



# IN PERSPECTIVE

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**For further information  
on any of the articles  
or events featured:**

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## The Chair's Word

I don't know about you but where has 2021 gone? It has certainly been a very eventful year which has kept us all busy. This year has been full of highlights at the national level, in particular; the climate emergency with COP26 and the ongoing discussions on how planning will become a key component to reaching the UK's net zero ambitions, the Environment Act 2021 and how biodiversity net gain (amongst other things) is inserted into the planning system.



**Simon Taylor,**  
**MRTPI**

RTPI South East,  
Chair

At the regional level, I am proud of everything that we have achieved in 2021; from the continued delivery of our online CPD programme, to supporting the region's Planning Schools and supporting our members. I am honoured that the South East hosted our RTPI President, Dr Wei Yang, three times during the course of the year; twice virtually to discuss the relevance of garden city principles in today's place-making (with East of England), and having an honest debate about the role of protected landscapes within the planning system (with North East); and once physically in October, where we welcomed Wei to Kent to discuss how rural planning supports rural economies, environmental planning, regeneration successes and nationally significant infrastructure. All of Wei's visits to the South East can be found on the [RTPI's website](#) or [Youtube page](#)

So as you can see, a lot has happened over the past year and your South East Committee will continue to deliver for its members.

We also recently celebrated the South East Awards which I was honoured to be part of the judging panel. There were strong entries across the board for place-making, individual schemes and practices (both private and local authorities), as well as outstanding entries for the accolade for South East Young Planner of the Year 2021.

I want to express my warmest congratulations to all of the winners, and you can read more about them in this issue. If you missed the virtual awards ceremony, you can view it on the [RTPI YouTube page](#).

So as you can see, a lot has happened over the past year and your South East Committee will continue to deliver for its members. Our business plan for the next three years will continue to guide us in our delivery of our CPD programme, as well as remaining an active voice for you.

We will continue to promote our profession, showcase the best of our region to the profession, and celebrate the successes of our Young Planners - which provides a nice segway to say that I am super thrilled to know that our Young Planners will be hosting the Young Planners Conference 2022 in Milton Keynes next year! My congratulations to the Thames Valley YPs who led on the bid and I look forward to working with you and supporting you as you prepare for the Conference!

As we look to 2022, I would like to welcome our new [Committee members](#); Andrew Coleman, Michelle Quan and Michele Hu. Also, I want to take a brief moment to recognise those who will be stepping down from the South East Committee, Aline Hyde and Kate Green. I want to thank you for your time as part of the Committee, and I hope that you will continue to support the region as we move forward.

Remember, that you can keep in touch with all of our updates on the [RTPI website](#), [Youtube](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages. Finally, I hope that you all have a restful Christmas break and a Happy New Year for 2022.

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**Winchester City Council Local Plan Consultation submitted by Winchester City Council scooped the top prize at this year's prestigious RTPI South East Awards for Planning Excellence.**



Winchester City Council Local Plan Consultation represents a real planning success story, demonstrating excellence in local engagement as well and a real commitment to learning from the exercise and reaching as many stakeholders as possible. This project leads the way for improved short-term as well as future consultation processes with excellent collaborative working, monitoring, review, and dissemination of results. It demonstrates “real world” adaptability and effective use of new tools such as polls, software, and mobile applications. We would highly recommend that you look at their work as an example of best practice for local plan consultations in your own areas.

**Gareth Giles FRTPI**, Chair of RTPI South East judging panel, said:

*“Winchester’s Local Plan Consultation project demonstrated excellence in engagement and a willingness to actively learn from, and improve its processes to reach as many people as possible. It is a shining example of innovation in a pandemic context, as well as making use of new technological innovations. Local authorities should look to this as an example of best practice for consultations in their own areas”*

**Adrian Fox**, Strategic Planning Manager, Winchester City Council, said

*“The Strategic Planning Team at Winchester City Council were absolutely delighted to win two RTPI awards at the recent South East awards ceremony on the 18th November and the feedback that we received from judges. Much of the ‘Your Place; Your Plan’ consultation programme was conducted during the height of the pandemic, which saw the team developing creative new ways to engage local communities virtually and creating a dedicated new Local Plan website [localplan.winchester.gov.uk](http://localplan.winchester.gov.uk). Having our professional organisation recognise all of the hard work that the team put into making the consultation a success is the icing on the cake and it has given the team a real boost.”*

Winchester City Council Local Plan Consultation also won the Plan making category and judges were impressed with the local engagement and approach. The judges considered the consultation to be a standout submission, which fully encompassed the judging criteria. Particularly noteworthy was how climate action was embedded and topics tethered to the UN Sustainable Development Goals from the outset.

Overall, the judges considered it to be innovative and collaborative with a successful modification of approach, due to the pandemic. It was clearly leading the way for future consultations and importantly, maintains the importance of pre-covid consultation activities to ensure engagement with as many user groups as possible.

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The winner of the RTPI South East Planning Team of the Year 2021 is [DHA Planning](#).



The stand-out feature was DHA's long term approach to staff retention and progression, supporting volunteering, development of in-house training including an in house "university" and development initiatives, plus wider engagement with other planners.

Alex Hicken, Managing Director at DHA, said:

*"The RTPI is responsible for maintaining the highest professional standards for our industry, to be recognised in this way is a massive achievement and I'd like to congratulate every one of our team in Maidstone and Crawley."*

*"Developing a highly skilled team has been at the heart of the firm for the last 30 years and every one of us is committed to being the best we can be for our clients when working with local authorities and communities. Our focus on going 'above and beyond' was recognised by our customers who contributed to our entry, and this was acknowledged by the judges."*



The RTPI South East Young Planner of the Year 2021 is [Zoe Knott](#) from [Nexus Planning](#).

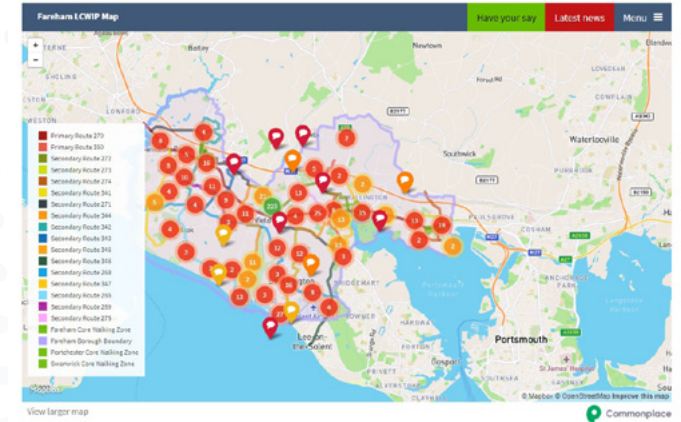
The judges were impressed by Zoe's commitment to driving inclusivity and diversity in the profession. Zoe is an excellent role model for our Young Planners in her ongoing support in the recruitment of new apprentices and giving her time to provide them with ongoing guidance and mentoring.

