

Cynllunio

The Journal of RTPI Cymru



**Marking the first year of
Planning Policy Wales Edition 10**

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Front Cover: Marking the first anniversary of Planning Policy Wales Edition 10

Editorial

Given the 5th December - by coincidence the publication date of this edition of Cynllunio - is the first anniversary of the publication of Planning Policy Wales Edition 10, we have invited a cross section of those involved in its design and use to reflect on and look forward. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Not by design, but we also have a running theme on the natural environment in this edition, with contributions from a range of interests and details of new publications and guidance etc.

The planning community in Cardiff have been shaken by the sad loss of Nick Beckley, an RTPI member and rising star. Thank you to his colleagues from Cardiff Council who have provided a moving tribute to their former colleague. We were privileged to be able to raise a donation for Mind, the mental health charity in his memory at the RTPI Cymru Annual Dinner and also by Young Planners Cymru at their recent event. We send our heartfelt condolences to Nick's family and his colleagues.

There has been a great deal of focus of debate and discussion on the draft National Development Framework (NDF) over the last few months. RTPI Cymru campaigned for a national spatial strategy in the run up to the Planning (Wales) Act

2015 and are pleased to see it progressing. Scotland has benefited from such a national document to help shape spatial decisions at a high level. I suspect the majority of responses to the consultation have seemed negative but let's not lose sight that huge progress has been made in producing a draft. The level of interest and debate can also be taken as a positive, as the profession and the public recognise this as an important document.

We would certainly have liked to have seen stronger positions with regard to specific policies to achieve net zero carbon and respond to the threat of climate change. What some of the policies demonstrate is the need to improve the spatial policies of further areas e.g. national transport. The level of detail of on-shore wind and solar suggest a disparity between the level of spatial detail and policy development within Welsh Government.

We have recently had a series of celebrations in the RTPI. We marked 60 years of having a Royal Charter, emphasising the status of MRTPI.

November 8 2019, marked the 70th anniversary of World Town Planning Day. I was pleased to attend the School of Geography and Planning at Cardiff University event to discuss 20 years of Welsh Devolution, hearing speakers reflecting on change from

across the UK. Neil Hemington from Welsh Government provided a very helpful reminder of the development and devolution of the Welsh planning system since the former Welsh Office days. It is all too easy to forget the transition that has happened.

RTPI President, Ian Tant, unveiled a blue plaque in London to mark the 75th anniversary of the Great London Plan by Sir Patrick Abercrombie. Why am I mentioning this in a journal for Wales? - because members in Wales have discovered Sir Patrick Abercrombie's grave in a small churchyard in Anglesey.

To the future now. Our Annual Dinner at Cornerstone, celebrated young planners with the award of the first Wales Young Planner of the Year - Alex Egge. Congratulations to Alex and to our three Finalists who were all strong candidates.

We also celebrated success on our undergraduate accredited courses at the School of Geography and Planning at Cardiff University, with Awards made to Jack Collard and Grace Nicholls.

In 2020 the RTPI will publish its new Corporate Strategy, do look out for this and how we can continue to strengthen and grow as a profession.

Roisin Willmott, Editor

A Tribute to Nick Beckley

Nick Beckley, a Principal Planning Officer at Cardiff Council, tragically passed away at the age of 35 after completing the Cardiff Half Marathon on Sunday 6th October. Nick's untimely death is known to the citizens of Cardiff and to the world. This article serves as a tribute to an exceptionally talented young professional and a true gentleman in every sense.

Nick had a long and distinguished career ahead of him. He studied planning at Cardiff University, completing his MA in Urban Design in 2009 and joined Cardiff Council shortly afterwards. He was unquestionably a rising star within the Planning Service. Recently achieving his role as a Senior Planner, Nick would meticulously manage a heavy and complex caseload of major applications in the city.

Nick had a rare ability to quickly judge the merits of a proposal and for spotting inconsistencies and suggesting changes that would turn poor schemes into good ones. He would skilfully manage his applications using his masterplanning, heritage and negotiation skills to bring about quality outcomes - his real passion for placemaking was clear to see.

The flood of condolences from the wider Planning community across South Wales and beyond shows how highly Nick was regarded with the following extracts giving a flavour of the esteem in which Nick was held:

- "Nick was an excellent officer, balanced in view, intelligent, helpful, professional and efficient and above all a really top bloke."
- "Nick was a joy to work with. His talent & zest for life shone through. Whatever the work, laughter was never far away. A great guy, liked by everyone."
- "In my dealings with Nick he was always considerate, kind, positive and helpful. He has been described by others as a 'real gentleman' – an old fashioned term but one that really summed him up."

It is clear that Nick was, without exception, a true gentleman and genuine friend to all. In a seemingly increasingly angry world, Nick was a beacon of decency, moderation and model public servant.

Above all, Nick didn't have to stand out by having bright socks, statement tie, or by having a loud voice. Nick stood out through his immense humility. If anyone was ever looking for a role model of being an exceptional young planner, and exceptional person, that person was Nick.

The Cardiff Planning team, along with Nick's family and friends, remain completely devastated and are still struggling coming to terms with Nick's untimely loss. However, Nick's legacy to us all must be the example by which he led his professional life through his complete dedication, thoroughness and civility. Nick Beckley was Cardiff Planning Department at its finest.

Colleagues from Cardiff Planning Department



Raising support for Mind

At the RTPI Cymru Annual Dinner held on 15 November at Cornerstone, guests made a toast in Nick Beckley's name and raised £550 for Mind, the mental health charity, in his memory.

In addition attendees at Young Planners Cymru's Pizza and Placemaking event raised a further £105.

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously.

Thank you also to Savills for kindly providing the evening's prizes.



Child-friendly Planning Policy

The RTPI has published a report that looks at the 'child-friendliness' of the UK's planning systems argues for a refocusing of planning's priorities, away from economic goals and towards childfriendly environments.

The authors contend this could reverse the cultural trend away from emphasising "structure and education over freedom and participation" while acknowledging that children and young people "have a vital stake in the both the present and future of placemaking". Child-friendly Planning Policy in the UK: A Review finds that of the UK's four planning systems, only Wales prioritises people over economics.

The report can be downloaded from: www.rtpi.org.uk/knowledge/research/projects/children-and-planning/



Securing Biodiversity Enhancements

A 'Dear CPO' letter was published in October on securing biodiversity enhancements.

Panning Policy Wales (PPW) 10 sets out that "planning authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. This means that development should not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally and must provide a net benefit for biodiversity" (para 6.4.5 refers). This policy and subsequent policies in Chapter 6 of PPW 10 respond to the Section 6 Duty of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016*.

The purpose of this letter is to clarify that in light of the legislation and Welsh Government policy outlined above, where biodiversity enhancement is not proposed as part of an application, significant weight will be given to its absence, and unless other significant material considerations indicate otherwise it will be necessary to refuse permission.

It is important that biodiversity and ecosystem resilience considerations are taken into account at an early stage in development plan preparation and when proposing or considering development proposals. Planning authorities should be proactive and embed appropriate policies into local development plans to protect against biodiversity loss and secure enhancement.

The attributes of ecosystem resilience (PPW para 6.4.9 refers) should be used to assess the current resilience of a site, and this must be maintained and enhanced post development. If this cannot be achieved, permission for the development should be refused.

Securing a net benefit for biodiversity within the context of PPW requires a pragmatic response to the specific circumstances of the site. Working through the step wise approach (PPW para 6.4.21 refers), if biodiversity loss cannot be

"where biodiversity enhancement is not proposed as part of an application, serious weight will be given to its absence ..."

completely avoided (i.e. maintained), and has been minimised, it is useful to think of net benefit as a concept to both compensate for loss and look for and secure enhancement opportunities. A net benefit for biodiversity can be secured through habitat creation and/or long term management arrangements to enhance existing habitats, to improve biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems. Securing a net benefit for biodiversity is not necessarily onerous; through understanding local context, it is possible to identify new opportunities to enhance biodiversity.

*Section 6 – Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty
Section 6 under Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduced an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (the S6 duty) for public authorities in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales.

*6. Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (1)
A public authority must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.*

Obligations and opportunities to promote biodiversity through the UK planning systems

The RTPI has worked with the Partnership for Biodiversity in Planning www.biodiversityinplanning.org to publish practice advice on Biodiversity in planning: Obligations and opportunities to promote biodiversity through the UK planning systems.

