling, and physical activity. Reducing the convenience of driving short distances, increasing walking and cycling in our neighbourhoods, towns and cities, and improving connectivity between the places where we spend most of our time can support individuals to lead more active everyday lives. Regular physical activity can reduce the risk of obesity, serious conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, some

cancers and improve mental health⁸.

Planning and licensing can also help to limit the availability of unhealthy food outlets^{9,10,11}. The evidence suggests increased exposure to fast food outlets increases the likelihood of weight gain, and the availability of these is higher in our more deprived areas^{12,13,15,15}. 32% of adults living in these areas are obese, compared to just 20% of those living in the least deprived areas.

The effect of the food environment around schools on diet is complex, however schools are well-placed to ensure children both eat and learn about healthy foods and work with local authorities to shape a healthy environment, including the control of junk food outlets nearby^{10,11,16}. 77% of pupils, in a survey of Scottish schools, said they bought food or drink beyond the school gate at least twice a week, with chips (purchased by 26.1% top of the menu¹⁶). The number of young people leaving school to buy food and drink during the school day increased to more than 90% of pupils at some of the most deprived schools included in the study¹⁶.

Significant action is needed across society to ensure that our environments encourage healthier behaviours and address weight-related health inequalities prevalent in our communities. Planning has a critical role to play in preventing overweight and obesity. Investing in planning and place-making can have a positive impact on our behaviour, and contributes to protecting and improving our health.

We need to act now to create environments that enable healthy food and physical activity choices for everyone. ■

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¹⁵Macdonald et al. (2018). Do 'environmental bads' such as alcohol, fast food, tobacco, and gambling outlets cluster and co-locate in more deprived areas in Glasgow City, Scotland?.

¹⁶Kapetanaki et al. (2015) The influence of deprivation and food environment on food and drink purchased by secondary school pupils beyond the school gate.

Scottish Obesity Alliance is composed of leading national health charities, medical royal colleges, campaign groups and professional bodies with an interest in health and public health, who work with the available evidence-base to identify policy solutions to reduce rates of overweight and obesity in Scotland.

For further information, see obesityactionsotland.org



Shruti Jain
Scottish Obesity Alliance Coordinator



Image courtesy of West Dunbartonshire Council



Pamela Clifford
MRTPI Planning
Services Manager
West Dunbartonshire
Council

In Practice: Better Elected Member Engagement

Pamela Clifford, Planning Services Manager at West Dunbartonshire Council discusses the implementation of pre-application Elected Member Briefings.

Most Councils are committed to greater openness and transparency in decision making and better levels of engagement with elected members. However elected members, who are an important part of the planning process, frequently only get engaged at the end of the process. Recognising this shortcoming, in 2012 we first agreed the principle of involving members at the pre application stage and allowing developers access to them. Central to the principle was the development of a protocol for the process and agreed procedures for the meeting. This was further strengthened by updated guidance issued by the Scottish Government in conjunction with COSLA and the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life.

Some members in the past have expressed anxiety about participation in pre-application consultations as it could be perceived as pre-judging an application or compromising their impartiality. However raising an issue late in the process can result in unnecessary delay and additional costs which can have a major impact on employment generating or significant regeneration development.

Councillor Diane Doherty Vice Convenor of Planning – “I have found the pre-application meetings a very helpful addition to the planning process as it provides a format to see the projects at the early stages and to get

more information in a more informal setting. I felt I was able to ask questions and get more details of the proposals which will help when the projects are presented to the Planning Committee.”

The central element of the engagement process is a meeting which is led by planning officers and brings together elected members with developers/agents. A briefing note is prepared by planning officers which sets out the planning policies and identifies the main issues. The meeting is chaired by a Senior Planning Manager so it has a different feel from a Committee meeting. Developers make a short presentation and an opportunity is then given for Members to ask questions and seek clarification on various issues. This allows developers and elected members to engage with one another in a structured yet informal setting. Members who are not part of the Planning Committee also have an opportunity to attend the briefing and are able to raise issues which they otherwise would have no mechanism to do so.

The feedback from developers is very positive as often they are frustrated by issues being raised late by the Committee, resulting in unnecessary delay and additional costs.

The types of development being presented to the elected member briefing includes affordable housing, a marine fabrication business, a food store, waterfront path, and

health care centre. By providing information at an early stage and identifying issues this leads to better and quicker decisions and better places. The Elected Member briefing has now become embedded in the pre application stage in West Dunbartonshire and sits alongside the Place and Design Panel.

Feedback on the briefing from developers and their agents has been very positive:

Gary Smithson Senior Project Development Manager Hub West Scotland - “It is refreshing to be invited to present a scheme in the form of a briefing to the planning authority and elected members. The process provides a fantastic opportunity to hear first-hand of the local issues as designs are being developed. This process provides developers with an early understanding of the key issues to be addressed which in turn supports effective and efficient overall project planning.”

Jonathan McQuillan Associate Anderson Bell Christine - “The briefing process was extremely useful for such a politically sensitive location. It allowed the design team insight into the issues that may have otherwise remained unclear until the planning committee meeting was held. It also afforded elected members the opportunity to ask questions directly of the design team, hence streamlining the process.” ■

Article:

50 Years Since Skeffington



Image courtesy of PAS

Michael Kordas, PHD Candidate and Teaching Assistant at the University of Glasgow discusses how community engagement has progressed in the post-Skeffington decades.



Michael Kordas
MRTPI, PhD
Candidate and
Teaching Assistant
at the University of
Glasgow

“We want the paper of the plans to come to life; and to come to life in a way that people want.”¹ Such was the expressed goal of the Committee on Public Participation in Planning, chaired by Arthur Skeffington MP. The Commission’s 1969 report is often credited as something of a turning point towards involving communities in shaping their places. The Skeffington Report recommended that local people should be encouraged to engage throughout the plan making process. It was published contemporary to Acts establishing the statutory notification and representation procedures still familiar to practitioners today.² Beyond these practicalities, the report also recommended fostering trust with communities, by providing further guidance on the unique remit of the planner’s charter.