They wish her every success and feel she has a bright future ahead of her in town planning.

Zoe said,

*"I'm delighted to have been nominated and now awarded the winner of the RTPI SE Young Planner of the Year for 2021. It is an important and interesting time for planning where we have the opportunity to mentor those starting out and help engage with those who may not have thought of Planning as a career. Congratulations to everyone nominated and the winners".*

The Chair's Award



This years' discretionary Chair's Award winner is [Hampshire County Council](#) for their ongoing work to bring forward [Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans](#) for the County.

These Plans build on the County's existing strategies for cycling and walking, to improve existing networks through a targeted approach. In partnership with the charity Sustrans, Hampshire County Council looks to bring forward five Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans across the County for; Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Eastleigh and Southern Test Valley.

To initiate a community discussion on its plans, Hampshire County Council has successfully used PlanTech, via the Commonplace consultation platform, to clearly illustrate where new cycling and walking routes are being proposed, as well as where targeted improvements need to be made.

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## The Chairs Award (continued)

Through the consultation, respondents were able to reply to the proposal via a short traditional survey, as well as placing comments directly on the maps. This meant that comments could be placed on exact points along a route (such as at junctions, crossings, where accidents/hazards occur). Other respondents were able to see and add to these comments, making the consultation feel that a 'conversation' is taking place.

By designing the consultation in a simple but highly visual way, it meant that there was a high level of engagement from the community. This demonstrates an excellent example of how social media type techniques can be used effectively in infrastructure planning.

The use of PlanTech has enabled Hampshire County Council to put community at its heart in devising safer cycling and walking routes across its County, supporting wider objectives to create better options for sustainable travel, mitigate the impacts of climate change impacts and encouraging healthier environments.

## Commendations



The other finalist recognised at the 2021 RTPi South East Regional Awards was entered by Earth's Trust who received a commendation for the project Earth Lab - a clear example of achieving sustainability through design, planning, and execution. The judges were impressed with the well-rounded contribution of the Earth Lab to addressing the Sustainable Development Goals.



A commendation in the Young Planner of the Year category was awarded to Chloe Duggan from Stantec. The judges were impressed by her ongoing commitment to engaging with and supporting other young planners and those who aspire to join the profession.

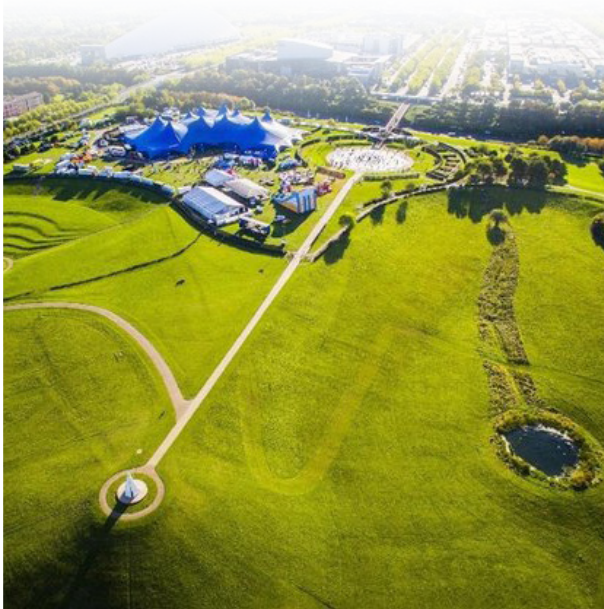
**The RTPi South East Awards for Planning Excellence 2022 will be launched soon. To register your interest, please email ...**

Susan Millington

[Southeast@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:Southeast@rtpi.org.uk)

**Missed the virtual ceremony? Take a look [here >>>](#)**

# Coming to Milton Keynes – The Young Planners’ Conference 2022



## The Young Planners’ Conference 2022

After a time of turbulence in event planning due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the South East Young Planners were thrilled to learn that their bid to host the 2022 Young Planners’ Conference was successful. The [Thames Valley Young Planners Steering Group](#) prepared the bid on behalf of and with the support of the South East region earlier this year and are delighted that the in-person event will be hosted in Milton Keynes. It will be the third time since 2008 that the Conference has been hosted in the South East although the first time ever in the Thames Valley region.

So why Milton Keynes? The Thames Valley is undergoing rapid transformative change, with the Oxford to Cambridge Arc planning agenda being a key driving force for this change. Milton Keynes is located at the heart of the Arc and is an ambitious place seeking to capitalise on its unique character as a New Town achieving ‘city-like’ goals. The Town experiences distinct stereotyping - most people think of Milton Keynes and roundabouts and concrete cows come to mind, however, the location has much greater variety to offer.

Milton Keynes, a planned settlement proudly ‘different by design’ was born from Utopian concepts of determined planners and urban designers. Nonetheless, the settlement is not unique in that it has significant societal and environmental challenges to face including homelessness, climate change and an aging population, often calling into question whether the Utopian ideals from the New Towns inception themselves have led to Dystopian consequences.

The location therefore, epitomises the chosen theme for the 2022 Young Planners Conference - Utopia or Dystopia? The Conference will explore the theme through a range of sessions which will seek to encourage constructive thinking and debate as to what makes a place a Utopia or Dystopia as well as a variety of virtual and in-person study tours along with networking and breakout sessions. The Conference will challenge Young Planners to critique modern planning and how we as a community can strive for Utopian successes whilst avoiding Dystopian effects.

It is with great excitement that the region will welcome Young Planners to Milton Keynes in 2022 and the Steering Group are keen to connect with those across the region in the planning of the event, and welcome input from both individuals and organisations, contact [southeast@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:southeast@rtpi.org.uk)

Article co-authored by Annabel Le Lohé, Chair of the Thames Valley Young Planners Network and Stefania Petrosino, Vice-Chair of the Thames Valley Young Planners Network.



