



RTPI South West  
Royal Town Planning Institute

[www.rtpi.org.uk/southwest](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/southwest)

NEWS

# BRANCHOUT



WINTER  
2022 ed.188



#### Cover Image

Porthcressa Beach on St Mary's on the Isle of Scilly looking towards the Garrison and the intervening 1960s Council Housing.

Branchout is a members e-magazine issued three times of year. Its purpose is to not only report on local RTPI activity such as events, Presidents Visits, Awards etc but also a forum for RTPI member updates, local interest articles and practical guidance on a variety of planning issues.

Branchout is put together by Editor Alexis Edwards, RTPI South West Junior Vice Chair and Charlotte Daborn, RTPI South West Regional Coordinator plus the support of many RTPI volunteers in reporting on their activities.

If you would like to propose an article or feedback on what you would like to see in future editions, please contact [southwest@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:southwest@rtpi.org.uk)

The articles contained in this and past editions of Branchout are made available for educational purposes only. The views expressed in it are those of the authors. The authors or RTPI accept no responsibility for the accuracy of the contents. Readers are encouraged to undertake additional research on the themes explored for the latest updates.

# Contents

- 01 Message from the Chair
- 02 Message from Incoming Chair 2023
- 03 Editor's Blog
- Young Planners**
- 04 South West Young Planners Round Up
- 05 Case study - expanding the Prison Estate
- University Updates**
- 06 Experiences as an Urban Planner
- 07 RTPI Bursary
- 08 Plymouth Graduation
- New Members**
- 09 News on recently qualified members
- 10 South West Mentoring Programme
- Fellowship**
- 11 Graham
- 12 Malcolm
- 13 Ian
- Planning news and updates**
- 14 Strategic Planning in Cornwall
- 15 Planning in the Isle of Scilly
- 16 Digital Planning; are we there yet?
- 17 2021 Census
- RMB/RAC Updates**
- 18 RMB/RAC Updates
- 19 Your 2023 Committee
- Getting to know you**
- 20 Getting to know Angharad Williams
- 21 Getting to know Chris Miell
- RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence**
- National Results
- Apply to join the Judging Panel
- Events**
- 22 Forthcoming webinars
- 23 In person/hybrid events



Interactive contents page - just click on the articles you would like to read

# 01 Message from the 2022 Chair

“I can't believe that this is my final Branchout article as Chair of RTPI South West. The year has gone by so quickly and wow, what a year it has been. From the initial meeting with the Regional Management Board (RMB) and the Regional Activities Committee (RAC), I have chaired all six of our CPD seminars around the region, had the honour of presenting the Chairs Award to Devonport Market Hall in Plymouth during the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence Awards and hosted the RTPI President Tim Crawshaw in July on his tour of the South West. We have also celebrated RTPI Volunteers including 40-years service by Geoff Walker and congratulated newly Chartered Members at our Summer Reception. I also had the pleasure of meeting some of our incoming inspiring Planners by attending the Plymouth University's Graduation Ceremony recently. Earlier this year we welcomed back our annual dinner and the sell-out event was jointly chaired with past Chairs Dawn De Vries and Angharad Williams.

Personally and professionally, I have learned and grown so much this year. I feel much more confident in chairing meetings and public speaking, both I would have actively avoided in the past. Taking myself out of my comfort zone and taking the opportunity to champion a career I am proud of I have built many skills to share with peers. Some tips I can share with you are:

**Talk to others** - listen, take note of other speakers and presenters. Talk to them and ask for their tips.

**Research and reading** - there are many books, blogs and videos about public speaking. Try different concepts and see which works for you.

**Smile** - stand up before your presentation and smile for 30 seconds, this releases endorphins which relax you and always keep both feet on the ground (don't do what I used to do and tuck one foot behind the other!).

One of the big things this year was the return to offering in-person CPD opportunities for members. As well as a wide range of webinars on offer by the South West and all the other Nations and Regions which members can book onto for FREE\*, we have delivered 6 Regional Seminars here in the South West. The latter events we have piloted as hybrid allowing members to minimise their carbon footprint, but also to encourage members from other regions to learn and hear from case studies outside their own region.

Recent events have included 'Balancing Heritage and Planning Seminar' in Bath and the 'Planning Law Update' in Bristol. Both events were really well attended, and the great presentations sparked some debate and discussion which was excellent. It was also lovely to see old friends and colleagues and to put faces to names. My favourite moment had to be the reminder that planners are heroes, and our jobs are important, and we need to be reminded off that sometimes and that 'design is about improving things that matter'.

\*RTPI Members only

So finally in closing my last report for 2022, I would like to make a few acknowledgments... A thank you ever so much Charlotte our Regional Coordinator and all committee members on the RMB/RAC for all the support you have given me over the last year. Thank you to my colleagues at Stantec for supporting me and by enabling me to partake in all events and engagements. Thank you to all committee members stepping down this year and a welcome to all our new members.

Finally to the in-coming Chair, Ian, I hope you enjoy your year as much as I did and all the best to you. I look forward to supporting you however I can.

Thank you all for a brilliant year.

Keep safe and well.

**Julie O'Rourke**  
Planner, Stantec  
Chair of RTPI South West 2022



## 02 Message from the Incoming Chair for 2023

“When I last wrote for Branchout I held the role of Junior Vice Chair of the South West RTPI and was thanking you all for sticking with me during my tenure as editor as I moved into the Senior Vice Chair role for 2022.

Almost a year has passed and as I write this, I think to Hugo Drax's quip to James Bond when he says, “you appear with the tedious inevitability of an unloved season”, so please bear with me as I bother you again briefly before I take the reins from our current Chair Julie in December. I appreciate that some of you will know me, many will not, therefore I will give a short rundown of who I am and what I hope to achieve this year.

I was born in Sheffield and spent my time there through childhood and onto to higher education where I attended Sheffield Hallam University and studied for a bachelor's degree in Planning Studies followed by an additional year to earn a diploma in Town Planning (if you want to know why I chose planning come and find me at a CPD event; the reason is not really for printing). From there I made the move to South Devon for my first planning job in 1999 as a Planning Assistant at South Hams District Council before moving to Teignbridge District Council 14 months later. With the exception of a 6 month hiatus to try out planning in Kent I have worked for Teignbridge ever since. I now hold the position of Principal Planning Officer with my role having shifted to being less hands on and more management these days. If I was a stick of seaside rock I would have “Local Authority Planner” written through me in a slightly irregular font.

So, what will 2023 hold? Crystal ball gazing is difficult at the best of times but with the uncertainty we face in Government and a struggling economy this is more difficult than it has been for a while. The one thing I can be sure of is what I would like to get from the year. As you may be aware the Chair each year chooses a theme which will feed through CPD events and other engagement with the region; my theme is design. The subject is one that is close to me and I have been fascinated with the visual arts, cinema and design since I was a child. I was fortunate enough to study Urban Design part time at UWE as a mature student which increased my awareness of the importance of design in the built environment and place making. In recent times this importance has come to the forefront of national policy and guidance.

We all engage with things that are a product of the design process; from the simplest coffee mug, to your car, to the shoes on your feet, good and innovative design is one of the wonders of humankind. Of course, design is not always successful, perhaps not fit for purpose (the proverbial chocolate teapot); not inclusive (right handed scissors for those who are left handed); or unappealing to look at for some (insert something you don't like here as this is subjective). These issues can be seen in the built environment- the garage that cannot accommodate a car; the play area that has ignored the less able bodied; the house extension that adversely impacts on the character of the street.

Through our CPD events, Branchout and the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence, we will consider many areas of design from masterplans to design coding to domestic architecture, I hope you enjoy and will engage in the discussions and debate that it will likely spark,

don't be shy. As I told a member of the public in my early years of planning who said she couldn't express her view as she wasn't an expert like me; “you have an opinion”. Please do voice that opinion, you may have a groundbreaking idea or solution, don't keep it to yourself. One last thing, please do consider entering the 2023 Awards for Planning Excellence opening for entries in January. If you have a project that you would like to showcase or a Young Planner that should be acknowledged then please do enter. We now have a Chair's Award, which in 2023 will be given to the entry that is exemplary in terms of design. Please think broadly, this may not be the entry that is architecturally exceptional, design is so much more.

I look forward to seeing many of you in person or virtually next year and hope you enjoy what we have in store for you. Until then I'd like to be one of the first to wish a Merry Christmas to those who celebrate it and a happy, healthy and successful 2023 to you all.

### Ian Perry RTPI

Principal Planning Officer at Teignbridge District Council  
Chair of RTPI South West 2023



“ **It’s that time again: new government, new housing minister, and new edition of Branchout! A lot has happened since the last edition in the world of planning; you wait ages for a new planning minister and then two turn up days apart. And so with Christmas nearly upon us, gifts still yet to be purchased, and the hope of a few restive days off subject to compressing three weeks work into five days lets lift the lid on the regions movers, shakers and place makers.**

First up our new chair, Ian Perry, setting out his views and aims for the coming year. Ian as many of you know is a big fan of death metal, good design, gypsy and traveller provision, and community engagement. I may have misled you on one or more of these topics, but you’ll have to read the article to find out which.

We have all the latest news from across the region’s young planners. As ever they’ve been busy hosting in person pizza and planning nights, webinars, litter picks, and quite a few social events. The Prison Estate case study is an interesting piece covering an area of society that most of us hopefully will not have to come into contact with personally, yet there are numerous challenges professionally with providing the right mix, type, and number of secure facilities to meet demand and relieve pressure on existing facilities. As with other ‘bad neighbour’ uses community engagement is key to reducing the stigma around prison accommodation.

Our universities have been busy awarding prizes and graduating the latest new planners. Congratulations to you all and all the best in your future careers. For those of you who’s university days are long behind you we have a reflective article by an undergraduate at the University of Gloucestershire on their experiences as an Urban Planner.

Also, it is great to see 26 additional Chartered and Associate members being celebrated for passing their RTPI APC submissions, well done all on an excellent achievement. If you looking to submit or just starting out on the APC journey be sure to get in contact.

It may surprise you to learn that for such a dynamic and active region we are desperately underrepresented by Fellows. As part of a drive to fix this grievous situation we have a series of interviews with some of the region’s Fellows in current practice in the region. I would encourage all of you to support the creation of new Fellows, whether that’s by supporting an application, badgering a colleague to apply, or putting yourself forward; the region has numerous great planners making major personal contributions to the planning profession and we should be celebrating and recognising them.

Strategic Planning is alive and well in Cornwall with the Cornish approach discussed in detail in a case study lesson from England’s busiest planning authority.

As the final part of a three-part series celebrating the diversity of our region, we have an article examining the trials and tribulations of planning in Scilly. As the smallest LPA in the region and indeed the country the difficulties of being the only planning officer are something of a

unique challenge. Unlike our other island groups in the region Scilly uses English planning law but does shares the same pressures of having close knit communities with housing needs being unfilled. A visit to Scilly is near the top of my to do list.

According to those in the know the future is digital, and planning is no different. As the fourth industrial revolution continues the planning system, planners, and users are experiencing big changes to practices and processes. Yet from 1APP to Digital Twins and everything in between the digital journey is something of a wild west at present. Help is on hand however with a timely article discussing the lay of the land, highlighting best practice examples, and lots of helpful links for those struggling unable to separate their APIs from their Metadata.

After what feels like an eternity, not that I’m impatient, the initial Census results have begun appearing. Unlike previous Censuses the 2021 Census made history for a number of reasons. Not only a digital census but one conducted during lockdown. With a special regional focus we have an article exploring the changing population and age structure of the South West. Details of the release schedule are also included for those like me keen to know when we’ll get access to car ownership, travel to work or housing trends.

As we approach the end of the issue, we have updates on the work of the Regional Management Board and the Regional Activities Committee. We also as part of our regular getting to know you feature, hear from past Chair Anghard and new committee member Chris on their backgrounds, passion for planning, and why they chose to get involved with the RTPI SW.

Hot off the presses the results are in for our RTPI South West Finalists in this year's National Awards. Well done to all our finalists, and to the winners. I would strongly recommend to anyone hesitating to enter next year's RTPI South West Awards to do so. We have so many fantastic projects, teams, and schemes across the region it would be criminal not to celebrate them.

Make sure you take a look at our 2023 programme of events. As ever there is a real mixture of in-person and virtual events for all types of planner in the region. Following this year's successful trials, we're rolling out a hybrid option to all in person events, but that shouldn't stop you from coming in person if you can. Back by popular demand our CPD Day is the must attend event of the year. Mix and match your topics around your CPD needs all within the fabulous Sandy Park in Exeter.

Finally, I am very pleased to be handing over the editorial position to Frances Summers, 2023 Junior Vice Chair, who will continue bringing you news and articles from across the South West in 2023. I would like to say a huge thank you to Julie, you have been a great Chair. I'd also like to give a big thank you, Charlotte Daborn, for your endless hard work with everything. If anyone in the region deserves an honorary fellowship, it's you.



**Alexis Edwards**  
RTPI South West  
Junior Vice Chair

## Dorset Young Planners

### Steering Group Members

Frances Summers, Capita - Co Chair  
Amelia Rose, FERIA Urbanism - Co Chair  
Simon Ible, Terence O'Rourke Ltd  
Hayley Richardson, Luken Beck  
Richard Mears, Savills  
Philip Saunders, Savills  
Lucy Morgan - Savills  
Phillippa Gatehouse, Chapman Lily Planning  
Poppy O'Flanagan - Barton Willmore now Stantec  
Jack Higson, Terence O'Rourke Ltd

### Steering Group update

The DYPs have seen lots of change in the past months in terms of membership. We have sadly said goodbye to Carla Fulgoni and Chris Miell who have contributed lots to the group over the past years and will be sorely missed, but will hopefully still be attending our socials! We have also woefully lost Jess who has emigrated to Canada with her Fiancée! She will also be really missed but we will be regularly requesting updates from her. We have also sadly said goodbye to Toneisha.

