



# Contents

- Message from the Chair
- Editors Blog
- An interview with Paul Barnard MBE
- Young Planners
- APC Q&A and Top Tips
- Chartered Town Planner Apprenticeship
- Five reasons for climate justice in spatial planning
- RMB RAC Update
- Getting to know you... Tristan Peat
- Results of RTPI South West Awards for Planning Excellence 2019
- Enter the Awards for 2020
- Soap Box - Diversity in Planning
- Forthcoming events
- Annual Dinner



**RTPI South West**  
Royal Town Planning Institute

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# BRANCHOUT NEWS

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SPRING 2020

Picture  
Somerdale, Keynsham. Overall winner of  
RTPI SW Awards for Planning Excellence 2019

# Message from the Chair

## Welcome from the Chair...

**Welcome to 2020 and the start of a new decade! As Chair for this coming year, I have spent time reflecting on the built environment; how we work within it and mould it for future generations. This past year, society has woken up to the Climate Change challenges and appear ready and motivated for change. The importance of the Climate Change agenda - and how we as built professionals help move this forward – is something that I am keen to explore and promote.**

Working in the public sector, I am familiar with the Government's ambition to deliver high quality homes for all, and the challenges that this brings. When working with the private sector, elected members and members of the public, to realise growth while safeguarding public interests through delivery of Green Space, transport connections and affordable housing, is challenging in the current climate, notwithstanding any sustainability concerns. Achieving growth with the best outcome is often difficult requiring understanding and usually a large amount of negotiation to see success. These relationships are essential, particularly now in the more challenging environment for us all to deliver the best most sustainable development going forward.

I feel, planning has a key role in delivering the required reductions but cannot achieve this in isolation. The challenges we face are only going to increase, as should our understanding of how to respond. The environment needs not one person responding to Climate Change perfectly, but lots of people responding to it imperfectly. It is only by accepting the challenge and responding as best we are able, we learn; as we learn we can share outcomes and different approaches and evolve as a result. In light of this, one of the challenges we have set ourselves this year is to increase joint working within our profession. First of these being the 'Great Debate' in Plymouth in February and potential for involvement in the Great Mayoral Debate in Bristol later this year. Collaboration is proposed to strengthen bonds and open opportunities for joint working. The more consolidated we as a profession can be, the greater strength we have to promote action - understanding that it takes a long time to re-orientate the Government tanker of Legislation.



**Dawn de Vries**  
Principal Planning Officer,  
Sedgemoor District Council

As a mother, I am keen to leave the world in a better place for my children. This year - as a commitment to the above - you will see 'climate change' as a focus through each and every one of our CPD events.

We are gifted in the South West to have a wide ranging region which includes the Channel Islands: and this year we will be visiting Jersey for a CPD weekend. This event will consider the additional sustainability challenges and opportunities that island living brings, and will also review their planning system and how this differs from England's approach. I am pleased to be visiting this part of the region and look forward to the joint learning that can be achieved through this event.

This year we are also providing a number of events with themes that have not been covered in previous years, including minerals and waste, transport planning, and at the end of the year an event to focus on the constraints to infrastructure delivery. We are also running the crown jewel of our CPD programme, our CPD day where you can tailor your learning to your own benefit. There will be a number of strands to this event including practical development management skills, soft skills, and this year I am also proposing an introduction route which would be suitable to any newer starters within the profession, to provide a good basic level of understanding on a range of topics.

Looking forward the year is full of promise. I recently asked, if you could change one thing about planning or the built environment what would it be? Answers ranged from viability, red tape, disabled accessibility and better designed spaces, places and buildings. We affect all of these areas to some extent or another. My aim this year is to build pride and recognise the positive impact that we can all have! Be bold, be proud but most of all be brilliant!

# Editor's blog

**Welcome to my first Branchout Magazine as editor, thank you to Angharad Williams, who did a wonderful job over the last 12 months. You will be a hard act to follow, however I will try my best.**

In this first Branchout of 2020 we hear from our new Chair, Dawn de Vries who has organised an interesting year with a focus on the importance of the Climate Change Agenda. This is something which will impact directly and indirectly on every planner in this region. The key message that I have taken away from reading Dawn's message, is that we need to act now and become a profession which accepts the challenge, evolves and adapts.

This edition of Branchout has a celebratory feel as we mark the achievements of Paul Bernard, who has been awarded the RTPI Gold Medal and a MBE in the Queens New Year Honours. Congratulations Paul on a wonderful achievement! Paul is an absolute credit to Planning across the South West and nationally.

The winners of the RTPI South West Awards for Planning Excellence 2019 are revealed, along with the highly commended projects. Did your project win? If you agree that the winning projects contribute to creating exceptional places and improve the lives of those who live or work there? Do you have a project which you think could win, then enter our 2020 Awards.

Congratulations to Karen Philmister from Swindon Borough Council who has been named the South West Young Planner of the Year 2020. Karen will now represent the South West at the National Young Planner of the Year in central London on 30 April 2020. Good luck Karen!

We have a bumper South West Young Planners Round up. The South West Young Planners are going from strength to strength and are delivering a range of interesting social and CPD events, with a focus on the Climate Change Agenda. There are fun facts about the Devon and Cornwall Young Planners and reflections on 2019 from the Dorset Young Planners. Gloucestershire Young Planners are expanding and details of the new members.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the West of England Young Planners for the last few years, I really enjoyed my time as a committee member, joint vice chair and joint chair with Emily Johnson. I wish the whole group all the best moving forward.

If that was not enough, we also have details on the Chartered Town Planner Apprenticeship program which is up and running at Universities across England, including locally, the University of the West of England and Plymouth University.

I hope you enjoy this bumper edition of Branchout, if you have any suggestions on articles for future editions, please get in contact.

Do you have news to share or an article to contribute?  
Contact  
[southwest@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:southwest@rtpi.org.uk)



**Julie O'Rourke**  
RTPI South West Junior Vice Chair

# An interview with Paul Barnard MBE

Former Chair of RTPI South West, winner of three Silver Jubilee Cups in the RTPI Awards together with many other RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence, Paul Barnard, Plymouth City Council has recently received the RTPI Gold Medal and an MBE in the New Year honours.

RTPI South West wants to hear more about Paul's thoughts on planning and set him a few questions to answer...



**You have spent a significant proportion of your career as a planner in Plymouth. How important do you think it is for planners to be committed to the places where they work?**

*Crucial. In a world dominated by "place-blind" global investment interests there needs to be a credible counter balance that acts for the people of that location. Having said that, I always said that I would stay in Plymouth as long as the challenges remained. It's now 29 years and counting.....!!*

**Who inspires/inspired you to do what you do?**

*Many public sector planning colleagues I have had the privilege to work with over the years who have a public value ethos.*

**In the context of the essential need for mutual understanding and respect between planning officers and local authority members and based on your experience, particularly at Plymouth City Council, what is your advice to 'Chief Planning Officers' seeking to ensure that that local authority members associated with planning are kept 'on-side' and generally support your professional advice and initiatives?**

*It is an essential leadership quality for any Chief Planning Officer to establish a professional relationship with members who will have a variety of roles that will affect the planning*

*of a location. Part of establishing that relationship is to understand the political context within which members operate, and the political drivers for individual politicians.*

**How important has political buy in been to what you've achieved in Plymouth? How could you have achieved what you've done without that?**

*Managing with political awareness – at whatever stage you are at in your planning career - is the most important skill that you need to develop. In the case of Plymouth, we simply could not have achieved what we have over the last 30 years if I had not spent a lot of time nurturing a cross-party consensus on a range of strategic planning initiatives.*

**What change or changes in Central Government legislation over your career do you feel have made the biggest impact upon the planning profession in either a positive or negative way?**

*Too many to mention!! What is important is to keep your eye on the outcome you want to achieve and not allow the legislation to stop you achieving that. In Plymouth, we have found that by constantly innovating and taking calculated risks we have achieved the main outcomes we wanted.*

**How can we balance the need between housing delivery and high quality spaces and whether demand for delivery has hindered Planners ability to deliver the best products?**

*There is no inherent conflict with the need for delivery and quality. However, without sufficient resources local planning authorities have increasingly struggled to achieve both. Local planning authorities need resources now: otherwise, the system will fall over and fail to deliver anything. In relation to quality, the permitted development rights that are allowing appalling slums to be created is nothing short of a disgrace to our nation's proud planning heritage.*

**A recent article in the Guardian (19 January) highlighted a new build estate by Persimmon in Plymouth as an example of poor housing design. This isn't a criticism of PCC because the volume housebuilders have standard business models and standard designs with a fixed profit requirement - so how do we get better design and create properly sustainable communities when the private sector will not willingly deliver (and the SoS appears to want housing delivery at any cost)?**

*There were many reasons why what we produced at this site was not as good as it could have been. It is important that we reflect on why that was and take action to improve our future approaches to design. Despite some good progress made nationally during the 1990's to raise the importance of design in planning, since then the whole system has been stacked against local planning authorities achieving quality outcomes.*

“Make a difference & leave a personal legacy that makes you proud”

A decorative graphic on the right side of the page featuring overlapping circles in shades of teal and blue. A quote is written in white text over the circles.