As Harold Wilson had proclaimed the ‘white heat’ of change earlier in the decade, so the very nature of planning had been forged anew in the post-war years. These had seen the figure of the planner transform from that of a social reformer to a ‘heroic’ professional whose discipline spearheaded the provision

of new housing, infrastructure and community facilities under the auspices of the ‘public interest’.³ While the Skeffington Report alluded to the emotive nature of the planner’s role in these developments, it was criticised for missing the essential impacts of plan making on people and places. Contemporary reviewers highlighted the constraints and opportunities changes in land use imposed on life chances and attacked the complacency of the report, in recommending that conflict be avoided by planners ‘educating’ the public.⁴

Despite these reservations, the post - Skeffington decades in Scotland saw local people engage in the planning and development of their places in new ways. These changes were issued from both the ‘top down’ and the ‘bottom up’. To take Glasgow as an example, the centrally funded GEAR project set up shop directly in the City’s East End, allowing the person on the street to get information from and take their concerns directly to,

“A cornerstone of the ‘process’ of getting to such a place was also seen through encouraging effective collaboration between professionals and communities.”

the planners. At the opposite end of the spectrum, West End residents organised around improving their housing stock and undertaking small-scale environmental improvements. These actions challenged the post-war idea of 'development', as something proceeding from state and industry alone, with a new one of partnership between civil society, the public and private sectors.⁵

Despite exceptions to the rule such as these, the statutory core of the planning system as late as the 1990's, remained orientated around increasing the opportunities for objection and formal representation.² In Scotland in the last twenty years however, much has changed: at least in theory. Devolution in 1999, itself the result of a call for more localised democratic accountability, was accompanied by several investigations of what planning could be like under a revived Scottish Parliament. Some used the opportunity to call for a comprehensive overhaul of the system⁶ Others did not see the need for root and branch reform, but remained enthusiastic on the prospects for a distinctly Caledonian agenda on the built environment to emerge.⁷

The early 2000's was a particularly active time in this respect. Revision of the core planning principles in 2000⁸ was followed by a White Paper on participation in planning in 2002⁹. These laid the groundwork for a far more comprehensive review, in the 'Modernising the Planning System' White Paper of 2005¹⁰. Steps toward making participation the rule rather than exception were also being taken within the urban design sphere. The then Planning Minister Sam Galbraith's challenge "where are the conservation areas of tomorrow" issued in November 2000,¹¹ led to Designing Places. Most planners are likely familiar with the six qualities of a successful place as a 'product' defined in the document. However, a cornerstone of the 'process' of getting to such a place was also seen through encouraging effective collaboration between professionals and communities.

The years that followed saw planners and designers experiment with various methods of involving local people. One local authority operated a touring exhibition while others published a series of newsletters outlining the emergence of their local development plan. Adding to these efforts were those of non-governmental organisations with the Macaulay Institute trialling virtual reality technology to help the public visualise windfarm developments¹² and the Prince's Foundation holding several of its Enquiry by Design workshops. The first year of the 2010's

saw Government supported charrettes arrive in Scotland, facilitated by Prince's Foundation Fellow Andrés Duany. These were followed up by the SSCI Charrette Mainstreaming Programme of 2011, of which the current Making Places Initiative is a direct successor. The provisions of the Planning Bill have added to the impetus, with community led design events funded by Making Places providing a prototype for how Local Place Plans might be developed.

Nevertheless, an enduring criticism of these processes of community led design and planning 'by event', has been that the intensity of the initial sessions all too often dissipates due to a lack of follow up action.¹³ In the course of my own research into

“When planners are honest about what can and can't be achieved, this is also likely to help repair trust.”

participative planning and design, I have encountered many organisations and individuals within communities who are reservoirs of commitment and local expertise. However, for these strengths to be realised within the place making process, further support is often required. Some community organisations

have commendably scoped, secured funding for and then commissioned charrettes or community led design events in their areas. However, their journey towards getting the results incorporated into policy after the photo calls and tweets have faded from view has not always been a smooth one.¹⁴ These experiences risk further eroding an already fragile trust in both planning and planners¹⁵ and pose the question 'why participate at all?' to local people. Unlike at the time of Skeffington, public authorities no longer come to the table with the resources to drive development forward. Planning services in Scotland have faced sustained funding cuts over the last decade and have also shed almost 25% of their staff in this time¹⁶

Within this climate, it is very much the 'less with more' that offers an avenue to bring planners and communities together. My research shows how some of the most recent community led design workshops have sought to focus engagement around key local assets, be they blue or green spaces. The events have involved planners and other professionals getting out of their offices, and even the traditional participation venues of community centres and church halls, and hitting the street or shopping centres instead. The goal has then been to generate a series of modest interventions that the community could foreseeably take forward in partnership with the public sector and businesses in the area. Achieving this goal involves facilitators balancing aspiration against reality. For example, should a series of small 'quick win'

local environmental projects be prioritised against the 'big ticket' pieces of infrastructure that often top the wish lists of local people?

Finding such a balance can be challenging. However, when planners are honest about what can and can't be achieved, this is also likely to help repair trust. Echoing recent best practice perspectives in this journal, the events have been at their best when they have stepped away from the formalities of the planning and development system and have focussed on a wider experience of place.¹⁷ As such, they signpost a future for participative planning and design that can hopefully make the paper, or increasingly the digital content, of plans and design statements 'come to life' in the way envisaged fifty years ago. ■

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Article:

Gypsy Travellers



Alan Seath MRTPI
Owner Alan Seath
Planning Consultancy

Alan Seath, Owner of Alan Seath Planning Consultancy highlights the need for planners to acquire greater knowledge and understanding of the Gypsy Traveller communities.

The 1969 Skeffington Report, “People and Planning”, was a response to the belief that public consultation was a gesture. Written during a time of major development there was a lack of community involvement. Today there are ways for everyone to become involved in the planning system.

In my 46 years in the planning profession I have experienced change in public participation and dealt with many subject matters but one area where views have not changed (much) are those centred around the Gypsy and Travelling people. Planning cases in this area of my work continues to test my skills, knowledge and abilities as this community remains one of the few seldom heard voices. What makes it even more difficult is that Gypsies and Travellers, who are recognised as an ethnic minority, are still the subject of the “last acceptable form of racism”. So, what can be done?