Annabel Le Lohé  
MRTPI



Stefania Petrosino  
MRTPI

Contact  
[Susan Millington](#)  
to discuss  
sponsorship  
opportunities

## A chat with... Harriet Richardson MRTPI

Immediate past chair of Kent  
Young Planners Network



**Harriet  
Richardson**

Batcheller  
Monkhouse

### A bit about you

*I am Harriet Richardson and I work in Tunbridge Wells as a planning consultant for regional multidisciplinary property firm, Batcheller Monkhouse. I started my career working for a property developer before moving to Batcheller Monkhouse in 2014. I have experience in a broad range of projects from small scale rural diversification schemes up to strategic land promotion and applications for urban extensions. I launched the RTPI Kent Young Planners, co chaired the committee for a number of years and enjoy speaking in schools and universities to encourage young people into the planning profession.*

### Why you choose planning

*I am one of the few people who chose my career at a young age, following some work experience during my GCSEs. I had lots of family in property, mainly surveying, but did some work experience in planning and thought it was fascinating. I therefore chose my A Levels, degree and masters to pursue a career in planning. To me, planning is such an important and interesting discipline, being involved in shaping the places people live and work is really rewarding, and I love how diverse the projects are. Some of my clients are farmers or small business owners, some are property developers or investors, not many jobs can allow for that.*

### What you do in your current job.

*I have a particular interest in strategic planning. I enjoy finding sites that may have development potential, engaging with landowners and promoting suitable sites through the local plan process. This takes time however so in between strategic land promotion, the majority of my day to day projects are small- medium sized residential developments and rural diversification projects. I really enjoy working on applications for glamping projects, which is lucky as we seem to do an awful lot of them!*

### What you do when you are not planning

*I am married to an engineer, have a 2 year old daughter and a son due in a few months. The majority of my time outside of work is therefore spent with my family and doing our own house projects. My husband and I both enjoy DIY and we are currently part way through our second house renovation.*

### Why you joined the Committee

*I was already co chairing the Kent Young Planners and met a few members when launching that network. I have always felt strongly that people in the industry should do their APC and be active RTPI members order to raise the standard of our profession and promote planning as a career. I got on with the people I met on the committee so when they asked me to join I immediately agreed as it fitted in well with lots of the work I was already doing with young planners.*



# The Location of Development



This report builds on the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Location of Development work series commenced in 2015. This third report analyses planning permissions granted between 2015-2019 in England.

The location of new development, defined in this report as recent planning permissions for new major residential housing, can significantly impact accessibility to key amenities for residents across England in several ways including:

- Access to amenities that support economic opportunities, healthcare services, and educational facilities varies widely by location and mode of transport or new planned developments.
- In locations with a major agglomeration of jobs such as London and the North West, reaching key amenities by public transport takes less than an hour. In other regions, a comparable journey can take nearly twice as long.
- This research highlights the stark differences across England. For example, in the 10% most accessible planned developments, access to jobs and educational facilities will be within a 30-minute walk. In the 10% least accessible planned developments, access to the same facilities will be over 90 minutes walking time away.
- We analysed new residential developments in England based on the location of planning permissions approved between 2015 and 2019. This showed that access to amenities from these locations is twice as fast by car compared to public transport, and nearly three times quicker than by walking. Average public transport travel times to hospitals or large employment centres were also comparable or slower than walking, which may not be a realistic option for all residents of these new developments.

The impacts of such diversity in the location of development are potentially severe and wide ranging. This report recognises that some individuals will make a personal choice to live in more isolated locations. However, there is a significant proportion of planned development and major housing sites that are poorly connected to key amenities by any modes, including the most sustainable, healthy and affordable transport options.

This impacts on those who live in the least accessible of new developments in multiple ways. They will have less access to economic opportunity, reduced access to - and choice of - healthcare and educational provision, and fewer options to choose their mode of travel.

Where there exists a positive link between accessibility to key services and house prices, a lack of accessibility will serve to widen economic and health inequalities. New communities with poor accessibility encourage private vehicle dependent travel, which undermines initiatives to encourage sustainable transport use in line with net zero objectives and promote healthy lifestyles.

You can download the report [here >>>](#)

### Report authors

**Samuel Spencer,**  
RTPI Policy and Data Analyst

**David Pendlebury,**  
MSc

# Get to know...

## Roger Smith MRTPI

**Planning Director**  
**Savills, Oxford**



### A bit about you

*I am originally from Bolton in Lancashire, but I have lived in Swindon in Wiltshire most of my life. I am married with three children who are now in their twenties and are now working or studying. I have worked as a town planner for over 37 years. My first job was working as a policy planner for the Borough Council in Swindon (then known as Thamesdown), then I worked in consultancy (DPDS and Chapman Warren), then for housing developers (Westbury and Persimmon) before returning to consultancy at Savills in Oxford about 14 years ago.*

### Why you chose planning?

*My interest in planning started as a teenager when the fields behind my home in Bolton were allocated for housing development and I wanted to understand the process of how this had happened. I undertook work experience at Bolton Council and Wigan Council and this increased my interest in the subject before deciding to study town and country planning at Manchester University.*

### What do you do in your current role?

*I work as a Planning Director at Savills in Oxford. The work is very varied with both development management and planning policy. We have a wide range of clients including landowners, housing developers, housing associations and land promoters. Most of what we do is in or around Oxfordshire. Projects range from relatively small planning applications such as barn conversions to very large strategic proposals such as new settlements.*

### What you do when you are not planning?

*I am very involved in the local community where I live and I serve as a Borough Councillor in Swindon. I chair the Borough Council Adults' Health and Adults' Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee which is an important part of the Council's work. I have also been a local Parish Councillor for over fifteen years. Other interests include being a season ticket holder at Swindon Town Football Club and playing bass guitar in the music group at my local church.*

### Why you joined the committee?

*The RTPI has always been hugely important to me, whether for CPD, professional networking and representing the planning profession at a national level. The Regional Activities Committee (RAC) represents an opportunity to contribute to arranging events to meet the needs of members whether on-line or in person. I am looking forward to helping organise an urban design workshop in Oxford and also the return of the annual dinner in Oxford. I have also been keen to encourage the younger planners at Savills in Oxford to get involved in the Thames Valley Young Planners. The RAC has an important role in encouraging the Young Planner network.*

# Chief Planners of Tomorrow scheme launched



The programme is a work-shadowing scheme offering RTPI Young Planners the chance to step into the shoes of a Chief Planning Officer for the day. Participants will be given the opportunity to learn from the best, including those currently in senior leadership roles in local authorities.

