



RTPI Cymru
Royal Town Planning Institute
Sefydliad Cynllunio Trefol Brenhinol

Annual Review 2017



Chair's Foreword

Planners in Wales have every reason to celebrate and should be optimistic about the future as we go into 2018. If you'll allow me to explain...

The Welsh Government recently published 'Prosperity for All' – the national strategy to deliver its key priorities for the rest of this Assembly term. Encouragingly, Prosperity for All recognises that the right planning system is 'critical' to delivering prosperity – which is about every one of us having a good quality of life, and living in strong, safe communities.

The 12 months ahead promise further change in practice, as implementation of 'Positive Planning' continues. Consultation on the National Development Framework and a new Planning Policy Wales are expected. In addition, the Wales Act 2017 and the new National Infrastructure Commission for Wales can strengthen the governance and strategic planning of major infrastructure. To coin a previous Chair, 'the stakes are [still] high'; and in response to each of these changes, 'our professional voice must be heard and the roots fed'.

The RTPI Cymru Management Board has agreed to incorporate the 'Diversity Pledge'

Management Board 2017

- Alan Southerby - Chair
- Tom Watson – Senior Vice Chair
- Huw Evans – Junior Vice Chair
- Allan Archer - Secretary
- Martin Buckle - Treasurer
- Peter Lloyd – Immediate Past Chair
- Charlotte Beattie
- Neil Harris
- Gareth Hawke
- Cath Ranson
- Alison Thomas
- Jane Jones – Technical Representative
- Rob Chichester – Associate Representative
- Jack Pugsley – Licentiate and YPC Representative
- Kate Davies – Student Representative
- Jane Coppock – Co-opted
- Aneurin Mon Parry - Co-opted

into RTPI Cymru's operating plan for 2018.

This will see RTPI Cymru take positive action to create a gender balance on its speaker panels at conferences and in the composition of the Management Board and Policy & Research Forum. The RTPI places equality, diversity and inclusion at the heart of its values and objectives. I hope that through a commitment, RTPI Cymru can create further opportunity for a diverse membership base in Wales, and in turn for a more inclusive and resilient planning system.

Congratulations go to Alan Southerby on a successful year as RTPI Cymru Chair. Each year brings a unique style to the Chair, and Alan has left the bar extremely high in terms of his accomplishments. Thank you also of course to Roisin and to this year's Management Board, particularly those who are stepping down next year for a respite.

I'm excited to become Chair, following six years of involvement with RTPI Cymru in different capacities including two years as Chair of Young Planners Cymru. I believe you get as much as you put into the RTPI, and I hope you can all gain something meaningful from the Institute in 2018.

Planners in Wales have every reason to celebrate and should be optimistic about the future as we go into 2018.

RTPI Cymru Staff 2017

- Rhian Brimble – Policy Officer
- Georgina Roberts – Administrator
- Roisin Willmott - Director



Tom Watson
RTPI Cymru Chair
2018

Championing the Planning profession.

Communications

We use our Twitter account to promote key messages and information. Our @RTPIcymru account has 744 followers.

During the year RTPI Cymru has given a number of presentations to conferences and events to promote our messages and ideas.

Cynllunio

Four editions of the RTPI Cymru journal – Cynllunio - were published in 2017.

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol

With the support of the Isle of Anglesey and Gwynedd Councils and RTPI members RTPI Cymru had a stand at the Mŷn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol in Anglesey, The stand gave us an excellent opportunity to talk to the public about the purpose and value of planning. We also had a number of people interested in careers in planning. Across the eight days we had 650 visitors, including 300 children using our model to plan their own places.

Media

RTPI Cymru has continued to provide information to the media and respond to enquiries about planning topics. During the year we have issued six news releases and the Director has done 1 TV interview for BBC Wales on S106.

We have seen increased coverage of Welsh issues and RTPI Cymru activity in The Planner magazine.

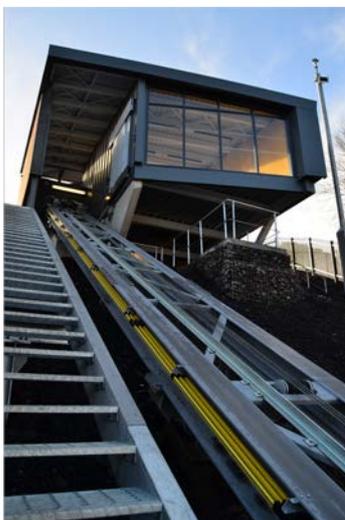
Planning recognised through OBE

RTPI Cymru Director Roisin Willmott, was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June for services to planning in Wales.