Our advice responds to the decline in biodiversity in the UK. It will equip readers with a solid foundation knowledge about the key challenges relating to biodiversity and the current national statutory duties and guidance that should be addressed through planning.

It offers practical pointers to support the integration of biodiversity into local policy, practice and individual development schemes through good practice examples.

The full report can be downloaded from: www.rtpi.org.uk/media/3560735/biodiversityinplanningpracticeadvice2019.pdf

The State of Nature Report, 2019 contains worrying statistics on the current situation for biodiversity in the UK: "Our statistics demonstrate that the abundance and distribution of the UK's species has, on average, declined since 1970 and many metrics suggest this decline has continued in the most recent decade. There has been no let-up in the net loss of nature in the UK." State of Nature Report, 2019. nbn.org.uk/stateofnature2019/reports/

The links between biodiversity and climate change are well documented. This advice forms part of our wider work on climate change.



Congratulations to our latest Chartered Town Planner



Congratulations to Juan Murray has been elected to RTPI Chartered membership.

Employers recognise the high quality of skills and experience that are held by Chartered Town Planners. They know that they can rely upon the designation as a sign of professionalism.

(Note those more recently awarded Chartered status will appear in the next edition of Cynllunio).

If you preparing to submit your APC in 2020, remember there is new guidance (issued in June 2019). All the information and guidance is available from: [www.rtpi.org.uk/membership/assessment-of-professional-competence/licentiate-apc/licentiate-apc-resource-centre-\(june-2019\)/](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/membership/assessment-of-professional-competence/licentiate-apc/licentiate-apc-resource-centre-(june-2019)/)

Long-term plan for Wales must be bolder

RTPI Cymru's response to the Welsh Government's draft National Development Framework (NDF) sees it as a 'welcome start' to efforts to combat climate change but must be supported by stronger evidence, detail and clarity to guide decisions.

The NDF recognises the challenge of having to achieve a sustainable pattern of development for the longer term while taking into account the climate change agenda.

However, the Welsh Government has missed an opportunity to 'push boundaries'; the NDF must provide the context and evidence for taking difficult national decisions and informing long-term investment goals.

In order to start to address the issues surrounding climate change, we need a framework that can guide a behavioural change across the industry in the way that we approach planning and developing the places we live, work and enjoy.

A more ambitious NDF will enable infrastructure decisions to be better integrated to support existing and new development, while taking into account climate change mitigation, adaptation and sustainable outcomes.

The recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change sets out compelling evidence of the need for change. The NDF is the document which can guide that change and we urge Welsh Government to be bolder in its approach to long term planning and managing climate change in Wales.

Far more detail is also needed about proposals including National Forests and new national transport routes which do not appear to make any attempt to improve the notoriously poor links between north and south Wales. These policies must be supported by a robust evidence base.



RTPI Cymru Award for Academic Excellence 2019

Congratulations to Jack Collard and Grace Nicholls for being awarded the RTPI Cymru prize for Academic Excellence for 2019. The prizes are awarded based on the highest marks achieved in the first year of Cardiff University's two RTPI accredited undergraduate courses - BSc in Urban Planning and Development and the BSc in Geography and Planning.

Jack and Grace joined us for the Annual Dinner where they received their prizes from Huw Evans, RTPI Cymru Chair.



Left: Jack Collard (left) receiving his Award from Huw Evans, RTPI Cymru Chair



Left: Grace Nicholls (right) receiving her Award from Huw Evans, RTPI Cymru Chair

RTPI CORE CPD

RTPI Training
Royal Town Planning Institute

2020 training programme announced

www.rtpi.org.uk/training

Wales Young Planner of the Year 2019

In 2019 RTPI Cymru completed the search for the first Wales Young Planner of the Year.

Young Planners are important for the profession and the Award seeks to celebrate our young talent and their contribution to the profession.

Our judging panel comprised: Huw Evans, Chair of RTPI Cymru, Neil Hemington, Welsh Government Chief Planner, Lindsay Christian, Newport City Council and former Chair of Young Planners Cymru, supported by Roisin Willmott, RTPI Cymru Director.

The Judging Panel were pleased with the response to the invitation and shortlisted four strong candidates.

The four Finalists were invited to an interview in Cardiff in September and were quizzed by the Panel. The Panel were very impressed by the quality of all four Finalists but there could be only one winner.

2019 Winner

At the Annual Dinner it was announced that the 2019 Wales Young Planner of the Year is Alex Egge of Mott Macdonald.

Alex Egge

Alex is a Graduate Transport Planner with Mott Macdonald. The judges said: "Alex demonstrated immense energy and sees planning as an opportunity to help solve the many challenges we face. She has a proven track record in innovating to deliver well-being and seeing the bigger picture; demonstrating leadership across sectors.

"Alex has achieved a great deal in her career already and is keen to change the narrative to keep planning relevant. Her colleagues have commented that "she is a true pioneer and great role model for others." The enthusiasm and dedication that Alex has shown, to promote and ensure that well-being is recognised and considered throughout the decision-making process is a credit to her professionalism and values she holds."



The Finalists



Rhys Govier

Rhys is Associate, Savills. Rhys has established himself as a strong and able leader working across different teams. He has developed a thought leadership role globally within Savills by promoting short research reports to influence thinking.

Rhys is a valuable contributor to the work of the RTPI and has been a longstanding contributor to Young Planners Cymru and to the Cardiff University Partnership Board. Within Savills he has provided support and encouragement to work experience students, promoting planning as a positive profession.



Charlotte Raine

Charlotte is a Senior Planner at the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Charlotte is an enthusiastic planner who recognises the need to develop good cross-sectoral and internal cross-departmental relations to deliver good planning outcomes.

Charlotte has developing new thinking on community mapping to provide her local authority to be able to consider community needs holistically. Her colleagues say she "has successfully built relationships, earned respect and provided a shining example of planning delivering for communities."



Laura Williams

Laura is Associate Director, Savills. Laura has developed a wide planning portfolio – including her knowledge of the policy context for housing white rhinos - and is a positive advocate for a strong profession. She sees the value in approaching planning positively to create more successful places.

She is a leader in promoting flexible working, taking advantage of developing technology. She promotes the profession to junior colleagues and provides mentoring support and encourages cross-professional linkages. Laura's colleagues say she has "passion and exuberance for her chosen profession".

Congratulations to all our Award winners and Finalists celebrated at the RTPI Cymru Annual Dinner in November



Extinction Rebellion makes demands

Truth, action and a move beyond traditional politics – the three demands of Extinction Rebellion. Extinction Rebellion have kicked up a storm in 2019, with governments across the world demanding change and fast. As a member of the RTPI Cymru Young Planners Committee, I was given the opportunity to attend an event organised by Extinction Rebellion, alongside county and town councils across Wales, and a number of experts. The event was held at the Senedd and consisted of a whole day aimed at sharing experiences and discussing a way forward, recommending actions for Welsh Government to take to address climate change challenges.

Who are Extinction Rebellion?

We know they have made a lot of noise, but who are Extinction Rebellion? Members describe Extinction Rebellion as an international non-violent civil disobedience movement and their demands are as follows:

- **Tell the truth:** Government must tell the truth by declaring a climate and ecological emergency, working with other institutions to communicate the urgency for change.
- **Act now:** Government must act now to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025.
- **Beyond politics:** Government must create and be led by the decisions of a Citizens' Assembly on climate and ecological justice.

In terms of how Extinction Rebellion want the world to deliver these goals, the group don't actually say what the solutions should be. What they do say is that citizens' assemblies should be set up in order to solve some of the big problems and make important decisions such as around development and climate change strategies. The citizens assemblies are made up of randomly selected people representing a cross-section of society.

"We are facing an unprecedented global emergency. Life on Earth is in crisis: scientists agree that we have entered a period of abrupt climate breakdown, and we are in the midst of a mass extinction of our own making." (Extinction Rebellion)

Low Carbon Cymru Event

The day itself commenced with members of Extinction Rebellion explaining what the movement is about and why action is required now.

"... citizens' assemblies should be set up in order to solve some of the big problems ..."

They also emphasised the aim of the day was to bring councils and experts across Wales together to discuss ideas and plan a way forward. Many of the county and town councils talked about their plans and progress so far; this included many introducing electric charging points across the country, although constrained by the grid and the cost of the overall installation. The next part of the event involved rotating group discussions, identifying barriers and accelerators, and what we can offer to and ask of Welsh Government. These recommendations were then put forward to Welsh Government as part of a discussion. One of the demands was that local authorities believe that they require more resources to help achieving targets.