To make informed planning decisions policy makers and decision takers need to have a clear understanding of any subject matter. However, a lack of understanding of the culture and lifestyle of Gypsies and Travellers, together with a lack of joined up thinking remain as barriers to progress. Myths and fears associated with Gypsies and Travellers still prevail as those objectors that shout the loudest (usually the minority) are listened to most.

Making a difference to the lives of this community requires strong leadership and improved communication underpinned by improved knowledge. Policies that are fairer and equality tested are needed to guide informed decision making. Policies seeking to exclude and/or segregate people are unacceptable.

Relying on planning policy is only part of the solution. The planning acts states that developments should be: “in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.”

In effect policy is “handrails” not “handcuffs”. So, matters such as human rights, need and demand, personal circumstances and the “Best Interests of the Child”, amongst other material considerations, can be used to inform planning policy and decision making. Case law supports this argument. So, why the need for change?

It is well documented that the health and wellbeing of the Gypsy and Travelling community is poorer than those in the settled community. In some cases, life expectancy is 10 years less. Evidence suggests that providing a place to stay and travel from provides benefits to mental and physical health. Most private sites are pleasant, well managed and secure places that extended family groups of Gypsies and Travellers can call home.

Sir Patrick Geddes said the role of any designer is: “To affect in the transformation of culture through education.”

The Place Standard Tool allows planners and others to design places to improve people’s health, wellbeing and quality of life.

Gypsy and Travellers have an in-built ability to find land and establish places which are distinctive, safe and pleasant, easy to move around, welcoming, adaptable and resource efficient. Utilising their skills and with an understanding of lifestyle and culture my work has led to affecting transformation for families.

However, there remains an inequality of approach to meeting need and demand. Development plans deliver choice in the housing market while Gypsies and Travellers have limited and very poor options, including unauthorised and public-sector sites. Unless meaningful change takes place, we will continue to fail the Gypsy and Travelling people.

Recent Parliamentary debates (attended by Gypsies and Travellers), changes to the Planning Bill, a Government 10 Point Plan and proposed national guidance represents progress. The hope is that this trend continues at national and local level with meaningful changes having the ability to improve the lives of Gypsies and Travellers. ■

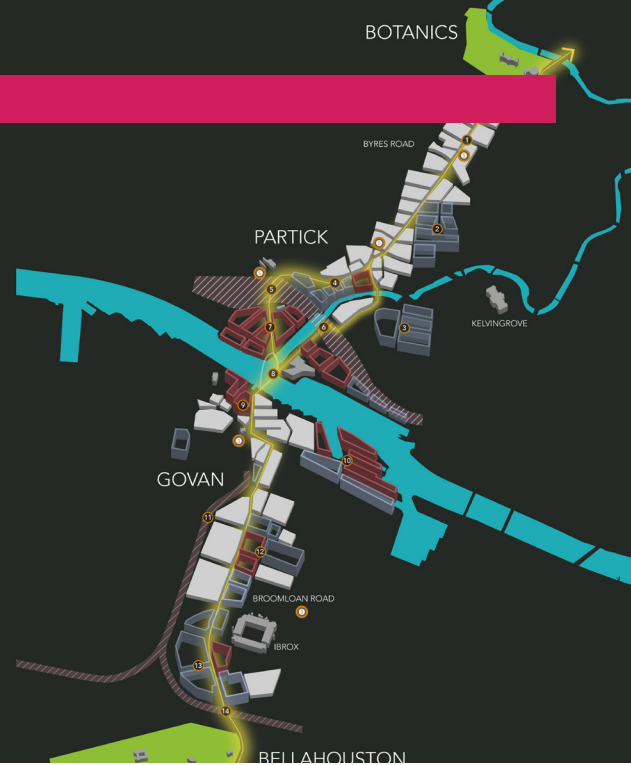


Image courtesy of PAS

Article:

Post-it Notes to Touch Screens and Everything in Between

Michael Ward of Barton Willmore reflects on lessons learnt delivering community engagement of all shapes and sizes.



Images courtesy of Barton Willmore

Engagement has always been a part of planning and urban design that I have enjoyed. It can be challenging but it has become an increasingly important part of the process. It provides the opportunity to present and shape your vision. Discussing and testing your ideas with people that often know the site better than you is a hugely positive part of the design process. The approach to engagement, its methods and techniques, are constantly evolving but the basic premise and core principles will remain the same; be clear, be open, be honest and be prepared to listen because constructive feedback and dialogue is the whole point.

These principles were instilled during my early years as a planner and urban designer which saw me benefit hugely from involvement with Glasgow's Transformational Regeneration Areas, where sensitive and thoughtful engagement was both necessary and embraced by all those involved. Since then, at Barton Willmore, I've carried out engagement on harbours, power stations, new towns and regeneration plans, all of which have confirmed that these basics will always stand you in good stead.

Further to this, some practical things I have learnt are:

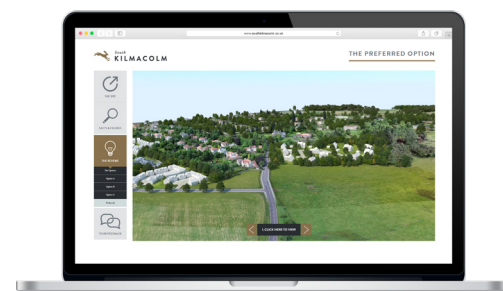
- **Go to where people are** (you can't just expect them to come to you). During the Annan Regeneration Masterplan, we organised pop-up interview stations across the town. The voices and images recorded were produced into a short film which was projected onto the high street after the annual 'Christmas Lights Switch on'. Seen by half the town, the event generated a huge swell of interest

that helped us to engage more widely and effectively throughout the remainder of the project.