However, on a positive note, Hayley has returned from her year of adventures and will be joining us in person again!

Due to these leavers, we have had vacant roles including for the Treasurer and Social Media manager. Millie and Frances, as Co-Chairs, have been on the lookout for some new members to take on these roles or just contribute as general members, and we have recently been joined by Lucy Morgan from Savills. After a

productive meeting in October, the group have now set out an exciting schedule of events for 2023 and each agreed what role they will play within the group.

## Recent Events

### SW Summer Conference

In July some of the DYPs including Frances, Millie and Chris attended the RTPI SW Summer Conference which was held in Taunton. The day began with Frances and Chris attending the RMB meeting shortly before the event began. The DYPs saw success at the conference with Amelia Rose being commended as SW Young Planner of the Year and our previous Chair Jess Glover winning the category, which she tuned in from South America to watch and appeared live on the big screen to say her thanks! Frances and Jess were also congratulated for passing their APC and becoming chartered members of the RTPI. Well done all!

### Beach Clean

Dorset Young Planners were thrilled to have organised their first free of charge beach clean event to help do their bit to protect the beautiful Bournemouth coast in the summer of 2022. On the 14th July, 2022, Dorset Young Planners met at Bournemouth Beach, equipped with pick up sticks and bin bags (kindly provided by the Council) braving the heatwave of summer 2022.

It was really lovely seeing so many friends and families enjoying themselves on the beach, but the Planners were all shocked by the amount of rubbish left behind. The most densely littered area was clearly closer to Bournemouth Pier, so Dorset Young Planners will focus their next efforts there on the next beach clean.

The event ended up being really sociable with litter picking providing a really good way to chat with other young planners and get to know new faces.

Picking up rubbish in 30° heat was hard and thirsty work, so a well earned drink and pizza was enjoyed at the El Murrino on the beach. Dorset Young Planners are already organising the next beach clean and hope to see you there!

If you're interested in doing your own litter pick, you can do it through equipment hire from your local council, or through Surfers Against Sewage.

### Dorset Young Planners Summer Social

August saw the return of the DYPs summer social which hadn't been able to run since 2020 due to Covid-19. The DYPs hosted a meal at an Italian restaurant and a boat trip around Poole Harbour which finished with watching the fireworks. The event was well attended, with some returning members including Jess Glover who has been travelling in South America this year, and Hayley Richardson, who had returned from a year of travelling Europe and working in her campervan with her husband and dog! There were some new faces too which is always great to see! A great night was had by all, and we look forward to the next social event.



Beach Clean

## Dorset Young Planners Christmas Social

To kick off the festive season, on 1st December the Dorset Young Planners held their Christmas Social and Quiz at Brewhouse and Kitchen in Poole. The event was really well attended and sold out, with around 30 young planners coming along, involving lots of new young planners to the region which was great to see. The night involved a festive buffet, quiz and some fun festive games. A big thank you to Chapman Lily and Carrington West for sponsoring this event and making it possible, and to everyone that came along!

### Forthcoming Events

**Got your 2023 diary yet, make sure these great events are firmly in your calendar:**

**23 FEBRUARY 6PM - 8PM**

Historic harm [www.rtpi.org.uk/ypheritageseминаr](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/ypheritageseминаr)

**18 APRIL 11-2PM**

Loads of routes into planning

**8 JUNE 6PM-8PM**

A tour of Canford SANG

**AUGUST 6PM TIL LATE**

We're all going on a summer boat cruise: social

**4 OCTOBER 12NOON-1PM**

Career check, what's next?

**2 NOVEMBER 6PM TIL 10PM**

Planning day of the dead: CPD and social

**7 DECEMBER 6PM TIL LATE**

Christmas Quiz night extravaganza



### Getting to Know You

My name's Millie and I'm currently the Co-Chair of the Dorset Young Planners for 2022 with Frances Summers, who I've been lucky enough to work with at Dorset Council, and now through the DYPs. I currently work at a small planning and urban design consultancy in Bournemouth where we undertake design and planning projects mostly for local authorities. I started off my career working for Dorset Council as a Planning Officer, with no prior experience of planning, but happily picked up householder applications and I then transitioned to the Planning Policy Team after a year and a half, just at the start of the Covid-19 outbreak. I worked from home for two years on this role, but then decided to take the leap around this time last year into a new role at Feria Urbanism in Bournemouth. A large part of what we do is consultation, meaning the ideas of locals are considered at the heart of our projects and influence the designs we come out with. This is something that I've found myself really enjoying as it seems to me so important to consider the voices of those that know the area best when shaping new places.

This year I've been really pleased to be nominated and to have been commended as SW Young Planner of the Year, for my work so far and contribution to the RTPi.

Fun fact about me, I'm a keen traveller having travelled to 12 different countries so far this year! I went on a wild travelling adventure in August where I went to 9 countries over the space of a month! Some highlights were going on a gondola in Venice, swimming in Lake Bled in stunning Slovenia, bike touring around Prague, and going to a huge music festival in Budapest where I saw Dua Lipa perform! Next up is a trip to Morocco in November and Copenhagen early next year, I can't wait!



Dorset YP  
Xmas social



A Venetian Gondola ride



Stunning Banská Bystrica,  
a central Slovakian city



# 04 South West Young Planners Round Up

## Devon, Cornwall & Somerset Young Planners (DCSYP)

### Steering Group Members

Jozie Bannister - CarneySweeney  
Elliot Dommett - Stantec  
Liam Fisher - East Devon District Council  
Faye Stewart - Bailey Partnership  
Keegan Ferreday - Base Planning  
Mary-Ellen Whalley - Torridge District Council

### Steering Group update

The Devon, Cornwall and Somerset Young Planners have held a couple of really well supported events over the summer and are already planning what we can organise for next year off the back of such successes!

In July, Devon, Cornwall and Somerset Young Planners were lucky enough to receive a guided tour of St Sidwell's point, Exeter's new Passivhaus leisure centre, the first of its kind in the UK. Hosted by Emma Ombudsmen of Exeter City Living and Tomas Gartner, young planners were given a walk through of this impressive facility which gave a flavour of what an important contribution St Sidwell's would make to the city's leisure provision. The sustainability credentials of the building were even more impressive, and in-depth insight was given for each stage of project from inception, through the planning process to construction as well as the challenges in achieving Passivhaus standard. Whilst cost of delivery was key, the anticipated pay-back

through energy saving was impressive and hopefully will act to inspire other leisure operators and developers to follow suit. Discussion quickly turned to how planning policy can help secure this standard of development and whilst all parties agreed that development plans were generally not aspirational enough in this regard, projects such as these set an important benchmark. As local plan writers of the future, young planners will play a key role in progressive sustainability policies!

In September we hosted a 'Planning for Delivery' event at Exeter Phoenix, sponsored by Stantec. The event took the form of a panel discussion and featured a diverse range of respected speakers operating in the South West: Ian Collinson (Director of City Development at Exeter City Council), Andy West (Director at Verto Homes), Alan Swan (Director of Community Development at Stantec) and Paul Osborne (Director at LHC Architects).

The diversity of the panel allowed for some interesting discussion around the future of housing and how it can best be delivered. A recurring theme from the discussion was the importance of early, proactive working between the public and private sectors to resolve issues and reach resolutions at the pre-application stage. This included avoiding policy-driven pre-application responses in favour of positive discussions around design and mediating competing interests, with common successes including pre-application meetings with an architect present who could sketch the results of the discussion as it took place. This could result in a 'starting point' which would have broad agreement from all parties, expediting the design and approval processes and encouraging collaboration in the delivery of major housing proposals.

Another key takeaway was the value of infrastructure planning in enabling and supporting housing delivery. For example in Exeter, where Ian Collinson is leading a predominantly brownfield-led housing programme, this was seen as imperative in unlocking difficult brownfield sites.

Thank you to all who were involved in organising and to those who attended both of these fantastic events and we look forward to sharing what we have planned for next year when we can, watch this space!

**In the meantime, if you've got any ideas for events that you'd like to see in the region or if you'd like to join the Steering Group then please do get in touch.**



## Bristol Region Young Planners

### Steering Group Members

Michael Downes, Bristol City Council - Chair  
Laura Eimmermann, Turley  
Ellen Fortt, Pegasus - Social Media  
Raphaella Vieira Da Silva, UWE  
Natalie Atkinson, YTL Developments - Treasurer  
Laura Laius, AECOM  
Isabelle Leekam, Cushman & Wakefield  
Harrison Moore, Arup  
Luke Atherton, Mott MacDonald  
Callam Pearce, WSP  
James Tarpy, Alder King Property Consultants

### Steering Group update

The West of England Young Planners has recently changed its name to the Bristol Region Young Planners! This has been done to make it clear the area in which the Group primarily covers for information and future events. The Group still welcome and encourage Young Planners from across the UK to all our events.

## Recent Events

### September 22 - Hard Hat Tour of Clifton Suspension Bridge

We hosted our second round of Hard Hat Tour's of the Clifton Suspension Bridge which provided an insight into the construction of the iconic Clifton Suspension Bridge spanning the Avon Gorge through a visit into the bridge's vaults on the 7th September. The tour itself took place within the abutment on the Leigh Woods-side of the bridge which were only rediscovered in 2002. The suspension bridge is an iconic feature of Bristol, and one of the world's oldest suspension bridges still in use with approximately 4 million vehicles travelling over the bridge each year. The tour was led by Gordon and Laura; members of the Clifton Suspension Bridge Trust, and attendees descended into the vaults to learn more about the history & construction of the bridge, and explore the impressive underground structure. Due to the popularity of this event, we're looking to organise further Tours in 2023 (when the weather improves!).

### October 13 - UWE Presentation

Harrison Moore and Michael Downes presented to the 2022/23 postgraduate MSc Urban Planning cohort studying at the University of the West of England. The presentation included 'What do Planners do?', 'Where Planners work?', an introduction to the Royal Town Planning Institute and personal insight into Harrison and Michael's planning journeys which featured Amanda Holden and Elton John planning related anecdotes! Harrison and Michael would like to thank the lecturers and students at UWE for hosting the presentation and the excellent questions at the end prompting further discussion.

### October 25 - Pub Quiz

The Bristol Region Young Planners Pub Quiz took place in Bristol city centre at King St Brewhouse. Led by Bristol's version to Ant and Dec (committee members Luke and James), attendees enjoyed a series of quiz rounds with questions ranging from an obvious to very loose planning focus.

Only one team could be victorious, with the winners going home with some chocolate and pride at being the best Young Planner quizzers in Bristol.

It was excellent to see several UWE students in attendance at the Quiz, and we look forward to them returning for future events!



Clifton Suspension Bridge  
Tour

## Forthcoming Events

A key objective for the Bristol Region Young Planners in 2022 was to get a sense of momentum built around Young Planner events again following the forced pause of in-person events caused by Covid-19. The make up and attendees of Young Planners has changed quite significantly from our last event early 2020 compared to our first in-person event this year in 2022. Events in 2023 will allow for further development of professional networks in in-formal settings but there will be more focus on in-person/webinar events with more of a professional CPD focus.

The following events have been identified for 2023

.....  
Bridge Tour – spring 23

Jane Jacobs Walk – summer 23

Boat Tour – summer 23

Quiz night – autumn 23

Winter Social – November 23

Look out for details soon.



### Getting to know the Committee

A new segment for this Branchout, the “getting to know the committee” will give a personal insight into members of the Bristol Region Young Planners committee. Starting off with the Region chair Michael.

**Name:** Michael Downes

**Current Position:** Regeneration Project Manager at Bristol City Council

**How long have you been part of the committee:** January 2020

**Where did you study:** Glasgow Caledonian University (Undergraduate) and University of Glasgow (Masters)

**Favourite project:** The Forth Bridge Experience, Edinburgh

**Why did you become a planner?:**

The Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014 was a huge factor in me pursuing planning as a career. I became aware of the opportunities and benefits that well designed places and regeneration focused projects can create for existing and future communities.

**What do you think the biggest challenges are for planning in the future?:** The constant flux and change of planning focused members in Central Government; each with different political agendas and ideas, needs to stop to allow planning to support housing and environmental targets. Resourcing restrictions on local authorities and the central government narrative about planning, has meant the profession has become a punch bag to local communities and other professions working in the built environment.

**Why are the biggest opportunities for planning in the future?:** Only by working in collaboration with others, can planning help to address the economic, environmental and social challenges of our time. With these challenges, there are opportunities for a better future for all, filled with affordable green transport options, desirable employment opportunities, housing for all and health and wealth issues addressed.

**Finally, what would you sing at karaoke night?:** Are you ready for love, Elton John.



# 05 Young Planners Case Study Expanding the prison estate

**As part of my day-to-day role as a planning consultant I prepare and submit planning applications on behalf of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to gain planning permission for the development of a range of new prison accommodation across the UK.**

The prison population is currently forecast to increase over the next 10 years reaching unprecedented levels by the end of the decade. The Ministry of Justice and its executive agency, Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) is embarking on an ambitious programme of prison expansion in over a century, including the 10,000 Additional Prison Places Programme, first announced by the Prime Minister in August 2019.

The 10,000 additional prison places comprise of 3,500 prison places through the expansion, reconfiguration and refurbishment of the existing estate, with the remaining 6,500 places coming from the four new prisons.

There is currently significant unmet demand for open and closed Category places for adult and male females and the Men's and Women's estate is continuously operating at full capacity. Closed houseblocks fall within the existing secure perimeter fence, while open houseblocks are positioned outside of the secure boundary of a prison estate, surrounded only by a domestic fence. Within

a planning application both types of houseblocks are categorised as secure residential institutions falling within Use Class (C2a). The supply deficit means that there is also a need to address the current imbalance between the needs of prisoners and the types of prisons.

There has been no purpose-built Category D accommodation (Open category accommodation) in recent decades. This supply deficit means that many Category D offenders are being held in closed conditions so that means prisoners who have been considered suitable to move to Category D can't, ultimately restricting their access to services such as being released on a Temporary Licence for education and work placements that are known to support and speed up their rehabilitation.