# Interview with Paul Barnard MBE



**If you were SoS, what are the top five things would you do for planning?**

1. Create a statutory purpose for planning.
2. Abolish the National Planning Policy Framework and replace it with a National Plan for England.
3. Abolish outline planning permission and give local plan allocations the same legal status, alongside aligning all government place-based funding streams to the infrastructure provisions in local plans.
4. Abolish the automatic right of appeal and create "Planning England" to oversee each local planning authority's improvement and performance.
5. Create a new consolidated Town and Country Planning Act and in the process revoke a number of recent legislative provisions that have undermined the democratic purpose of the planning system.

**If you could make one change to the Planning system for the better, what would it be?**

*Establish a land value capture system that more fairly allocates the benefits derived from the granting of planning permission between the landowner, developer and local community.*

**What advice would you give to those who are just starting their career in planning?**

*Make a difference and leave a personal legacy that makes you proud.*



**Paul Barnard MBE**

Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure  
Strategic Planning and Infrastructure  
Plymouth City Council

# South West Young Planners Round Up

## West of England Young Planners

### Steering Group Update

Julie O'Rourke, Senior Planner at WYG, has stepped down as the West of England Joint Chair after a number of years on the Steering Group. On behalf of the West of England Young Planners Steering Group, we would like to thank Julie for her dedication over the past few years. We wish you all the best in your new role as Junior Vice Chair on the Regional Management Board.

Emily Johnson, Planner at Turley will continue as the West of England Chair.

Michael Downes, Planner at Arup, has joined the West of England Young Planners Steering Group following a move from Glasgow and the RTPi West of Scotland chapter.

### Recent events

The Bristol Planning Scavenger Hunt saw 5 teams of young planners from across the west of England compete for glory by following cryptic clues across Bristol's city centre to complete tasks, challenges and quizzes. The challenges plunged deep into our young planners' skillsets and ranged from taking the best planning-based picture to the most resourceful use of a £1 spend. The quizzes tested the contestant's knowledge of people and places from across the south west with some film trivia thrown in to boot.

All teams successfully navigated the scavenger hunt and were rewarded two-fold for their efforts. Firstly, with delicious pub grub, and secondly, by a selection of fantastic prizes selected by our own West of England Young Planners Steering Group. All teams walked away with something - the pick of the bunch being a book of great village names for the best named team (sadly not printable) and wines and chocolate for the victors, The plucky Scavengers!"

### Bath Social

We held another social event in Bath towards the end of 2019. The event was held at the Bath Brew House and saw a number of planning professionals attend from the Bath area. We are keen to hold a number of future events in Bath and get a representative from Bath to assist with these events, so if you have any ideas or would like to join the Steering Group then please speak with one of our Steering Group members or email Charlotte Daborn.



*Young Planners enjoying the scavenger hunt in Bristol*

## Future events 2020

**March** New Year Drinks in Bath (TBC)

**March/April** Design Review Panel (TBC)

**May/June** Historic/Design themed site visit, Bath (TBC)

**June/July** Annual Summer Boat Social, Bristol

**July/August** Bouilles event, Bristol

**August/September** Tall buildings CPD, Bristol

**October** APC Seminar and Workshop, Bristol

Find out more  
[www.rtpi.org.uk/swyp](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/swyp)

# South West Young Planners Round Up

## Devon & Cornwall Young Planners

### Steering Group Update

The Devon and Cornwall Young Planners group coordinate various CPD and social events across the counties. We wanted to introduce ourselves to you all and put a call out for any CPD/events ideas that you would like to see in the future across Devon and Cornwall. We are also recruiting for new members to join our group, we have an even membership between LPAs and the private sector, so please get in touch via [southwest@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:southwest@rtpi.org.uk) if you are interested in networking, enhancing your experience and having fun!

### Fun Facts about the Steering Group

#### Opani Mudalige

**What is your role in the Devon & Cornwall Young Planners Steering Group?** Vice Chair & Treasurer



#### Where do you work?

LRM Planning Limited / Planning Consultant

#### Where did you study to become a planner?

University of Toronto - Hon. BA / University of Glasgow - MSc

#### What is the best thing about your job?

I love pouring over floor plans and finding case law that I can use as a material consideration to support my claim.

#### If money wasn't an issue what would you do with a year off:

I would travel to the many countries I'd love to see spending about 3 weeks in each at minimum. I'd also use the time to research my family ancestry and learn more languages.

#### Keegan Ferreday

**What is your role in the Devon & Cornwall Young Planners Steering Group?** Chair



#### Where do you work?

Exeter City Council / Development Management Planning Officer

#### Where did you study to become a planner?

Bath Spa - Geography Hon. BSc / University of West Of England - Urban Planning MSc

#### What is the best thing about your job?

The variety of the role and the ability to have a real involvement in shaping proposals (plus being able to escape the office to go out on site!)

#### If money wasn't an issue what would you do with a year off?

I'd start with good few weeks of lie-ins, then spend the rest of year doing a mix of travelling and trying out different sports!

#### Laura Luis

**What is your role in the Devon & Cornwall Young Planners Steering Group?** Secretary and Events



#### Where do you work?

I work at AECOM as a graduate town planner in the Environment and Planning Team.

#### Where did you study to become a planner?

At Cardiff University I studied Geography and Town Planning at undergraduate, and a Masters in Sustainability, Planning and Environmental Policy.

#### What is the best thing about your job?

Working on such a range of different projects that are making a really big impact in local communities.

#### If money wasn't an issue what would you do with a year off:

I would travel the world

#### Imogen Day

**What is your role in the Devon & Cornwall Young Planners Steering Group?** I am tasked with the



communications, for events, recruitment and general updates.

#### Where do you work?

I work for Cornwall Council, as a planning policy officer working on Neighbourhood plans. I also do some development management work.

#### Where did you study to become a planner?

I am just finishing my MSc at the University of Plymouth

#### What is the best thing about your job?

I like to be directly involved with communities, understanding the intricacies of planning in their locality and being able to support them creating their own policies to tackle local issues. It's a really rewarding job.

#### If money wasn't an issue what would you do with a year off:

I would move somewhere exotic and set up a dog rescue centre, adopting and rehoming strays.

Find out more  
[www.rtpi.org.uk/swyp](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/swyp)

# South West Young Planners Round Up

## Dorset Young Planners

### 2019 Reflections

Dorset Young Planners enjoyed another fantastic year of CPD and social events, welcoming a range of intriguing professionals to share their expertise with a flourishing attendance of young planners and engage in the DYP presumption in favour of wood-fired pizzas and succulent burgers.

McCarthy & Stone generously hosted and sponsored our Spring event in Poole, with speakers from both the private and public sector exploring the challenges of housing an increasingly Ageing Population in the UK.

In May we were invited by Bournemouth University to meet and speak with final year BSc Geography students and tease planning as an attractively progressive and rewarding career option.

Instagram practically ground to a halt at the beginning of August as a merry crew of pizza-fuelled young planners set sail around Poole Harbour to document a mesmeric sunset, spectacular firework display on the Quay and Harry Redknapp mowing his back garden.