Successful applicants will also get an insight into how strategic decision making processes are made at the top level.

Eligibility requirements include:

- You will need to register as a member of the RTPI Young Planners
- You need to be a member of the RTPI and a graduate, Licentiate or Chartered member with no more than 10 years' experience post-qualification
- If you have already participated in the programme sadly we are unable to accept you, due to the limited places available

Sarah Woodford, Head of English Regions at the RTPI, said: We are delighted to be launching our Chief Planners of Tomorrow Programme for 2022. Experiencing first-hand what it is like to be a Chief Planner, where decisions are made at the highest levels is something that we know is incredibly valuable to those just starting off in their careers.

*“Thanks to our Chief Planner hosts, CPOT has already given more than 50 Young Planners the opportunity to experience what this is like as they step into their shoes for the day. Our participants tell us that it is an amazing opportunity, eye-opening, thought provoking and informative.*”

*“For this round we will be giving applicants the choice to participate ‘in person’ for the day or virtually over a series of days. We have already had a lot of interest from Young Planners keen to participate and we look forward to receiving applications in the New Year.”*

You can also email us with any specific enquiries:

[chief.planners@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:chief.planners@rtpi.org.uk)

For more information please click here >>>

## We welcome our new Committee members



**Michelle Quan MRTPI**

*Associate Director  
Boyer Planning*

Michelle is a Chartered Town Planner with over a decade of experience. Michelle is currently an Associate Director at Boyer in the Wokingham office.

Michelle previously worked for both a national housebuilder and in the public sector and she therefore, has a broad range of experience across London and the South East in different sectors. Michelle works on a variety of projects but specialises in securing residential planning permissions in the Thames Valley.

She has extensive experience in preparing, negotiating and managing complex development projects, working collaboratively with clients to develop planning strategies and securing positive outcomes for their assets.



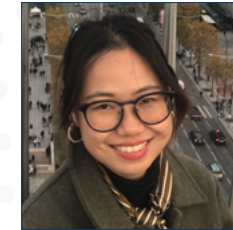
**Andrew Coleman MRTPI**

*Senior Lecturer  
University of Brighton*

Andrew is a Senior Lecturer on the RTPI-accredited MSc Town Planning course at the University of Brighton.

The course specialises in coastal planning, climate change and regeneration and was one of the first to offer the Chartered Apprenticeship degree course for training the planners of the future. He is also a planning and environmental consultant, focusing on climate change adaptation, flooding and integrated water management.

Until September 2016, Andrew was a senior advisor at the Environment Agency, helping to develop national planning policy and guidance. He has served on the RTPI's General Assembly and various Committees since 2015. Outside work, Andrew enjoys spending time with my family, representing Surfers Against Sewage, surfing, cycling and supporting Fulham FC.



**Michele Hu**

*Consultant  
LDA Planning*

Michele is a planner at LDA Design with a Masters in Urban Regeneration and Development from the University of Manchester.

Prior to joining LDA Design, she worked as an intern in Leeds City Council. She is working towards to being a Chartered Planner.

She works on varied planning projects, including residential, industrial, and renewable energy projects. She also undertakes site appraisals and planning policy reviews to assist clients with their investment decisions.

She is keen to work in the planning and urban regeneration area as she believes that planning can have wide-ranging impacts on how it unlocks the potential of land and areas of living.

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## RTPI response to CCN's Future of Strategic Planning in England report



### Richard Blyth FRTPI

#### RTPI's Head of Policy, Practice and Research

*This is the latest in a series of weekly blog posts from Richard and his team about the government's proposals for reform of the planning system.*

A [new report](#) released by the County Council Network (CCN) makes concrete proposals to overcome the long standing problems of the “duty to cooperate” brought in by the coalition government in 2012.

The new report, *The Future of Strategic Planning in England*, written by Catriona Riddell MRTPI, builds on CCN's previous report *Planning Reforms and the Role of Strategic Planning* and proposes “Accountable Strategic Planning Bodies” and “Strategic Planning Advisory Bodies” for wider areas.

These proposed bodies bear some resemblance to the Green Growth Boards (GGBs), which featured in a [report published by the RTPI](#) last month. GGBs would bring together local authorities and key stakeholders and establish collaborative and interlinked strategies to tackle issues and challenges faced by subregions.

We consider the CCN proposal to have a lot of merit. The deployment of the material consideration route is a very interesting option. However, we also feel that it involves the necessary “non-planning” actors more in the “Delivery programme” which sits under the strategic plan more than in the plan itself. We question whether this would be sufficient involvement.

With local authorities facing the challenges of climate change, the housing crisis, and delivering the levelling up agenda and budget cuts, there is a clear need for collaboration across local authority boundaries, as well as the environment, transport, education and health sectors, for key actors to come together at a “top table” to agree high level priorities.

## Governance change ballot

**In January 2022 we will be balloting members on a series of important changes to our governance structure. The proposals involve changes to the size of the Board of Trustees, a recalibration of the General Assembly and a series of changes to the Institute's bye-laws and regulations.**

These changes will bring the Institute into line with current best practice guidelines issued by the Charity Commission, increasing transparency, accountability and good governance. A smaller Board of Trustees will mean more efficient and agile decision making and that the changes will also give both the Board and the General Assembly renewed focus on the major issues that affect the profession.

The announcement of the ballot follows an independent review by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and a lengthy consultation process with members. The ballot will be conducted by MiVoice. Members should look out for an email from MiVoice in January 2022.

**The Board of Trustees and General Assembly strongly recommend that members vote in favour of the resolution. [Read more here >>>](#)**

Take a look at [our video](#) in which RTPI Chair of the Board of Trustees and incoming Vice President for 2022, Sue Bridge FRTPI, is interviewed by recently elected Young Planners Trustee Jeffrey Ng. Sue explains how in January 2022 we will be balloting members on a series of important changes to our governance structure.