The open accommodation units provide the opportunity for offenders to practise independent living in preparation for release. The accommodation provides incentives for prisoners to progress, and options for Governors to manage their population. The provision of additional open houseblocks across various locations in the UK will also minimise the need for prisoners to relocate. By having access to open accommodation nearby prisoners will be better able to maintain their family/friend networks. This is believed to aid in their rehabilitation and reduce the likelihood of them reoffending.

There is a general lack of understanding outside of the MoJ as to what type of prisoner will live in an open houseblock and the process of how a prisoner can move from open accommodation to closed accommodation over the time of their sentence. In order to be eligible to move into the new open houseblock's prisoners would first be subject to a robust risk assessment process, which would assess their suitability. This risk assessment is based on the risk the prisoner presents and not solely based on time served. Only prisoners who can be reasonably trusted to serve their sentence in open conditions will be permitted to be located in these open units. The risk assessment process would also assess the prisoners that are suitable to work off site.

Residents nearby to existing prison estates often bring up queries around the operation of open house blocks during the public consultation process as they want to better understand how open prisoners will interact in the community day to day. Even though the accommodation is open



## Urban Content & Design 1 Module

### Brief

This module is the first in a series of three which run across each year the BSc Urban Planning course at the University of Gloucestershire, with each year's module seeing the complexity, challenge, and expectations progressively grow. This module series sits alongside other design and studio modules in the course, but here there is a specific focus upon site analysis, understanding, and response within the planning policy/regulatory construct, with a very applied and planning practice-based approach.

In this year 1 module there is a requirement to undertake a site analysis of the Cheltenham Coach Station site, with an emphasis upon small scale interventions and a focus upon public realm design. A small building was also required within the site boundary. The module allows students to focus upon site analysis, and to work with small scale interventions and changes; key principles, concepts, and approaches can therefore be considered with a clarity and emphasis.

### Current Context

The analysis of the site was undertaken via desktop research and a series of site visits; this identified access and movement, the uses, heritage and conservation and the landscape characteristics (descriptive, and with policy references). The area can be accessed with good

transport links, as there are active bus routes running in and past the site, with coaches and buses running to an array of places such as Birmingham and London, large hub cities, and smaller destinations such as Hereford and Winchcombe. There is also some pedestrian movement during the day, with limited movement at night. The site is an open space island surrounded by coach station 'loop' road. The site has some listed buildings and is in a conservation area. The landscape is made up of trees, boundary treatments, and some grass.

### Proposal

#### Why general plan

There are great opportunities for the use of the open space by creating a place for people to visit and providing a use for the space, with infrastructure and planning, the area will become safer due to interrupted access to the road, so children can play safely.

By removing the coach station there will then be less carbon emissions from idling coaches, therefore decreasing the air and noise pollution in the area.

The provision of picnic benches is to improve social facilities and support the role of the space as a destination through the provision of public art.

By creating extra access points to the site, it increases the permeability of it, meaning it feels more accessible, open and inclusive.

The site will also feel safer due to the installation of both lampposts under the trees and recessed floor lights at main access points to the site.

By installing raised flower beds next to the tyre shop it creates a barrier between the shop and the site to reduce the amount of carbon on the site, without creating a massive barrier that would potentially reduce visibility to the site.

#### Why café

The addition of an onsite café means that the site creates economic profit and also benefits the surrounding community.

It creates an attracting feature to the site and therefore also creates a reason to stay onsite and relax either on a lunch break or as a destination with friends.



Cafe Front View

View from the Cafe

## Why this café design

The sloped roof would have a green roof system installed prior to any greening. This involves waterproofing the roof deck, installing a root barrier, a drainage membrane, a filter layer, a growing medium/substrate and finally the vegetation itself.

The solar panels on the roof mean that the café can run off sustainable energy that it generates instead of relying on fossil fuel generated energy.

The sky lights and eave windows allow for light to enter the building from above, giving the space an open and airy feel.

The ivy on the inside back wall is there to create a calming atmosphere where the inside also feels like the green outside area.

The outside seating area is provided for enjoying the new green site whilst in the vicinity of the café amenities.

### My Opinions:

Overall, this module helped me to grow my passion for urban design and sustainable development though enabling me to be creative in my design and has given me a broader understanding in what is undertaken in site analysis. As part of this module, I was taught how to use specialist software like AutoCAD, Illustrator, InDesign, and Sketchup to provide me with the skillset needed to present my ideas in professional ways that I can then use in any future employment. This is incredibly beneficial as I can now use my knowledge of the softwares in all of my other projects that I'm currently undertaking, and I am keen to keep learning how to get the best use out of them.



Morgan Hewkin  
Site Photo



Café Benches

Cleo Jefferies, Undergraduate  
at University of Gloucestershire

## 07 RTPI Future Planner Bursaries

**Two new students on the MSc Planning programmes at the University of Plymouth have each been awarded Future Planner Bursaries by the RTPI.**

Holly Johnston from MSc Planning (full-time) and Lauren Hutton from MSc Town Planning (the Level 7 Chartered Town Planner Degree Apprenticeship) are pictured on a recent field visit to the new settlement at Sherford. Holly previously worked in the private planning consultancy in Birmingham and Lauren works as a planner in South Hams District Council. Both were very grateful for the extra support offered by the award of the bursary.

“

**Lauren, who has four children and a husband in the military, said:**

This bursary will go a long way to help with extra childcare expenses and make this Masters' programme a more relaxed and enjoyable experience - free from extra worry during the cost-of-living crisis". Holly added "I am very grateful to be awarded this bursary. The generous contribution has helped facilitate my ability to complete my degree in Plymouth, chosen with the goal of specialising in rural planning with additional southwest contexts in my research. I have relocated to undertake the Plymouth Masters' and, without the bursary, I would have struggled greatly.

”

Details of the Future Planners Bursary are here.

[www.rtpi.org.uk/become-a-planner/bursaries/rtpi-future-planners-bursary-2022-england/](https://www.rtpi.org.uk/become-a-planner/bursaries/rtpi-future-planners-bursary-2022-england/)

**Look out for information on this opening again in 2023**



Holly Johnston (on the left) from MSc Planning (full-time) and Lauren Hutton (on the right)

# 08 Plymouth Graduation

The degree ceremonies at the University of Plymouth on 20 September, 2022 saw the graduation of the both the 2022 cohort (including the first Level 7 Chartered Town Planner Degree Apprentice) and the 2020 cohort (whose ceremony had been postponed during Covid-19). The day was bathed in glorious sunshine and attended by Julie O'Rourke (RTPI SW Chair), who also awarded the prizes to the winning students.



The graduating cohort from the MSc Planning programmes at the University of Plymouth on 20 September, 2022 on Plymouth Hoe: (left to right): Dr Olivia Wilson (Lecturer in Spatial Planning), Julie O'Rourke (RTPI SW Chair), Bethan Bradwick (wsp, Cambridge), Benjamin Naughton (Roach Planning), Emma Venning (Cornwall Council), Artur Gugula (Teignbridge District Council), Toby Clayton (Bristol City Council), Emily Godwin (Plymouth City Council) and Dr Stephen Essex (Programme Leader).



The graduating cohort from 2020 on the MSc Planning programmes at the University of Plymouth on 20 September, 2022 on Plymouth Hoe: (left to right): Dr Olivia Wilson (Lecturer in Spatial Planning), Holly Beale, Briony Waterman (Somerset West and Taunton Council), Yvonne Dale (Mid Devon Council), Nicola Williams (Parish Councillor for St Endellion Neighbourhood Plan), Ryan Steppel (Torridge District Council), Darren Horn (Natural England), Emily Perryman (Devon Wildlife Trust) and Dr Stephen Essex (Programme Leader).



Julie O'Rourke awarded Emily Godwin (Plymouth City Council) with the Royal Town Planning Institute (South West Branch) Prize for best full-time MSc Planning student.





Julie O'Rourke awarded Emma Venning (Cornwall Council) with the following prizes: Royal Town Planning Institute Prize (London HQ) for best overall MSc Planning student; Royal Town Planning Institute (South West Branch) Prize for best part-time MSc Planning student; and the Cornwall Council Award for best dissertation on the MSc Planning programmes.



Christopher Cooper-Young (Cornwall Council) was awarded the Cornwall Council Award for an excellent dissertation on the MSc Planning programmes.



## Welcome to new RTPI Members

**Congratulations to all our new Chartered and Associate Members in the South West for 2022:**

**Adam Bennett**

Ken Parke Planning Consultants Ltd

**Charles Cooksley**

South Somerset District Council

**Isabel Daone**

Bath and North East Somerset Council

**Ethan Davies**

Lansdown

**Celia Davis**

Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA)

**Alexandra Dones**

Barton Willmore - Southampton

**Liam Fisher**

Bristol City Council

**Tomas Furby**

PD Solutions

**Rachel Gaffney**

Pegasus Planning Group - Sutton Coldfield

**Finn Heberlet**

Atkins Ltd - Bristol

**Claire Hicks**

Dorset Council - Colliton Park

**Naomi Jackson**

XL Planning

**Joshua Janes**

Lansdown Land - Bath

**Panagiotis Konidaris**

Bluestone Planning Ltd

**Jasper Lamoon**

Cotswold District Council

**Wendy Maden**

Bath and North East Somerset Council

**Alice Noyce-Mead**

Quod Limited - Headquarters

**Barnaby Orr**

Crest Nicholson

**Lucy Paffett**

South Gloucestershire Council

**Rob Palmer**

Torbay Council - Headquarters

**Callam Pearce**

WSP Group - Bristol

**Emily Porter**

Savills - Bristol

**Kelly Prosser**

Zesta Planning Ltd

**Faye Stewart**

Bailey Partnership

**Sarah Toomer**

Forest of Dean District Council

**George Voss**

WSP Group (Indigo Planning Ltd) - Headquarters

# 10 Applications open for the South West Mentoring Programme

**After a successful initial pilot in 2022, RTPi South West will be continuing its mentoring programme into 2023.**

## Background and Context

It is widely commented within the media that a lack of planning staff is compounding the industry's ability to process applications, engage in best practice within planning negotiations and deliver development on the ground. This staffing crisis is being experienced across the sector, but is perhaps most acutely felt within local planning authorities, where high caseloads are reducing time for continuing professional development activities and the opportunity for mentoring of junior colleagues. The consequence is significantly affecting the careers of new planners. Senior colleagues, who already have high caseloads or are simply not in post means that finding support and time to mentor more junior colleagues becomes very difficult.

Whilst resourcing is an issue, there remains a keen aspiration to share learning and best practice amongst planning professionals.

To compliment the RTPi NUTURE programme RTPi South West are facilitating a programme to match mentors and mentees, so that planners have a dedicated place to find the support that they need to get the best out of their first few years in work.

## Benefit

Mentoring has significant benefits for both mentor and mentees:

- Having a mentor can improve your chances of APC success, particularly if the mentors have recent experience of the process.
- Provides an opportunity to engage with planners that you may not have worked with before and network with their wider connections.
- Mentoring can encourage recruitment opportunities through increased networking.
- Provides opportunities for like-minded planners to discuss projects and, indeed, for those with different backgrounds to also consider each other's perspective.
- There are potential mental health benefits, simply just by talking issues through with other professionals, but also by having a space outside of your employment to discuss planning-related matters and professional development.
- Mentoring can boost the confidence of both the mentor and mentee.
- Broadens and improves experience for inclusion on a CV.
- Matching mentors and mentees will encourage skill sharing and could identify new ways of problem solving by discussing work issues. In the long-term, and if widespread, this scheme could see planning processes improved as professionals work together.

Having a mentor has been a fantastic opportunity for me to think about my future practice as a town planner. Having a guide and mentor to help me grow and reflect has been a big part of my progression professionally this year and my mentor is closely aligned to my current experience. With the support of my mentor I have also decided to submit my MRTPI application in 2023 something, I would not have done without her encouragement and support.

As a mentor I've also found it useful and interesting to share professional experiences outside of the APC discussions to aid with knowledge sharing, so it certainly doesn't feel like a one way discussion. I always find our discussions enjoyable and its nice to step away from the 'day job' and reflect more widely on our careers.

## Mentee requirements

This pilot mentorship scheme is specifically aimed at planners at the start of their career (between 1-5 years following graduation), including those that are considering or actively preparing from their upcoming L-APC or DA-APC submission.

## Mentor requirements

In general, planners who have recently passed their APC or Chartered members that have 5+ years' experience will be considered for mentor roles. However, these conditions can be flexible depending on circumstances and feedback from respondents.

We are looking for individuals from all parts of the planning sector. Whilst some mentee candidates may have very specific requirements in terms of background experience or time commitments from their prospective mentor, mentorship can be provided by like-minded planners or indeed those from a very different planning background, who can equally contribute to the start of a planner's career.

The skills and resources required to mentor a junior planner will vary significantly from person to person. That is why it is important to develop a programme which matches individuals based on their specific skills set and development needs. There will be opportunities to mentor with monthly or fortnightly virtual catch-ups or email exchanges right through to face-to-face meeting and review of APC submissions. The key is to enable a flexible programme to meet individuals' needs and for those involved to be realistic about the resource that they are able to give.



## How to apply

Mentee applications - [complete this form](#)

Mentor applications - [complete this form](#)

## 2023 Timetable

**Dec - January** - Open to Mentor/Mentee Applications

**31 January** - Applications closed

**February** - Mentors and Mentees paired

**March onwards** - Mentor/Mentees encouraged to have first meeting

During programme (which is as long as required) on-going support as required from RTPI South West

## More information

For more information on mentoring including resources for mentors and mentees please visit our mentoring hub

## Contact

If you have any enquiries, please contact  
**Charlotte.Daborn@rtpi.org.uk**



**A key starter in what might loosely be called my career in planning was a sailing match between two university student teams in Firefly dinghies on the Welsh Harp reservoir in north London. I was about to graduate from Cambridge university with a geography degree and an undecided future. One of the London team told me about a new MSc course at Imperial College - “something to do with traffic and transport planning under a professor named Colin Buchanan”.**

To cut a long story short, I was one of the early students on that course, which had been set up after publication of the well-known Traffic in Towns report. Then, to obtain professional qualification as a chartered planner I had to take RTPI examinations – a process which is not possible today. These required a combination of home study and evening classes while working full-time as Research Officer in the planning department of what was then the County Borough of Great Yarmouth in Norfolk. I found it difficult to obtain the skills needed to pass some of the Institute’s exams, particularly one I recall which involved candidates being taken in a coach to Regent’s Park to design a redevelopment scheme. But eventually I managed to pass, and to meet the Institute’s requirements for practical experience in different fields of planning.