In squelchy conditions Pure Town Planning kindly sponsored our Autumn CPD event where young planners bravely aquaplanned the streets of Bournemouth, putting the newly implemented Beryl bike scheme through a rigorous wet weather test, before drying off for three insightful presentations on the future of sustainable transport.

DYP's 2019 was then wrapped up by our much-anticipated annual Christmas Social and Quiz. Hosted in popular Poole establishment The Ox2 and warmly sponsored by Lewis Davey, a festoon of young planners were treated to prosecco, delicious Thai cuisine and an entertaining pub quiz in a cosy, festive hideaway.

Towards the end of 2019 we wished farewell to Alex from the steering group and would like to thank him for his efforts and the enthusiasm he brought to the group. We will also sadly be losing our current Secretary and planning extraordinaire Simon to the bright lights (hopefully with Advert Consent) of London. Again [wiping away a tear], we would like to thank Simon for his substantial contribution to organising successful events in 2019 and the enhancement he brought to the spirit of the steering group.

However, towards the end of 2019 we welcomed Philip Saunders (Savills) and, more recently, Jess Glover (Pure Town Planning) to the steering group, both of whom offer great passion. We welcome new members who are willing to dive head first into helping to organise both CPD events and social events so if this is something that interests you please do get in touch!

### 2020 Vision

Gazing into 2020, we have already begun planning our next series of events, with the ambition of adding a coveted fifth event this year.

The poignant matter of the climate crisis is hard to ignore and, to explore how planning can respond, our opening event of 2020 was entitled: 'The Climate Emergency and Ecosystems'. It was hosted and sponsored by Savills at their Wimborne offices on 12 February. We have secured the attendance of four expert speakers and, yes, wood-fired pizzas and networking out in town followed the event.

We would like to take this opportunity to warmly thank everyone that attended, presented at and sponsored our events in 2019. It was a pleasure meeting you all and we hope to see you again soon in 2020.

## Future events 2020

We are currently planning our next CPD and of course our popular summer social which in previous years has been a boat trip in Poole Harbour for the fireworks.

Keep a look out for details of our next events.



*Photos from the Beryl Bikes cycle ride and the boat social with fireworks from Poole Harbour*

Find out more  
[www.rtpi.org.uk/swyp](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/swyp)



# South West Young Planners Round Up

## Gloucestershire Young Planners

### Recent Events

Gloucestershire young planner's objective for 2019 was to focus on strengthening connections between planners and other professionals within the built environment. A successful environmental talk, focusing on ecology and arboriculture hosted by Tyler Grange at the start of the 2019, brought together local authority/private sector planners, architects and surveyors.

Later in the year, a talk held by Miller Howard Workshop at their converted Stroud Millhouse focused on self-build development as a potential area of focus for helping deliver high quality homes throughout the UK. Again, this well attended event drew together local authority/private sector planners, architects and surveyors.

Along with these fantastic CPD events, Gloucestershire young planners organised a number of social events, including a wine tasting and pub quiz end of year social in December to celebrate another fantastic year in the Industry. These more informal get togethers helped to further encourage conversations and learning amongst young professionals from all built environment sectors. Feedback from those attending confirms that they benefited from these multi-disciplinary events and therefore this will remain a focus for Gloucestershire Young Planners moving forward.

### News

Gloucestershire Young Planners Chair, Chris Moore, has been invited to speak for the chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) in February on the NPPF and planning conditions. In March, Chris will also be speaking at the University of Gloucestershire about the planning industry and planning as a career.

The steering group is using the opportunity to speak at universities and schools as a way to promote student awareness of current career opportunities in planning, including the RTPI apprenticeship in town planning initiative.

### Gloucestershire Young Planners are Expanding

With 2019 coming to a close, the young planners have managed to recruit further enthusiastic young planners to help out in 2020!

#### These include:

- Verity Wood (Bruton Knowles)
- Carl Ranscombe (Student and Evans Jones)
- Jamie Roberts (Tetlow-King Planning)
- Claudia Jones (Ridge Planning)

The team is excited to take the new decade head on and deliver a number of CPD and social events throughout the county.

## A Young Planners view of a Project

### Jamie Roberts, Tetlow King Planning (written in January 2020)

*This Young Planners view is made available for interest purposes only. The views expressed in it are those of the author. The author or RTPI accept no responsibility for the accuracy of the contents.*

If you're looking for some heated drama this winter, don't bother with Netflix and just turn to the pages of the planning press instead. Despite calls for a 'pragmatic' approach from the Secretary of State last year, examining Inspectors have found several Development Plan Documents unsound including in the South West, prompting some tetchy exchanges with authorities. Interesting as it may be, what are the implications of this notable change of approach?

Two authorities were found not to have met the Duty to Cooperate, namely Sevenoaks and Wealden. The Duty to Cooperate is not a question of soundness; it is a matter of legal compliance and cannot be rectified after a plan has been submitted. As such, finding a plan to fail the duty to cooperate has long been characterised as a 'nuclear option' since it essentially requires a Council to start afresh.

Sevenoaks Council has been bullish in its recent exchanges with the Inspector and unusually has invited the Inspector to issue a report recommending non-adoption of the Plan. This is not something that has happened in recent years, but as Sevenoaks Council points out, it will consider its next steps, which includes requesting Secretary of State intervention. This is not unprecedented; Maldon District Council successfully persuaded the Secretary of State to 'call-in' its Local Development Plan in 2015.

Other authorities have struggled to convince Inspectors of the soundness of their strategies. Uttlesford, in the East of England, proposed a Local Plan containing three Garden Communities, due to come forward within a very ambitious timescale. The Inspectors' shared the concerns of representors that the Council had 'put its eggs in one basket' and have recommended withdrawal of the Plan. A shift in political control at the Council earlier this year means Uttlesford is likely to return to the drawing board.

# South West Young Planners Round Up

Closer to home, the West of England Joint Spatial Plan was found to have been flawed in terms of the evidence, and the sustainability appraisal. Although the Plan is on the verge of withdrawal, the process has at least provided something of a framework for cross-boundary working for future Local Plan production. At the time of writing, three of the four authorities have committed to preparing new Local Plans, although Bristol City Council are yet to take a decision.

What does this mean, since the Secretary of State notably asked Inspectors to take a 'pragmatic' approach to examining Local Plans in his letter in 2019? In each case, Inspectors have stated that they have had regard to that letter but have concluded that in light of the Planning Practice Guidance that the work required for each plan is so substantial as to require a virtual rewrite of the Plan. Clearly, it is not an option taken lightly, and it is difficult not to feel some sympathy for the professional officers who undoubtedly work hard to bring plans to examination. It also poses challenges for authorities in managing development pressure when a replacement plan may be several years away.

Equally, it cannot be good for public confidence in the Planning system if Local Plans do not deliver. A few years ago, there was something of a trend where plans were found sound subject to early reviews. But too often, those early reviews were not undertaken in time. Local Authorities found themselves exposed at appeal. On balance, perhaps the recent decisions by Inspectors to find plans unsound is a good thing. It must be clear that Councils should not 'fudge' the evidence or sustainability appraisal processes. By preparing robust plans, coupled with regular reviews, Councils can ensure that the development strategy for their area remains effective and deliver certainty to developers, stakeholders and the public alike.



*Winners of the Christmas Quiz at  
The Wine Library in Cheltenham*



*Young Planners at Tyler Grange Offices  
to hear about the environment.*

## Future events 2020

Following a very productive meeting at the start of January, the Gloucestershire planning young planners are focusing this year on the climate emergency and ways the planning system can help with addressing climate change.

Upcoming social events will be predominantly organised at venues with good public transport accessibility to encourage attendees to use alternative means of transport. In March 2020, the young planners hope to invite planners to the first social in Cheltenham.

**Find out more:** [www.rtpi.org.uk/glossocialmarch2020](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/glossocialmarch2020)

Preparations are also underway to arrange a CPD talk with Ridge planning consultancy about the recently approved Forest Green Rovers Football Stadium, a low carbon and low impact structure predominantly constructed out of timber. The proposed development will also include the planting of 500 new trees.