# The future is ours

*Simon Kennedy is Strategic Environmental Planning Officer for the Partnership for South Hampshire.*



**Simon Kennedy**

Partnership for South Hampshire

As an 'old' early careers professional I have had the benefit of watching society's understanding of climate change and sustainability grow and evolve over the last 30 years. What is abundantly clear is that early career professionals often come into the workplace armed with a much greater understanding of the impact of development on our environment than those who undertook their formative education before a full understanding of the impact of climate change and biodiversity loss was readily available. Without utilising and building on the understanding of young and early careers professionals we will never be able to ensure that we are meeting the needs of the current generation, let alone future generations.

My absolute belief that 'climate aware' early career planners are the ones who will build a more sustainable future is why I jumped at the chance to take part in the UK Green Building Council (UKGBC) 'Built Environment Professionals of the Future' event. The event brought together a group of early career professionals across the built environment.

The aim of the event was to help the built environment leaders of today to understand:

- **What skills will the climate-aware Built Environment and Infrastructure professionals of the future need to have?**
- **How will these professions need to change and adapt during the working lives of today's young professionals to meet net zero goals?**
- **What are the barriers to these changes, and what is required from today's industry leaders to bring about these changes?**
- **How will higher education in the Built Environment and Infrastructure fields need to evolve to enable these future professionals to get the skills they need?**

As always in a room full of early career professionals the conversation was robust, insightful, and full of hope for the future. Amongst the many issues discussed there was clear recognition for the need for a holistic approach between organisations, the relevance of understanding and evaluating big data for better outcomes, and a requirement for a strong policy framework for a sustainable future from both the private and public sectors. Clips from the meeting between early career professionals are being shown in the COP26 UKGBC virtual pavilion [here>>>](#).

***"Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"***

## **Bruntland Commission, 1987**

We live in a rapidly changing world as the realities of un-sustainable growth become ever more apparent. We need to find ways in which we truly balance the needs of the environment with the needs of growth. The reality is that the early career planners of today are the only ones equipped to 'level up' the world to a more sustainable future.

It is up to the leaders of today to recognise the understanding and skills that early career professionals already have and build on those to make absolutely sure we have the future that the generations to come deserve. Already we are seeing people increasingly make investment and job decisions based on environmental credentials and many organisations are starting to realise that if they don't engage with sustainable solutions then their future is in doubt.

But ultimately early career planners are the ones with the insight as to how to deliver sustainable change, we are the ones that can make it all fit together and find a greater balance in the process. It is up to us to truly [#BuildTheWorldWeNeed](#).

## RTPI responds to BEIS Energy Infrastructure National Policy Statement

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) responded to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy's (BEIS) draft National Policy Statement (NPS) for energy infrastructure "[Planning for New Energy Infrastructure](#)".

The [consultation response](#) outlines the RTPI's concerns over the absence of a true spatial strategy and the omission of certain renewable energy technologies.

In particular the RTPI has highlighted its concerns over the absence of any spatial strategy to work alongside the significant investment in energy infrastructure. We have previously researched the importance of spatial planning in our report, [A Map for England](#), which highlighted the unintended consequences of projects that can arise when projects do not have an overarching spatial strategy.

With the significant increase in transmission and generation projects that the NPS has outlined, in conjunction with the 'Infrastructure revolution',

there is a real need to understand the potential areas for cooperation, efficiencies and economies of scale for infrastructure projects. Without this, projects will likely become costly and siloed.

Not only does the NPS fail to deliver a much-needed spatial strategy, but the projected need and timelines of future projects will likely mean that a real risk that appropriate place-based approaches will not be the priority given the timescales that are currently being enforced. Project Speed has moved the rate at which projects can be planned and completed to the forefront of the conversation, however there is a still a clear need to balance the local impact of projects against the national need for them.

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By diversifying our renewable energy generation methods, we can build security into our energy infrastructure.

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Finally, whilst the NPS does put forward a wide range of renewable energy generation technologies it omits some that could bring value and security to the UK.

Despite the encouraging signs for hydrogen and infrastructure, pumped hydro and other alternative methods the exclusion of onshore wind and tidal range projects potentially limits the diversification of our renewable energy technologies. By diversifying our renewable energy generation methods, we can build security into our energy infrastructure.

Harry Steele, Infrastructure Specialist at the RTPI, said:

*"The draft energy infrastructure NPS fails to understand the need for a spatial strategy to link together projects, gaining efficiencies and economies of scale whilst avoiding unforeseen effects."*

*"Without this, and the appropriate timescales to implement the correct place-making approaches to infrastructure, the potential negative effects of the accelerated roll out of energy infrastructure throughout the UK cannot be mitigated."*

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### Harry Steele

RTPI - Infrastructure Specialist

Harry Steele is the RTPI's Infrastructure Specialist. This is the latest in a series of weekly blog posts from RTPI planning experts on the Institute's key asks of the government concerning reform of the planning system



# Levelling up through local collaboration

Richard Blyth FRTPI

RTPI's Head of Policy, Practice and Research

*This is the latest in a series of weekly blog posts from Richard and his team about the government's proposals for reform of the planning system.*



## All in a name

When we were in the EU, there was a phrase going round which always used to confuse me. This was “territorial cohesion”. To me this seemed to mean something like “stopping continental drift”, which I think would be an overreach even for the powerful European Commission. (It was probably one of those translations from the French which we called “faux amis” at school. After all aménagement du territoire is “planning” in French.)

What it really meant was “making sure each bit of the EU is prosperous”. Sounds familiar? Well yes! It is (partly) what the current UK Government means by Levelling up. Or in earlier British parlance, “regional policy” (which I admit doesn’t exactly set any fires going in the belly).

The present UK Government is now exploring policies on public investment intended to ensure that each bit of England gets a fair share. There have been debates about the cancellation of the east wing of HS2, which there is not room here to unpick, but having substantial investment in the North of England at all is quite a departure from the position in 2000-2020 – even if there is a debate about whether it is enough.

But it is not only big-ticket items which would “level up”. The real proof of the pudding is in mainstream programmes. In 2012 the [RTPI published research](#) which showed that there were 95 government programmes which included a spatial dimension (often subconsciously) and which impinged on different places.

Perhaps the most noticeable issue was the policy of DEFRA on water supply and flooding which seemed (and still seems) to be contradicted by CLG policy on housing location. Some of the Eastern/East Anglian parts of the country CLG was (and still is) keenest to build on had (and still have) the worst water shortages and the greatest risk of sea and river flooding.