After gaining RTPI membership I switched from local government to make more use of my post-graduate qualification and joined Freeman Fox and Associates, then one of the main UK-based consultancies specialising in traffic or transport. Starting as the

planning member of multi-disciplinary teams, I later became a project manager in charge of a series of contracts in different parts of the UK and abroad. One of the largest contracts was the West Yorkshire Land Use Transportation Study, for which a team of consultants lived in Yorkshire for two years – living locally was certainly necessary when tasked with supervising origin-destination traffic surveys starting at 0600 hours! I also spent six months in Edinburgh working on consultancy contracts in Scotland.

The foreign assignments included a year living in Fiji in charge of a transportation study for the capital, Suva (contracted by the then Ministry of Overseas Development); and a year in the Middle East working mainly on projects in Kuwait and Dubai.

One of the things I found when working abroad is that to enjoy such postings it was helpful to get involved in local activities. I must be the only RTPI-qualified planner who has played hockey at the Kuwait Oil Company and taken part in the Dubai Laser dinghy sailing championship! Fortunately, details of my contribution to a production of Pirates of Penzance in Suva are lost in the past.

Occasionally during my time with the consultancy I was called on to give evidence at public inquiries. This sparked an interest in the work of the Planning Inspectorate. I joined the Inspectorate in the 1980s and have since decided around 3,000 appeals, as well as making numerous recommendations to Ministers on called-in applications. Other fields of work have included examinations into local plans or subject plans, lesser-known legislation such as the Transport and Works Act, and inquiries involving rights of way and compulsory purchase. I also specialised in appeals involving enforcement and lawful development certificates.

After some promotions I became a Principal Inspector with responsibilities for managing other inspectors as well as taking major inquiries. One of these – a called-in application for planning permission for Doncaster international airport - took nearly 5 months, with about 100 witnesses and about 1,000 submitted documents. That history now perhaps causes pause for thought by all those involved, in view of recent announcements about the airport’s closure.

After semi-retirement some years ago I continued to work in various ways, including as a tutor for training courses for universities and local authorities, as a neighbourhood plan examiner, as a consultant, and as a part-time planning appeals inspector for government bodies in England, Wales, the Isle of Man, the Republic of Ireland and Jersey - the last being the most recent and still current at the time of writing. I think I can claim to be the only inspector who has issued decisions or recommendations on planning appeals in five different jurisdictions.



Graham Self

As a planning student, I'd ride my motorbike past Bradley Stoke on the M4 and think what nice fields they were. As a local authority planner, it appeared to be a logical urban expansion. Then as Planning Director of a commercial development company, I arrived in my Ford Granada to open the breaking ground ceremony for its new District Centre - surrounded by numerous housebuilding sites. I later worked in an office there for 4 years. Today, I hardly think about it. 1000 acres and 28,000 people obviously still do.

What used to be 'crossing to the dark side' of the planning profession in that way used to be unusual but change in both directions is now more the norm. It's just a change in point of view of the same issues - public good mostly using private gain to deliver it. And the investors in that private gain are frequently public sector pension funds.

What is interesting from a long career in planning (now 53 years!) is that the only real attraction is getting something to happen and making sure it's good. Delivering housing of all types, workplaces, retailing, infrastructure all bring challenges but all need promotion by recognising the psychology of decision-making and ensuring clarity of benefits in any compromise. The phrase '...unless material considerations indicate otherwise...' allows the best to come forward, bringing imagination to bland allocations - or to gaps in allocations.

The thought that new Government initiatives - detailed site briefs, design codes, investment zones - will deliver better outcomes is wishful thinking in the absence of fuller LPA finances and of adequate public consultation. The planning profession has to make the very best of what it has to achieve the best it can.

And professionally, we must develop wider understandings. I started out on heritage coast management plans and Dutch Elm disease, through being chief planning officer at age 27 (those were the days) to planning director of commercial development companies to being a consultant - creating design guides for AONB, getting planning permission for housing estates and office buildings, overseeing several extensions to Bicester Village Outlet Centre (just think of the catchment) to now mixed use developments in London and Manchester. Passing through eight food superstores from Penwith to Bristol en route.

Now I'm Planning Director of a main subsidiary of Landsec, working with development teams to deliver exceptional places across the country, taking brownfield sites into the next 100 years - all at densities unheard of when I started in planning. And mixed uses are now becoming the norm after a long process of change in investment expectations.

Being FRTPI makes little difference other than being a door opener - with an understanding of the approach and expectations of the public sector, the differing roles and desires of officers and members and the timescales involved in getting to 'yes'. Not just some rapacious developer trying to get away with it.

And bringing experiences and examples from elsewhere to show what is genuinely achievable. Recognising local distinctiveness and seeking to blend old with new. Adding to places and building in flexibility. My working from London but living in South Devon brings the necessary wider perspectives about society's needs and wants. Alongside an appreciation of how hard it is for many people to just get by - remaining grounded.

I'm now near the end of my career, having worked longer than expected through sheer enjoyment of the challenges. But still getting good work. The latest is the conversion of vacant listed/unlisted industrial buildings in Charlton (in SE London, not Devon) for housing and co-working and community spaces, slotting in new-build housing to allow delivery of affordable housing. Time will tell if it's my swan song. Just ask 'the planners'.



Dr Malcolm Hockaday  
FRTPI FRSA

### Getting into Planning

I was very fortunate to attend Stockport Grammar School in Greater Manchester which employed many excellent teachers who were enthusiastic and inspiring and encouraged all pupils to follow their interests. My interests in heritage, the natural and built environment, economic and social trends and social justice were born there.

I went to University College Cardiff and graduated in Economics and Social Sciences. A housemate was studying Planning at UWIST and this seemed to me to be to be an interesting, useful and meaningful career, and so I went to Oxford Polytechnic (Oxford Brookes) for a two year Diploma in Planning.

### Experience

After gaining a Diploma in Planning in 1975 I joined Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (who had sponsored my planning course) in and worked in 'Development control' ie. development management, and also in 'Forward Planning' on a District Local Plan. I expanded my experience and in 1979 joined a large Architectural practice in Aberdeen which was experiencing an extraordinary development and economic boom due to oil exploration. I gained experience in working with international, national and local developers and public sector development agencies and during this time I was elected a Fellow. I moved south and joined Barton Willmore in Reading in

1987. My first project was as lead planner in promoting a New Settlement of 6,000 houses and a large business park south of Oxford, working with a large team of specialists and preparing a complex planning application and giving evidence at the inevitable appeal. I became a full partner in the firm, moved to the west country and was responsible for the firm's office in Bristol which at that time had a handful of architectural staff but no planners. Planning work expanded in the south west. I still had projects and contacts in Scotland and so we decided to open an office in Edinburgh. It was clear we also needed an office in Wales and so we also opened an office in Cardiff.

The enthusiasm, camaraderie, skills and abilities of the staff in the firm at all levels was inspiring and the general atmosphere was positive and made the work enjoyable and challenging. My experience was in large multi-use developments – large urban extensions and regeneration developments. By this time, the Bristol office had expanded into a multidisciplinary office, with 55 staff and numerous projects. The practice as whole had grown to 350 staff in a range of disciplines.

After retiring from the practice in 2013 I became a non-executive director of a Housing Association owned house building company and also a non-executive director of a private commercial development company in Bristol. Since then, I have been involved in Neighbourhood Plans as a volunteer.

My view of the future of planning and issues. The need for excellent planning professionals seems greater now than ever and whilst there are more skilled professionals in Planning, Urban Design, Architecture, Landscape, Heritage, Ecology sustainability etc. this

pool of expertise may not be harnessed as effectively as it could. Local Authority budgets are stretched, planning departments have been depleted and the potential of all this expertise does not seem to be maximised as demonstrated in some outcomes.

It seems to me that more time and effort goes into allocating land in development plans compared to that devoted to the actual outputs or quality of the developments which result. I believe there is much more scope for the use of development briefs and design codes and much more scope for local authorities, house builders, infrastructure providers, commercial developers and transport companies to work together to provide beautiful, walkable, sustainable mixed use developments with a range of facilities. There is also more scope for imaginative use of planning agreements, Community Infrastructure Levies and land values to create truly beautiful and sustainable communities, with amenities, landscapes and all the infrastructure required.



Profile of Ian Mellor  
BSc(Econ), Dip.T.P, FRTPI

The planning profession has so much to offer and we should not be reticent about explaining a vision of what can be achieved. The political and commercial environment may not fully appreciate the skills we have. At National level, Planning has become a political football and every planning minister seems to want to invent a new system. At local level, there may be a tendency for some (not all!) elected members to view planning and planners as a solution to the latest short term political whim or issue. There is also a tendency for some landowners and developers to view planning consultants simply as advocates for the latest land option and use the term 'sustainable development' as a catch phrase.

It is up to all of us to hold on to the values of true sustainability, excellence in design in all its forms and demonstrate what can be achieved to create wonderful sustainable environments and protect precious natural assets. Environmental and design professionals will only achieve the respect and status we deserve by leaving short term political trends and commercial advocacy to others.

## Why become a Fellow?

- Most exclusive qualification RTPI offers – join the 1% of members who are in this class.
- Achieve ultimate recognition – join past presidents, leading academics, and directors across both public and private sectors.
- Use the post-nominals FRTPI and logo to showcase your knowledge and expertise.

## How to apply?

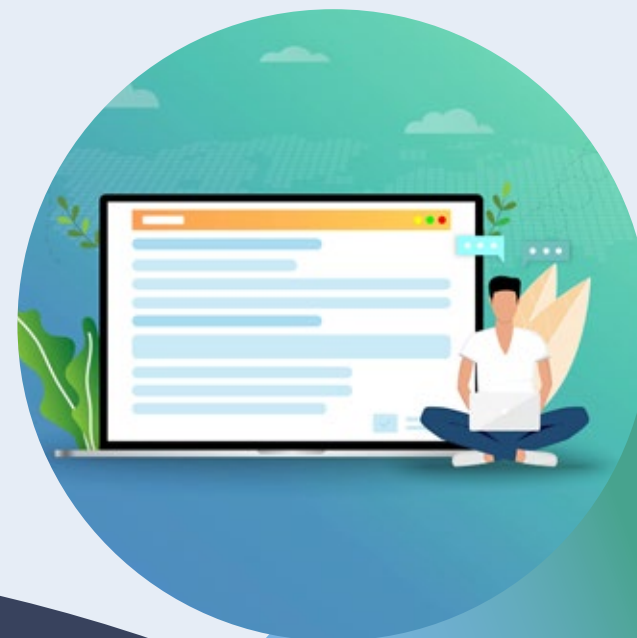
Applications for Fellowship are considered by the RTPI Nominations Sub Committee. Applicants must submit the following documents:

- A completed Fellowship Application Form
- A chronological employment history;
- A 1000-2000 word statement detailing how they have met the criteria; Leadership, Innovation, Contribution to others and 'above and beyond'.
- Nominations from four Chartered Members of the Institute. Nominations must be provided on the Fellowship Nomination Form, in accordance with instructions on the form.

For application deadlines and result days for 2022-2023, please [click here](#).

## Benefits of being a Fellow?

- Increased status - join the 1% of members who are in this class.
- Use of Fellow post nominals - FRTPI - a way of displaying your major contribution to the planning profession.
- Access to all benefits and services offered by the RTPI. To access these, please [click here](#).





After a very busy academic year, my recent holiday to West Cornwall was not intended to be planning-related, especially as there is no Green Belt in Cornwall! For the most part, my holiday was not planning-related although planning is all around us and kept featuring in prominent ways. For a start, St Ives and Mevagissey invariably feature in my lectures on urban policy and Neighbourhood Planning.

Indeed, planning featured throughout my journey down to Cornwall including a flying visit to the amazing Castle Drogo in Dartmoor. I found out that it was designed by the famous architect Sir Edwin Lutyens who, along with Sir Patrick Abercrombie, authored 'A Plan for the City'. This was a post-war Plan for Kingston upon Hull which proposed a Green Belt that was never implemented. Another planning-related feature were the fascinating original documents in Jamaica Inn from the public consultation on the various routes for dualling of the A30. Furthermore, a very attractive piece of land adjoining the holiday bungalow where we used to stay when I was a child is now for sale near St Michael's Mount. It will be interesting to see if the land is developed for housing in the fulness of time which will, in turn, affect the landscape of the Bay.

These three examples highlight the importance of strategic planning so this article will briefly explore the lessons we can learn about it from the Duchy. However, whilst I research strategic planning, I am not an expert specifically on Cornwall but these are general observations based on discussions with planners and locals as well as coverage in the popular and planning press.

## What works well

Firstly, then, the positive aspects of strategic planning in Cornwall:

### 1 A Local Plan is in place

At a time when many local authorities are struggling to implement and adopt local plans, Cornwall has a Local Plan which aims to guide development strategically. Refreshingly, the Plan covers the whole county - a significant area (at 3,562km<sup>2</sup> not far off the size of Kent) - and tries to steer housebuilding towards areas in need of investment, especially Camborne-Redruth and St Austell. This is to try to meet local need rather than building in overheated - in terms of property market - coastal locations like St Ives or Padstow. Counties are imperfect, artificial geographies but planning at that level at least gives more of a strategic perspective than the purely local level. Of course, Cornwall is a unitary authority and potential plans in the Devolution White Paper to forcibly unitarise district councils appear to be no longer likely but, with the merging of district councils and the emergence of unitary authorities like Dorset and Buckinghamshire Councils, there are important lessons which can be learnt from Cornwall's Local Plan.