With further talks on the environment and good design also proposed later in the year, this is going to be an exciting year for young planners in Gloucestershire.

# South West Young Planners Round Up

## Dorset Young Planners

The RTPI Dorset Young Planners Steering Group for 2020 comprises:



**Carla Fulgoni**, Planning Appeals & Policy Manager, The Planning Bureau Ltd. (Chair)

**FUN FACT:** I am currently trying to improve my conversational Italian and meet with an amazing Anglo-Italian society in Bournemouth every week.



**Jess Glover**, Planning Consultant, Pure Town Planning

**FUN FACT:** I made my TV debut appearing on Dinner Date and showcased my aerial hoop skill.



**Simon Ible**, Associate Director, Terence O'Rourke (Secretary)

**FUN FACT:** I am due to start building a house with my brother later this year.



**Rob McDonald**, Senior Planning Officer, Dorset Council (Communications Coordinator)

**FUN FACT:** I can tap dance at grade 1 level.



**Richard Mears**, Senior Planner, Savills

**FUN FACT:** Whilst out one day my cat somehow turned the tap on, flooding our kitchen.



**Chris Miell**, Planning Inspector, PINs (Treasurer)

**FUN FACT:** I'm a keen golfer and I once got a hole in one at the Belfry Golf Course. It was complete luck!



**Hayley Richardson**, Planner, Terence O'Rourke (Vice Chair)

**FUN FACT:** I love to travel, on one of my multiple 'gap years' I lead a team of volunteers on an expedition for Raleigh International on a water health and sanitation project in rural Tanzania.



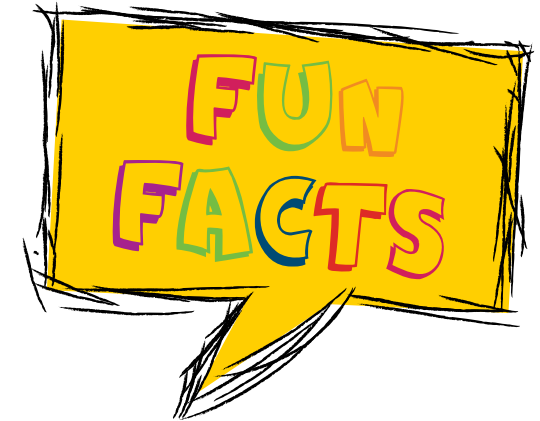
**Millie Rose**, Planning Officer, Dorset Council

**FUN FACT:** I can do the worm with my eyebrows.



**Philip Saunders**, Planner, Savills

**FUN FACT:** I enjoy going to the beach and have surfed with Zac Efron at Bondi Beach.



# APC Q&A and Top Tips

**Candidates seeking chartered status are advised, even before getting into the detail of dealing with individual competencies or indeed their whole application to VERY carefully read the guidance published by the RTPI, a new version has just been issued for all candidates seeking membership from January 2020.**

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

**Turning to some of the questions that have been sent to the branch:**

## The number of case studies?

The recommended number is between one and three, however it is unlikely that one case study will cover all the necessary competencies.

It should be remembered that each section of your submission should have some relevance to the previous one, namely that the type of work carried out and identified in the PES (professional experience statement) would be likely to generate the candidates case studies. Similarly the APC statement is likely to be reflected in the SWOT analysis and the overall professional development plan.

## How early in work experience should you focus on a case study?

There is no correct answer to this, it will depend on the individual project/ case study experience, but it should be at a stage of the candidate's career where meaningful reflections can be made.

## What are the main differences in the new 2020 guidance with respect to ethical challenges?

The new APC competencies do away with the ethical challenge competency and incorporate it into

'Professionalism and ethical behaviour and the code of practice'.

## How long does my log book need to be?

The log book requirement has been dropped and is now replaced by a 'reflective journal', there is no set length but the document will provide the candidate with insights into their thinking at different stages in their experiences. It will cease to be a chronological diary of day to day tasks but allow Assessors to consider the challenges and professional considerations of applicants, it may assist candidates in choosing case studies, ie ones which threw up particular difficulty or challenges.

## What support is there if I can not identify a mentor?

The RTPI membership team can and will assist, or contact your local RTPI branch office.

## I feel that I am not ready to submit my APC despite having completed more than the minimum two years professional planning experience, should I submit anyway?

In those circumstances I would seek some objective advice either from your mentor, the RTPI or other experienced Chartered planner. Such a conversation will provide insight as it may be that you underestimate your ability!

## What is the area of the submission most people fail?

The largest number of failures in the past are the ethical competency, but this may change with the new requirement. Candidates also fail the political competency, and the legal. Professional Development Plans are often left to last and are rushed and not well thought out.

Each section of the application, the PES, APC and PDP all require equally careful consideration, they are linked. A requisite is to read the published guidance before writing anything, review your output in the context of that guidance and, finally carefully check the draft for grammatical and spelling mistakes. It may be a good idea at this final stage to get someone else to read the script, as forensically reading one's own work is difficult.

## What are your options if you don't pass first time?

Well it is now relatively rare that a licentiate's initial submission is an outright resubmission of the entire application, up to four competencies can now be failed and the outcome maybe the requirement at the Assessors discretion to resubmit a supplementary statement of generally a maximum of 400 words per competency failed. If you do receive either a requirement to resubmit in whole or part then do carefully read the Assessors comments, which are always aimed to be helpful. You may also, if you had not done so for the initial submission seek some assistance as set out above.

The overall aim of the APC process is not to fail applicants but to ensure that the planners of the future are equipped to deal with those challenges, by achieving a recognised Chartered Status valued by the public, clients and fellow professionals.

**With thanks to a local RTPI APC Assessor for answering the above questions on behalf of candidates.**

# Grow your own planners through the Chartered Town Planner Apprenticeship

**The new Chartered Town Planner Degree Apprenticeship is now available and is up and running at universities across England including the University of the West of England and the University of Plymouth. The apprenticeship was developed by a group of local authorities, consultancies and the RTPI and a successful apprentice will complete a RTPI accredited qualification and the Assessment of Professional Competence to become a Chartered Town Planner.**

There are different routes through the programme depending on the apprentices existing qualifications. In the South West, someone without a degree could study a Certificate in Planning Practice followed by the MSc Urban Planning at the University of the West of England or if they already have a degree they can take a slightly shorter route and either study for the MSc Urban Planning at the University of the West of England or the MSc Planning at the University of Plymouth.

## Apprentices

Danielle Millson, a Planning Apprentice from Bath and North East Somerset Council who is studying at the University of the West of England said

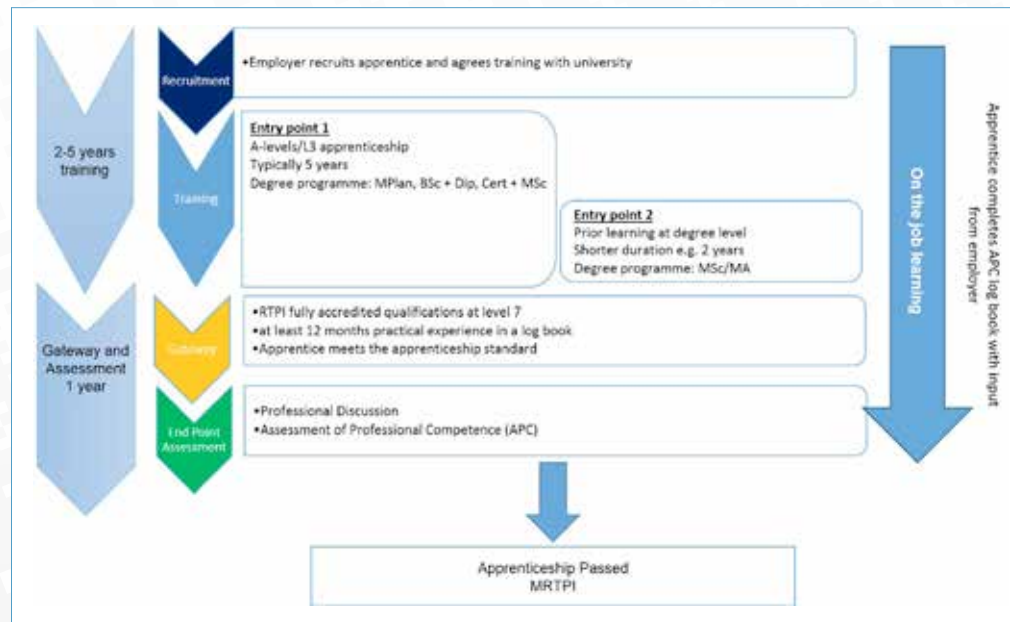


*Being able to combine learning At UWE and working as a Planning Officer has enabled me to develop skills and confidence both in practice and at University. The work at University has helped with my apprenticeship and the apprenticeship has benefitted my learning and contribution in lectures. The RTPI apprenticeship will be very beneficial for my future career as a planner.*