- **Build momentum locally.** For both the Govan Partick Charrette and Thornliebank Charrette we devised and refined a pre-charrette stage ahead of the main charrette. At Govan Partick we used wide spread local advertising on radio and in newspapers, posters in the underground, on-street filming, interviews in the back of a branded tuk-tuk and a dedicated website (www.govanpartick.com). Not only did this make the community aware of the project and how to become involved, but it provided valuable local knowledge and early ideas.
- **Record and Report.** Doing this effectively and honestly provides important transparency and legitimacy to an engagement process. The Govan Partick charrette report was particularly successful in distilling ideas and concepts into manageable and understandable chunks. A series of 'five big ideas' and 'five wee ideas' were focussed into three broad concepts which have been carried through into Glasgow City Councils SPG.
- **Embrace Technology.** Most recently I have been able to test and use Barton Willmore's BW:X digital engagement platform which uses interactive technology. It has been hugely interesting to see how people react to, and interact with, material presented in this way. For example, the use of large touch screen might seem 'flashy', but by literally reaching out and touching the screen it becomes more engaging. Importantly, the interface through which the public can engage at these events can also be launched concurrently

through a dedicated website. This proved very successful at a recent event in Kilmacolm where a greater proportion of questionnaire feedback was gathered through the website than at an event with nearly 1,000 attending. Interestingly, I have found this helps provide a voice to the silent majority who can often be drowned out by the vocal few at public events.

One size does not fit all, but whether it is a public exhibition, a workshop, a charrette, a projection event, a gala day, post-it notes or interactive touchscreens, the same principles apply. Be clear, be open, be honest and listen. ■



Michael Ward
Urban Design
Associate
Barton Willmore



Image courtesy of HES

Article: Our Kirkwall, Our Heritage

Chloe Porter, David Ferguson, Stuart West and Mindy Lynch talk about the collaborative project between Orkney Islands Council, PAS and HES - 'Our Kirkwall, Our Heritage'

Overview

In November and December 2018 Historic Environment Scotland (HES), Planning Aid Scotland (PAS) and Orkney Islands Council (OIC) delivered a partnership project with young people in Kirkwall. Here we give our different perspectives and detail what we got from the project.

The HES Perspective

When we asked the people of Scotland to say what the historic environment means to them as part of our "What's Your Heritage?" consultation, we identified a gap in Scotland for recognising places in the historic environment that are important to local communities. Not all places that are identified as important to the people living in an area will meet the criteria for designation, and formal designation status is not always a desired outcome. However, we wanted to use the fact that last year was the Year of Young People to test with a younger audience what they see as important to them, and what implications that might have for both our work and that of local authorities.

The OIC Perspective

The Planning Service at Orkney Islands Council has been working to engage better with young and hard to reach groups in recent years. A series of policies and projects has begun to flow from the newly-adopted Kirkwall Place Plan, which itself was born from the 'Your Kirkwall' programme delivered by PAS. OIC Planners were keen to come together with partners at HES to learn more about which historic spaces and places were valued by the younger generation to better understand how to plan for their future.

How PAS made it happen

HES and OIC jointly commissioned PAS to deliver a community consultation project in Kirkwall that built on earlier consultations. Some of the key aims of the project were to encourage new and alternative thinking about which types of places should be recognised in the

future, and to capture how these places can be valued and potentially incorporated into development plans.

The 'Your Heritage Kirkwall' workshops were designed specifically to engage with young people, and understand which local places were important to them. We asked a group of 20 students of varying ages 'When you think about Kirkwall, which places and buildings are important to you? Which ones make you feel proud and have special meaning for your community?'

We also asked the students about how they would like to acknowledge, celebrate and protect the places that they identified.

The workshops delivered by PAS contained a set of fun, engaging activities to encourage discussions around heritage. The students started out by working in groups to

decide what heritage they would like to take to Mars, to remind them of their culture and traditions. The winning idea was ceilidh

"Heritage goes beyond national designations and communities need to be given a voice."

dancing! Through the use of mood boards they also produced a list of around 15 local 'sites' which were important to them and their community.

The young people were also asked to generate a set of 'Key Questions' to evaluate and prioritise their list of local sites. They used the following questions to arrive at a short-list of 5 top sites: What is its significance? What's its story? What do the locals know about it? What would a visitor understand of it?

What the Young People Told Us

The young people in Kirkwall gave us some very useful insights into their thinking processes around local places that matter to them. The 'sites' that were prioritised ranged from outdoor spaces for enjoyment, to activities held in a particular place with an historical background. These included the 'Big Tree,' which stands in the middle of the high street, the Tankerness Gardens, the Peedie Sea, a warehouse building on the waterfront that they would like to see repurposed, and the school plays that are annually performed at the Bishop's and Earl's palaces.

The young people were not interested in the usual characteristics that typify a protected site, such as the fabric of a building, who built it, or even the rarity of the place. Instead, they were concerned with identifying how they could convey the story of the place. They were interested in sharing this within their community, but also with visitors who might otherwise walk past and not realise that what they were seeing was of tremendous local importance.

This led to discussions around the possibilities of commemorative plaques, the creation of site records in the HES website

Canmore, and video recordings being added to archival collections, as a way of starting to capture and record the places of local value.

Planners at OIC have been particularly impressed with the vision and enthusiasm that younger people display when they are truly listened to and given a voice. With the momentum that has been gained, it is critical that the outputs of the engagement are reported back and that people can see how they are making a difference. It is particularly important that engagement with young people is meaningful and that they believe they are being taken seriously. The last thing that planners would want is for young people to develop into adults with any negative perceptions of what we do.

This project was an unmissable opportunity to return to those young people that had taken the time to contribute to the 'Your Kirkwall' Place Planning exercise to demonstrate that the Council had heard what was important to them and were taking on board their views. It is the goal of the Planning Department at OIC to further strengthen the bonds that are developing with the leaders of tomorrow, and our future planners, in order to continue to work closely with them to preserve what they hold dear and to plan for the future of their neighbourhoods.

HES plans to use the outcomes from this work to shape how we develop our approach to local recognition. Our emerging policy document reflects the fact that heritage goes beyond national designations and communities need to be given a voice. This project tests what might be possible if you only give local people a chance.■



Chloe Porter
Casework Officer
HES



David Ferguson
Youth Programmes
Officer PAS



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Public Services
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Images courtesy of HES

Article: Digital Engagement Dundee



Image courtesy of Dundee City Council

Stephen Page, Planning Officer at Dundee City Council, talks about the various technological methods used to improve engagement across the city.