### 2 The Plan is relatively strategic

Like other unitary (county) authorities, such as Herefordshire, the Plan is relatively strategic in terms of allocating growth locations whilst leaving scope for smaller communities to build housing for local need and steer development through the Neighbourhood Plan process. In this way, lessons can be learnt from the principle of subsidiarity or that certain spatial governance scales are more appropriate for making (planning) decisions than others and shows the benefit of planning at the county level.

### 3 The establishment of Cornwall Council has professionalised planning more in the Duchy

In a general sense, Cornwall has been very successful at safeguarding its historic human and natural heritage such as the beautifully preserved harbours of St Ives or Mousehole.

Nonetheless, historically there have been individual cases of poor-quality development in sensitive locations which leads to questions as to why planning permission was granted in the first place. However, Cornwall Council has been successful more broadly at further professionalising planning and ensuring decisions are made more in the broader interests of the county.



The key diagram from the Cornwall Plan

## What needs improvement

Nevertheless, whilst important positive lessons can be drawn, there are some key areas for improvement:

### 1 Cornwall has a severe and deepening housing crisis

Cornwall is a wonderful place to live for those who can afford it. However, speaking to younger people in the Duchy, the cost of housing accommodation makes it very difficult for local people who fill out key jobs in the county to live in the county. This has a wide range of ramifications including affecting the feasibility of maintaining shops and facilities year round in coastal locations whilst contributing to the wider 'brain drain' of young people from the county. Of course, many of these challenges are wider than the planning system and relate to Council Tax (there have been recent changes on this front) as well as the broader property market and cultural preferences etc. Nonetheless, as the Planning Consultant Jonathan Jenkin argued in this week's Cornishman paper (the substance of the article can be found here), that there are important ways that the planning system could more successfully manage second homeownership through, for example, creating a distinctive holiday and second home class in the National Planning Policy Framework. Moreover, the tremendous need for affordable housing in the Duchy is a significant challenge for plan-making in a county heavily constrained by coastal topography as well as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) etc.

### 2 There are challenges with cross-county cooperation

On my way down to Cornwall, we stopped for a meal in a pub in Chagford (Devon). When I said that I was going onto Cornwall, the manager joked 'that's a different country'! However, in many ways the housing market area of Plymouth stretches to Saltash and beyond whilst the success of Plymouth's economy is vital, particularly to South East Cornwall. Whilst there maybe strong popular opposition to accommodating development from the 'other side of the Tamar', cross-boundary cooperation is an important strategic planning challenge which must be grappled with.

### 3 There are broader difficulties about the (perceived) representativeness of Cornwall Council

Moving towards a unitary authority makes sense administratively and from a planning point of view but it can be extremely unpopular with local people, especially when they feel that local autonomy has been removed. Notwithstanding the many benefits from there being a unitary council including providing one voice for Cornwall and strategic oversight of planning (which enables development to be channelled into economically deprived areas), there is still simmering popular resentment towards the establishment of Cornwall Council. A lifeguard said to me that there is even growing concern among young people that the character of Cornwall is changing irrevocably with the scale of development. Clearly much of this rhetoric reflects broader popular perspectives on opposition to housebuilding but it does highlight some of the key challenges to the democratic legitimacy of strategic planning, especially in planning for meeting housing need.

## Concluding Thoughts

Overall, strategic planning in Cornwall has particular challenges and there are important positive and negative lessons which can be learnt from the attempts of Council to plan strategically. Indeed, whilst the geography of Cornwall is distinct, it shares many characteristics with other parts of the country including (to name a few) a spectacular natural environment and large areas of AONB, pockets of extreme wealth and areas of deep deprivation and issues with second homeownership and overheated property markets. There are also the challenges of perceived peripherality (despite reasonable road and rail links), balancing protection of historic heritage with the need to modernise housing stock whilst working through some of challenges of the move towards the renewable economy such as onshore wind. As more councils move towards unitarisation, there is therefore much that can be learnt from the Duchy. For a fuller exploration of the key lessons which can be learnt regarding strategic planning, please see my Open Access article on the West Midlands Green Belt.

### Charles Goode,

Teaching Fellow in Urban and Regional Planning  
University of Birmingham.



Above: Mousehole  
Left: Newquay from  
Carland Cross

# 15 Planning in the Isle of Scilly

**The Isles of Scilly are very much part of the United Kingdom, separated by 28 miles of Atlantic waters off the south west coast of Cornwall. A common misconception is that the islands fall within the jurisdiction of the county of Cornwall but they are in fact a separate Authority.**

As the UK's smallest Unitary Authority, the Council of the Isles of Scilly was established in 1891, under the Chairmanship of Thomas Algernon Dorrien-Smith and has continuously governed and made decisions for the last 131 years, on behalf of islanders.

As part of the UK, the islands are subject to the English planning system and the Local Planning Authority, including planning policy-making and planning decision-making, falls as one of its statutory responsibilities. The Council currently employ one planning officer to manage the small case load of planning applications (around 100 a year), as well as manage the monitoring, enforcement and policy-making aspects of the Council's Local Planning Authority functions. The local plan is recognised, through peer review, as positive and permissive and currently there is a relatively high approval rate of 87%. Through the Council's adopted Scheme of Delegation and as more clearly defined through the adopted Planning Protocol, planning and planning-related decision-making is delegated to the Chief Planning Officer. Although below the Government's 90% target, there is currently a 71% delegation rate for planning decision making. Planning applications, where not delegated, are determined at Full Council, which is held monthly. All Members are required to undertake regular planning training.

The Islands are a tiny archipelago comprising 5 inhabited islands, with the main island, St Mary's, being the largest and the administrative centre for the Isles of Scilly. There are 16 elected Councillors, 12 for St Mary's and 1 for each of the 'off-islands': Tresco, Bryher, St Agnes and St Martin's. All Councillors are politically independent.

The Council formally adopted its current Local Plan in March 2021, following submission in 2019 and examination in 2020, just before the lockdown impacts of the Covid pandemic. The plan covers the period 2015 - 2030 and does not set a housing target, but does recognise the need to enable the delivery of local need housing. Sites have been allocated but the plan also supports windfall developments as one of the primary routes for the delivery of local need homes. The plan adopts the Nationally Described Space Standards to ensure new homes are fit for purposes, restricts extension sizes for existing homes and defines and protects transport links, waste sites, recreation sites, settlement boundaries and protects the islands' main Town Centre, Hugh Town. The plan was developed over a five year period through engagement with statutory consultees and island partners, elected Members and through extensive community consultation.

.....

The Local Plan is the statutory development plan for the Isles of Scilly and forms the basis for decisions on land use planning.

.....

It is a rural and sparsely populated environment (137 people per square km compared to 153 per square km in Cornwall and 353 per square km in England (ex Lon). The population has fluctuated over the decades but is about the size of a small settlement with the 2011 census showing a population of 2,203, rising to around 2,300 in 2016 and the 2021 census showing this to have levelled back to 2,226. Such a small population, where no growth is anticipated makes planning policy-making a challenge with requirements for a five year housing land supply, calculations of objectively assessed housing need and now the housing delivery test all using primary sources of data as a starting point.

Coupled with the declining trend in the population, there is a demographic shift showing a decrease in the working-age population and an increase in the elderly and retired age population. The Local Plan has sought to find the right balance between enabling much needed local homes, resisting open market housing developments, supporting its main economic base of tourism, agriculture and fishing whilst protecting the very exceptional environment.



Porthcressa Beach on St Mary's looking towards the Garrison and the intervening 1960s Council Housing

The Isles of Scilly has a greater number of households living in privately rented accommodation than in Cornwall or England and Wales, and who are less likely to own their own home. The price of property, for example, is much higher than on the mainland and we have a generally lower-wage economy with people having multiple jobs, a low availability of owner-occupied housing, and limited access to affordable housing. Additionally the Isles of Scilly ranks eighth highest, among other Local Authorities in England, for fuel poverty, with the proportion of households considered to be 'fuel poor' in 2016 was 15.5%, against the English average of 11.1%, with the South West average being 10.2%, and Cornwall 12.8%. This has slightly improved in recent years.

The islands have, for almost 50 years, been designated as a Conservation Area and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Heritage Coast, and as such have specific environmental, heritage and cultural assets with associated levels of high protection. Incredibly the inhabited islands cover just 6 square miles of land. The exceptional environment is the mainstay for the islands economy and the AONB is the smallest in the UK. Within this there are a total of 238 Scheduled Monuments, that's 38 Scheduled Monuments per square mile compared to 2.5 per square mile nationally and 13 per square mile in the South West. There are a total of 128 Listed Buildings total (4 Grade 1, 8 grade II\*), that's 20 listed buildings per square mile compared to 7.5 per square mile nationally and 8 per square mile in the South West. There is also 1 registered Park, that of Tresco Abbey Garden. On top of that, the islands also have 26 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Special Protection Area (SPA), expanded in 2018 to cover the marine environment and a Special Area of Conservation

(SAC). The Isles of Scilly Complex SAC designation covers an area of sea around the island archipelago measuring 26848.62 hectares. It includes waters around the islands as well as six component (terrestrial) SSSIs. Not forgetting our Ramsar wetlands and our Marine Conservation Zone and 5 of the UK's 57 designated and protected wreck sites.

Although the islands do not have International Dark Sky status the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) produced interactive satellite images, captured at 01:30am throughout September 2015, which show that the Isles of Scilly is England's darkest district. The Local Plan now restricts external and unnecessary illumination to ensure light pollution is controlled as far as possible.

Being an island environment also means all of day-to-day services and facilities have to be provided within the context of the highly designated environment. All housing, industrial activities, household waste and recycling disposal, sewage treatment and disposal, healthcare facilities, schools and an airport have to be provided and maintained within the context of an intimate and highly sensitive environment. There's no part of Scilly, where you could reasonably deflect the less than salubrious activities, which have to take place to support the community, that isn't designated.

Islanders are at the forefront of climate change, facing an uncertain future with projected rising sea levels, increases in storms, which are going to require some difficult decisions for our next local plan. Coastal erosion is being addressed to mitigate immediate impacts but the logistics and the solutions are not straightforward. The Local Plan will need to understand flooding risks, coastal changes, transport links and energy provision and work closely with our partners on communicating measures to mitigate the impacts of a changing climate. Needless to say some difficult decisions lie on the horizon.

.....

## Islanders are at the forefront of climate change, facing an uncertain future

.....



Solar Panels



St Marys Quay

From a personal perspective, after 8 years of island-life, I feel like I've genuinely lived and absorbed an island way of life. Something that is an important process to go through before you can appreciate just how different life [and planning] is on a small island. Anyone who has come to live here will understand the adjustment you go through. For me I started off with a strong desire to protect and resist development that, on the mainland, wouldn't normally be appropriate in such a highly protected landscape, but over time I gained an understanding and pragmatism that has adjusted my perspective. Life on a small island is hard and it's difficult to appreciate, if you don't live here on a year-round basis, those things you've taken for granted on the mainland are just not available to you (or they cost more than twice as much and you learn that patience is very much a virtue).

From an outside perspective there is a tendency to view life here, and my role, as perfect and 'very heaven'. You don't need to own a car, the beach is on your doorstep, the views are to die for, there just aren't the same air quality issues, pollution issues, traffic issues, commuting issues, fear of crime issues. I do my site visits by bicycle or by boat. Life revolves around the seasons and you feel much closer to nature and the elements. The population is small, there is no developer pressure for volume housing or industrial developments. But the community is isolated, with limited and expensive transport links to the mainland, limited choice for buying family essentials, for infrastructure provision for post-16 education, for example. The Council doesn't have big teams of specialists and development (or redevelopment) is difficult to deliver, particularly on a scale that's cost effective or on a timescale that can be relied upon.

There is a climate crisis and a housing crisis. So any new housing that is needed (and affordable housing is needed), has to be tightly restricted. Enforcement has to be closely monitored. New development has to be of a high quality, highly sustainable and minimise water and energy usage as well as minimise waste. Expecting it all, can lead to nothing. Not expecting it all, compromises the future.

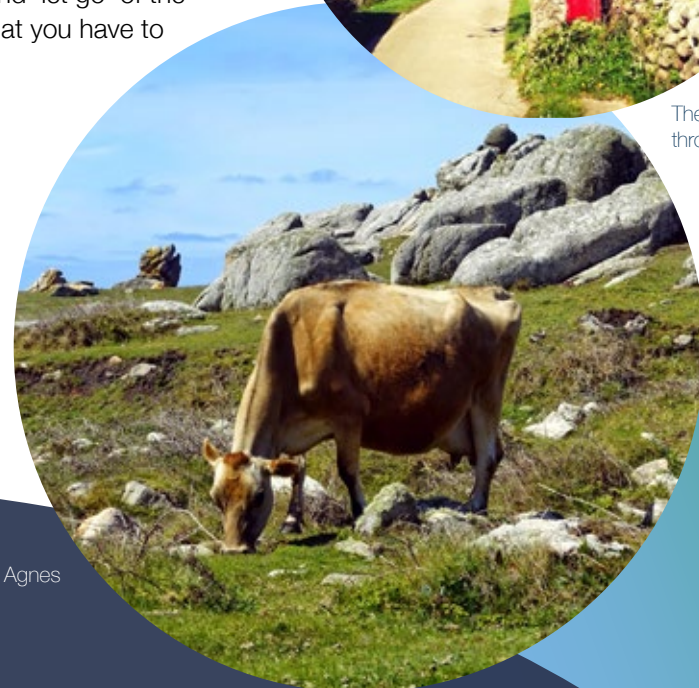
In planning we want to protect, but also facilitate, we want to encourage whilst being consistent, always with one eye on the future. Does our approach now have any bearing on others who might wish to carry out similar activities or create a problem for future generations? It really is planning under a microscope where all these issues, hidden behind layers of experts, suddenly come into sharp focus and there is a tendency to err on the side of caution at every turn. But what I've discovered is that approach alone doesn't balance well with targets and making progress. Whilst erring on the side of caution protects the status quo, it doesn't deliver. You cannot get bogged down in the detail of everything and you cannot become an expert in all the specialist fields and aspects of planning. You have to do your best and 'let go' of the decision at some point. This is a skill that you have to acquire to succeed.

