



# **RTPI NI**

## **Annual Review**

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Presentation from the Annual  
Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup>  
November 2020

## RTPI Northern Ireland Chairs 2019 and 2020



# The RTPI's Corporate Strategy was adopted in January 2020



# RTPI NI Team

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- Roisin Willmott – Director
- Joanna Drennan – Policy Officer
- Julie Sullivan - Administrator



# Pillar 1: The value of membership and professionalism

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# Events

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- February - APC briefing event held in Belfast
- September – NI Planner Live
- November – Northern Ireland Planning Law Update
- Access to on-line events across the UK and Ireland





# Northern Ireland Planner Live

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## NI Planning Conference transformed on-line

- 10 webinars across 5 days
- 10 hours + of free CPD
- Interview with the Minister
- 28 speakers
- 9 chairs
- Over 600 people attended live
- 1,051 viewings on YouTube



"Planners are well placed to promote sustainable and integrated approaches to land use and infrastructure development with locally agreed innovative solutions to the climate and economic challenges we face."

**Nichola Mallon**  
DfI Minister



Department for

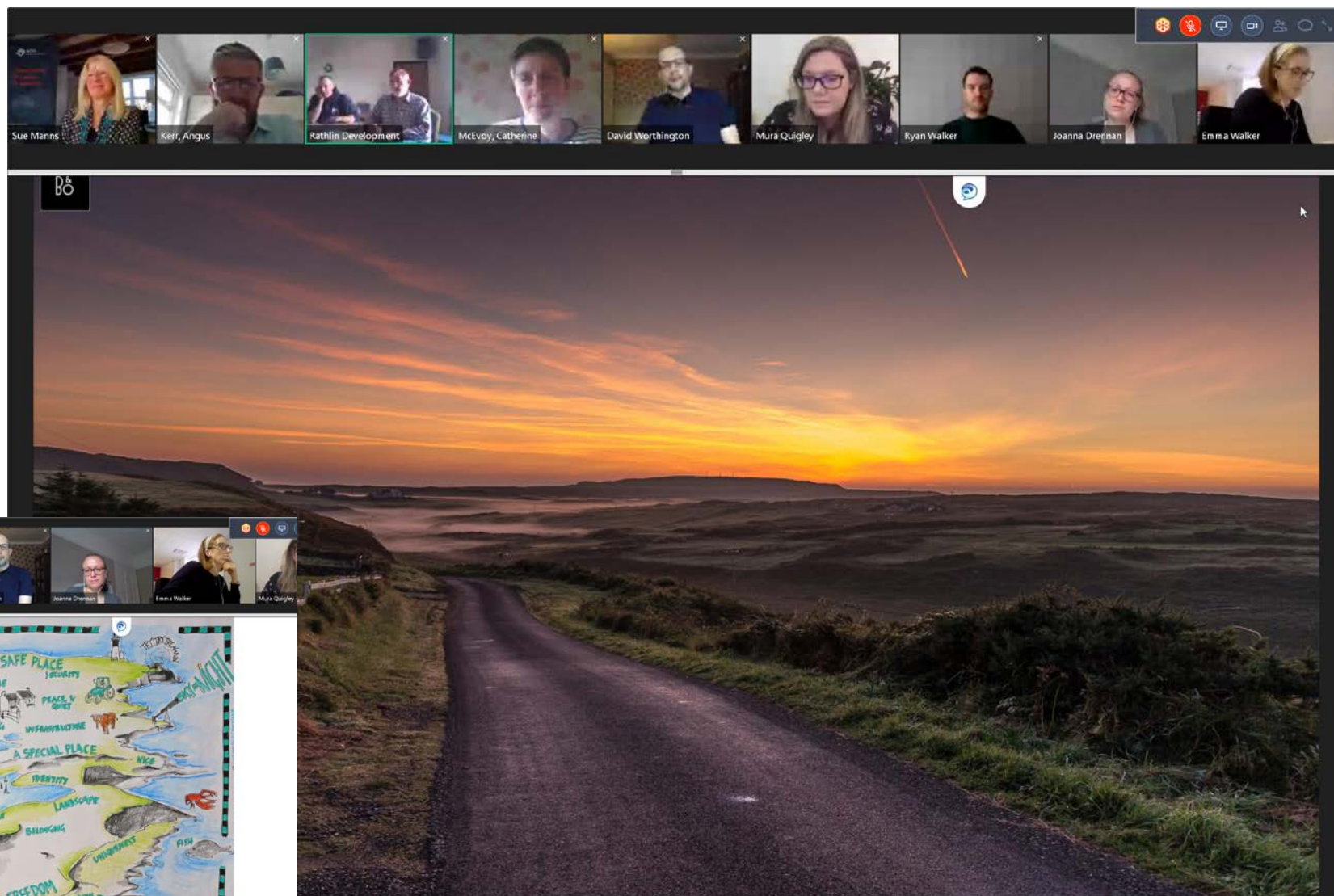
Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair



## President's 'visit' to Rathlin Island





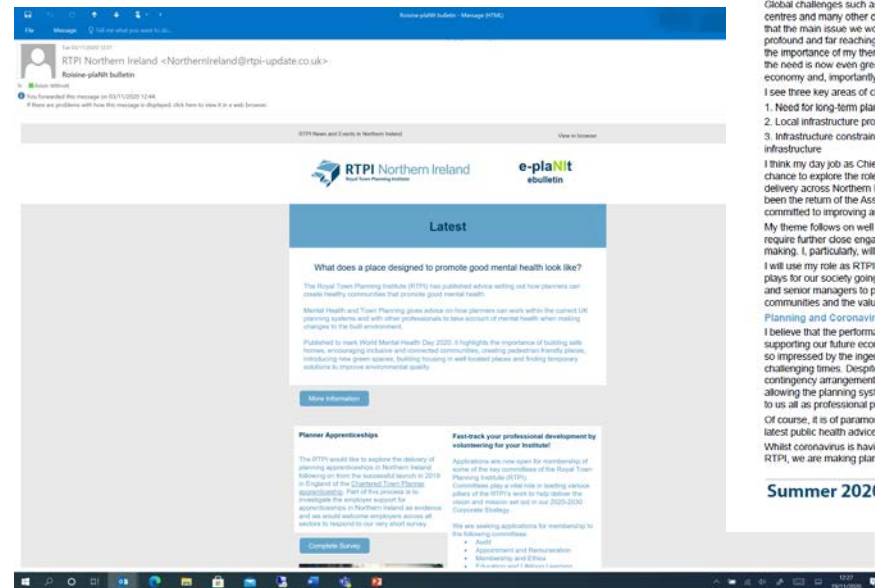
## Annual Dinner held in March at the Merchant Hotel





# Member Communications

- PlaNIIt published
- New e-plaNIIt introduced with regular messaging for members



## RTPI Northern Ireland Chair 2020 – Planning and Infrastructure

Thank you to Emma Walker for such a great year as Chair of RTPI Northern Ireland in 2019. We can all agree she was a great chair and I have big shoes to fill!

In 2020 there is no doubt we continue to face many challenges and much uncertainty. Global challenges such as climate change, demographic change, challenges to our town centres and many other challenges. However, I don't think any of us could have predicted that the main issue we would face would be the global Coronavirus pandemic. The profound and far reaching effect this has had on all our lives and activities has highlighted the importance of my theme for the year of linking planning with infrastructure. If anything, the need is now even greater for infrastructure investment and good planning to boost the economy and, importantly, to make Northern Ireland more resilient.

I see three key areas of challenge in this both regionally and at the local level:

1. Need for long-term planning for infrastructure across the region as a whole
2. Local infrastructure provision to accommodate the growth expected in the suite of LDPs
3. Infrastructure constraints to development proposals – e.g. water and drainage infrastructure

I think my day job as Chief Planner in the Department for Infrastructure affords me a real chance to explore the role planning can play in improving infrastructure planning and delivery across Northern Ireland. One of the big pluses of my year so far has, undoubtedly, been the return of the Assembly and the fact we now have a planning Minister who is committed to improving and developing the planning system.

My theme follows on well from Emma's theme on 'partnerships' and 'collaboration' and will require further close engagement with the other professions and disciplines involved in place making. I, particularly, will want to engage with Roads, water and rivers colleagues from DfI. I will use my role as RTPI chair and as Chief Planner to highlight the vital part planning plays for our society going forward. In particular, I will engage with council chief executives and senior managers to promote and explain the positive power of planning for their communities and the value of the RTPI and of their professional planning staff.