Capturing Planning in Images – Competition to Picture Wales

In partnership with the Planning Directorate of the Welsh Government, we ran a competition to seek out images of Wales illustrating planning, to collate a library of images for future Welsh Government planning comments, including the NDF and Planning Policy Wales. The winner and two runners up were announced in December.

“Congratulations to the winner. We look forward to using their photograph, along with others submitted, to illustrate the next edition of PPW and our new NDF for Wales.” Neil Hemington, Chief Planner, Welsh Government



Runner up in the photo competition: 'The Works Mech Link' submitted by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council



Runner up in the photo competition: 'Beach wheelchair Saundersfoot' submitted by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Supporting and Growing Membership.

New Members

We are delighted to welcome new members to RTPI Cymru and have over 1,100 in Wales working across sectors, organisations and roles.

President's Visit to Wales

The RTPI President, Stephen Wilkinson, visited Wales on 8 and 9 June. During the two days, Stephen spoke on the RTPI's vision for planning at the Wales Planning Conference and an event organised by Young Planners Cymru. He also visited Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre to see why it was one of the ten Wales Best Places, the National Trust site at Pont ar Daf, the popular but problematic access to Pen y Fan – the highest peak in southern Britain – before visiting the Royal Welsh Showground just outside Builth Wells to meet RTPI members and participate in a discussion about rural planning.

Career Promotion

RTPI Cymru staff regularly speak to Cardiff University students to promote planning as a career and the value of and pathway to professional membership.

Our members and staff engage with schools across Wales to promote planning and to talk about planning related issues.

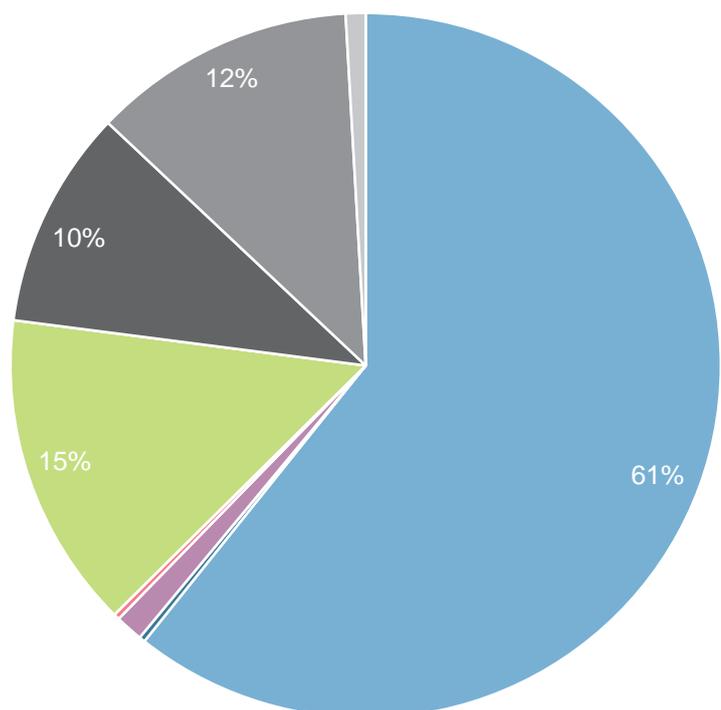
Stephen Wilkinson, President of the RTPI praised planners in Merthyr Tydfil after visiting the town centre on his visit to Wales. He was impressed with the wider economic impact the rejuvenation of the city centre was having.

RTPI Cymru Membership Figures 2017

Membership Class

- Chartered Town Planner
- Fellow
- Associate
- Legal Associate
- Technical
- Retired
- Honorary
- Licentiate
- Student
- Affiliate
-

*This class includes Legal Members



Shaping and Informing Policy and Practice.

Policy Consultations and Inquiries

We have responded to 23 policy consultation documents from the Welsh Government, National Assembly for Wales and other key bodies in 2017 on issues including the National Development Framework, Welsh Language Bill, air quality, retail, reforming local government, infrastructure, transport and the Great Repeal Bill.

Value of Planning

The RTPI commissioned Arup to undertake a study to develop a toolkit which would measure the value of planning in Wales, with funding and support from the Welsh Government.

The work has involved a stakeholder workshop and with the input from Local Planning Authorities responding to a survey of data, a toolkit has been developed. At the end of the year this was being piloted in a number of Authorities to test and refine the toolkit.