Final thoughts

It is clear from attending this event that there is strong support across the public sector and experts to strive towards a low carbon Wales, yet, the pathway to achieving a low carbon Wales may require a clearer strategy for the public sector to respond at a faster pace.

Ellie Mitchell

Happy 1st Birthday PPW!

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 10 was published on 5th December 2018 and marked a change in how national policy in a UK plan-led context could be written. The very first edition of PPW (remember the red cover version published March 2002?) was itself a departure from the norm, not just compiling all national policy together into one document but also its approach to 'mainstreaming' climate change and sustainable development throughout its chapters. It quietly went about its business.



Wales' planning system and policy has moved on and grown in confidence with its own home grown Planning Act and the Well-being of Future Generations Act. PPW 10 is groundbreaking in its approach but a year on, how is it working - have we all caught up with it yet? We've asked planners and stakeholders from different sectors for their thoughts.

Planning Directorate, Welsh Government

Last year's revision of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) was driven by the Well-being of Future Generations Act. Whilst sustainable development has always been central to PPW, the Act enabled us to look at our policies afresh and evaluate how the planning system is contributing towards improving the lives of current and future generations.

With a much greater focus on the people and places we are planning for, we have put placemaking at the heart of the planning system in Wales. Rather than just facilitating new development, PPW clarifies that the purpose of the planning system is to create sustainable places that positively contribute towards people's well-being.

In reviewing all the existing policies, we focused on how they came together as a whole, how they were being implemented and whether they were delivering the desired outcomes. Building on existing policy, the revised PPW considers policies in a more integrated way, giving greater emphasis to the aspects that will deliver our well-being objectives.

"... it can be all too easy to lose focus of the outcomes we are seeking to achieve."

Our collaborative work with people and organisations implementing the policies on a daily basis yielded real benefits. From challenging

the underlying assumptions, to informing the wording of policies, their invaluable input enabled us to develop a much more informed document ahead of the traditional public consultation.

The revised PPW challenges the status quo, by asking planners and elected members to create great places, improve people's health and well-being, and increase their quality of life. When working in practice, dealing with daily targets and processes, it can be all too easy to lose focus of the outcomes we are seeking to achieve.

Take housing for an example. Whilst we recognise the need for new homes is increasing and that we must build more homes

than the current level of output, focussing solely on housing numbers is to miss the point. The challenge is to meet the growing need for housing with high quality new homes, which are built in the



right locations, are integrated with jobs and services and positively contribute to the wider area.

We recognise that writing the policies is the relatively simple part, and that making them happen is the real challenge. To succeed, we all need to work towards a shared goal of creating sustainable places and improving people's well-being. We need to show leadership and be persuasive in working with those who affect the places we live, encouraging them to take action.

With this in mind, Julie James, Minister for Housing and Local Government, is today (5th December 2019) announcing a new initiative called Placemaking Wales. When launched early next year, Placemaking Wales will seek to bring organisations together to lead on the implementation of placemaking and the improvement of the quality of development in Wales. We will be working with these organisations to establish a Placemaking Charter, with practices for all to agree and sign up to. Our next steps are to produce guidance, provide training opportunities and highlight good practice throughout the country.

We welcome your support in what are challenging, but exciting times for the planning profession in Wales.

PPW 10 – One year on anniversary

The tenth revision of PPW is a significant and radical change from the revisions that we have been used to previously. It is one of Welsh Government's key mechanisms in the delivery of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, seeking a more prosperous, resilient, healthier, equal, culturally vibrant and globally responsible Wales. The concept of 'place making' draws designers, developers and decision makers more towards the right and appropriate decision for communities and the environment as opposed to the emphasis on regulatory control that has become so dominant in the planning system.

Since the introduction of the Well-being Act planning authorities and the Inspectorate have struggled with how much weight should be given to its statutory well-being goals as a material consideration. More often than not they have reverted to the safety of the precise meaning of every word, comma and full stop in the policies of the development plan, no matter how out of date it is.

As planners, we have been trained to consider each development on its merits but it has become more of a box ticking exercise that, quite frankly, you don't need to spend 4 years at university to complete. We have to use our skills, experience and knowledge to find the right solution to a problem and for the well-being of our communities facing ever increasing challenges both locally and globally. The new PPW provides a more wholistic and forward-looking framework for us to think differently about how we look at development opportunities, consider their impact, and then make decisions.

It should test us more about the appropriateness of a proposal or policy that may be not have been conceived or framed in such a way that it delivers the well-being goals that now underpins the Wales we want in the future. That is hugely positive.

However, it is not to say that it does not have its shortcomings, particularly in its approach to affordable housing and economic opportunities in rural areas. The rural exceptions policy has not worked for years and yet it remains unchanged and is faithfully reinforced in Local Development Plans. This is despite the stated need for, and importance of, "monitoring and learning from development outcomes so as to drive sustainable improvements in planning practice". The 'country' part of town and country planning has largely become a development no-go area which makes it more exclusive, doing little for economic well being, social cohesiveness and stemming the exodus of young people.

It is also disappointing that, in recognising the need to prepare for a greater ageing population, there is no specific policy direction to guide development plans and development management. We need to learn from other countries as to how they have developed areas which allow people to move into an environment which is not perceived as the last refuge.

Nonetheless it is a major and welcome shift in emphasis that should signal changes in our approach to decision making. It is too early to judge if it has made a difference, but Welsh Government must be active in monitoring outcomes and ensure that development plans and the policies within them are framed in a way that will deliver the goals of the Well-being Act. What we don't want is for the same policies to be simply regurgitated and organised under different headings.

Edition 10 is both challenging and exciting and we can hope for more creative thinking about how we deal with the issues facing us. Who would have thought that a policy document could be exciting?!

Huw Evans, Chair, RTPi Cymru



Happy Birthday PPW10

Being a dyed in the wool DC planner (none of this Development Management nonsense) the purpose of policy, whether it be national or local is to test whether a development complies with it or not. To that end previous versions of PPW were easy to navigate, if housing was the issue you had a chapter dedicated to the subject and it was easy to find what you needed.

They do let me out to do case work occasionally and my first encounters with PPW10 reminded me of the old Morecambe and Wise quote; all the right notes were there but not necessarily in the right order or at least the order I was familiar with. So, and let's keep this between ourselves, for the first time in my career I read a policy document from cover to cover. I had read previous versions of PPW but different parts at different times and never in the order it was written.

"PPW10 gives LPAs permission to set the bar above 'do no harm'."

I still find it takes me longer to find that particular bit of guidance or quote I need but overall I think changing the old approach was necessary to better align the Welsh planning

system with the Well Being of Future Generations Act and the Welsh Government's Well Being Objectives. Sustainability wasn't invented by the WBG Act nor did PPW10 create placemaking but I think PPW10 has given them the push that they and we as planners needed to make better places and achieve better outcomes.

So far PPW10's new approach has not been a bone of contention at appeal. I have heard that LPAs are reluctant to refuse planning permission on the grounds that a development isn't as good as it could be for fear that Inspectors will not support them. For a large part of my career and particularly in England planners were warned off questioning design and the bar set at not causing harm. PPW10 and the WBFAG Act require more than that. It will not be appropriate or necessary for all development to enhance a place, it's likely that an extension to a building or the development of an infill plot need do no more than fit in and preserve what makes that place. But it is not unreasonable to expect development making new places or having significant impacts on existing places to make a good place or an existing one better.

PPW10 expects us to do just that, indeed it tells LPAs that they should negotiate to improve poor or average developments. PPW10 and the WBFAG Act encourages collaboration between developers, LPAs and communities in the evolution of projects and where that works well there should be no need to resort to appeal. In cases where that does not work, PPW10 gives LPAs permission to set the bar above 'do no harm'. That will be new territory for all of us, including Inspectors. PPW10 warns LPAs not to arbitrarily impose a particular architectural taste or style on developers. There will often be more than one way a place, building or development can be designed and arguments that x

or y approach isn't good enough will have to be substantiated with objective evidence. But, where it can be justified objectively PPW10 supports making places better and that can only be right.

*Tony Thickett
Director PINS Wales*



Office of the Future Generations Commissioner

Planning Policy Wales signified a fundamental shift in planning policy and a recognition of the importance of the planning system in delivering community and individual well-being. I am pleased to have been able to work closely with Welsh Government on the redesign of Planning Policy Wales and it was certainly designed with the Well-Being of Future Generations Act at its heart.