Stephen Page
Planning Officer at
Dundee City Council



It is widely acknowledged that a digital transformation is essential to delivery in the future, but innovative new ways of working are already in place throughout Scotland. Planning Officer Stephen Page discusses some of the elements that enabled Dundee City Council's digital engagement techniques to be recognised at the recent Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning.

First of all, we should not advocate large scale abandonment of traditional techniques. When thinking about how to engage stakeholders, it is still the case of selecting the most effective tools to fit the job. In Dundee, we have developed a range of digital engagement technologies to support the planning and development of Dundee Waterfront. As one of the largest physical regeneration projects in the UK, the extended timescale has allowed for the trialing and development of various digital engagement tools with time to learn from the results and transfer those lessons to other projects.

The Waterfront's digital approach acknowledged that we now live in a 24-hour society and that many people would benefit from the opportunities that new digital techniques present to help visualising concepts, ideas or drawings. To keep the public on board throughout this 30-year regeneration project there is a continuous need to engage both on new developments and on what is happening now.

The Waterfront website (www.dundeewaterfront.com) forms the core of that

digital approach. It offers a single platform for both investors seeking technical data, and for the general public to obtain accessible information on the transformation of this part of the city. Artist impressions from planning applications are hosted there to be shared on social media, further encouraging engagement and conversation. During construction, photos provided by developers or other contributors help inform people of progress. In the past year the website has received over 70,000 new visitors and is regularly quoted by local press.

Three dimensional modeling based on Sketchup software has been used to create visualisations of street-scenes and a video flythrough. Championed by Planning Officer John Gray during the masterplan stages this was initially tasked to illustrate building heights, varied layout options and sunlight paths. As the masterplan advanced, this quickly developed into a useful tool for communicating the scale of ambition to both the public and investors. With the assistance of external companies this had realistic textures applied and converted to a more lifelike video flythrough now hosted on YouTube. The model was also successfully used to create a virtual reality experience much enjoyed by young people taking part

in Scotland's National Digital Learning week – it's not every day a teenager describes Planning as awesome! If passing through Dundee's new railway station, pause for a moment in the ticket hall and you'll spot a 3D printed model of the Waterfront produced from this same software.

The activity has proven transferability, from initial work on the Dundee Waterfront to other areas of development activity within the City. More recently Dundee used this system to create a basic flythrough of the Broughty Ferry Flood Defence project in order to support the engagement work there. When combined with more traditional meetings, this did much to alleviate community fears that the work would have a negative impact on their community and historic foreshore.

The delivery of digital engagements has been demonstrated to be both flexible and wide ranging across the planning process and extending into other professions and activities.

Whilst some elements do inevitably incur additional costs, many can enhance standard working practices and bring additional benefits with minimal additional burden on the planning system. ■

"It's not every day a teenager describes Planning as awesome!"

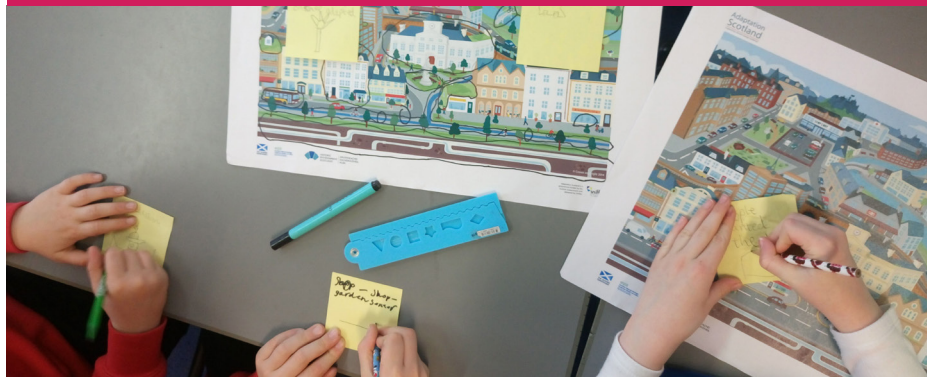


Image courtesy of PAS



Cllr Steven Heddle
Environment
and Economy
Spokesperson COSLA

Article:

How could powers and responsibilities be shared across government and communities?

Councillor **Steven Heddle**, Environment and Economic Spokesperson at COSLA reflects on community empowerment in an age of limited resources.

50 years ago, the Skeffington Report recommended that communities should be involved in shaping their places. In 2016 the Independent Review of the Scottish Planning System recommended significant improvements to improve early community engagement in planning. In 2017, the People, Places and Planning Consultation recommended giving people the opportunity to plan their own places. Much has changed in the intervening years, but the key theme remains the same; the importance of community empowerment in the planning system.

We keep having the same conversations and today, this conversation is taking place against a backdrop of diminishing resources and increasing demands. Planning services, like so many other essential services delivered by Local Government, have taken the brunt of cuts to local government spending, losing a quarter of the workforce over the last ten years. The challenges facing planning authorities today are in stark contrast to the time of Skeffington.

However the conversation today is also taking place against a setting of a wider discussion about community empowerment. Born out of the Programme for Government 2017/18, and with the intention to decentralise power to a more local level in Scotland, the Local Governance Review presents a huge opportunity to empower communities and citizens and deliver positive change. It focuses on strengthening local and

community decision-making and supporting them to focus on their priorities.

The Place Principle puts people and communities at the heart of planning their places. It recognises that, "Place is where people, location and resources combine to create a sense of identity and purpose, and are at the heart of addressing the needs and realising the full potential of communities. Places are shaped by the way resources, services and assets are directed and used by the people who live in and invest in them." The core of this is that all services, including planning, combine to work with, not in spite of, communities. Their empowerment is fundamental to the whole approach, and consistent with the wider agenda.

So how can we deliver on this agenda for enhanced community empowerment, particularly in Planning? Could the Planning Bill be the vehicle for wider change? As recommended by the Independent Review, the Bill creates provisions for Local Place Plans; a tool allowing communities to define the future of their place. The review went further, calling for communities to not just be enabled to make the plans, but to be, "supported to actively enable their delivery," with "community development trusts, community councils and other community groups playing an increasingly important role."