## Here there and everywhere

But the issue is not only a national one. In recent months there has been a little bit of “levelling upmanship”. You know the kind of thing: “You think you’ve got problems, well our borough is the most deprived in England” etc. This is because within-region disparity is a strong problem, especially where a region or city region is fairly large, containing many contrasts. But it also applies in the less obvious case of rural poverty. So shifting investment around the country is important but not the whole picture.





Planning at a local level can potentially play a role in local levelling up. However this does depend on empowerment. Areas' ability to tax high property values in order to, for example, finance social housing are strongly curtailed by central government. It is important that planning does not become a vehicle for increasing social disparities by for example limiting access to housing which is affordable to buy or rent.

Today we publish a short report on [Green Growth Boards](#). These are non-statutory boards of local government members and directors covering the range of related issues which need to be addressed to ensure better outcomes in communities.

#### **Green Growth Boards would:**

- Help join the dots from the outset between environmental, transport, housing, water, energy, resource and health plans.
- Help identify the best locations for development (Growth and Renewal areas) and protection, and to facilitate the timely implementation of supporting infrastructure.
- Ensure plans that meet agreed criteria be available to view as layers alongside environmental and social mapping on the shared geo-spatial platform.

#### **Not the economy, stupid**

The Brexit referendum and all that followed it has shown that appeals to economic growth on their own only have so much appeal. What people value in their communities, and what people are angry at losing can be more symbolic matters connected to the quality of life and how people feel about places.

Even economist-advocates of a space-blind approach to decision making have more recently come to recognize there is a role for cities and towns in making places appealing and healthy through investment in high streets, public transport, and the amount and quality of parks and public squares. Simply having a price mechanism doesn't achieve this. Having good urban planning can.

#### **Worth watching**

The RTPi was honoured to host the 2021 Nathaniel Lichfield lecture on Levelling up and the role of land markets planning and finance. This was delivered by Professor Philip McCann of the University of Sheffield, author of the 570-page book *The UK Regional-National Economic Problem: Geography, Globalisation and Governance*, the most detailed and comprehensive analysis of the UK regional problems ever undertaken in a single volume.

The lecture is available to view on the RTPi [YouTube channel](#).



# Programme 2022

Our CPD events will keep you up to date with the latest in planning and provide the opportunity to network with other planning and built- environment professionals.

The RTPI South East annual CPD programme provides a local, affordable CPD for members in the South East region.

Undertaking CPD is an important part of maintaining your competence as a professional. The CPD programme could count towards your minimum 50 hours of CPD activity in each two-year period. Read more about [CPD requirements and assessment](#) as an RTPI member.

## Early bird promotion

**15% discount on CPD bookings\* by 28 February 2022**

**Book by 28 February 2022 you will be able to save 15% off face-to-face ticket price for most of the events we are holding during 2022. To take advantage of the offer, [please book online](#).**

\*Valid only for face-to-face tickets and for bookings made before 28 February 2022

### Ticket prices:

#### Half-day event:

- RTPI member: £50 + VAT (Early Bird rate: £42.50 + VAT\*)
- Non-member: £60 + VAT (Early Bird rate: £51.00 + VAT\*)

#### Full-day event:

- RTPI member: £100 + VAT (Early Bird rate: £85 + VAT\*)
- Non-member: £120 + VAT (Early Bird rate: £102 + VAT\*)

#### Webinars:

- RTPI member: **FREE**
- Non-member: £25 + VAT

#### Hybrid (those joining virtually for in-person events)

- RTPI member: £30 + VAT
- Non-member: £45 + VAT

**15% off all bookings until the 28 February 2022**

**Interested in speaking at our events?**

contact  
[southeast@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:southeast@rtpi.org.uk)

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## Digital Planning - The good, the bad, the ugly (webinar)

**Date:** *Wednesday, 23 February*

**Time:** *12:30pm – 2:00pm*

Technology and big data are already transforming the planning system, giving us new ways to engage with local people, understand day-to-day patterns of place usage and cooperate with neighbouring authorities and infrastructure agencies. The 2020 Planning for the Future White Paper set out intentions to take this further with 'a radical, digital-first approach to modernise the planning process...moving from a process based on documents to a process driven by data' (p.21). Similarly, the COVID-19 pandemic has driven many planning organisations to move their activities into virtual spaces, from day-to-day collaboration, to site visits and public consultation. However, other perspectives on digitisation processes warn us to be cautious of their potential to further fragment the system, to be exclusionary and, in extreme circumstances, racially biased.

This session brings together expert speakers addressing the spectrum of digitisation from the potential opportunities to possible side effects and unintended consequences.

### In this webinar speakers will consider:

- What role can digitisation play in day-to-day planning activities?
- How can effective use of digital systems promote community engagement?
- How is digitisation impacting on case law?
- What are the possible unintended consequences of digitisation?

Through a combination of expert speakers and discussion, you will learn:

- How digitisation can increase the efficiency of planning activities
- How digitisation can contribute to effective engagement activities
- How digitisation is being cited in emerging case law
- How digitisation can have negative effects, that needs to be considered



## Spring Legal Update (morning / afternoon sessions)

Brought to you in association with No5 Barrister Chambers

**Date:** *Thursday, 24 March*

**Time:** *9:00 am – 12:30 pm (morning session)*  
*1:30 am – 5:00 pm (afternoon session)*

**Venue:** *Reading Town hall, Blagrove Street,  
Reading RG1 1QH*

This ever-popular annual event, once again hosted in conjunction with No 5 Chambers, will consist of presentations from their barristers on topical planning issues facing planning practice. The event will bring practitioners up to date with the latest planning legislation and proposed changes, national policy, appeals and legal challenges, with time for questions and answers with the speakers.

### Delegates can expect to:

- Remain up to date with the latest developments in legislation - including expected reforms, the implementation of the Environment Bill and revision of national policy
- Hear about the latest important case law
- Opportunity to raise questions and discuss the topics of the day

## Net zero future (webinar)

**Date:** *Tuesday, 29 March*

**Time:** *12:30pm – 2:00pm*

If we are to deliver net zero carbon, we need to make plans. These must be holistic, integrated, and resourced for delivery. This webinar will show how planners and the planning system are tackling climate change and working to achieve net zero. It will comprise a series of presentations and discussions highlighting the critical role of, and opportunities for, towns and cities and other areas to address climate change and achieve zero carbon places. It will showcase where planners and planning has already and can in the future play a vital role in re-designing our places and spaces, in minimising the need for travel, mainstreaming, and diversifying low carbon energy, protecting, and enhancing the natural environment, improving climate resilience and engaging communities in taking this forward.