Place making is a fundamental concept in the policy and it will help us achieve the national well-being goals if fully implemented. I would like particularly to see the hierarchies of transport, energy and waste contained in the policy dictating the outcomes of any future planning decisions. The policy rightly promotes and prioritises the decarbonisation and the strengthening of our communities.

Unsurprisingly planning is one of the themes which matters most to the people who contact me. They have made it clear that planning directly affects their well-being and their communities.

“... the focus is now on implementation.” As I am unable to get involved in individual decisions, I understand the frustrations. This is why I have focused on ensuring the

aspirations of the Well-being of Future Generations Act is fully reflected in national policy.

A year on, the focus is now on implementation. It is key that the National Development Framework which is currently being developed supports PPW10 and does not weaken it. In its current draft, I am concerned that NDF might not enable the country to meet its decarbonisation reduction targets when it favours the expansion of airports and ports and I am yet to see how the Government has assessed whether or not the NDF will provide the right policy context to deliver the 80% carbon reduction required by the Environment Act, let alone the commitment to revised target which will be closer to 100% reduction by 2050.

I challenged the Welsh Government about this and also asked for reassurance that the detailed maps of the priority areas for energy for example will enable the delivery of the renewable energy targets and hierarchy set out in PPW.

PPW10 was written before the Declaration of Climate Emergency and it needs to be interpreted in this new light. The right planning framework is crucial to decarbonising Wales and to reverse the decline of biodiversity, but the Government also need to allocate resources to deliver its aspirations. My ten-point plan in funding the Climate Emergency called for and investment of £200 million

in renewable energy and £221 million on land use and nature-based solutions in the coming budget and in subsequent years.

Beyond the national policy, it will take time for PPW to trickle down to the decision level and the consideration of individual planning applications.

The current Local Development Plans are not necessarily aligned with the Act and PPW, as many were adopted prior to the Act. Many are being revised and it will be fundamental that the LDPs objectives are now aligned with the well-being objectives of each local authority and PSB. We have advised Welsh Government on their revision of the LDP Manual to ensure that this level of planning is also aligned with the Act. Getting the LDPs right will be fundamental to the implementation of PPW.

To help alleviate some of the difficulties in implementation, I have been working for the last year with planning professionals including RTPI, Welsh Government, Planning Officers group, Planning Aid Wales and consultants on the production of practical guidance on plan making and on development management. This will offer some practical ideas and a menu of options and inspiration for anyone involved in the planning system. It will also enable me to assess progress in the years to come and to showcase good practice. If you want to get involved, to send us case studies or to comment on drafts please contact my office contactus@futuregenerations.wales

This new resource will build on guidance which we have produced to help achieve each of the national well-being goals and involvement.

In the coming year, I will also be publishing the first Future Generations Report - a statutory report which will include my assessment of the progress made so far and make recommendations to further implementation which public bodies will have a statutory duty to take account of going forward. I will focus on the planning system as part of this report and am inviting you to help me to propose reforms to the system - policy practice and culture which will help us to achieve the national wellbeing goals.

Marie Brousseau-Navarro, Director of Policy, Legislation and Innovation / Cyfarwyddwr Polisi, Deddfwriaeth ac Arloesi



A Year of PPW10 – Championing Sustainable Development in Wales

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (the ‘Well-being Act’) defines sustainable development as “the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.” It seems to me that this exact sentence could also be used to describe the overarching aspiration of the planning system.

This focus on the principle of sustainable development is perhaps the most prominent change between PPW10 and the previous iterations of the document. Although sustainable development has always been at the heart of our work as Planners, PPW10 serves to ensure that this is placed at the very forefront of national planning policy.

PPW10 is perhaps harder to navigate than previous versions of the document with policies organised around key themes specifically chosen to reflect the sustainable development goals as set by the Well-being Act e.g. ‘Productive and Enterprising Places’. Although this certainly impacts the ‘user- friendliness’ of the document, it seems right that the spirit of the Well-being Act is intrinsic to this document, as set out within the Foreword of the document prepared by the then Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs.

A year on seems almost too early to assess what PPW10 has achieved but the clear link between the document and the Well-being Act, a unique piece of legislation which sets Wales apart from the rest of the world, will hopefully lead to positive placemaking for years to come.

Young Planners Cymru

“... it seems right that the spirit of the Well-being Act is intrinsic...”



Above: Stuart Ingram, Welsh Government presents the draft PPW to Young Planners Cymru in 2018

PPW10 & Active Travel

The coverage of active travel in PPW10 is significantly better than in previous editions of PPW.

PPW9 included supportive references to active travel, but only as a desirable thing to be encouraged rather than an essential requirement for new development. This made it easier for active travel facilities to be omitted from development proposals or, where they were included in schemes, to be of poor quality.

PPW10 redresses this situation. Liberated from the 'Transport' chapters of previous editions, walking and cycling (and transport sustainability generally) feature prominently throughout PPW10 and have become key components of the policy's new focus on improving the wellbeing of communities through placemaking.

A significant addition is the 'Sustainable Transport Hierarchy for Planning' which "prioritises walking, cycling and public transport ahead of the private motor vehicles" and "should be used to reduce the need to travel, prevent car-dependent developments in unsustainable locations"

This clarity is very refreshing!

Representing the RTPI Cymru Policy & Research Forum, I was pleased to work with colleagues from Sustrans, Living Streets, Public Health Wales and the wider membership of the Welsh Assembly's Cross Party Group on the Active Travel Act to compile the Group's very comprehensive response to the consultation on the draft document. A key priority for the Cross Party Group was for PPW to place a clear obligation on planning authorities and developers to prioritise provision for active modes in strategies, plans, development proposals and decision making.

Group members felt strongly that there needed to be a toughening of the language in references to active travel - more use of the word 'must' instead of 'should'. The Cross Party Group's submission suggested a number of amendments which would effect this change.

Subsequently, we were very pleased by how many of our suggestions were reflected in the final version. The following extract illustrates the strengthened tone:

"Change won't just happen because the policy is stronger."

"Development proposals must seek to maximise accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport, by prioritising the provision of appropriate on-site infrastructure and, where necessary, mitigating transport impacts through the provision of off-site measures, such as the development of active travel routes, bus priority infrastructure and financial support for public transport services"

The Active Travel Act makes no explicit reference to the planning system. PPW10 now bridges this gap by recognising the role of the planning system in supporting the delivery of the Active Travel Act and integrating new development with local active travel networks.

Welsh Government's Planning team deserve huge credit for the way they engaged with the Cross Party Group and other stakeholders during the early stages of producing PPW10, and throughout the consultation process. A great example of 'co-production'.

The impact of PPW10 in terms of improving the quality of active travel provision in new developments is likely to take time. Change won't just happen because the policy is stronger. It needs to be supported by training and upskilling professionals across the built environment disciplines and sectors.

Steps are being taken to provide this support. RTPI Cymru are now working with ICE, Welsh Government and Transport for Wales to develop a multi-disciplinary training programme for active travel delivery. There's much work still to do, but we're on the right path.

Matt Price, Team Leader, Transport Vision, Policy and Strategy Team, Cardiff Council



PPW v.10 one year on

We were used to the old PPW 'classic'. Good solid logical structure, tried and tested over the years. Straight and honest chapters on defined subjects: historic environment, housing, transport, and even one on sustainability! Our solid and reliable planning companion since 2002.

Then came v.10. The familiar structure was gone. The whole approach was re-cast to

"Suddenly. Planners were thrust into the limelight ..."

set out the magnitude of complicated and inter-related elements which constitute well-being, sustainable development and placemaking. Suddenly, Planners were thrust into the limelight, at the forefront of, and central to, realising placemaking and securing well-being for all.

Key planning principles and national sustainable placemaking outcomes set out in v.10 are now firmly grounded, and central to the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

At first the approach seemed alien compared to the previous 16 years of familiarity, and on initial review seemed complicated and confusing. It has, however, launched the guidance into 'the now' and made it considerably more relevant and reflective of the increasingly complex and inter-related issues which affect planning decision-making today.

It is no longer a 'linear' approach, but a 'matrix' approach. It's a positive move away from the 'tick box' planning approach to intelligent and considered decision-making. This allows developers and decision-makers more flexibility and discretion in how particular elements of it may influence a project, and helps scope discussions about the actual long-term impacts of a project; positive and negative.

