



RTPI Northern Ireland
Royal Town Planning Institute

Annual Review 2017



Chair's Foreword

Given my firm belief that children are the long term stakeholders in society, my theme for 2018 is to promote planning as a career for future generations, to engage with school children to encourage a greater appreciation of the built and natural environment and to empower them to influence positive change.

As a newly transferred Senior Planner into Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council in 2015, I was keen to celebrate and promote the Council's newly acquired planning function whilst embracing my passion for planning and children's education. I organised, in conjunction with the RTPI, a children's event entitled Planning my Place, whereby around 600 children from primary schools within the Borough visited the council offices and engaged with planners and the Mayor in various place shaping activities relevant to their local areas. A number of the children in attendance declared a new aspiration to become a planner, having previously no idea of our existence in society!

Executive Committee 2017

- Beverley Clyde - Chair
- Judith Winters – Senior Vice Chair
- Karen Blair
- Neil Dunlop
- Helen Harrison
- Carol Ramsey
- Emma Walker
- David Worthington
- Gemma Jobling
- Mary MacIntyre
- Lee Hannigan
- Andrew Heasley
- Kim Boal
- David Brown
- David Mounstephen
- Angus Kerr
- Catharine McWhirter
- Diana Thompson – General Assembly Representative
- Sharon Mossman - Co-opted Member:
- Mura Quigley - Co-opted Member:
- Matthew Harvey – Student Representative

With this revelation providing further encouragement, I am keen to progress the ongoing work of the NI Executive Committee, towards a collaborative project with Belfast Healthy Cities entitled Healthy Places, Healthy Children. The project involves Key Stage 2 teachers delivering a programme of education designed to promote discussion about place and an appreciation of positive and negative aspects of the area in which they live, play and attend school. The programme includes the potential for built environment professionals to visit participating schools and I hope to use this opportunity to further promote planning as a stimulating and worthwhile career.

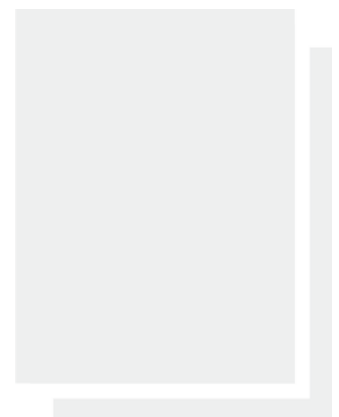
I am honoured to have been selected for this role and as the first local government employee to chair the RTPI NI Committee since 1971-72, I already feel the pressure to make 2018 a memorable year! I would like to thank Beverley Clyde for her year as Chair, also Roisin Willmott, Julie Sullivan and Claire Williamson for their continued hard work and support.

RTPI NI Staff 2017

- Julie Sullivan – Administrator
- Claire Williamson – Policy Officer
- Roisin Willmott - Director



Judith Winters
RTPI NI Chair 2018



Championing the Planning profession.

Communications

We use our Twitter account to promote key messages and information. Our @RTPINI account has 748 followers.

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

PlaNIIt

Two editions of the RTPI NI journal – PlaNIIt – were published in 2017.

Media

RTPI NI has continued to provide information to the media and respond to enquiries about planning topics. During the year we have issued six news releases.

We have seen increased coverage of Northern Irish issues and RTPI NI activity in The Planner magazine, including a feature on Northern Ireland in the September edition.

Northern Ireland's Best Place

The celebration of Best Places across the UK was established by the RTPI to mark its centenary in 2014. Following the first successful Scotland's Best Places, further competitions followed in England, then Wales last year.

Derry/Londonderry has – following years of successful regeneration of its historic core – been crowned the winner of Northern Ireland's Best Places competition.

The competition celebrates the places protected, carefully planned or improved by town planners for communities.

Nearly 4,000 people voted on a shortlist of 10 places, with Derry's Historic Core, Peace Bridge and Ebrington emerging as the most popular place. Rathlin Island and Armagh's historic city centre are second and third, respectively.

“Good planning has been pivotal in the city’s hugely successful, ongoing waterfront regeneration focused around its historic core, the Peace Bridge and Ebrington barracks.

Together these elements have re-defined the city as a great place to live, work and for new investment.”
 Stephen Wilkinson, RTPI President



Celebrating Northern Ireland's Best Place



Two editions of PlaNIIt published

Supporting and Growing Membership.

New Members

We are delighted to welcome new members to RTPI NI and have 670 in Northern Ireland working across sectors, organisations and roles.

Career Promotion

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

RTPI Assessment of Professional Competence

The RTPI held an event for Licentiates looking to undertake the Assessment of Professional Competence in Belfast.

Universities

Both Queens University Belfast and Ulster University in Northern Ireland have RTPI Accredited courses. In the year RTPI staff have attended Partnership Boards held to assess their effectiveness. Both have been agreed as being effective.

During 2017, RTPI NI has joined with QUB to celebrate their 50 years of planning education and research, including a special feature in the summer edition of PlaNIIt.

Celebrating students

The Hugh McKay award was presented this year to Sophie Devlin for first place for her final year dissertation. This award is presented each year at QUB in memory of the late Hugh McKay.