(Danielle Millsom, apprentice)

The apprenticeship is an opportunity for both local authorities and consultancies to address the shortage of planners and use their apprenticeship levy to develop both new and existing planning staff. Charlotte Evans has been working as a Planning Officer in Development Management for five years and has joined the Chartered Town Planner Apprenticeship at the University of Plymouth to further develop her practice skills and broaden her knowledge about all aspects of planning. She reflect on the apprenticeship so far:

*The course is giving me the opportunity to develop my professional skills and to gain a greater understanding of areas of planning which I do not come across in my day-to-day job. My all-round awareness and knowledge of the wider planning system has already improved and has opened my eyes to a wider range of potential career opportunities to explore in the future*



# Grow your own planners through the Chartered Town Planner Apprenticeship cont...

Artur Gugula, on the other hand, having recently completed a degree in Geography at the University of Plymouth, is new to planning. He has been appointed as a Graduate Planner in a shared role between South Hams District Council, Teignbridge District Council and Dartmoor National Park Authority, and so is gaining practical experience in a range of contrasting urban and rural environments across the region alongside his academic studies. Artur added that



*the Degree Apprenticeship is taught with the existing MSc Planning cohort, which has created an excellent opportunity for networking with a range of professions from across the region. My time back at the University allows us to bounce around ideas, which can be applied in the work environment. The lecturers are friendly and supportive and the guest speakers and field visits add a great deal to our learning. The coursework set is a good mix practical and academic assignments.*

Article by  
**Cat Goumal**  
Professional Development Manager  
Royal Town Planning Institute



*Plymouth apprentice -  
Charlotte Evans and Artur Gugula*

## Taking on an apprentice

Chris Griggs-Trevarthen from Bath and North East Somerset Council has taken on their first Chartered Town Planner Apprentice this year. Chris said *Taking on an apprentice has been an extremely positive experience. It has allowed the service to bring in fresh talent, increasing capacity and providing mentoring opportunities for existing staff. The combined approach of undertaking development management work with university study has meant that the apprentice gains both a practical and theoretical undertaking of planning and placemaking. It's a win-win.*

Chartered Town Planner apprentices can be working in the public or private sectors, be employed by charities or non-governmental organisations. If you are thinking about taking on an apprentice think about whether you want to use the apprenticeship as an opportunity to upskill existing staff or to recruit new people into the organisation. Contact the universities to discuss the training provision for your apprentice.

Depending on their previous experience, a Chartered Town Planner will be with you for 3-6 years. They will have an apprentice contract and will spend 20% of their time on off-the-job learning, attending lectures and completing assignments. The remaining 80% of the time they will work with you, in a real job undertaking planning work.

The RTPi has an Employer Handbook to help you if you are thinking of taking on an apprentice [www.rtpi.org.uk/media/3455917/js\\_apprenticeshipshandbook\\_vf08012020.pdf](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/3455917/js_apprenticeshipshandbook_vf08012020.pdf)

## Find out more

[www.rtpi.org.uk/education-and-careers/find-a-course/apprenticeships/chartered-town-planner-degree-apprenticeship/](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/education-and-careers/find-a-course/apprenticeships/chartered-town-planner-degree-apprenticeship/)



*Chris Griggs - Trevarthen with Chartered Town Planner  
Apprentice apprentice Danielle Millsom both from  
Bath and North East Somerset Council*

# Five reasons for climate justice in spatial planning

**As the climate crisis deepens disadvantaged communities will bear the brunt. A complex range of factors combine to make them vulnerable; including high average ages and levels of disability, low incomes, and cuts to local government. The concept of 'climate justice' focuses on social dimensions, and makes clear that climate change represents an ethical challenge, as much as a scientific or technical one.**

This applies to the UK as much as anywhere else. In many areas of the country, social or political factors such as under-resourced planning services, economic disadvantage, and an overwhelming national policy focus on housing delivery are compounding the effects of habitat loss and increasingly frequent extreme weather to make already vulnerable communities even more prone to the impacts of climate change.

Policy makers must consider not only how and why levels of vulnerability to climate change vary, but also how and why their policy responses benefit or disadvantage different groups. Answering these questions requires long-term thinking, coordination and engagement across sectors and places, all of which demands effective spatial planning.

In response, the RTPI has published a new position paper on, 'Five reasons for climate justice in spatial planning'. It sets out our thinking on climate justice in relation to town planning. This paper forms just part of our wider programme of work on climate change and its publication ensures that the concept of 'climate justice' frames the whole of our climate change work programme.

Importantly the new RTPI corporate strategy reinforces our commitment climate change, as it is placed at the heart of all our activities over the next 10 years. Driven by an ambition to promote healthy, socially inclusive, economically and environmentally sustainable places we have developed four pillars in the 10-year plan – the value of membership, supporting planning services, raising the profile of planning and equality, diversity and inclusivity. Action on climate change underpins all these pillars.

Dr Daniel Slade, former research officer at the RTPI and author of the report, said: *"The government must take a 'climate justice' approach if it wants to ensure that disadvantaged communities across the country benefit from the transition to a zero-carbon economy.*

*Similarly, ensuring that communities have good access to public transport can reduce carbon emissions while also benefiting low-income communities who are particularly reliant on public transport."*

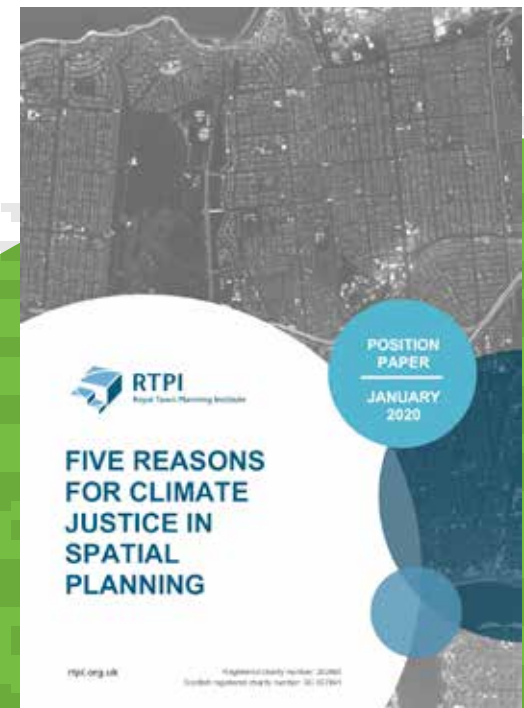
Our position paper outlines five reasons why climate justice should be used as a practical and conceptual tool by planners, to understand the nature of the crisis, and to respond effectively. By reinforcing the importance of diversity and equality in planning for climate change and placing real community engagement at the centre. Whilst focusing attention on the wider social costs and benefits of adaptation and mitigation measures it can open up crucial questions about governance, resourcing, and institutional capacity. In order to help planners to tell compelling stories that spur action and collaboration.

Article by  
**Sarah Lewis MCD MRTPI**  
Planning Practice Officer  
RTPI

Read our position paper on climate justice:  
[www.rtpi.org.uk/knowledge/better-planning/better-planning-climate-change/](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/knowledge/better-planning/better-planning-climate-change/).