There can be a perception that the document is now too confusing, and I do feel that v.10 has greater potential to bewilder the non-Planner than the classic format did. Categories of development such as 'social and active places' seem to be amorphous terms, and I don't yet fully appreciate the value of the generous sprinkling of the 'ways of working' emojis throughout the document.

That said though, I do find that the broadness of the guidance now allows us to work within it, rather than the 'old school' approach of only selecting those parts which were conveniently positive to the proposals.

We are all under such significant third-party scrutiny today in planning, particularly with controversial projects, that there is less ability to hide negative impacts of development in planning applications. I believe that PPW v.10 does help fuel objectors, insofar as development can never achieve 100% of the listed desirables, however, it does encourage us to debate the vastly broad positive and negative impacts of projects rather than ticking a yes / no list.

The eternal value in v.10, which has subsisted through its metamorphosis, is that it can be used to support and object to a development proposal at the same time, depending on what part of it that you use.

It is interesting how the whole concept of placemaking has now been pushed to the forefront. As planning, landscape and urban design consultants, that is what we have always done; our ultimate end-game, which now has general recognition and its very own parlance.

Whether we like PPW v.10 or not, we need to get used to it; as the 16 year cycle of re-vamping PPW means that we won't have v.20 until 2034!

Mark Farrar, Director, The Urbanists

Homebuilders and PPW

Planning Policy Wales version 10 (PPW10) marked a significant change in Planning Policy the first Welsh Government Planning Policy document to fully align itself with the Well Being and Futures Generations Act both in terms of policy aspirations but also its layout and format. Although this initially made it difficult to navigate it is now becoming the norm for Welsh Government documents.

In terms of the house building industry the most relevant changes included:

- Support for new settlements proposed as part of a joint LDP, an SDP or the NDF. Whereas the previous iteration PPW 9 stated 'New settlements on greenfield sites are unlikely to be appropriate in Wales'
- Introducing the concept 'Placemaking' at a strategic level which the document states 'collective consideration of placemaking issues at the outset, in the formulation of a development plan.'
- Strengthened the policy on the use of brownfield land seeking to ensure that all options to re-use previously developed land are considered before greenfield sites are utilised. Stating 'The over-riding imperative will now be to examine previously developed land first.' The list of previously developed land excluded from the definition was also extended.
- Emphasising that economic viability is central to assessments of the deliverability of development plan housing requirements from the outset of the plan preparation process.
- Introduced the need to show exceptional circumstances for a

"... concerns were raised about the increased emphasis on the use of brown field land ..."

viability assessment at the application stage where an up-to-date development plan is in place.

The house building industry were generally supportive of a number of these changes, although concerns were raised about the increased emphasis on the use of brown field land and the need to provide viability evidence so early in the development plan process. Based on the recent consultation more detail should be provided in the Development Plan Manual 3 regarding the move to greater scrutiny of viability earlier in the plan process.

In terms of the Placemaking agenda set out in the document it has been a challenge for all involved in the development process to interpret what this means in practise. Welsh Government have recently established 'Placemaking Wales' a group led by the Design Commission for Wales and including the Home Builders Federation and other professional bodies who are tasked with providing clearer guidance on the subject next year.

However, due to the timescales associated with bringing forward housing development, usually taking at least three years it's too early to say what impact PPW 10 has had on housing development in its first year. Although, just as the document starts to settle in it is likely to be subject to a number of changes in order to take account of a other policy changes currently being consulted on by Welsh Government including the new National Development Framework due to be adopted in 2020, which PPW10 will sit alongside in the development plan hierarchy.

Mark Harris, Policy Officer, Home Builders Federation



Establishment of a Land Division within Welsh Government

In September, Rebecca Evans AM, Minister for Finance and Trefnydd announced that she had established a new division to enhance the Government's mission to increase the number of new homes built across Wales. In a written statement to AMs she said:

"The new Land Division will promote joint working between public sector bodies to unlock the potential of our public land for development. It is tasked to ensure we make the best use of the resources available, and provide a mechanism for sharing expertise so that we can see a concerted public sector response to the shortage of social housing, and to the development of public land for wider policy benefit.

"The establishment of this division is a clear demonstration from Government that we are serious about accelerating the development of public sector land. With this new approach we are putting in place the resources and structures to help delivery this major cross government priority.

"As a responsible government, we have been very active in seeking to manage our financial resources. Extracting the maximum public benefit from our property assets has been part of that process. We have been exploring how we can take a more strategic approach to how our own assets are managed. Part of that work is about redefining how we think of value for money. This includes reflecting on our responsibilities in terms of climate change and safeguarding biodiversity, for example, and considering what the wider benefits could be for local communities across Wales.

"The division will take over responsibility for a number of Welsh Government owned sites, which will be promoted to support the delivery of our wider government priorities - including a strong

"...a strong focus on using these assets to help deliver more social social housing.."

focus on using these assets to help deliver more social housing in Wales.

"This initial drive will also seek to utilise these assets to support the emerging housing policy objectives, including

the increased provision of more social housing across Wales. In addition, developments will align to our social housing space standards, increasing public housing stock numbers whilst also taking opportunities to deliver new zero carbon developments. We will also be able to press for innovative designs, encourage greater biodiversity and make greater use of modern methods of construction, building on the experience gained through the Innovative Housing Programme.

"The new division will also lead on the Welsh Government's Corporate Asset Management Strategy for land and building assets, ensuring that they deliver greater public value for the people of Wales. It is crucial that we are able to work across government to provide the assurance that maximum policy value is being derived from our land and buildings asset base.

"Whilst the identification of and delivery of land for housing is important, the division is also charged with increasing the pace and scale of the work already being taken forward via 'Ystadau Cymru,' which has a remit of 'Working together to make the best use of the public estate'. It encourages excellence in the active management of the Welsh public sector estate through strategic collaboration and adopting a place-based approach to make the best use of our collective resources."

The Natural Environment and Planning: an ecologist's perspective

From an ecologist's perspective, the increasing visibility and emphasis given to the natural environment in the UK's national planning policies and frameworks is a good thing. But how good is it for planners?

Whether you are a local authority planner, a planning consultant or a planner working on delivery of infrastructure projects, you cannot help but come across such terms as biodiversity, protected species and environmental impact assessment on a regular basis. Indeed, Planning Policy Wales Edition 10 (2018) sets out a clear expectation for planning to make a positive contribution to conserving and enhancing natural linkages, perhaps more explicitly so than in any other country of the UK.

Why the natural environment needs planners

In many respects, Wales has been ahead of the game in recognising the need to plan for a more sustainable future. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 was (and still is) ground-breaking in terms of its focus on the long-term impacts of public authority decision-making and the importance of a biodiverse and ecologically resilient Wales to a healthy and prosperous future.

Additionally, Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 requires public authorities to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems. Further recognition of the importance of healthy ecosystems in enabling important social and economic drivers such as jobs, wellbeing and a thriving economy.

Very recently, the Welsh Government has written to all Chief Planning Officers emphasising the importance of requiring evidence of biodiversity enhancement and ecosystem resilience considerations in development decisions.

Planning policy and delivery are critically important components of effective action to achieve these ambitions and to answer the challenges of the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis that are weighing so heavily on public consciousness. That puts a huge responsibility on your profession - a profession that is, in the public sector at least, often under-resourced. I think it is up to other professions to support you in making sure you have the tools, training and clarity you need to deliver what is asked and I share some ideas later on in this article.

Could Biodiversity Net Gain be a game-changer?

In 2016 CIEEM, together with CIRIA and IEMA, published the first UK Principles on Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development and in early 2019 the same three organisations published the first practical guidance on implementing biodiversity net gain. To date, it is making its way into legislation and policy in England but there is also some interest in Wales and Scotland. As a planning policy, how much impact could it have?

Well, a no-net-loss policy clearly hasn't worked in terms of halting biodiversity loss. And whilst policy frameworks often talk about gains, the reality is that it is rarely happening in practice. By requiring most development in England to deliver a net gain for biodiversity the Government is sending a powerful message that this matters. Every development will require a calculation of the site's biodiversity value, using the Defra metric which takes account of the habitats present and their condition. Put (very) simply the development proposal must then show how, having first strictly followed the mitigation hierarchy to avoid and mitigate impacts, the creation and restoration of habitats, both on-site or, potentially, off-site, will lead to an overall gain for biodiversity. Developers will have the benefit of a transparent calculation of the net gain they must provide and what is required of them, reducing uncertainty and delays.