**Lisa Walton**

Chief Planning Officer  
Council of The Isle of Scilly



The main road running through St Martin's



Farming on St Agnes

## We're Making Progress

Talk about Digital Planning has been around for years. Many of us remember the introduction of 1App and the Planning Portal being new tech, though now we can't imagine life without it. With the Covid crash-course in remote working many of us feel we're fully tooled up and digital planning is done.

But digital planning goes far beyond PDFs replacing folders full of A0 printouts. It includes software systems and tools for processing planning applications and plan making evidence. Consultations that used to require memos and tracking is now done with a click of a button. All of this has resulted in time saving and quality improvements. The fuel in these systems includes geo-referenced data that can be shared among applicants, planners and technical professionals reducing duplication of effort.

The RTPI's Digital Planning Manifesto published in 2019 is [www.rtpi.org.uk/policy/2019/september/a-digital-planning-manifesto/](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/policy/2019/september/a-digital-planning-manifesto/) still relevant. For me "Standardise common built environment language, processes, documents and data" is the quickest win of all and long overdue.

You may have also heard the phrase prop-tech which is a catch-all phrase for commercial systems for the land and property sector. Landmark <https://www.landmark.co.uk/> and Land Enhance <https://land.tech/products/landenhance/> provide two such services with links to planning. These companies have invested heavily in systems and processing data, including manually digitizing local plan policy maps, to provide a service for potential planning applicants. Other prop-tech services such as Whenfresh <https://www.whenfresh.com/> and Hometrack <https://www.hometrack.com/> are geared to estate agency and mortgage market but are useful for viability references.

## Government initiatives

Government has consistently embraced digital planning over the past decade. Currently DLUHC is leading efforts with support from LGA/PAS and the Connected Places Catapult which is one of the BEIS Innovate UK groups (<https://cp.catapult.org.uk/>). The DLUHC Local Digital service (<https://dluhcdigital.blog.gov.uk/category/local-digital/>) works across Local Government to help streamline the range of services to businesses and residents.

For planning there have been two key areas of focus recently; Reducing Invalid Planning Applications (RIPA) [www.ripa.digital/](http://www.ripa.digital/) and Back Office Planning System (BOPS) [www.localdigital.gov.uk/funded-project/back-office-planning-system/](http://www.localdigital.gov.uk/funded-project/back-office-planning-system/). While there are excellent pathfinders and exemplars the difficult bit is getting all LPAs to adopt a core set of common data and processes. And disparate local validation lists are a difficult nut for IT to crack. My cynical side questions if more progress would have been made on this if the Planning Portal had not been privatised in 2015.

But every step is progress, and a new round of funding opportunity opens this month [www.localdigital.gov.uk/fund/](http://www.localdigital.gov.uk/fund/). Two Southwest LPAs were successful previously in receiving funding as 'Pathfinders' to work through improvements to their planning software. Tewkesbury Borough Council received funding for a new "tracker" to quickly provide information on progress and timescales for planning applications. North Devon District received funding to improve database processing to reduce duplication and improve cross-service work on planning and existing residences.



## Commitment to digital planning

The government's commitment for digital planning is highlighted in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB). Even if the bill goes sideways for a bit, it is useful to note as these key goals are not going away. Part 3 of the Bill has a chapter on Planning Data which includes:

- Powers in relation to the processing of planning data - requiring LPAs to meet data standards which will be published.
- Power in relation to the provision of planning data - LPAs may REQUIRE applicants to submit 'planning data' in required 'form or manner'.
- Power to require certain planning data to be made publicly available and clarification that planning data does not infringe copyright.
- Power to require use of approved planning data software in England.

**The LURB explanatory note <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0006/en/220006en.pdf> provides an example of how requiring data standards and software will improve things:**

"...Through these powers, contributions to the preparation of a local plan and the contents of a local plan will be required to be in accordance with approved data standards. This will render local plan information directly comparable, enabling cross-boundary matters to be dealt with more efficiently as well as the process of updating a local plan as planning authorities will benefit from having easily accessible standardised data."

I'd add it will make things easier for third parties including consultants, lawyers, and commercial software developers. These powers are non-controversial - it's just a question of someone taking responsibility for setting out the standards and government funding to

enable to transition to take advantage of new software and systems.

## Improvement on many fronts

Big gains have been made in relation to open data over the past few years. Finding up to date mapped constraint data has never been easier. DEFRA's Magic <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx> and gov.uk's [www.digital-land.info/map/](http://www.digital-land.info/map/) and [www.data.gov.uk](http://www.data.gov.uk) can really help planners of all stripes, particularly IF councils stand and deliver (their policies maps). The Ordnance Survey, ONS and others provide free open-source data and sharing data derived from this is not breaking any Public Sector licencing.

There are still issues with costs for sharing some addressing data but with the release of georeferenced Unique Property Reference Numbers (UPRNs) as open data there are real wins for planning monitoring especially through joining with EPC data for information like GIA. PINS is also trialing a new digital planning appeal service, sort of like a planning portal for appeals, with two LPAs currently being in live trials. Not rocket science, but another step in the digital right direction

<https://planninginspectorate.blog.gov.uk/2022/06/09/new-appeal-a-planning-decision-service-launches/>

Another common thread in digital planning is community engagement. Though there are reports suggesting that digital engagement can involve younger or deprived residents in consultation, in practice digital consultation hasn't transformed representative engagement; the mobilised resident action groups continue to dominate, and we now see application objections coming from far and wide, but only from a narrow demographic (e.g., owner occupiers).

Digital upgrades complementing planning are underway across government. For example, lessons from regulations requiring standardised bus service open data, shows how setting a data format and requirement for sharing makes developing systems for transport authorities and operators more straightforward and better for passengers.

## Making a difference

All of this can make a real difference for better plans and applications. Map based triggers and decisions are already in use at LPAs. A digital red line now usually flags the relevant constraints and policy areas automatically, and in many places the Planning Admin teams are becoming the tech-savvy experts in many departments. For plan making information and data sharing can bring time savings among the consultant team. For example, HELAA sites are often repeatedly shared as spreadsheets and re-assessed by LPAs and their technical teams for assessment via e.g., SEA or Water Cycle study. Active data sharing can provide more robust assessments and save everyone time and money.



Monitoring housing supply is a key opportunity for digital improvement and something that needs attention. Each LPA gets by with best efforts on keeping track of permissions and the never-ending round of variations and multiple reserved matters on a big site. This is something even top data architects struggle to model.

Ongoing local government reorganisation and joint working is also a good source of lessons learned. The experience of many is that the inertia of “we’ve always done it that way” and “it works for us” can be more of a barrier to adopting common standards than any software problem. Harmonising standards (even simple naming conventions for applications) would make it easier for LPAs to reuse software and systems written for neighbours. And private sector planners, who face “shift shock” every time they navigate a different LPAs local plan or application portal know that a move to common tools and resources across LPAs could deliver big efficiencies.

What some see as the holy grail of planning: automated decision making - is not likely to in UK any time soon. Even a Prior Approval or a Lawful Development Certificate, which should be basic compliance checklist with GPDO etc., requires a human in the decision-making loop. But with every new tool or dataset it feels like we’re making progress. The Digital Planning Journey continues and everyone’s welcome on board!

## Call out

### Upping your digital game

#### Gear up on data sharing

- Inspire polygons <https://use-land-property-data.service.gov.uk/datasets/inspire/download>, the land registry ownership database are a “must” for understanding placemaking possibilities and show stoppers.
- Free Open Source data from Ordnance Survey can be found at <https://osdatahub.os.uk/>
- National Map of Planning Data [www.planning.data.gov.uk/map/](http://www.planning.data.gov.uk/map/)
- Check out QGIS so you can use all that open data [www.qgis.org/en/site/](http://www.qgis.org/en/site/) - a free, full-function open source GIS; free download & tutorials on youtube.
- Understand what metadata is <https://bit.ly/begin-guide-metadata> (data descriptors) and start entering key words or place names in the metadata of all your files (word files, spreadsheets, PDFs etc).

#### Keep up to date

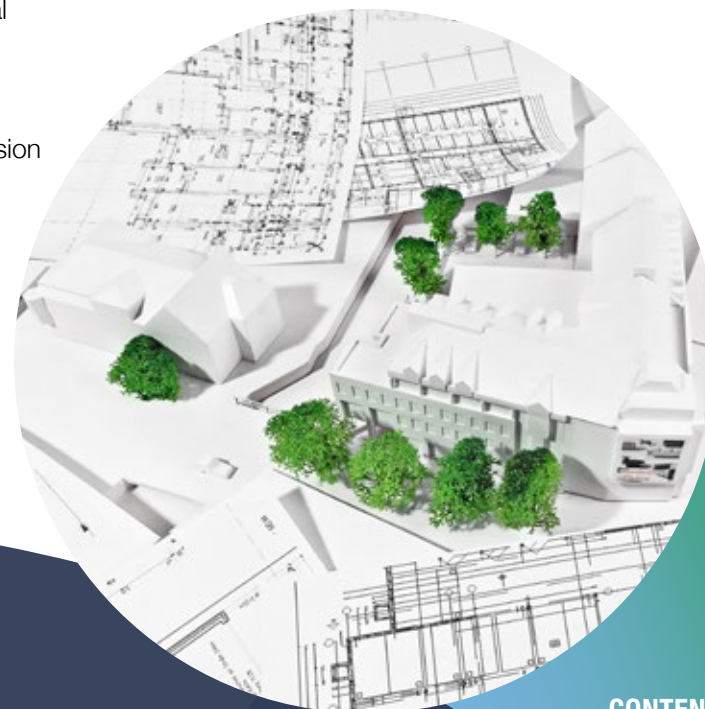
- Watch for PAS classes and seminars on digital planning
- Subscribe to the Local Digital newsletter [www.localdigital.gov.uk/newsletter/](http://www.localdigital.gov.uk/newsletter/)
- “Subscribe to feed” of the geospatial commission [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/geospatial-commission](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/geospatial-commission)

- Follow the twitter streams of some of the top talent in digital planning data and systems for latest news.

#### Recommended follows include

[@geovation](https://twitter.com/geovation)  
[@digiplanninggov](https://twitter.com/digiplanninggov)  
[@TheDataCity](https://twitter.com/TheDataCity)  
[@elliotharly](https://twitter.com/elliotharly)  
[@helenmakesmaps](https://twitter.com/helenmakesmaps)  
[@owenboswarva](https://twitter.com/owenboswarva)  
[@psd](https://twitter.com/psd)  
[@undertheradar](https://twitter.com/undertheradar)

**Mary Elkington, MA, MSc, MRTPI**  
Figura Planning





The Census undertaken by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) took place on Sunday 21st March 2021. The Census was a first for many reasons, it was a digital first census and encouraged all individuals and households to complete the form online. It also took place during the Coronavirus pandemic when the country was still largely in lockdown so the ability for the vast majority of households to be able to complete the form digitally was crucial. In addition, it asked a number of new questions including questions on whether people had served in the armed forces and voluntary questions for those aged over 16 on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The completion of online forms exceeded the expectation of ONS with 88.9% of household responses in England and Wales completed online. The ONS target was 75%. The ONS had a “paper first” procedure for areas where previous census and other data sources suggested households would be unable to easily complete a digital form, however, even in these areas significant numbers of households completed a digital form.

The field operations offered help to households that hadn't returned a census form and encouraged people to take part. This was followed by the Census Coverage Survey that helps to find out how many people have been missed or inadvertently counted more than once, the data was then processed, validated, and accredited. The first results were published on the 28th June 2022.

### Here are a few statistics for the South West area.

- Between 2011 and 2021 the population across the South West increased by 7.8% to 5,701,200
- Tewkesbury saw the biggest percentage increase (15.8%) while the population in the Isles of Scilly decreased by -4.7%
- The number of households increased to 2,448,800 across the South West, an increase of 8.1%.
- The population pyramid for the South West illustrates the aging population in the South West. The largest population cohort is the 55-59 year olds.
- While Bristol is the most densely populated authority, West Devon is the least populated one.

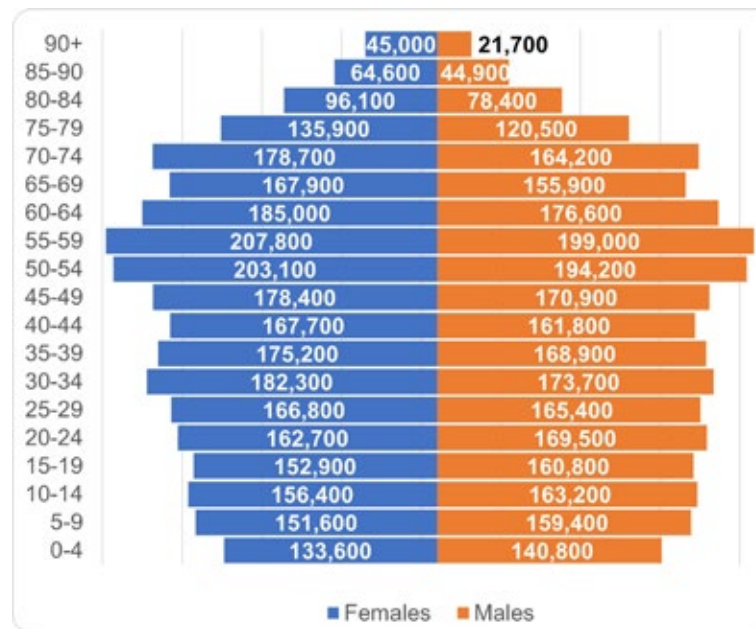
The statistics currently released by ONS are only a fraction of what will be available. Phase 1 is expected this Autumn onwards and will include:

### Autumn to winter 2022: topic summaries (mainly univariate data)

A topic summary is a set of data and supporting commentary, grouped by a similar theme.