Planning Law in Wales

In November, the Law Commission published its proposals on Planning Law in Wales for consultation. RTPI Cymru was pleased to organise the launch event for promoting the Commission's proposals in Cardiff, with a further event arranged for Colwyn Bay early in 2018.

Member Round Tables

In December 2016 and January 2017, RTPI Cymru held round tables with members to inform our responses to significant consultations in Cardiff, Colwyn Bay, Carmarthen and Pembroke Dock. The events contributed to our responses on Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed and the Call for Evidence and Projects on the National Development Framework.

Policy and Research Forum 2017

- Allan Archer
- Janet Beauchamp
- Martin Buckle
- Mike Cuddy
- Eleri Davies
- Mark Farrar
- Jane Jones
- Lyn Owen
- John Pearson
- Abigail Phillips
- Matt Price
- Ian Stevens
- Clare Taylor
- Jan Tyrer
- Tom Watson



RTPI Cymru Chair, Alan Southernby contributes to Welsh Government stakeholder event on the NDF in Welshpool



Charles Mynors presents the Law Commission's proposals on Planning Law in Wales, November 2017

Supporting members to access Education, CPD, Training and Skills

Wales Planning Conference

The Wales Planning Conference celebrated its 10th anniversary in June in Cardiff, reflecting on the journey and taking a view of what lies ahead. Since the first Conference in 2008, planning has been on a significant journey, including the first Planning Act and the Wales Act 2017, devolving further powers to Welsh Ministers. Despite the snap General Election being called for the same day, delegate numbers have remained high and topped 200.

Other National Events

In February we held a conference discussing Solving Wales's Housing Problems - From Plan to Action in Cardiff.

The RTPI Cymru Spring Conference was held in April in Llandudno on the topic of Strategic Planning for Economic Ambitions, reflecting on the City Deal work underway in Wales.

The Annual Wales Enforcement Conference was sold out and heard the latest on enforcement issues in Wales and the court cases.

Housing Training

In March, RTPI Cymru organised a training programme on householder projection software for Welsh Local Planning Authorities, funded by Welsh Government.

The need for the training across LPAs was identified through RTPI Cymru research by Cardiff University into the Process for Developing Housing Projections for LDPs, published in 2016.

RTPI Training

As part of a new 'offer' to Members a UK-wide RTPI Training Programme was launched in 2017. This will include a number of events in Cardiff in 2018.

Young Planners Cymru

Young Planners Cymru continue to support their peers. In 2017 they organised 7 events on a range of CPD topics including Pre-Application Consultation Event and a number of social and networking events.

In Numbers

6 Conferences

6 Training Days

9 roundtables



Will Ryan of Savills, addresses the Wales Planning Conference on energy developments in Wales.



Housing Projection training for LPAs in Llandrindod Wells

Celebrating Planning.

Wales Planning Award

The Wales Planning Award was announced at the RTPI Cymru Annual Dinner in November. Rhyl High School, Denbighshire was announced as the Winner. This project is not just about providing a replacement fit for purpose building for the High School and co locating it with the nearby SEN School but is also about improving the pupils' life chances and generating confidence within the local community about its future.

The Caeau Mynndd Mawr Supplementary Planning Guidance and Marsh Fritillary Project submitted by Carmarthenshire County Council was Highly Commended and Newport City Council's Vibrant and Viable Places – Connecting Commercial Street project was Commended.

[Details of all of the projects](#) are available to view.

RTPI Cymru Annual Dinner

The Wales' planning calendar's glamorous event of the year was held in November at the Hilton, Cardiff and attended by a strong representation of the membership from across Wales and their guests.

Celebrating new planners

Cardiff University's School of Geography and Planning has RTPI Accredited courses. In the year RTPI staff have attended the Partnership Board held to assess their effectiveness and has been agreed as being effective.

The School's Cole Cornford was awarded the RTPI Cymru Award for Academic Excellence for excellence in examinations and coursework in the first year of the BSc in Urban Planning and Development 2016/17.

Matthew Hewitt and Rachel Jones have been awarded Cardiff University's RTPI Future Planners Bursary to support their Masters degrees.

“This project is not just about providing a replacement fit for purpose building for the High School but is also about improving the pupils' life chances and generating confidence within the local community about its future.”



Alan Southerby, RTPI Cymru Chair 2017, addresses guests at the Annual Dinner



Rhyl High School, Denbighshire, winner of the Wales Planning Award 2017



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