There are still a lot of risks. The 10% net gain due to be mandated



Championing a sustainable natural environment

is not, in our view, enough once you allow for margins of error in the calculations. Biodiversity net gain must supplement strict adherence to the mitigation hierarchy, not replace it. There are spatial and temporal issues regarding habitats lost and habitats created/restored, as well as concerns as to how the long (30 year) management of the new habitats will be monitored and enforced. But, and it is a big but, if done well, if done responsibly and if planners can be given time to understand the risks and opportunities then, yes, over time it could well be a game-changer.

Are you getting enough support?

Developing new approaches, such as biodiversity net gain, should be done in collaboration with the planning system. Planners' understanding of biodiversity and wider environmental issues matter to ecologists and environmental managers. A core part of CIEEM's work is supporting its members to provide the right level of information and interpretation of ecological reports needed by planning authorities to reach robust decisions. We need to be working more closely together, at both strategic and site-based levels, to ensure we understand what is required and we are helping each other to deliver the best possible outcomes. We need collaboration, not confrontation.

Some practical suggestions

CIEEM (www.cieem.net) provides a wealth of guidance and advice to its members (and to homeowners) on biodiversity issues and the development process. Some of these will also be of relevance to planners:

- Guide to ecological surveys and their purpose
- Advice note on the lifespan of ecological reports and surveys
- A householders guide to engaging an ecologist
- What to expect from a bat survey: A guide for UK homeowners
- Guidelines for ecological report writing
- Accessing and using biodiversity data

We also offer regular webinars, many of them free and available to non-members, on emerging topics that may be of interest to planners, such as biodiversity net gain and natural capital tools. Please see our website at www.cieem.net.

Like the RTPI we have geographic networks of members. Why not get together with our members in Wales and organise some joint events, talks, discussions or site visits on topics of mutual interest? We can put you in touch with key contacts who can help get something off the ground.

Finally, CIEEM is currently conducting a survey of planners on what type of specific support you need and in what biodiversity-related topics. Please take the survey and share your thoughts. We hope to publish the findings in a future issue of The Planner.

A Vision for the future

Our vision is for our two professions to work more closely together to promote sustainable land use and development. By supporting each other we can deliver better outcomes for the natural environment, the economy and society. Developing a shared understanding of our challenges and opportunities, working together to find solutions to problems at every spatial scale and achieving common goals creates a win-win for everyone. We hope our vision is your vision too.

Sally Hayns CEcol MCIEEM, CEO of CIEEM

SuDS on new developments in Wales

Over the past 3 years the Welsh Government has consulted on legislative changes, which would make the use of sustainable drainage systems (known as SuDS) mandatory for all new developments in Wales.

These changes came into force on 7 January 2019 and most new developments in Wales will now need to integrate sustainable drainage into the design.

What are SuDS?

SuDS is an approach for the management of surface water. Effective SuDS aim to treat this water as a resource, managing surface water runoff as close to its source as possible, keeping flows near to the surface of the land and mimicking natural drainage.

SuDS designs will need to consider ways in which the drainage system will manage the quantity (volume) of surface water from the site and demonstrate how the drainage system will bring about water quality, amenity and biodiversity benefits.

What does this mean for developments?

The legislation has introduced a new approval process for the surface water drainage elements of a development – a process which is managed by local authorities in a new role as SuDS Approving Bodies (SABs).

Construction work, which has drainage implications (i.e. will cover land or affect the ability of the land to absorb surface water of 100 square metres or more) will require approval of the sustainable drainage system by the SAB **before construction can commence**.

An application for SAB approval can be made at the time of applying for planning consent or can be made separately. Either way the application must be made using the standard application form, which is available from the relevant local authority.

Are there charges for the application process?

Yes, the legislation sets out standard fees which local authorities, in their role as SAB, can charge for this service.

Your local SAB is best placed to advise you of the charges that will apply to your development.

Are there any exemptions from the requirement for approval?

Yes, a small number of exemptions are allowed in the legislation:

- Construction related to major roads (built by the Welsh Government), Network Rail railways, activities of internal drainage boards (delivered by Natural Resources Wales), natural watercourses and public sewers.
- Developments which involve the construction of a building or other structure covering an area of land of less than 100 square metres.
- Existing sites and developments with planning permission granted or deemed to be granted (or for which a valid application has been received but not determined) by 7 January 2019, will not be required to apply for SAB approval.

SAB approval will still be required if the planning permission was granted subject to a condition as to a reserved matter and an application for approval of the reserved matter is not made before 7 January 2020.

Where a variation to an existing planning consent is being sought SAB approval is also likely to be required.

Where can I get an application form?

Application forms for SAB approval can be found on the website of the relevant local authority.

Who will maintain the SuDS on my development?

In addition to their role in the assessment and approval of surface water drainage applications a key function of the SAB is in the adoption and maintenance of SuDS on new developments. SuDS which are constructed in accordance with the approved plans must be adopted by the SAB if it serves more than a single property / singly owned and managed site.

Can I still connect my surface water to the public sewer?

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 removed the automatic right to connect surface water drainage from new developments to the public sewerage system. Connection of surface water will only be an option if SAB approval has been obtained for your development to connect surface water to the public sewer. The consent of the sewer owner (Water Company) will also be required.

How will the changes affect my development?

The SAB process is a technical approval, and a separate requirement to the need for planning consent. However, to integrate an effective sustainable drainage scheme into your development it is paramount that you consider the design of the surface water drainage at the time the site layout is being considered. Discussions should be held with your local SAB as early as practicable.

While the legislation has been in place for over 6 months it appears that the number of applications for SAB approval are very low.

To **avoid the risk of your development being delayed**, resubmission for planning consent being needed, or enforcement action being taken (if works start without SAB approval), we would advise you to follow the web link below for more information and make contact with your local SAB to understand the need for SuDS approval on your development. What is being done to ensure the effective implementation of SuDS across Wales? A SuDS Implementation Group (chaired by the Welsh Government) has been set up to provide an opportunity for the main stakeholders to discuss matters concerning the effective delivery of the new regime.

How can I find out more information?

Information on the changes, copies of the legislation, national statutory SuDS standards, statutory guidance and frequently asked questions can be found on the Welsh Government website: gweddill.gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/flooding/drainage/

Further information on SuDS can be found on the “susdrain” web site www.susdrain.org, which is supported by the Welsh Government, and provides links to a wide range of resources and case studies. These include the comprehensive SuDS Manual (C753) and Guidance on the construction of SuDS (C768).

For more detailed information and to discuss any proposed development sites please contact your local authority in their SAB role.

If you would like to register for future editions of the SuDS newsletter, please e-mail: water@gov.wales

Where a variation to an existing planning consent is being sought SAB approval is also likely to be required.



The RTPI celebrates 60 years of its Royal Charter



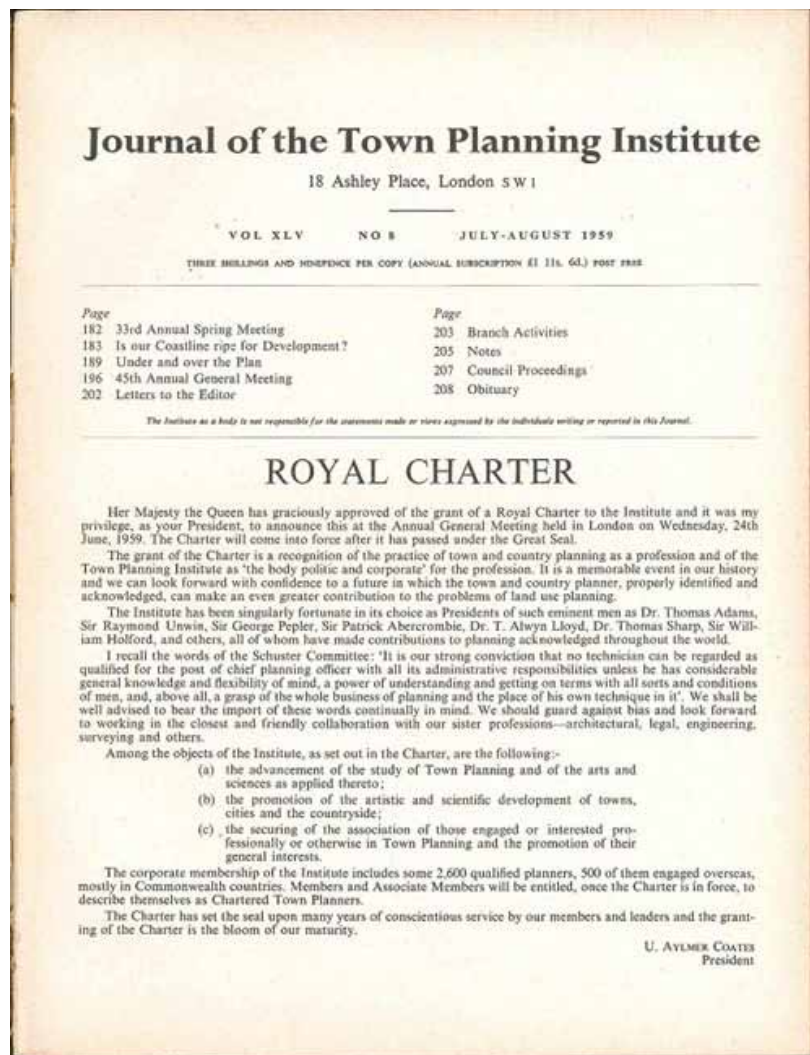
Sixty years ago, the Town Planning Institute (as it was then known) received its Royal Charter, a special mark of distinction limited to bodies pre-eminent in their field.