### In this webinar speakers will consider:

- How planners and the planning system are tackling climate change and working to achieve net zero
- The role of towns and cities as well as other areas in addressing climate change and achieving zero carbon places
- Redesigning as a way to achieve Net-zero
- Case Law update

Through a combination of expert speakers and discussion, you will learn:

- Changes required to the planning system to help tackle climate change and achieve net zero
- The role of places in addressing climate change and achieving zero carbon places
- The impact of the National Model Design Code and future planning policy changes
- Hear about the latest important case law

## Heritage as a catalyst for regeneration (webinar)

**Date:** *Monday, 9 May*

**Time:** *12:30pm – 2:00pm*

Conserving and enhancing the historic environment is an integral element of achieving sustainability goals within the regeneration process. The event will cover various aspects of heritage in the regeneration process, which has become essential for preserving our history for the future. Presentations will be given by experts from a variety of backgrounds, working in different areas of the heritage and planning sector.

### In this webinar speakers will consider:

- The ways in which heritage assets can be considered as opportunities and not constraints to regeneration processes
- Examples of projects where heritage has successfully been integrated into a regeneration programme
- The challenges faced when integrating heritage assets into regeneration processes
- Case law update

### Through a combination of expert speakers and discussion, you will learn:

- Role of the past in future design
- Role of planners in preserving the historic environment
- How the historic environment can enhance regeneration projects
- How people relate to heritage assets and how to connect people and places
- Hear update on relevant case law

## Rural Planning and the rural economy (webinar)

**Date:** *Tuesday, 14 June*

**Time:** *12:30pm – 2:00pm*

What is the role of planning in rural areas? This event will look at the association between our ever-changing planning system and the future of the countryside. Speakers will explore the effective integration and balancing of economic, social and environmental factors in promoting sustainable development in our rural areas.

### In this webinar speakers will consider:

- Outcome of the Rural Planning Research
- How important rural planning is when the planning system focuses on urban renewal
- The role of community assets and heritage in planning for rural communities
- Case law update

### Through a combination of expert speakers and discussion, you will learn:

- Update from the Rural research project
- How national and local planning policies should provide for rural communities
- Update on relevant case law

## Connecting Planning with the Coast

**Date:** *Tuesday, 21 June*

**Time:** *12:30pm – 5:00pm*

**Location:** *Southampton*

The coastal environment is experiencing a number of pressures and initiatives, and in many cases, there has been a focus in addressing those arising from development close to the marine environment. However, there are strong linkages between development and activities inland and the environmental issues faced along the coast. The event will include several speakers involved in developing new approaches and who are implanting project.

### In this webinar speakers will:

- Look at some of the responses currently being implemented on the coast
- Explore the scope provided by the emerging environmental framework of the Environment Act to develop a more holistic approach and the role that planners can play

### Through a combination of expert speakers and discussion, you will learn:

- Environmental issues faced along the coast due to development and activities inland
- Local case studies showing new approaches and projects

To request an invoice for purchase in excess of £500 plus VAT, please get in touch with [Susan Millington](#)

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## Urban Design - with thanks to our sponsor



**Date:** Friday, 24 June  
**Time:** 9:00am – 5:00pm  
**Venue:** Savills, Wytham Court,  
 11 West Way, Oxford OX2 0QL

What role does urban design play in planning?

The purpose of this event is to discuss the integral role that urban design plays in the planning process.

The event will explore how planning and urban design can add value, promote healthy living and sustainability in our urban environments. Speakers will explore lessons learnt from other schemes and show where improvements can be made.

The event will include a walking tour and a master planning workshop.

**More events can be found here >>>**

## Role of planners in creating sustainable communities in deprived areas (webinar)

**Date:** Tuesday, 20 September  
**Time:** 12:30pm – 2:00pm

Planners play a crucial role in creating sustainable communities and enhancing access to opportunities especially in deprived areas. It is our responsibility to create places that offer everyone a high-quality home that they can afford in a community in which they want to live and work, now and in the future.

**In this webinar speakers will consider:**

- The barriers that lead to deprived communities
- The role of planners to create sustainable communities and the lessons that can be learned from relevant case studies
- How to bring multiple agencies on board to build sustainable communities and the challenges faced
- Case law update

**Through a combination of expert speakers and discussion, you will learn:**

- What planners can do to implement delivery strategies to achieve sustainable outcomes
- What measures planners can use to monitor successful sustainable outcomes
- Update on relevant case law

## Autumn legal Update

**Date:** Thursday, 6 October  
**Time:** 5:00pm – 9:00pm (hybrid)  
**Venue:** Landmark Chambers, 180 Fleet St, London EC4A 2HG

Barristers present on topical planning issues at this ever-popular annual event hosted by Landmark Barristers Chambers. Looking at new and emerging legislation, recent case law, and the implication these may have. The event will be followed by a drinks reception to allow for further networking and discussion of the issues raised.

**Brought to you in association with:**



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## Local Plan engagement with communities and developers

**Date:** *Tuesday, 22 November***Time:** *9:00am – 5:00 pm***Venue:** *TBC*

### Morning session:

#### *Local Plan engagement with communities*

Community engagement is key to successful planning. Drawing on local experience in the South East, speakers will offer their views on the success of plan making in effectively involving the public in planning their communities. Most communities are not aware of Local Plans, and residents and communities are usually engaged too late in the process to make a difference. Hence, early engagement would be more meaningful, allowing communities to have a say in how planning policies are shaped.

#### **In this webinar speakers will consider:**

- The benefits of early engagement with the public in Plan making
- How to effectively engage with the public during the Plan making process especially hard to reach groups and in light of the digitalisation agenda in planning
- Case studies of successful and meaningful engagement with the public
- Relevant Case law update

#### **Through a combination of expert speakers and discussion, you will learn:**

- What planners can do to involve the public more effectively in Plan making
- How communities can shape their communities and be meaningfully engaged with the Plan making process
- How to avoid alienating people from the Plan making process and what benefits and constraints the new digitalization agenda might present
- Update on relevant case law

### Afternoon session:

#### *Local Plan engagement with developers*

Engagement of developers and stakeholders is key in the planning process. Drawing on local experience in the South East, speakers will offer their views on the success and the effectiveness of involvement of developers and stakeholders in local plans.