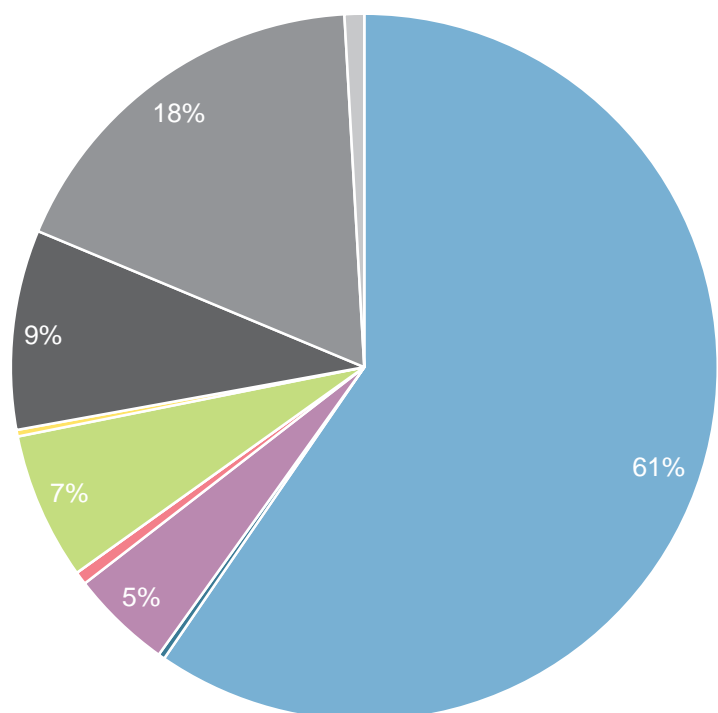
The RTPI NI Student Project Prize (formerly known as the Mathers prize) is presented to Philip Gordon who has achieved the highest mark in their SUR811 (Research Project) module on the Planning, Regeneration and Development MSci at Ulster University.

RTPI NI 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

After almost 12 months, Northern Ireland still continues to wait for the outcome from the power-sharing negotiations for the Northern Ireland Assembly. As a consequence, there have been a limited number of consultations to respond to.

Consultations responded to included:

- Ireland 2040, Our Plan, National Planning Framework
- PAC Independent Examination of Local Development Plans draft procedures
- Review of the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors
- The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) regulations (NI) 2017
- Review of Permitted Development Rights for Mineral Exploration

Stormont Elections

We published election asks for the January 2017 elections.

RTPI NI continues to ask for stability in the planning system given that it is less than three years since significant change was introduced to the system in the Province.

Policy and Research Forum 2017

- Karen Blair
- Richard Bowman
- Seamus Cleary
- John Cleland
- David Donaldson
- Peter Fleming
- Tamasin Fraser
- Ann McCullough
- Carrie McDonagh
- David Mounstephen
- Gavan Rafferty
- Sujeet Sharma
- Emma Walker
- David Worthington (Chair)



RTPI NI Election Asks 2017



Beverley Clyde, RTPI NI Chair, speaking at the joint event with RTPI Ireland in Dundalk on issues relating to planning across boundaries

Supporting members to access Education, CPD, Training and Skills

Northern Ireland Planning Conference

The Northern Ireland Planning Conference was held on Tuesday 26 September at the Europa Hotel, Belfast to a full room. We were very grateful to have excellent support from our sponsors Francis Taylor Building and Tascomi. NILGA also sponsored places for Councillors and held a dedicated roundtable.

Delegates heard from the Permanent Secretary at the Department for Infrastructure, the PAC's Chief Commissioner and those delivering outside Northern Ireland to share experiences and good practice. The day was packed with plenary speakers, breakout seminars, lots of opportunity for discussion and networking.

RTPI NI CPD Programme

In addition to the Annual Conference we held a number of CPD events during the year.

- Implementing the SPPS
- LDP: Two Years On
- Good Design and Place making
- RTPI NI/RTPI Ireland Planning Across Boundaries in a Changing Context
- Planning Law Update

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 Belfast in 2018.

In Numbers

6 Conferences

440 Delegates



Northern Ireland Planning Conference 2017



Speaker Panel at the SPPS event at Crumlin Road Gaol

Celebrating Planning.

RTPI Planning Excellence Award

At the RTPI's Planning Excellence Award Ceremony in London in May, The Seamus Heaney HomePlace, submitted by Mid Ulster District Council won the Excellence in Planning for Heritage category.

Kim Boal, Planning Officer at Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council was Commended in the Young Planner of the Year Category.

RTPI NI Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner was held in The Great Hall, Queens University Belfast in April, with 130 people attending, with after dinner speeches from the Outgoing Chair, Jenny Mawhinney and Incoming Chair, Beverley Clyde. Local comedian Tim McGarry provided entertainment. Thank you to our sponsors Park Hood, Tughans and TSA Planning.

RTPI NI Annual Dinner

The RTPI's Outstanding Service Award was posthumously awarded to George Worthington in November in recognition of the exceptional service to the RTPI.

President's Visit to Northern Ireland

RTPI President, Stephen Wilkinson, visited Northern Ireland in April. He met with consultants to discuss issues current to them and a presentation and walking tour of regeneration projects in the City, including a Lagan boat trip.

The President was hosted by Queens University, who are celebrating 50 years of planning, and joined by students from Queens, Ulster University and Belfast Met. This was followed by a visit to Colin Town Centre, West Belfast to hear of the multi-agency and community work to tackle the area's issues.

The second day included a visit to Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council where the President met with members of the Planning Committee and officers. This was followed by a visit west to Derry / Londonderry, where the President visited the Ebrington regeneration scheme. He met with members of the Derry City and Strabane Council's Planning Committee and officers. His visit was rounded off by a heritage guided walk of the City Walls.

"It is the shared values of the Institute that unite us all."

David
Worthington on
receiving his
Father's OSA



Kim Boal, Commended as Young Planner of the Year 2017



Pat Thomas (right) presents David Worthington the Outstanding Service Award on behalf of his late father, George Worthington



RTPI Northern Ireland
Royal Town Planning Institute



The RTPI is a charity registered in England (262865) and Scotland (SC037841).
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