A Charter is a declaration to the public that the Institute is sound and well established, its members have a high level of up-to-date qualifications and experience, and that their conduct and activities are suitably monitored.

“... it’s undoubtedly been a badge of merit for me throughout the 37 years since I gained my MRTPI.”

RTPI President Ian Tant said: “Incorporation by Charter is a prestigious way of acquiring legal personality and undoubtedly reflects the high status of the organisation. The Charter also allowed its members to call themselves Chartered Town Planners. This is so important - it’s undoubtedly been a badge of merit for me throughout the 37 years since I gained my MRTPI.”

It was a culmination of twelve years of petitioning, and several rejections before the Privy Council granted the Institute its Charter. The then President, U. Aylmer Coates announced it in the July-August 1959 issue of the Journal of the Town Planning Institute.



Edinburgh Council wins RTPI Learning Partner Award 2019

The City of Edinburgh Council has won the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Learning Partner Award for 2019.

The Learning Partner Award recognises excellence in learning and development for planners by employers who have been accredited as RTPI Learning Partners.

The judges were full of praise for Edinburgh’s ‘Planning Performance Network’, a scheme which encourages an holistic approach to training and awareness-raising activities for officers, elected members and community councils.

Through the inclusion of monthly workshops, lunchtime staff sessions and support for

new starters and community groups, the judges said that the winning scheme aims to give the whole community a greater understanding of how the planning system works and to raise awareness of the challenges to planners addressing the needs of a growing city.

RTPI President Ian Tant presented City of Edinburgh Council Chief Planning Officer David Leslie with the award at the October meeting in London of the RTPI’s General Assembly.

Ian Tant said: “The City of Edinburgh Council’s impressive winning scheme not only aims to train and develop planners but also

elected members and other community groups who are all a key part of the planning process.

“The level of competition this year was extremely high and I would like to congratulate not only the City of Edinburgh Council on their victory but also everyone else who took part.”

David Leslie said: “We are delighted that the award recognises the benefits of our programme to join up training and development activity for our staff, elected members and community groups. We value our RTPI Learning Partners membership because it underlines the importance of supporting continuous

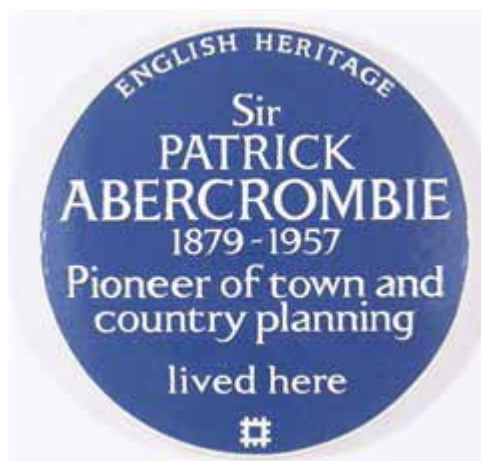
development to deliver improved performance and consistent service.”

Further information about the RTPI Learning Partners can be found at: www.rtpi.org.uk/education-and-careers/rtpi-learning-partners/



Above: David Leslie (left) from The City of Edinburgh Council is presented with the Learning Partner Award by President Ian Tant

Sir Patrick Abercrombie remembered at Blue Plaque ceremony



The first English Heritage blue plaque in London for a town planner has been dedicated in a moving event to mark World Town Planning Day 2019.

The ceremony to remember Sir Patrick Abercrombie, one of the leading figures of the postwar planning system, was attended by RTPI president Ian Tant and English Heritage Blue Plaque Panel member, historian and writer Rosemary Hill.

Sir Patrick was originally an architect who went on to found the first planning school in the country in Liverpool. He later made an enormous contribution to planning practice – his achievements included the production of the Greater London Plan of 1944, leading the reshaping of London and its surrounding region for the following half century.

He moved to the property, which is located at 63 Egerton Gardens, SW3 in 1935. It is thought that he lived there for around 10 years. Sir Patrick Abercrombie is buried on Anglesey.

Ian Tant said: "I am absolutely delighted to dedicate the English Heritage blue plaque to Sir Patrick Abercrombie on the 70th anniversary of World Town Planning Day. Sir Patrick Abercrombie was a founder of post war planning, not only in terms of his Greater London

Plan but also his work and influence nationally and internationally.

"He was a powerful advocate for the profession and for the importance of planning to ensure that the built environment works for the benefit of communities. It is fantastic that he has been honoured in this way by English Heritage's London blue plaques scheme."

Rosemary Hill described Sir Patrick as the 'pioneer of town planning'. She said: "This was the building where he was living when he took up his post of Professor of Town Planning at University College London in 1935. Egerton Gardens remained his home throughout the peak of his career and it was from here that he produced both his County of London plan of 1943 and then the Greater London plan."

During the ceremony, Ian read a statement from Fiona Abercrombie-Howroyd, Sir Patrick Abercrombie's only surviving grandchild who is now based in Tasmania, Australia.

In the statement, Fiona, herself a planner, spoke of a recently-found recording of her grandfather from 1948, in which he talked about making cities 'vital places' that included green belts, cycle and walkways and transport hubs to facilitate our work and play.

She said: "This is what we, as planners, still aspire to do. I think if he were here today, he would suggest that we will continue to aspire, as there can be nothing more important than how we live, work and play in our communities and, ever increasingly, our environment."

Blue plaque photo credit: English Heritage

RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence



Get the recognition you deserve by entering the most prestigious awards in planning

Our Awards for Planning Excellence continue to recognise best practice by highlighting exceptional examples of planning and celebrating the contribution that planners and planning make to society. Entries for the 2020 awards are open until 5pm 16th December 2019.

These high-profile awards are the most established and respected in our sector. For over 40 years, these prestigious awards have rewarded the brightest talent in the profession, helping to transform economies, environments and communities.

Being shortlisted for one of the prestigious awards is an excellent opportunity to raise your profile as an award winning team, consultancy or individual. Find out what it's like to win or receive a commendation from some of our previous outstanding entrants.

Outstanding submissions provide best-practice case studies for RTPI and you and your work has the chance to appear in our publicity campaigns to help raise the profile of planning.

If you have any queries about the awards, please contact awards@rtpi.org.uk

Young Planners Cymru Annual General Meeting

2019 has been a busy year for Young Planners Cymru and we're not finished quite yet, our Annual General Meeting will take place in December and we are inviting any young planners who are interested in getting involved to come along.

The AGM is an opportunity for us to reflect on the year we have had and to elect the YPC Committee for the forthcoming year, usually followed by some celebratory Christmas drinks!

Becoming a member of the Committee a fantastic way to meet other like-minded planning professionals and act as a voice for young planners in Wales.

There are number of ways to be involved with YPC and at the AGM we will be looking to fill the following roles:

- Chair
- Vice Chair and National Representative
- Executive Committee Representative
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Communications Managers
- Events Co-ordinators
- Student Representatives
- General Members

If you are interested in finding out more about any of the roles in advance, please let us know by emailing wales@rtpi.org.uk. The AGM will take place at 6pm 11th December 2019 at the RTPI Cymru office, Creative Quarter, Morgan Arcade, Cardiff.