Read the RTPI Corporate Strategy 2020-2030:  
[www.rtpi.org.uk/corporatestrategy/index.html?page=1](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/corporatestrategy/index.html?page=1)

placing real  
community  
engagement  
at the centre



# Regional Management Board & Activities Committee Up-date

Two joint meetings of the RTPI SW Regional Management Board (RMB) and Regional Activities Committee (RAC) were held in Taunton on the 29th November 2019: the 6th meeting of the 2019 RMB/RAC and the 1st meeting of the 2020 RMB/RAC. These were followed by the annual Christmas lunch, the meetings and lunch being held at the recently opened Great Western Hotel adjacent to Taunton station. The second joint meeting of the 2020 RMB/RAC was held on the 7th February 2020. The principal issues considered at the three joint meetings were:

## RMB/RAC 2019 6th joint meeting

- **RTPI SW Awards for Planning Excellence 2019 - Results** The results of the 2019 Awards were reported; for the first time these included an Award for the SW Young Planner of the Year. A separate report in this issue sets out details of the Award winners. A discussion was held on whether RTPI SW should adopt the practice in some other RTPI Regions in presenting the Awards at the Annual Dinner. It was concluded that the Awards presentation and the Dinner should continue to be separate events in the South West.
- **RTPI General Assembly 16th October** The meeting received a comprehensive report on the meeting from Richard Williamson, the RTPI SW Representative on the Assembly. Noting that the second meeting of the 2020 Assembly is to be held in Bristol on the 10th June.
- **RTPI Nations and Regions Panel 8th October** The meeting was attended by Mike Oakley, the RTPI SW Representative on the Panel and also by Dawn de Vries, the RTPI SW Senior Vice Chair 2019. Mike reported that the meeting was one of the best

he had attended during his long period on the Panel; in particular he was impressed with a report to the Panel 'Delivering the Corporate Strategy – Nations and Regions as a foundation' which emphasised the key role of the Nations and Regions in delivering the 'One Institute' philosophy. He emphasised that it is important that RTPI SW is strongly represented on the Panel as, on many occasions, it is consulted at an early stage on national RTPI initiatives.

- **South West Neighbourhood Planning Officers' Group 6th November.**

Geoff Walker, who attends the Group on behalf of RTPI SW, reported on a recent meeting of the Group held in Trowbridge. Arising from issues discussed, he expressed concern at the general lack of information and also confusion on exactly who is doing what in providing support for Neighbourhood Planning.

- **RTPI Membership and Ethics Committee**

The meeting received a report on this national RTPI Committee from David Lowin, a member of the Committee.

- **RTPI SW Young Planners Up-date**

The RMB/RAC was pleased to receive a report indicating a continuing good programme of activities across the South West involving young planners working in both the public and private sectors. A particular feature was that this level of activity is being maintained despite a relatively large change in the membership of the Steering Groups.

- **Working Group Up-dates**

Up-dates were received on the work of the following RTPI SW Working Groups: Education and Future Planners, Planning Aid and Research & Policy. In relation to the last, Peter Ellis, the RTPI SW Research and Policy Officer reported that there had generally been a positive feedback to the RTPI SW research report 'Planning for a Smart Energy Future'. However

he did feel that that, at a national level, the RTPI could be making better use of the research findings.

- **RTPI SW Budget 2019**

The meeting received a report which indicated that, depending on the outcome of the year's final activities, the region would close its accounts with a small deficit.

- **CPD Programme 2019**

The meeting congratulated the Chair and the Regional Coordinator on a very successful programme of events, in particular the CPD Day and the inclusion of more informal events.

## RMB/RAC 2020 1st Joint Meeting

- **Membership of the 2020 RMB, RAC, Working Groups and Officers**

The meeting confirmed the membership of the RMB and RAC and the draft membership of the Working Groups and Officers. It was noted that the position of the Group Leader of the Policy and Research Group/ Research Officer was vacant as also was the post of Assistant Secretary.

- **The Great Debate 20th February 2020**

Plans were discussed for the programme and speakers for this joint professions debate scheduled to be held in Plymouth.

- **Business Plan and Budget 2020**

It was noted that, although there had as yet been no formal response from the Institute's Board of Trustees, it seemed likely that RTPI SW will be required to contribute 15% to RTPI costs.

- **RTPI SW International Group**

Richard Williamson reported that this Group had been launched at a meeting in Bristol at the end of October. Thirty RTPI SW members were now engaged with the Group.



# Regional Management Board & Activities Committee Up-date

## RMB/RAC 2020 2nd joint meeting

### • National RTPI up-date

Sarah Woodford, RTPI Head of English Regions presented an update on recent national RTPI activities. She reported that the RTPI Corporate Strategy 2020-2030 had been published in January and the implementation plan for delivering the Strategy had been considered by the Institute's Board of Trustees. She noted that the 'Chief Planners for Tomorrow' scheme was now running for a second year, that the RTPI is working with MHCLG on an enforcement guide, a RTPI Volunteer Strategy is being prepared and that there are now a record number of RTPI Members.

### In discussion, a number of issues were raised including:

- The importance of the RTPI having a voice on topical planning issues and making itself heard.
- The need for the benefits of RTPI membership to be 'sold' effectively to local planning authorities and, where membership is dropping, senior officers need to be challenged to give encouragement and support to their staff to secure/ retain RTPI membership.
- Whether research on planning issues is considered to be a national RTPI core activity.

### • Budget Up-date

The RTPI SW Hon. Treasurer, Chris Balch reported that, although the 2019 accounts had not yet been finalised, it appeared that RTPI SW had delivered a balanced budget with the possibility of a small surplus. He also reported that the 2020 RTPI SW Business Plan/Budget had been approved by the Board of Trustees, this included a 15% of projected income contribution towards RTPI administration/staffing costs, a similar percentage to that of other RTPI Regions. During discussion, RMB/RAC members asked Sarah Woodford to report to the Board of Trustees the view of RTPI SW that, in setting its budget, the wide geographical spread

of the RTPI Region served, including the Channel Islands, must be taken into account. The consequent travel distances involved have cost implications both for the staging of CPD events and RMB/RAC meetings. The Treasurer noted that the approved 2020 Budget incorporates a £16,847 deficit which, if realised, would exhaust the Region's remaining reserves which at the end of 2019 were c.£17k. In considering the implications, he emphasised the need to manage the risk highlighting that:

- All 2020 CPD events should aim to break even, with the exception of the planned Jersey event and that the RMB/RAC should consider whether this principle should also apply to Young Planner and other events which have previously been subsidised by the region.
- The level of sponsorship needs to be increased
- RTPI SW should not plan for, or commit to, any expenditure on research activities until the 2020 half year financial performance is established.

### • Business Plan/Budget Traffic Light Progress Tracker

The Regional Coordinator Charlotte Daborn introduced this new initiative which is intended as an effective tool for keeping track of activities set out in the Business Plan/Budget.

### • RTPI SW Awards for Planning Excellence 2019/2020

The meeting received a report on the 2020 Awards Ceremony held on the 20th January 2020 at the Somerdale development in Keynsham which was the Overall Winner of the 2019 Awards. Although the Ceremony itself was successful, the RMB RAC agreed to consider alternative ways to deliver the presentation ceremony for 2020 onwards.

### • Visit of 2020 President, Sue Manns

The meeting was informed that the 2020 visit is to be held on two separate dates. The President had agreed to attend and speak at the September RTPI SW event in Jersey. The second leg, 14th/15th May, will centre on the Bristol/Bath area with the programme possibly including visits to recent RTPI SW Award winners and community led projects.

### • RTPI General Assembly

The meeting received a comprehensive report on the Institute's General Assembly held on the 22nd January prepared by Richard Williamson, the RTPI SW Representative on the Assembly, and Nick Smith a member of the RTPI SW RAC and also a directly elected Assembly member.

### • South West Young Planners - Up-date

The meeting expressed its appreciation of the hard work involved in the organisation of the events referred to in the comprehensive report setting out details of the recent activities of the West of England, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset and Gloucestershire Groups. In discussion it was noted, with some concern, that the report indicated that the representation of local authority planners on the Group committees was currently low, in particular that for the West of England where there are none.