#### **In this webinar speakers will consider:**

- Why Developers can engage with the Plan making process
- Why Local Authorities should seek to work positively and proactively with the Development industry when preparing Local Plans
- How transparent and inclusive Plan making can result in better Local Plans
- Case law update

#### **Through a combination of expert speakers and discussion, you will learn:**

- How Developers can effectively engage with the Plan making process
- How Local Planning Authorities can facilitate Developer involvement in the Plan making process
- Examples of Local Plans that have successfully involved the Development industry
- Update on relevant case law

## Politics in Planning (webinar)

**Date:** *Thursday, 1 December***Time:** *12:30 - 14:00*

This webinar focuses on the ways in which planners engage with elected members, with the aim of understanding how both groups can work together proactively. Speakers include planning professionals and elected members who will share their experiences (both positive and negative) of settings such as planning committee, engagement in the Local Plan and interactions with Neighbourhood Planning. Overall, the session will provide a 'safe space' in which planners and members can explore their relative roles in the planning system and is aimed at both planners and elected members.

If you are a politician working in planning, then consider joining the [Politicians in Planning Network](#).

#### **In this webinar speakers will consider:**

- To what extent should planning be 'political'?
- What are the limits of engagement between members and planners?
- What underpins an effective member-officer relationship?
- Why do relations between planners and politicians go wrong?

#### **Through a combination of expert speakers and discussion, you will learn:**

- How planners and elected members see their relative roles in planning
- How planners and elected members can engage proactively with each other
- What the appropriate limits of engagement are

# Our first CPD day is coming your way!

**Book now!**  
To keep yourself up to date with your CPD requirements

## CPD Day

**Date:** *Thursday, 30 June*

**Time:** *9:00am – 5:00pm*

**Venue:** *Brighton*

Join us for our first full day CPD where you can choose from a wide range of workshops on topics which have been specifically requested by our members. Attendees will be able to choose up to four sessions covering: specialist and technical planning knowledge; key skills for practicing planners; and issues in professional practice. This provides an opportunity for participants to create a programme which is tailored to their specific interests and needs. It will also be a great opportunity to network with those in the planning profession.

## More events to follow ...

Keep checking our website for more details on these events. We will also be holding a number of Young Planners' and networking events.

15% off all bookings until the 28 February 2022

Don't forget to check our website for up-to-date information ...

- RTPI South East Annual Dinner, July, Oxford
- RTPI South East Awards Evening
- Planning Sans Frontiers, 15-16 July, Portsmouth
- Minerals Planning webinar
- RTPI SE AGM

## Lectures with

- University of Reading
- Oxford Brookes University
- University of Brighton

Contact Susan Millington to discuss sponsorship opportunities

# New housing developments promote reliance on cars over public transport

A [new report](#) released by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) highlights how new housing developments will force residents to rely on cars over public transport, particularly in areas outside of London.

In its third Location of Development report, the RTPI examines the disconnect between major housing sites and key amenities, and the challenge the government is facing as it tries to level up the country.

Research conducted by the RTPI using data provided by the National Audit Office (NAO) and LandTech shows recent planning permissions for new major residential housing in England could push travel time to large employment centres, secondary schools and hospital trusts in areas outside of London to up to an hour, opposed to roughly half that time in the capital.

In the East and South West of England, for example, the average public transport journey time to a large employment centre would take 56.8 minutes compared to just 23.7 minutes in London.

There is considerable concern over the knock-on effect this will have on the environment. When comparing that travel time between public transport and cars, data showed that the same journey would take 15 minutes in London, 33.6 minutes in the East of England and 36.8 minutes in the South West. An increased reliance on carbon-emitting road vehicles would undermine the government's attempts to reach net zero and cut carbon emissions as the country looks to tackle the climate crisis.

**Sam Spencer**, Policy and Data Analyst at the RTPI, said:

*“Much has been said about building greener homes and even the environmental impact of new construction projects.*

*“However, our new analysis shows that the location of developments in relation to key amenities is a factor that is often overlooked. This is particularly an issue in the regions outside of London where long travel times by public transport mean it is far more convenient to travel by car.*

*“In order to build greener communities and to deliver on the government's levelling up agenda, the government should strongly support developments that promote easy access by methods other than car travel.”*

**Jonny Britton**, Founder of LandTech, said:

*“One of the factors clearly highlighted by the findings of the report is the need not just to build more homes, but to build the right homes, in the right places, with the infrastructure and support needed to create thriving and sustainable communities.*

*“Analysing a broader set of data that looks beyond the immediate confines of a specific development site, particularly sustainable access to infrastructure, is crucial to shifting the way we think about development to focus more on placemaking and the bigger picture.*

*“Given the rate of new development that the Government is hoping to achieve in coming years and the ambitious sustainability targets in the levelling up agenda, the need to ensure we are creating greener communities has never been more urgent.”*





## Newly Chartered members

Congratulations to the newly Chartered members from the region (November 2021)

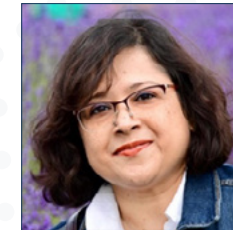
- **Kayleigh Taylor MRTPI,**  
*Chichester District Council*
- **Luqmaan Kholwadia MRTPI,**  
*Savills - Southampton*
- **Olivia Hazell MRTPI,**  
*South Northamptonshire District Council*
- **Peter Davis MRTPI,**  
*Nexus Planning*
- **Senjuti Manna MRTPI,**  
*Wokingham Borough Council*
- **Zarreen Hadadi MRTPI,**  
*Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead*

*Hear what they have to say :*



**Luqmaan Kholwadia**  
MRTPI

“Planning represents a complex, challenging and exciting career, with the ability to shape the places in which we live, work and play. Becoming a Chartered member signifies a major milestone and will greatly assist when planning for the future.”



**Senjuti Manna**  
MRTPI

“The Chartered Membership of RTPI is not only a recognition of my decade long contributions to the profession but also opens the door for new collaborations and connections that will help in broadening my horizon to become an active participant in the collective journey towards a sustainable future”.

**Details on Assessments of Professional Competence [here >>>](#)**

*Wishing you all a very  
Merry Christmas and a  
Healthy and prosperous 2022  
from us all at ...*



**RTPI South East**  
Royal Town Planning Institute