For updates, email us or follow us on social media:

- Facebook – Young Planners Cymru
- Twitter - @YPCymru
- LinkedIn – RTPI Young Planners Cymru

We look forward to seeing you there.

Emmeline Reynish, Chair

In support of the Welsh Government's consultation on the National Development Framework (NDF), Young Planner's Cymru hosted a discussion at Zero Degrees, Cardiff on Monday 7th October. The premise was to discuss four themes (groupings or related policies within the NDF) over an hour with input from both our speakers and the audience.

The event started early and finished late due to the length of debate and discussion we had around the policies discussed – as well as a brief interval to eat some pizza! I've tried to summarise the themes and policies discussed below but in some cases, you just had to be there.

Session 1 - Blue/Green Infrastructure

Nick Hacking and Simon Power started the evening off by providing their thoughts on the NDF as a whole and raising a few questions on the Framework, including questioning how it may interact with PPW; any emerging weight it may or may not have; and the level of detail (or lack thereof) which it provides.

In discussing the NDF, Simon and Nick sought to draw some reflections from other examples of national legislation, including the Wales Spatial Plan and the NPPF. Whilst both have their merits and faults – with the Spatial Plan only being rolled out at inquiries and alike – the draft NDF seemingly has a good intent but, in its current iteration, may fall short in delivering the 11 outcomes noted in the document.

Session 2 - Strategic Policies for Regional Planning

For the second session, Nick was joined by Alexandra Egge and Rhys Govier to discuss Regional Planning, focusing on draft policy 16 of the NDF. The idea of strategic policies for regional growth was broadly welcomed by all but how and when Strategic Development Plans might materialise was the question raised. There is provision within the Wales Act for a regional level of planning but this hasn't materialised to date – with only South-East Wales representing an interest but yet to formally commit to the creation of such a governing body or plan and the Welsh Ministers are unlikely to 'force' LPAs to work together (given the contradiction that would entail, albeit maybe they should?).

There was some discussion around the number of regional bodies proposed to be created, with the Welsh Government's proposal of three differing from the research undertaken by Cardiff University, who recommended four.

Session 3 - South-East Wales and Transit Orientated Settlements

Following on from regional planning, Gavin Lewis, Charlotte Raine and Rhys discussed policies 27, 28, 30 and 31 – which focus on Cardiff, Newport, Green Belts in South East Wales and growth in sustainable transit orientated settlements, respectively. With regard to the proposed Green Belt in South East Wales, it was commented that the area indicated within the draft NDF was not sufficiently clear to interpret which areas were inside the Green Belt and those which might be outside of it. It was also noted that the designation of the Green Belt wouldn't be subject to examination (as Green Belts are in England).

On the subject of Green Belts and the growth of Cardiff and Newport, the idea that the Green Belt between these two cities could be dissolved, allowing further growth and possible agglomeration in this part of Cardiff/Newport* (which is at present subject to a number of large scale and ambitious plans by the private sector and public sector alike – St Mellon's Train Station and others!). *Unsure as to whether the portmanteau of "CarPort" or "NewDiff" should be used for the new combined City – feedback welcomed.

Session 4 - Sustainable Growth

The last session, with Charlotte, Alex and Joe Ayoubkhani drew upon some of the topics discussed previously, with some discussion on sustainable growth (captured through policies 1, 2, 3 and 5 of the draft NDF), housing projects and other matters – including the Welsh Government's current consultation on Compulsory Purchase Orders; TAN 15 (Development and Flood Risk); and the possible revocation of TAN 1 (Joint Housing Land Availability Studies) which could have been a seminar in themselves!

Thanks again to Simon Power (Mott MacDonald), Alexandra Egge (Mott MacDonald), Joe Ayoubkhani (Barton Willmore), Nick Hacking (Cardiff University), Rhys Govier (Savills), Charlotte Raine (Vale of Glamorgan Council), Gavin Lewis (WSP) and Jonni Thomas (Welsh Government) who all kindly spoke at the event.

The event was generously sponsored by WSP, who are one of the largest town planning consultancies in the UK, as well as other supporting services in relation to infrastructure and the built environment.



The RTPI Cymru Photo Board

This is our look back at the last quarter of RTPI Cymru



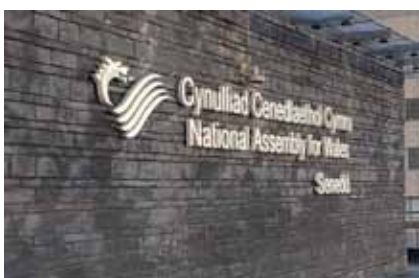
RTPI Cymru participated in the Hugh James / CHC Affordable Housing Panel discussion and Darren Parker of RPS represented planners at the Interprofessional Debate on the NDF.



RTPI Cymru held discussions about the NDF in Colwyn Bay and the Director was interviewed by ITV Wales for Wales this Week broadcast in September about housing in Wales.



RTPI Cymru joined Planning Aid Wales at their reception at the Senedd to celebrate their 40 years of service in Wales.



RTPI Cymru's Director gave evidence to the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee on the NDF and we held the annual Wales Enforcement Conference in Llandrindod Wells, supported by POSW and attended by over 100 delegates from across Wales.



RTPI Cymru joined with RSAW to hold an event on SuDS in Llandudno to bring architects and planners together to discuss common issues. We have also continued our meetings with RTPI members including our Policy and Research Forum pictured here meeting in Wrexham.

Events

Project management for planners

9.30am - 4.00pm Thursday 2 July 2020
Jurys Inn, Cardiff

For good planning outcomes, planners increasingly need good project management skills. We have designed this masterclass to meet the needs of everyone who has to manage projects or plan tasks and deliver results under time pressure. It addresses the major stages of project management specifically for planning and gives you the tools, methods and techniques you need to manage your projects successfully.

For more information and to book a place go to: www.rtpi.org.uk/events/events-calendar/2020/july/project-management-for-planners-cardiff/

Flooding, sustainable drainage systems and climate change

9.00am - 4.00pm Wednesday 16 September 2020
Jurys Inn, Cardiff

Climate change is one of the most crucial issues facing communities today, and the increasing occurrence of severe weather events is just a reminder of the urgency of this issue. The RTPI is leading on guidance for planners to develop a practical understanding. This key masterclass will help you to understand how planning policy and development management should adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change, how it affects local communities and how you can plan for effective urban drainage at a national, regional or local level.

For more information and to book a place go to: www.rtpi.org.uk/events/events-calendar/2020/september/flooding,-sustainable-drainage-systems-and-climate-change-cardiff/

Planning for Non-planners

9.30am - 4.00pm Wednesday 30 September 2019
Jurys Inn, Cardiff

This masterclass provides an understanding of the planning system for elected members, parish, community and town councillors, non-planning professionals working in place-making, technicians, administrators and support staff. Delegates will gain an invaluable insight into plan making, the role of development management and the way decisions on individual planning applications are made either by the planning committee, by the officers under delegated powers or by appeal.

For more information and to book a place go to: www.rtpi.org.uk/events/events-calendar/2020/september/planning-for-non-planners-cardiff/

Diary Markers:

Interprofessional Debate: Towards Zero Carbon

Tuesday 14 January 2020
Blake Morgan, Central Square, Cardiff

Look out for more details in the e-bulletin from RTPI Cymru.

RTPI Cymru Spring Conference 2020

18 March 2020
Quay Hotel, Deganwy

Our Spring Conference will this year explore the relationship between the new Wales Marine Plan and land use planning, as well as exploring coastal management.

RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence

30 April 2020, London

The winners of the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence will be announced at a ceremony in central London on 30 April 2020, including the winner of our Silver Jubilee Cup.

Wales Planning Conference 2020

Thursday 4 June 2020
Holland House Hotel, Cardiff

The annual premier planning conference for Wales; this year we will be focusing on placemaking and delivering net zero carbon.

The Planner Live 2020

29-30 June 2020, London

The Planning Convention is getting a makeover!

We're bringing together the strengths of both the RTPI and The Planner Magazine to offer delegates two full days of conference sessions and a gala dinner to maximise your networking opportunities at our brand new conference for planners across the UK.

To be added to the mailing list to receive more information, please contact us on conferences@rtpi.org.uk

Wales Enforcement Conference 2020

22 October 2020
The Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells

The annual conference for Wales dealing with everything enforcement related.

RTPI Cymru Annual Dinner 2019



Thank you to Arup
for the generous
sponsorship of the RTPI
Cymru Annual Dinner

ARUP