

Chair's Comments, Chris Jesson



As the trees start to turn and glisten in the lowering light we can look forward to the emerging colours of Autumn in amongst the challenges we all face but still with plenty of optimism to embrace the principles of our latest campaign [Plan the World We Need](#). The RTPI is calling on governments across the UK and Ireland to capitalise on the great expertise of planners to achieve a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery from COVID-19.

For more details on how the industry is adapting at the moment and how it can provide support, the RTPI's [Coronavirus Hub](#) is the source of the latest updates from the Institute in this respect. Please also remember that should you find yourself in a particular financial difficulty, the [RTPI Trust](#) may be able to assist you at this time.

The RTPI is adhering to its "abundance of caution" strategy to protect members, volunteers and colleagues and will be trialling a very small return to offices during October. It is still the case that we are not able to offer safe face-to-face events or meetings.

The RTPI is continuing to host a series of free webinars in the events programme until the end of the year. This includes our very own 'Reuse of Historic Buildings' event covering case studies in Lincoln and Derbyshire, on 9th October. Be sure to consider booking a place on this, as you will be joining over 70 people booked on.

Our virtual CPD programme has formed part of the RTPI's Online Events Series and you can catch up on all previous events on the [RTPI YouTube Channel](#). The regional team are pleased that the transition to online has been successful; the last Biodiversity Net Gain webinar having an attendance of 174. We realise it will never fully replace occasions in person, and on that we can look forward to that as soon as we are able to. Our regional Young Planners Committee is also engaged in the digital service officer, participating with neighbouring teams to deliver an 'Ask the Expert' series for professional learning.

Our virtual Regional Planning Awards for Planning Excellence is confirmed to progress, with judging complete and preparations under way. Save the date - 18th November 4pm!

On a final note, over recent weeks, the RIBA and RTPI in the East Midlands have been in discussion about setting up a joint group to foster a more collaborative relationship between the two professions in the region. As a result we are looking for representation from RIBA/RTPI members to form both a working Group of around 10 people and also volunteers to help support the delivery of subsequent joint projects. Those projects will be determined by the Group, with the ambition of creating collaborative opportunities and delivering results, that can build bridges between the two professions where differences are present, but also work together where there are issues on which we have a common viewpoint. For those reasons, we are looking for Group members and supporting volunteers from across the region who represent the diverse membership of both professions. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact us.

Wishing you continued safety and security at the present time.

Chris