### Planning and Coronavirus

I believe that the performance of the planning system will have an important role in supporting our future economic and societal recovery from the crisis. I have already been so impressed by the ingenuity and resolve of planners across all sectors under these challenging times. Despite the extreme difficulties presented by the lock-down, pragmatic contingency arrangements and new and flexible ways of working have been adopted allowing the planning system to continue to function, albeit at a reduced level. This is a credit to us all as professional planners.

Of course, it is of paramount importance that all of this is done while also adhering to the latest public health advice to keep planners, staff and the wider community safe.

What coronavirus is having an impact on delivering our programme of activities by the RTPI, we are making plans to continue to hold the Northern Ireland Planning Conference



In September, although we may need to make arrangements for this to be held virtually – keep in touch with RTPI colleagues to learn more shortly.

I was pleased that we were able to hold our Annual Dinner at the beginning of March, just before the coronavirus look held. We had a fantastic evening at the Merchant Hotel and it was wonderful to see so many of you there.

I am looking forward to my year ahead and hopefully a return to more normal ways of working. No matter what, I know I will be reporting on positive achievements in 12 months' time. In the meantime, I hope everyone and their families keep well.

## Summer 2020 Edition



## Pillar 2: Supporting planning services



# Plan The World We Need

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- A post-COVID recovery paper was published for Northern Ireland, complementing the #PlanTheWorldWeNeed campaign





# Policy work

- Active Policy and Research Forum.  
Developing work programme:
  - Design
  - Rural – including developing collaboration with QUB
- Responding to consultations
- Engaging with Historic Environment Group
- Gearing up for COP26
- Engaging with PLACE
- Collaboration with Transport Planning Society (TPS)



# Pillar 3: Raising the profile of planning

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# RTPI NI Awards for Planning Excellence 2020



Winner: Rural Housing Association's Old Mill Court at Sion Mills



# Northern Ireland Young Planner of the Year 2020

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- Ryan Walker – named Northern Ireland Young Planner of the Year 2020
- Erin Donaldson - Commended





# University Engagement

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- Presentation to Ulster University Students on spatial planning across UK, October 2020
  - Hugh McKay Award (QUB) made jointly to:
    - Ethan Smyth: Smart Mobility in the *Transition to Low-Carbon City Transport – a Case Study of Belfast* and
    - Errin Marshall *"To what extent does integration of affordable housing have social impacts for residents in mixed tenure housing developments in Chelmsford, Essex?"*
  - RTPI NI Student Project Award made to Sarah Hamilton (UU):  
The Value of Green Infrastructure: Planning for Cross-border Contexts
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# Pillar 4: Promoting equality, diversity and inclusivity

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# Apprenticeships

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- Running a survey to compile market evidence of support for a Chartered Town Planner Apprenticeship for Northern Ireland



## Chartered Town Planner Apprenticeship End Point Assessment

### Main Guidance

Route to Chartered membership for Chartered  
Town Planner Apprentices

Published May 2020



# Thank you





Thank you to our  
sponsors across the  
year

# ARUP



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NORTHERN IRELAND  
PLANNING  
BAR ASSOCIATION

# RTPI NI 2021 Executive Committee

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## **RTPI NI Executive Committee 2021**

<b>Chair</b>	Gemma Jobling
<b>Senior Vice Chair</b>	Mura Quigley
<b>Junior Vice Chair</b>	Catharine McWhirter
<b>Immediate Past Chair</b>	Angus Kerr
<b>Corporate Members:</b>	Emma Walker
	Ryan Walker
	Sharon Mossman <b>(Regions &amp; Nations Rep)</b>
	Alistair Beggs
	Chris Bryson
	Michael McQuiston
<b>General Assembly Rep</b>	Carol Ramsey
<b>Student/Licentiate Rep</b>	Adam Trafford
<b>Student/Licentiate Rep</b>	<b>Vacant</b>



**RTPI** Northern Ireland  
Royal Town Planning Institute

**Thank you and we  
look forward to a  
productive 2021**

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