ONS propose to cover these topics in the order listed:

- demography and migration (Oct-Nov 2022)
- ethnic group, national identity, language, and religion (Oct-Nov 2022)
- UK armed forces veterans (Oct-Nov 2022)
- housing (Nov-Dec 2022)
- labour market and travel to work (Nov-Dec 2022)
- sexual orientation and gender identity (Nov-Dec 2022)
- education (Nov-Dec 2022)
- health, disability, and unpaid care (Dec-Jan 2023)

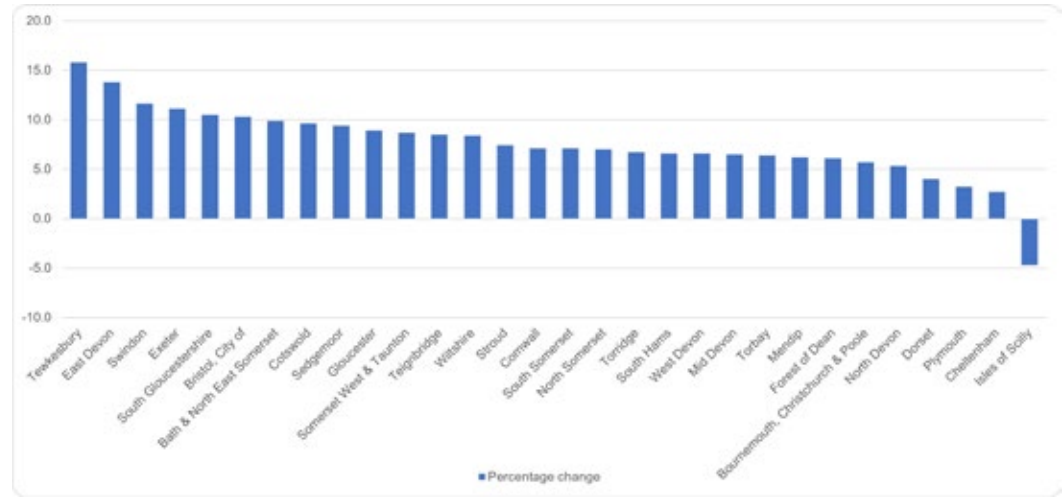


Population Pyramid, South West

Area profiles will also be released this Autumn.

This will be followed by phase 2 in Winter 22 and early 2023 and will include the multivariate data and the short-term resident population data. Phase 3 (from spring 2023) will include the alternative population bases (such as workday, workplace and out of term populations), small populations and detailed migration data. For more detail and to keep up to date with the release schedule visit the ONS website [www.ons.gov.uk/census](http://www.ons.gov.uk/census)

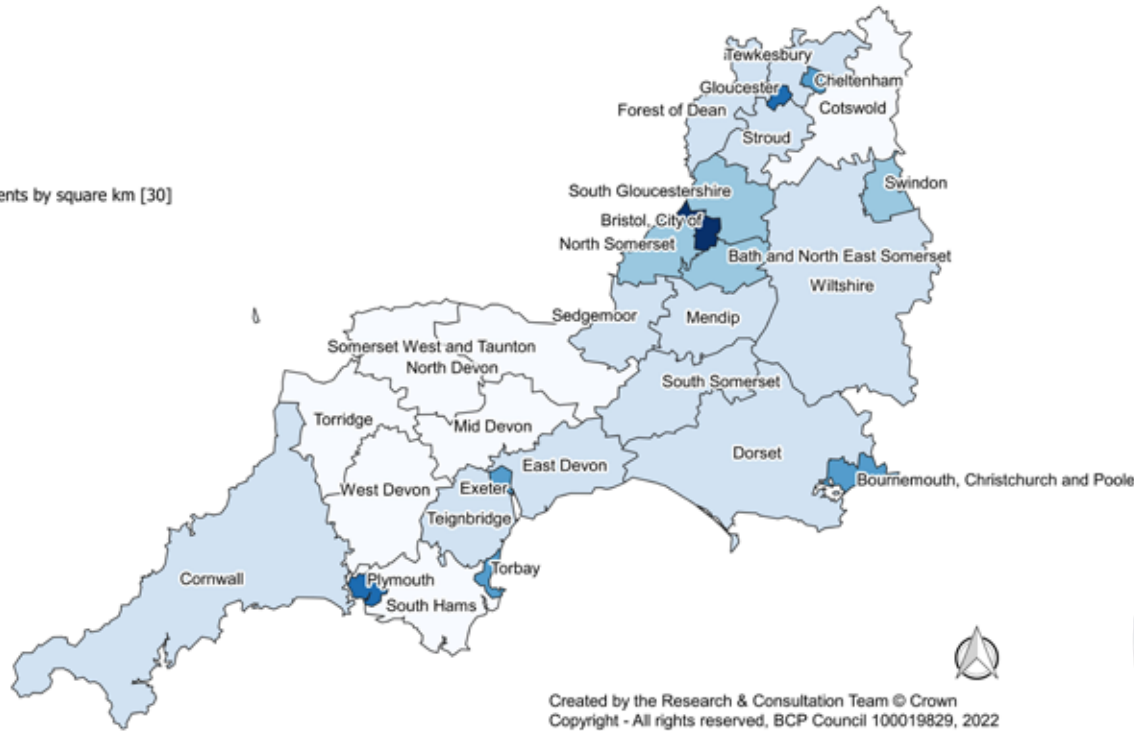
**Jayne Dale**  
Principal Research Officer  
Research & Consultation  
BCP Council



Population Change 2011-21 (%)

**Population Density**  
Number of usual residents by square km [30]

- 49 - 133 [8]
- 133 - 263 [11]
- 263 - 1014 [4]
- 1014 - 2781 [4]
- 2781 - 3315 [2]
- 3315 - 4308 [1]



### RTPI South West Regional Management Board and Activities Committee updates

The Regional Management Board (RMB) and the Regional Activities Committee (RAC) 2022 joint committee met on 4 July 2022 and 16 September 2022 for the fourth and fifth meetings of the year. The final meeting of the RMB and RAC took place on the 1 December. A report on this meeting will be summarised in the next edition.

### Regional operational matters and business

- The committee would like to encourage nominations for planners or emerging projects which might be suitable for case studies for CPD events or to recommend for RTPI Awards, RTPI outstanding service award, King's Honour nominations RTPI fellowships, Regional Celebrations like the Summer Reception or Dinner. We want to take the opportunity to raise the profile of planners and planning achievement through many avenues as possible.
- Geoff Walker is stepping down from the RAC at the end of 2022 after 40 years of volunteering. Geoff was recognised for his volunteering at the July Summer Reception and the committee extended their thanks for all his hard work and time spent on the committee and board.
- Nominations for elections to the RMB and RAC opened in September and closed early October. Details of the 2023 Committee is on the following pages and their profiles will be on the RTPI South West website soon. Julie took the opportunity to

encourage applications for Junior Vice Chair by reflecting on her experiences and how the opportunity had helped her confidence in public speaking.

- The RTPI Regional Coordinator Charlotte reported on changes to the regional budget. This included the additional Summer Reception event, a change in venue for the Annual Dinner due to a fire, and the postponement of the Heritage Seminar in September as the RTPI observed the mourning period for the late Queen. In October the region piloted hosting events in a hybrid manner which meant that waiting lists for sold-out events could be honoured. Overall the forecast for the region was ahead of budget. The RMB with RAC support approved the allocation of budget towards the purchase of career resources for RTPI Ambassadors to take to careers fairs and school talks.
- The committee reflected on the recent presentation of the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence at the Summer Reception and agreed to further encourage organisation and LPA's to consider entering in future. Feedback received at the awards event highlighted a desire for the audience to know more about the award nominees. There are case studies online to read prior to the event but including a QR code or allowing nominees to showcase their entries at the event may be considered next year. The national awards will be presented at the end of November in London, winners from the 2021 and 2022 awards are shortlisted as finalists in their appropriate category.

- Support for Local Planning Authorities - The committee took interest in the RTPI North West LPA Engage Project which will include a series of events on meditation, health and wellbeing, written skills, consultee engagement and planning for non-planners to name but a few for LPAs. The committee sought to review and develop the RTPI South West Engagement Network for 2023 with learnings from the North West.

### Business and budget planning

During the Summer the RAC, RAC plus Working Groups, Young Planners etc were all encouraged to feed into the drafting of the business plan and budget for 2023-2025. Discussions centred around a set of shared objectives across all regions and how as a region we could host activities to support those objectives.

The RMB met in August to review the ideas and the budget plan has now been submitted to the Head of Regions and will be circulated to the Board of Trustees for agreement. **Key activities for 2023 include:**

- Annual Dinner in Bristol
- 6 in person seminars plus a variety of webinars, site visits and walks
- A variety of Young Planners event and a relaunch of Gloucestershire Young Planners
- Relaunch the pilot mentoring programme for early career planner in the South West
- Extend member engagement to consider other ways to support members in the region



Summer Reception,  
July, Taunton

- Develop social and networking opportunities for those not eligible for Young Planner events to include opportunities for those on or recently returned from maternity and paternity leave.
- Celebrate planning achievement with the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence
- Grow RTPI Ambassadors and link with opportunities to promote planning as a career
- Connect with our Planning Schools in the region and celebrate student achievement
- Host another Summer Reception to celebrate new Chartered Members, the Awards and Volunteers
- Showcase planning and planners with the RTI Presidential visit to the region
- Support Research at the Planning School and consider other opportunities for research.
- Celebrate 50th Anniversary of Planning Aid England

### Regional Events & Engagements

- Several Regional Seminars have taken place with over 100 attending each event, its so positive to see the enthusiasm for a return to in-person seminars and the professional benefits this brings. In May we had the Climate Change Seminar in Taunton and then the Natural Environment Seminar in Exeter in July. The final events for the region would be a Rural Seminar in October, Heritage and a Planning Law Update in November. These latter three were piloted as a Hybrid.

- The new Summer Reception took place in Taunton in July. The event was a celebration of New Chartered Members, a thanks to RTPI Volunteers and the announcement of the winners and commendations in the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence in the South West. The event was joined by RTPI President Tim Crawshaw and CEO Victoria Hills. Thanks to sponsors Ashfords, Stantec and Stride Treglown.
- RTPI President Tim Crawshaw was being filmed during his July visit to the South West as part of a film, 'Content with Purpose'. The film was launched on World Town Planning Day as is all about climate change. Our Chair and Past Chair also attended the Birmingham Presidents reception where Tim reiterated his interests regarding health, wellbeing, sustainability.
- The return of the Annual Dinner in June was chaired by Julie and jointly hosted by previous Chairs Dawn de Vries and Angharad Williams. More tables were sold than ever before and the event raised around £1,650 for the Devon and Cornwall Alzheimer's Society, Fare Share South West and Somerset Mind. Thanks to sponsors Arup, Barton Willmore now Stantec, Burges Salmon, Landmark Chambers, Peter Evans Partnership, Rappor, Tetra Tech and Womble Bond Dickenson.

### Other Regional Updates

- The region has several working groups focussing on delivering the business plan such as Education, Policy and Research, Mentoring and CPD. They cover a broad range of activities and report back to the RMB/RAC regularly. We also have 3 young planner steering groups and volunteer representatives on national RTPI committees/groups such as EDI, One Institute, Volunteering, Nations and Regions and the General Assembly.
- Members don't need to be on the RMB or RAC to join a working group. Please do contact the Regional Coordinator if you are interested in getting involved.



RMB RAC & Young Planners Christmas Social



RMB and RAC meetings are hybrid to ensure meetings are flexible and inclusive

Hybrid committee meetings to ensure they are inclusive for members to engage

## PRINCIPAL OFFICERS 2023

### (Constituting Regional Management Board)

#### CHAIR\*\*\*

Ian Perry, Teignbridge District Council

#### SENIOR VICE CHAIR\*\*

Alexis Edwards, BCP Council

#### PAST CHAIR\*

Julie O'Rourke, Stantec

#### JUNIOR VICE CHAIR

Vacant

#### HON. SECRETARY\*\*\*\*

Simon Sharp, Dorset Council

#### HON. TREASURER

Carla Fulgoni, The Planning Bureau Ltd

## SW REGION REP ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY

David Lowin, Lowin Associates

## SW REGION REP on NATIONS & REGIONS

Harry Quartermain, Barton Willmore now Stantec

\* Also serves as deputy for SW rep on GA.

\*\* Also serves as deputy Nations and Regions Panel representative.

\*\*\* Also serving on the RTPi One Institute Project group.

\*\*\*\* Also serving and the EDI Champion for the region.

## Regional Activities Committee 2023

### A Principal Officers (RMB) as left

### B Corporate Members (appointed for 2023/2024)

Suzanne D'Arcy, South Gloucestershire Council

Catherine Loveday, UWE

Neil McKeon, Pure Town Planning

Rebecca Miller, Plymouth City Council

Rachel Tadman, Mendip District Council

Jo Widdecombe, Consultant

Angharad Williams, Mid Devon District Council

Rebecca Windemer, UWE

### C Corporate Members (appointed for 2023)

Tim Burton, Tim Burton Planning

Dawn de Vries Sedgemoor District Council

Stephen Essex, University of Plymouth

Christopher Miell, Associate Director of Pure Town Planning

Mike Oakley, Retired

Simon Prescott, Consultant - co-opted

Adam Sheppard, Uni of Glos - co-opted

1 vacancy

### D Associate Member (appointed for 2023)

1 vacancy

### E Affiliate Member (appointed for 2023)

1 vacancy

## F Student/Licentiate Members (appointed for 2023)

Isabella Day-Davies, Laurence Associates

Marcel Venn

Victoria Hodgson, Wiltshire County Council - co-opted

1 vacancy

Our RMB and RAC members come from the public, private, academic and third sectors and play a vital role in supporting our members - volunteering their time, enthusiasm and expertise in planning.