The devil, however, is in the detail. With the Bill's Financial Memorandum costing Local Place Plans at £9000 per plan it is unlikely that all communities will have the

resources to develop their own plans, and even less likely that Planning Authorities will have the resources to support and actively enable their delivery. Reform must empower all communities across Scotland rather than introducing a tool which exacerbates inequality. Disempowered citizens become dispirited, discontented and disillusioned, further alienating them from the plan making process rather than empowering them to shape the future of their places. The power to create the plan by itself does not empower communities, they need more support to engage with the system. The additional duties introduced by the Bill further complicate this picture, making it even less likely that Planning Authorities will have the resources to support communities' Local Place Plans. Unless significant changes are made at stage3, we risk this becoming a missed opportunity to put communities at the heart of the planning system.

COSLA have long argued for the principle of subsidiarity; that decision making should be made at the most appropriate level and as close to the citizen as possible. I can think of few better examples of this than empowering communities to shape their places. It is an ongoing ambition and one all stakeholders in local government share responsibility for. Skeffington may have envisaged it 50 years ago, but with the Local Governance Review, Place Principle and the Planning Bill, we now have the opportunity to deliver it within our communities. ■



Update: Scottish Government News

Planning Bill Progress

Stage 2 of the Planning Bill was completed on 14 November 2018. The Scottish Government is working with stakeholders to consider the impacts of the amendments agreed at stage 2 and how to ensure the final Bill delivers an improved, effective planning system. The Scottish Parliament has not yet set a date for stage 3.

Launch of SAQP2019

Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning recently launched the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning for 2019 at the Scottish Young Planners Network conference. Further details including the application forms and guidance are available at <https://blogs.gov.scot/planning-architecture/2019/03/19/scottish-awards-for-quality-in-planning-2019>

Making Places Initiative 2018-19

The aim of the Making Places Initiative and the Place Standard Conversations funds are to support and encourage communities to make use of the Place Standard tool as a first step to understanding and improving their place. Details of the successful applicants to the 2018-19 Making Places Initiative are available at: <https://www.gov.scot/>

[publications/making-places-initiative-2018-2019-list-of-successful-projects](https://www.gov.scot/publications/making-places-initiative-2018-2019-list-of-successful-projects)

Compulsory Purchase Guidance

Guidance for owners and occupiers who believe they may be affected by a compulsory purchase project was published on 4 February 2019. It can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/compulsory-purchase-scotland-guide-property-owners-occupiers>

Recent Notification Directions

In February 2019, the Government issued two notification directions that came into force on the 1st March 2019. These directions cover the notification of proposals for Gypsy/Traveller development and the notification of developments affecting historic battlefields.

The Gypsy/Traveller Accommodation Needs Direction will allow us to create a national overview of Gypsy/Traveller development activity that is in the planning system. Similarly the Historic Battlefields Direction seeks to inform our understanding of development in the planning system that has the potential to affect our historic battlefields.

Research Updates

A number of research projects are currently progressing including:

Adoption of Scottish Planning Policy in Local Development Plans - we have commissioned research exploring the impact of the Scottish Planning Policy which will help to inform the approach to the review following the Planning Bill.

Rural Planning Policy to 2050 - how can planning policy help to support strong and vibrant rural communities and economies in the coming years?

Scaling-up Place Standard - this research will inform future engagement with communities, the public sector, the third sector and the private sector.

Permitted Development Rights - the output from this project will inform the future programme to expand permitted development rights.

Details of completed projects can be found here: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/planning-architecture/latest>

Article:

Reviewing national planning policy

Preparation of National Planning Framework 4 will begin following the passage of the Planning Bill and it is expected that next NPF4/SPP will consider what Scotland will be in the future, looking ahead to 2050, and how policy can support the delivery of this vision. Early work on the development of the participation framework has begun. As with the previous review, we are taking the opportunity to develop the participation statement with the assistance of stakeholders. At this early stage, the main focus has been on investigating the potential range of techniques to be employed. We have also taken the opportunity to attend a number of events including:

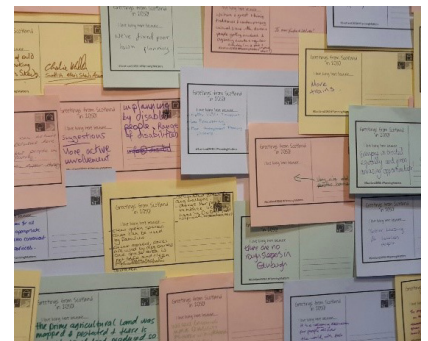
Rural Parliament, Stranraer, 14-16 November 2018 - workshops helped to raise awareness of planning policy matters generally and to explore how stakeholders might engage in planning processes. The event provided an early opportunity to gather views from rural communities, businesses, organisations and other interests. Learning from the workshops reinforced recognition of the range, complexity and inter-related nature of 'rural' policy considerations and how they inextricably link with wider policy agendas. This initial feedback

has helped input into further rural planning research.

The Gathering, SECC Glasgow, 20-21 February 2019 - a stand at the two days of The Gathering, the UK's largest third and voluntary sector event, providing information on planning reform measures. Delegates were invited to 'send a postcard' to describe the sort of Scotland they would like to see in 2050. Ambitions were categorised under themes that included: Inclusive & Social aims; Culture & Identity; Place Quality & 'Green' issues; Active Travel & Public Transport; Housing Aims; Climate Change; and, a Networked & Connected society.

Third Sector Interface Conference Murrayfield, 7 March 2019 - providing information on planning reform. Further opportunity to seek delegates views on engagement methods, particularly with community organisations.

We will be looking to attend events and to work collaboratively throughout the process. If you have any ideas or suggestions about our future engagement strategy, please contact us at: NPF4@gov.scot



Article:

Scottish Urban Students Forum, 7 February 2019

Colleagues attended the second annual Scottish Urban Students Forum which addressed the theme 'The Changing Face of Edinburgh' and brought together a panel of experts to discuss the impact of major development on the city's World Heritage Status, real estate markets and sustainability.

The panel was chaired by Lisa Proudfoot, Vice Chair of the Scottish Young Planners Network, and included a range of speakers from the public, private and third sectors. The discussion provoked lively debate about the future of Edinburgh.