### • Working Group Up-date - Education

A comprehensive report was received on the current state of planning education in the South West. An update on degree apprenticeships prompted a discussion about the career pathways for apprentices in both the public and private sectors and the scope for A level entry into apprenticeships.

# Regional Management Board & Activities Committee Up-date

- **Working Group Up-date - Planning Aid**

During a discussion on the submitted paper, it was noted that some progress had been made in encouraging LPAs in the region to signpost Planning Aid on their web-sites but currently this is very limited. It was agreed that a review should be undertaken of all the SW LPA web sites and that Planning Aid England could usefully write to all LPAs encouraging them to signpost Planning Aid. The meeting also agreed that other usual information could be sought in this information collation exercise including number of chartered and non-chartered planners and whether the LPA paid their membership subscriptions.

- **Working Group Up-date – Editorial**

Issues considered included the content of the next issue of Branchout and the preparation of material for the next South West focus feature in 'The Planner'. It was agreed by the meeting that RTPi SW should continue to prepare and publish an Annual Review, being considered a very useful reference document.

- **Hon. Secretary's Report**

The 2020 Hon. Secretary, Peter Ellis, proposed that:

- Keegan Ferreday, Exeter City Council to be co-opted on to the RAC for 2020 filling one of the three Licentiate/Student vacancies and in doing so represent the RTPi SW Young Planner Steering Groups.
- Mike Oakley be appointed as RTPi SW Assistant Secretary 2020.
- Although no Research activity is planned in the immediate future, the Policy and Research Working Group should continue but noting that, as yet, no volunteer had come forward to be the Group Leader/Research Officer for 2020.

**These proposed actions were agreed.**

Paul Barnard MBE, Plymouth City Council

The RMB/RAC congratulated Paul on being awarded the RTPi Gold Medal and also the MBE in the New Year Honours List 2020.



*2019 and 2020 RMB RAC Committee members taking at the Christmas social in November 2019*

# Getting to know you - Tristan Peat

## Tristan Peat - Interview



### Tell me a bit about yourself?

*I moved to Devon in 1971 and live in the glorious seaside town of Teignmouth, home town of MUSE, location for the recent Colin Firth / Rachel Weisz film "The Mercy" and a vibrant place of community-led regeneration through arts, craft and music. My wife and I are both enjoying re-experiencing growing up by the coast through the eyes of our three boys.*

### Why did you decide on / choose a career in planning?

*By accident, really. I studied Geography through school and achieved my highest grades on this subject through 'O' and 'A' level. Reading Geography at Leicester University was a natural progression, and that's where I developed a great interest about how places have come to be what they are and how they function – my holiday photos abroad were mostly of nature, landscapes, buildings, political graffiti, and local economies! I had no idea where that might lead until an advert appeared in the local paper for a Graduate Planner in the Local Plans team at Teignbridge Council. I guess my curiosity about how the planning department worked caught the interest of the interview panel and I got the job. 30 years later, after gaining a Town Planning MA at UWE, I had progressed through the ranks to a Principal Planner, before moving to my present Council in Mid Devon, as Forward Planning Team Leader.*

### What about your current job / What does your job involve?

*Without being specific, mostly fixing stuff. Not that things are broken, but management is as I am sure many are aware a constant task of overcoming new*

*challenges, resourcing, sorting out budgets and identifying opportunities to bring things together and trying out new approaches. And, I'm lucky to have left one excellent team and then join another excellent team that can punch well above its weight on its journey to get a Local Plan Review through its examination and over the line, write a bunch of new SPDs, and support the preparation of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan with three partner Councils and Devon County Council. It's a genuinely exciting time for planners and strategic plan making in the Exeter sub-region, needing to plan to meet the needs of our communities for the next 20 years, attract new investment in infrastructure, and protect and enhance a high quality built and natural environment which is cherished by local people – all against the backdrop of recent declarations of a climate emergency and with time running out to take action.*

*I am also committed to networking and building relationships within and across Council service areas, and with other Councils and organisations to help achieve what we need to do and where this is mutually beneficial to do so. This includes promoting good communication with elected Members and communities, effective engagement on plan making, and working positively with the development industry in the public interest. I see one of the real strengths of the planning profession, alongside the cut and thrust of managing the development and use of land, is in a spatial sense being able to reach out across many disciplines to achieve the best economic, social and environmental outcomes possible – a whole-systems approach to creating 'Great Places' for everyone. Other areas of interest include: championing custom and self-build to improve choice, affordability, raise environmental standards and design quality; facilitating the delivery of sites to provide homes for Gypsies and Travellers; supporting others in their own learning and development, and working with academia to help inspire young people to "be the change you wish to see in the world" and think about opportunities in the planning profession.*

### Why have you got / did you become involved with the Regional Activities Committee?

*By accident. I recognised, with colleagues, a need to feed-back and help support the RTPi SW branch continue to deliver its excellent yearly programmes for conferences, seminars, workshops and other activities. I sent an email to Charlotte, got invited to explain myself to an RTPi SW branch CPD working group meeting, and the rest is history. I'm grateful for that door opening, and more recently for being nominated and elected to the RAC. Now I have been gifted with a real opportunity to work with some great people from all backgrounds to put something back into the profession through the RTPi to help benefit everyone.*

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

*Walking on Dartmoor, kayaking, writing / recording music, spending time with my cats, cooking world cuisine and a enjoying a good beer. Cheers!*



**Tristan Peat**

Forward Planning Team Leader  
Mid Devon District Council

# RTPI South West Awards for Planning Excellence 2019

Awarding projects & people who have  
helped create exceptional places

## Results



Sponsored by



**STRIDE TREGLOWN**  
TOWN PLANNING

# RTPI SW Awards for Planning Excellence 2019

Submissions were invited by the end of June for the 2019 RTPI SW Awards for Planning Excellence. Twelve were received, six of these being shortlisted by the Judging Panel as being potential examples of 'Planning Excellence in the South West'. In this shortlisting process issues included whether the entry form was well presented and in accord with the entry requirements and the standard of the responses to the judging criteria. Such issues were also important for the Judging Panel in making its final decisions on the giving of Awards and Commendations. In line with the established practices of RTPI SW, site visits and meetings were held during the early Autumn with representatives of all the shortlisted submissions; these were crucial in the final decisions taken by the judges together with the standard and content of the submission documents.

**The six shortlisted submissions were judged in two categories:**

## **'Excellence in Planning Delivery'**

(ie. Completed or virtually completed schemes on the ground) and **'Excellence in Other Planning Work'** (ie. Plans, Strategies, Development Management operations, Community involvement schemes). The final decisions of the Judging Panel together with text drawn from the Judges' final report are set out below. RTPI SW is grateful that, WYG and Stride Treglown have continued their sponsorship of the awards.

## **CATEGORY: EXCELLENCE IN PLANNING DELIVERY**

### **Category Winner**

#### **Somerdale**

**Entered by Barton Willmore working with Taylor Wimpey, St Monica Trust, Tetlow King Planning and Bath & NE Somerset Council**

The redevelopment of the site of the old Somerdale Fry's/Cadbury's factory at Keynsham between Bristol and Bath is delivering both a successful new neighbourhood and a valuable legacy for the local community. Barton Willmore project managed and oversaw 19 specialist consultants and secured planning permission for the 90ha site which faced multiple layers of complex constraints and issues including flood risk, green belt, ecology and trees, maintaining and improving sports provision, the re-use of massive factory buildings, contamination and the Roman town of Trajectus found underneath part of the site.

This impressive scheme benefitted from having a clear vision for the large site, a vision adhered to by all the principal parties right from the planning stage through to delivery. The strong design leadership and client commitment to delivering a quality 'flagship' scheme enabled the delivery of a mix of complementary uses including housing, commercial uses, retirement accommodation, a care home and a number of supporting facilities (eg. a new school) creating an undeniably successful 'place' focussing on the renovated former iconic chocolate factory buildings. The Judging Panel considered this to be an excellent example of collaborative and joint working involving Taylor Wimpey who originally purchased the whole site, Barton Willmore as the overall site plan maker and project manager, Tetlow King as the planning consultancy involved with obtaining planning permission for the re-use of the factory buildings

and the St Monica Trust, who purchased the former factory buildings from Taylor Wimpey. The planning and successful implementation of Somerdale also benefitted from the cooperation of Bath & North East Somerset planners who shared the 'vision' for this key site in their area.