## Find out more about the 2023 RMB

and RAC Committee at

[www.rtpi.org.uk/find-your-rtpi/rtpi-english-regions/rtpi-south-west/committees-and-volunteering/](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/find-your-rtpi/rtpi-english-regions/rtpi-south-west/committees-and-volunteering/)

**If you are interested** in being part of this supportive and inspiring group of volunteer members please contact [southwest@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:southwest@rtpi.org.uk)

We can co-opt members onto the committee or working groups at any time.

**A bit about yourself**

I am a caring, passionate individual that is proud to be Welsh! I moved to England about 8 years ago to continue to my planning career and have made a home for myself here even though Wales will always have my heart. I am not afraid to speak out for what I believe in, and aim to increase awareness of the importance of inclusive environments.

**Why a career in Planning?**

I was always interested in art and design at school and wanted to be able to express this in a way that could make improvements in the environments we live in. Alongside this, and another reason for my career moving into planning, was being a carer for my nan. She was my world, but unfortunately was disabled and couldn't walk well. This meant that she required the assistance of a wheel chair to get around, and it was my experience of the difficulties I faced that made me passionate for wanting to create inclusive environments.

I began studying Art and Design at University before choosing to do interior architecture. This developed my knowledge of buildings and space and started my passion for design and knowledge of different materials. I then began doing some freelance work, before taking up some work experience in a Planning department in Swansea, and after this there was no looking back. I undertook a Master's degree in Planning, Practice and Research at Cardiff University alongside starting a role as a Graduate Planner with GVA Planning Consultancy

(now Avison Young). My Master's dissertation focussed specifically on navigation of the built environment of those who live with Alzheimer's and dementia.

I then decided to move my career to the public sector where I joined Teignbridge District Council as a Planning Officer. It was not long before I then took on a role as a Senior Planning Officer, followed by Area Team Leader for Mid Devon District Council, and now currently, Mid Devon's Development Management Manger. I am always conscious of how access can be improved for all when considering applications. It is my aim to inspire other others to think this way too.

**Why did you get involved in the RAC?**

In order to raise the profile of inclusive environments further, I joined the Regional Activities Committee for the RTPi South West in 2017 which enabled me to have input on the RTPi CPD events. I then took on the role of Junior Vice Chair of the region in 2019 which saw me be the editor of Branchout. In this role I was able to source out articles on inclusive environments particularly in the field of dementia. Progressing to Chair of the region in 2021 I aimed to ensure that inspired change within the profession in order that everyone can access the built environment.

**What do you do when not planning?**

Exploring the beauty of the Devon landscapes either on foot or on horseback. I am fortunate enough to have had my own horse since he was 3 months old and he is now 13! I love my time with him, as well as walking and enjoying pub grub with my partner. Family is also important to me, so I often head back to Wales.

**What do you need to become a planner?**

In my opinion, to be a planner, one has to feel passionate and seek to inspire great places. Being a planner we are front line in creating the world around us, and so have a responsibility to all to make that as great as it can be for current and future generations.

In my experience, you need to be organised, and great at communication, both written and verbal. There is not a day that goes by within the career where you do not need these skills and they are essential. I think a degree of patience also comes with the role, as not everyone understands how planning works or the associated legislation and one must be prepared to take the time to explain these matters as and when they arise. I think you must also be prepared to put in extra time throughout the year for continued professional development. Planning legislation is forever changing and is essential that we keep up with these changes to ensure that we are working correctly and efficiently at all times. You must also be good at prioritising, as caseloads, especially since the pandemic, have been extremely high and it is a huge challenge for Local Planning Authorities especially to keep churning out work when there is limited staff.

In terms of reward - well, it's the difference you are making to people's lives, and the seeing the great places created on paper become a reality! It can be so easy to forget that the applications we deal with daily are so important to that individual, or in terms of larger scale developments, can be someone's home/future employment etc. Every day the decisions we make can make such a positive difference to someone's life, and help sculpt the world around us. That for me, is a significant reward.



**Angharad Williams**  
Development Management Manager at  
Mid Devon District Council  
RTPi South West Chair 2021

**A bit about yourself**

I grew up in Bristol and attended the University of the West of England (UWE) where I studied the RTPI accredited Master of Planning (MPLAN) course for four years. Upon graduating from UWE in 2012, I moved to Dorset and began working as a Planning Officer at Weymouth and Portland Borough Council where I stayed for just over two years.

In 2014, I joined Pure Town Planning as a Planning Consultant, where I worked on a variety of planning applications and appeals over a five-year period. In 2019, I left Pure Town Planning and was appointed to be a Planning Inspector at the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), a position which I held for two years. At 29 years old, I was one of the youngest Planning Inspectors in the country. Whilst working at PINS, I determined approximately 200 planning appeals throughout England, which included written representation casework and hearings. In 2021, I re-joined Pure Town Planning as an Associate Director, who are my current employer.

**Why a career in Planning?**

In secondary school, I developed a passion for Geography and the built environment, which informed my A-level choices at sixth form college where I studied Geography and Environmental Science alongside other subjects. Both subjects included modules on town and country planning, which I found very interesting. I was keen to learn more on the topic, so I contacted

Bristol City Council and they kindly offered me a work experience opportunity where I job shadowed several members of their Planning Department for a week. After the job shadowing, my mind was made up, I wanted to become a planner! I then applied for a place at several planning courses at UWE, where I went onto to study the MPLAN course.

**Why does your current job involve?**

As a private sector planner, I act for a range of clients including landowners and small and medium sized house builders. Most of my work involves residential development, including new build and conversion, but I also advise on commercial development and other types of planning casework.

My work varies considerably and includes advising clients on the development potential of a site, land promotion work and the preparation, management and submission of planning applications and planning appeals for both minor and major developments. As an Associate Director, I am also responsible for managing my own clients and new business generation.

**Why did you get involved in the RAC?**

I have volunteered with the RTPI for several years. I was previously the Chair of the RTPI Dorset Young Planners Steering Group and I was also the Group's Treasurer. When my time as a young planner came to an end, I was keen to continue to volunteer with the RTPI at a regional level.

I had always enjoyed helping to organise and deliver CPD events for young planners, so I applied to join the RTPI SW Regional Activities Committee (RAC) where I could utilise these skills at regional level. I'm now a member of the RAC's CPD Working Group, who meet on a regular basis to deliver regional events for members. This year, I assisted with the delivery of the Housing CPD Event in Bournemouth, which was a very rewarding experience.

**What do you do when you're not planning?**

In my spare time, I enjoy playing football and golf. I'm a member of my local golf club and I'm a supporter of Bristol City Football Club. One day I hope to see them play in the Premier League (Yes, I know it's big ask...!). I also enjoy exploring the coastline and Dorset countryside with my partner and our four-legged friend, Rex.



**Chris Miell**  
Associate Director at Pure Town Planning

RTPI AWARDS FOR  
**PLANNING**  
EXCELLENCE  
2022



The Box in Plymouth

Congratulations to all the winners and commendations announced at the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence 2022 National Ceremony in London

A special congratulations to Plymouth City Council for being commended for 'Excellence in Planning for a Successful Economy' with The Box in Plymouth. They are absolute worthy winners and our regional judges said "Planning was at the core of both conception and delivery of this project and central to collaborative working both across the City Council and with other bodies. The judges were also impressed with the Inclusive appeal of the facility across a range of diverse communities and age groups underpinned by free entry to the building".

The Box was a joint winner in the RTPI South West Award for Planning Excellence 2022 earlier this year.

**Find out more at [www.rtpi.org.uk/southwestawards](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/southwestawards)**

The RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence will be opening again for entries on 17 January 2023. Register your interest to [Charlotte.Daborn@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:Charlotte.Daborn@rtpi.org.uk)

**[www.rtpi.org.uk/excellence](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/excellence)**



# Open for applications to join the RTPI South West Awards Judging Panel for 2023



**We are looking for 2 new RTPI members to join the existing judging panel. It is a rewarding opportunity to not only use your local knowledge and experience to help identify planning excellence in the region, but also learn from a wide range of planners, teams, plans and projects.**

## **Who do we need?**

Whilst we would consider all applications from any Chartered Planner, in order to ensure the panel is representative of the South West region and a wide range of experience,

### **we are particularly looking for:**

- A Policy Officer in either Cornwall, Wiltshire or the Gloucester/Cheltenham area. If you have experience with environmental / landscape planning then this would also be an advantage.
- A Chartered Young Planner (up to 10 years post qualification). If you have experience with a Young Planner Steering Group this would be an advantage.

## **Time expectations**

Judging will take place between Mid March to Mid May, you must be available to attend virtual judging panel meetings and to some site visits where the project is on the ground. Travel expenses are re-imbursed.

Attendance at the South West Awards Ceremony on the 3 July in Taunton will also be expected.

## **How to apply?**

Deadline for applications is the 31st January. All applications will be accessed by the Head Judge.

To apply,  
please contact  
**[southwest@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:southwest@rtpi.org.uk)**  
for an application form.

Webinars unless otherwise stated are **FREE** for RTPI Members

### JANUARY

**25 Key siting challenges for renewables**

In conjunction with UWE Centre for Sustainable Planning and Environments

More info: [www.rtpi.org.uk/swrenewableswebinar1](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/swrenewableswebinar1)

### FEBRUARY

**21 Planning and the Habitats Regulations - the way forward**

More info: [www.rtpi.org.uk/swhabitatregs2023](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/swhabitatregs2023)

**22 Key Community engagement and benefits from renewable energy**

In conjunction with UWE Centre for Sustainable Planning and Environments

More info: [www.rtpi.org.uk/swrenewableswebinar2](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/swrenewableswebinar2)

### MARCH

**29 Planning for Nationally Significant energy Projects**

In conjunction with UWE Centre for Sustainable Planning and Environments

More info: [www.rtpi.org.uk/swrenewableswebinar3](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/swrenewableswebinar3)

### APRIL

**24 End-of-life considerations for renewable energy (repowering, life-extension and decommissioning)**

In conjunction with UWE Centre for Sustainable Planning and Environments

More info: [www.rtpi.org.uk/swrenewableswebinar4](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/swrenewableswebinar4)

Many more webinars available hosted by the Nations, Regions and Networks at [www.rtpi.org.uk/events](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/events)



After a successful pilot of HYBRID events in 2022, we are pleased to continue this inclusive format for some of our events in 2023. We look forward to welcoming a mix of in-person and virtual delegates to our events.

## FEBRUARY

### 23 Young Planners: Heritage in the Planning Process, Bournemouth

- Assessing the Heritage Impact of Planning Applications
- Weighing up harm against the public benefit
- The positive application of heritage assessment within the masterplan design process

More info: [www.rtpi.org.uk/ypheritageseminar](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/ypheritageseminar)

## APRIL

### 26 Housing the Unmet Need HYBRID Seminar, Bristol

As ever housing supply and delivery remains one the hottest of topics in Town Planning with the highest of profiles. The current planning system arguably places significant emphasis on numbers but will the coming changes, whatever these might be, change this? At this event we will look at meeting the need in terms of the mix and sophistication of what is delivered by looking at older and younger people, tenure and other types of housing that are becoming more common which are all seeking to meet the needs of our changing demographics and society. We will have speakers from all sectors exploring these needs and what the future might hold.

More info: [www.rtpi.org.uk/swhousing2023](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/swhousing2023)

## MAY

### 23 Back to the drawing board - getting Design & Planning right HYBRID Seminar, Plymouth

Good design has finally been given the pedestal it deserves to sit upon. Paragraph 134 of the National Planning Policy Framework advises us that we should refuse development that is not well designed. We have been given new tools to seemingly allow us to achieve this aim, the National Design Guide, Design Codes, Design Reviews, all there to help achieve beauty and quality. But what does this mean in practice? Can they make a difference? The day will look at these tools and their application and results and will help you understand how to use them most effectively. For those who are new to considering larger schemes there will be an opportunity to look at basic urban design principles and what to look for when considering developments.

More info: [www.rtpi.org.uk/swdesign2023](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/swdesign2023)

## JUNE

### 20 Planning for Renewables HYBRID Seminar, Taunton

More info: [www.rtpi.org.uk/swrenewables2023](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/swrenewables2023)

## SEPTEMBER

### 21 The changing role of Planning in Regeneration HYBRID Seminar, Dorchester

The world in which we live is always changing and over the last 30 years the face of our cities, towns and even rural communities have evolved beyond recognition. The manner in which we live, shop, play and communicate has changed. The advent of a broader global economy, the rise of the internet for shopping and communication has led to the decline of the traditional high street; this combined with an increasing housing crisis means

regeneration of our communities has a significant role to play in maintaining or creating great places to live, work and play. This day will consider various aspects of regeneration including use of design codes and masterplans, economic drivers and needs, and the interaction and possible conflicts between regeneration and our built heritage.

More info: [www.rtpi.org.uk/swregeneration2023](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/swregeneration2023)

## OCTOBER

### 18 CPD Day, Exeter

The return of the much valued multiple choice CPD Day with a broad mix of planning and skills themed workshops. With over 20 topics to choose from, delegates will be able to tailor the CPD to their professional development needs. All workshops will be delivered in a practical and interactive format. Topics will be listed as confirmed but will could include areas including Design, Habitat Regs, BNG, Transport, Viability, Heritage, Presentation Skills, Preparing for Inquiries, Assessing Housing Needs, Enforcement and much more.

More info: [www.rtpi.org.uk/swcpdday2023](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/swcpdday2023)

## NOVEMBER

### 28 Planning Law Update with Burges Salmon HYBRID Seminar, Bath

This full day seminar will look at the latest government legislation and case law.

More info: [www.rtpi.org.uk/swplanninglaw2023](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/swplanninglaw2023)