All images courtesy of Scottish Government

Update:

RTPI Scotland Update



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Scottish Parliament Inquiry into Construction and the Economy

In February the Director of RTPI Scotland appeared before the Scottish Parliament Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee to provide evidence on their inquiry into construction and the economy. He warned that large scale infrastructure projects and construction-led economic growth in Scotland are at risk if under-resourcing of the planning system continues. Craig McLaren told the committee that there had been a 25% decrease in planning staff between 2009 and 2018, a 40% cut in real terms in planning service budgets and that Scottish Government's own estimates show that only 0.38% of local authority budgets will be spent on development management and development plans in 2018/19.

He added that failure to invest in the planning service risks delays in getting planning applications processed and development plans published to allow new homes to be built. He also called for new initiatives to support people to take up planning as a career such as apprenticeships. RTPI Scotland has pointed out in written evidence to the committee that the new Planning Bill, currently going through Parliament, adds 91 new and unfunded duties to local planning authorities and the Scottish Government, further reducing their ability to support construction and economic growth.

Engagement

RTPI Scotland has met with, attended or presented at the following:

- Scottish Government re Planning Bill
- Cleaner Air for Scotland strategy review workshop
- BEFS Planning Taskforce
- Scottish Land Commission
- SEPA Flood Risk & Land-Use Planning Working Group
- Key Agencies Group annual conference
- Scottish Alliance for People and Places working group

- Scottish Government Cleaner Air for Scotland Placemaking review group
- Planning Bill meeting with Minister organised by Scottish Alliance for People and Places
- Mackay & Hannah Conference re planning bill
- CivTech demo day
- High Level Group on Planning Performance Officers meeting
- RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence judging
- Oral evidence to Scottish Parliament Economy, Energy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee
- Scottish Government Joint Housing Policy and Delivery Group
- Audit Scotland and Improvement Service roundtable on planning resourcing
- DPEA Stakeholder Group
- HOPS Performance and Practice subcommittee
- Partners in Planning
- HOPS Executive Committee

COMMUNICATIONS

Social Media

The [@RTPIScotland](#) Twitter account now has 3813 followers and the [@ConvenorRTPIIS](#) account has 1263 followers.

Media

The following news release have been published:

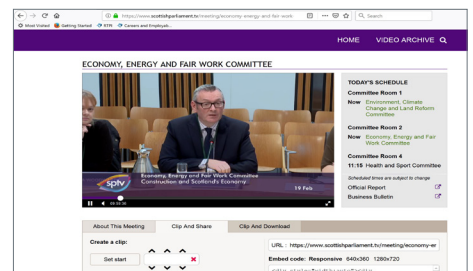
- 20 February - Construction sector to suffer from under-resourced planning, RTPI Scotland tells MSPs
- 4 February - Finalists announced for RTPI Awards 2019
- 4 February - RTPI launches ambitious research programme
- 30 January - RTPI study highlights the rise of the "austerity planner"
- 29 January - Training module launched to help planners protect ancient woodlands
- 24 January - We must speak up for planning, says new RTPI President
- 23 January - RTPI study opens debate in post-Brexit environmental planning

- 11 January - Student planners sign on for more at RTPI

AWARDS

Congratulations go to the Scottish projects, organisations and people who have been announced as finalists in the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence:

- Excellence in Plan Making Practice - East Lothian Local Development Plan 2018 submitted by East Lothian Council Planning Service
- Excellence in Planning for Health and Wellbeing - Cuningar Loop Urban Woodland Park submitted by South Lanarkshire Council
- Excellence in Planning for Heritage and Culture - Anstruther, Cellardyke & Kilrenny: Community Burgh Survey submitted by Fife Council; the Smiddy Centre of Excellence for Silversmithing and Jewellery submitted by Aberdeenshire Council; and Union Street CARS - Schools Shopfront Design Project - submitted by Aberdeen City Council
- Excellence in Planning for the Natural Environment - Stirling Enhanced Landscape Mitigation Project submitted by Ironside Farrar Ltd and Scottish Power Energy Networks
- Excellence in Planning for Homes (Large Schemes) - Dargavel Village submitted by Renfrewshire Council
- Local Authority Planning Team of the Year - Glasgow City Council and North Ayrshire Council
- Young Planner of the Year - Ailsa Anderson from Aberdeenshire Council



Update: PAS



Your expertise as a planner can have an enormously positive impact on people's lives. Our Advice Service volunteers continuously help individuals and community groups across Scotland, helping them to understand planning processes and resolve any problems. What might just take a short phone call for you can make all the difference to a member of the public who has no knowledge of the planning system.

We have a large number of volunteers who take part in our wider activities and place-based projects. However, we are specifically looking to recruit MRTPI planners to volunteer for our Advice Service. Over the course of a year, our Advice Service volunteers typically take on a minimum of six cases.

As an Advice Volunteer you can count your volunteering hours toward your continued professional development when you take on new cases and you develop in line with your own professional goals. We'll also invite you to our Advice Service Forum to share experiences, network and learn something new.

Volunteering for the Advice Service is convenient and flexible. The Advice Service team emails volunteers a summary of current enquiries. When you see something you feel you can help with, you simply respond and take the case by email. This then usually involves you arranging a short call with the client soon afterwards to discuss their enquiry. Once the enquiry is resolved, you send a short summary back to our Advice Service team. That's all it takes.

We are continually developing and improving the Advice Service process, based on feedback from our volunteers and clients, to provide an excellent service to communities across Scotland. Come and join us! Contact Erin at erin@pas.org.uk to find out more.

Update: HOPS



Jim Birrell
MRTPI
Planning Review
Programme Manager

Although it seems quieter on the Planning Bill front until Stage 3 starts in the spring, HOPS continues to work with RTPI and COSLA on mutual concerns around resourcing of the planning service, the financial impacts of 66 additional duties on councils and the uncertainty around key aspects of the Bill, including regional spatial planning, performance and rights of appeal.

HOPS participates in the High Level Group on Planning Performance and officers met up in February with Scottish Government, SOLACE, SOLAR, Key Agencies, RTPI and reps from Homes for Scotland and the Scottish Property Federation to explore options for performance measurement and evidencing planning outcomes. This vital performance area is a work in progress for us all.

During 2018/2019 HOPS carried out 3 critical surveys as input papers to the Scottish Government. We published the HOPS survey on Planning Skills. (<https://hopscotland.files.wordpress.com/2019/01/final-report-skills-and-shared-services-survey-october-2018.pdf>). The top 3 skills shortages identified were: Development economics, appraisals and viability, Design and Landscape Assessments and Capacity. HOPS also published its survey findings in February for fee increases for major planning applications (<https://hopscotland.files.wordpress.com/2019/02/finalised-hops-report-on-major-application-fees-040219.pdf>). It is clear that there was a major injection of fee income totalling £4.2m, with Edinburgh and Glasgow the main beneficiaries. 10 councils reinvested this money in efficiency and staffing improvements. Finally CIPFA and HOPS has just completed a follow-up to a 2014 survey on the costs of the planning service. It is a comprehensive breakdown of planning costs which were analysed in 12 councils. All 3 studies by HOPS are inter-linked and inter-related and need to be read together to better understand the different factors affecting planning costs and resources.

HOPS has updated its Communications Strategy to focus more on better communications with HOPS members and external contacts, including the media. As part of this the HOPS twitter account (@HeadsofPlanning) has been re-focused and tweets now appear on a regular basis for reading and retweeting! As part of this new strategy a series of focussed blogs has been produced to set out HOPS thinking on key activity areas, including its 3 strategic objectives – repositioning, streamlining and resourcing the planning system (<https://hopscotland.org.uk/blog/>).

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Update:

Policy Update



RTPI Scotland aims to lead thinking on 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.

We are always keen to receive comments from members on any policy issues. Please contact Robbie Calvert, RTPI Scotland's Acting Planning Policy and Practice Officer, on robbie.calvert@rtpi.org.uk if you would like contribute to our responses to national consultations.

PLANNING BILL

Stage 3 Parliamentary scrutiny of the Planning (Scotland) Bill is expected to take place in late spring. As outlined in last December's edition there are still several areas of the Bill that following stage 2 still remain unclear. There is limited opportunity to influence at stage 3 however RTPI Scotland has been working closely with key stakeholders to focus efforts on key priority areas:

- RTPI Scotland has published statistics to provide a resourcing context to the Bill and its 91 new and unfunded, additional duties resulting from stage 2. This shows that since 2009, planning authorities have seen 40% real term cuts to budgets and a 25% reduction in staff, with planning departments being disproportionately affected by cuts when compared to other departmental cuts.
- No amendments attempting to change the planning appeals system were successful at stage 2. It is likely that this issue will

resurface at stage 3 given that the votes on this at the Committee were close.

Instead of changing the appeals system, RTPI Scotland is instead advocating an enhanced community engagement package, through its membership of the Scottish Alliance for People and Places.

- The Bill, as agreed at Stage 2, retains strategic development plans though opposition parties indicated that they are open to discussion on new arrangements. RTPI Scotland is continuing to discuss a modified amendment, including a statutory link, and are seeking clarification around the synchronicity and timing of the new Regional Spatial Strategies and the NPF4.
- The current Bill contains two definitions of the purpose of planning, one referring to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the National Performance Framework and only applying to development plans. RTPI Scotland will continue to promote our original amendment that is more succinct and covers the entire system.
- Concerns have been raised about the workability and competency of the amendment containing provisions for land value capture. RTPI Scotland support the principle of land value uplift, alongside alternate methods of land value sharing, but feel that the models for this have to be explored further before implementation. We continue to support the provision for an Infrastructure Levy and would like to be engaged in discussions on its implementation.
- RTPI Scotland has always wanted to use the Bill as an opportunity to create a new positive support resource for planning authorities to improve performance. RTPI Scotland has advocated a Planning Champion to support skills and capacity building across the sector, and improve the

quality of community engagement.

- Provisions for Culturally Significant Zones (CSZs) have been introduced in the Bill which state that within 100m there is a presumption against residential development if it would place unreasonable adjustments on the operation of existing cultural venues, facilities and uses. RTPI Scotland recognise the value and cultural importance of music venues, but are concerned that CSZs could have a major impact of delivering residential infill and creating diverse communities, in our city and town centres.
- An amendment requiring a brownfield test on greenfield development has been introduced. Previously-developed brownfield land in built-up areas must continue to play a vital role for a range of purposes including housing. However planners must ensure all developments, be they on brownfield, greenfield or green belt, are in the right place, at the right scale with the right infrastructure. Both detail and scope of the amendment need further discussions.

OTHER CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Responses have been submitted to the following consultations and requests for written evidence:

- Construction and Scotland's Economy - Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee call for views
- Historic Environment Scotland Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Notes on Demolition of Listed Buildings and The Use and Adaptation of Listed Buildings
- SEPA Housing Sector Plan
- SEPA Strategic Infrastructure (Transport and Utilities) Plan

RTPI SCOTLAND CONTACTS



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Julia chairs the Scottish Executive Committee and the Scottish Forum for Planning. She also represents Scotland at the RTPI General Assembly

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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
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Responsible for policy development, responding to policy consultations, production of Scottish Planner, Scottish Young Planners' Network and communications. Co-Editor of Scottish Planner and the Secretariat to Policy Sub Committee.

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**Jennie Stansfield
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Events Administrator**

Jennie coordinates RTPI Scotland communications, including bulletins with information about chapter and national events. She is responsible for keeping the RTPI Scotland's website up to date, and assists with the delivery of CPD events.

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**Claire Pollock
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Claire has joined RTPI Scotland to help with our work influencing the Planning Bill

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The opinions stated are the contributors' own unless otherwise stated. The RTPI is not responsible for statements made or views expressed in this journal.

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The logo for RTPI Training features a stylized white cube icon above the text "RTPI Training" and "Royal Town Planning Institute".

Edinburgh courses

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and development finance,
14 March

Project management for
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SPCF

Scottish Planning Consultants Forum

The Scottish Planning Consultants Forum represents the private sector planning profession for both independent consultants and those employed by small and large consultancies. We have successfully engaged with both the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament on the Planning Review and the Planning (Scotland) Bill.

If you wish to find out more about the SPCF or be involved, please contact either John MacCallum or Stuart Salter.

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