A number of initiatives were taken by Taylor Wimpey and Barton Willmore to involve the Keynsham Community in developing the masterplan for the site; this involvement is continuing with the new Somerdale leisure facilities now being available for use by the whole Keynsham community. Finally the Judging Panel was impressed that a number of the key elements in the site's development such as the school, the Somerdale Leisure Pavilion and a Doctor's surgery are already in use well before completion of all the new housing.

**In summary the Judging Panel concluded that Somerdale is a very impressive scheme delivering a good mix of complementary uses creating an undeniably successful place which brings together the new while celebrating the old, without doubt an example of 'Planning Excellence in the South West'.**



**Somerdale**

## Highly Commended

### Swanage Pier Restoration & Regeneration Entered by the Swanage Pier Trust working with Footprint Futures - Planning & Regeneration

This £2.2m Project involved the urgent repair of the Pier, replacing 41 Greenheart piles and refurbishment of the Grade II listed Marine Villas, creating education, interpretation, catering and retail experiences with contemporary programmes, based on the Pier's heritage and the Jurassic Coast. A Learning Officer supports educational groups visiting in 'shoulder periods', extending the season and benefitting local accommodation. The marine environment and the renovation of the original salt-water baths are new attractions in this visitor centre. High-quality catering facilities have been developed, providing 5 new jobs with 2 extra planned and up to 20 part time posts in summer, including trainees, all adding to a high quality visitor experience to Swanage.

**The Judging Panel concluded that this is an impressive project delivered within a five year timeframe, providing tangible benefits on many fronts and brought about in no small measure by the involvement of a town planner as project manager, working in close conjunction with the Swanage Pier Trust.**

This work included extensive negotiations with the Local Planning Authority (especially on the renovation and adaptation of the Grade II listed Marine Villas) and with other relevant bodies, including the MMO, the Crown Commissioners and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The professional planning work involved the development and promotion of the concept/strategy, co-ordinating and managing the extensive project team, leading the positive and constructive community engagement and helping to make the case for, and pulling together, the necessary funding.

**In the Panel's view this is a development where environmental, social and economic dimensions have been thoroughly considered. In addition to the enhancement of the Pier and Marine Villas, which contributes to the character, reputation and built heritage of the town, tangible social and economic benefits have been achieved. An outstanding educational case study package relating to the project has also been prepared. The Panel concluded that the restoration and regeneration of Swanage Pier is a very good delivered scheme achieved with modest resources, an example of 'Planning Excellence in the South West'.**



Swanage Pier Restoration & Regeneration

**CATEGORY:  
EXCELLENCE IN OTHER PLANNING WORK**

## Category Winner

### Silverlake Entered by Savills working with Habitat First Group

The Silverlake development comprises 1,000 holiday units and leisure facilities on 230ha of the former Warmwell quarry close to Crossways in Dorset. Savills managed the planning process for Habitat First; local authority backing was received with commendations from Natural England and the Environment Agency. The submission claimed that

a successful community engagement programme has generated local support and that co-investing in commercial development and natural capital will generate 123 local jobs, a range of community benefits and public access, diversify year-round tourism and give a boost to the local economy of a projected £22m p.a. By mid-2019 60 units and leisure facilities were complete (+30 under construction) within 100 ha of managed habitat, awarded 'Excellent' status by the Building with Nature Association.

**It was clear to the Judging Panel that this is a very unusual complex scheme, handled with professionalism by Savills in the roles of master planner and project manager.**

A huge and largely neglected former quarry in Dorset which was 'going nowhere' is undergoing a transformation over a 30 year period into a series of up-market holiday villages surrounded by wildlife habitats. The planning work included a thorough analysis of the 230 hectare site and dealing with a long list of S.106 obligations covering transport, ecology, sustainable energy, wetlands management, LEAP provision, phasing, occupancy restrictions, allotment provision (available to Crossways residents) and waste/recycling facilities. The Panel was impressed that Silverlake aims to be as sustainable as possible. Features include: a Travel Plan incorporating a shuttle bus service to the nearby Moreton railway station, cycle hire/routes for movements within the large site and the development of a network of water based movements, an on-site energy centre and the use of natural reed beds. It is claimed that a sustainable economic consequence of Silverlake could be a reduction in the propensity of second homes being purchased in the area. A positive feature is that direct and indirect jobs are being generated in the short and long term as well as local businesses being appointed to supply and maintain facilities. A further feature is that a charge per property is levied to contribute towards the Silverlake Conservation and Community Fund; this is open to bids for financial support for projects within a 3 mile radius from Silverlake.

The Judging Panel concluded that Silverlake is a very impressive scheme incorporating sustainable principles with planners playing a key role in devising a scheme that responds to current major concerns regarding climate change and the increasing trends of 'eco-tourism' and 'sustainable UK staycation' holidays and short breaks. It includes many features that other developers could take on board in considering the after use of large quarries both in the South West and nationwide and is an example of 'Planning Excellence in the South West'.



Silverlake

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## Highly Commended

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### **Southmead Regeneration** Entered by Nash Partnership and Streets Reimagined working with: Southmead Development Trust and Bristol City Council

This is a community-led project to improve the centre of Southmead (one of the UK's most deprived wards) aiming to make it 'vibrant and exciting for the people who live there'. It seeks to regenerate the area which has a specific need for smaller homes for first time buyers and older people. Working hand in hand with the local community, in particular the Southmead Development Trust, the Nash Partnership/ Streets Reimagined team developed a masterplan to transform the central area; this includes building on under-

used open space and Council-owned sites to deliver around 300 new homes at the heart of the community. The regeneration aims to provide local facilities including a community centre, library, youth centre and a healthy living centre.

The Judging Panel concluded that the work of the Nash Partnership with Streets Reimagined on the regeneration of the Southmead Estate is impressive enabling the SDT to 'convert' its earlier Community Plan into a realistic Masterplan. This Plan has provided the framework for a planning application to re-invigorate and further develop the Estate's central core – in particular, part of the under-used open space of Glencoyne Square. The Panel was particularly impressed with the nature and degree of community involvement, which even extended to the SDT being involved in the selection of the planning consultants. Conversations with 'random' residents, as the visiting Judges were being guided through the Arnside Road shopping parade, illustrated the interest of the local community. It was evident that the Trust (a significant local 'community anchor' since 1995) has aimed to address elements of social and health well-being as well as environmental issues. On the other hand, concerns include uncertainties about future funding and that the new Masterplan is only a 'supporting document' for planning applications, carrying no statutory policy weight on matters such as design and sustainability aspirations.

Design is not a matter on which the submission must be judged, and neither are the actions of the SDT on the Community Plan leading up to the appointment of the consultants in 2018. In the work since then however the Panel's view is that the Nash Partnership/ Streets Reimagined team has gone above and beyond what would normally be expected in community engagement using a variety of consultation methods. This has prompted the City Council to see Southmead as a pilot and exemplar project in empowering communities. **The Panel concluded that this submission relates to a project that is an example**

of Planning Excellence in the South West and is Highly Commended in the category 'Excellence in Other Planning Work'.



Southmead Regeneration - working for the community project.

Our regional Awards for Planning Excellence celebrate projects and people who have helped create exceptional places and improved the lives of those who live and work there; highlighting how planning and planners work to create a safe, healthy and sustainable future.

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## Commended

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### Estate regeneration in Taunton Estate regeneration in Taunton Entered by the Nash Partnership working with Somerset West and Taunton Council

Nash Partnership's brief was to work with the local community and agree an approach (refurbishment or regeneration) to address the structural issues involving 186 'Woolaway' houses at Priorswood in Taunton. Either option would cause huge upheaval for the community, requiring many residents to temporarily move out of the area while the work was undertaken. Through an extensive programme of community engagement, Nash Partnership sought to gain support for this sensitive project. Proposals have since been approved and the submission claims this will bring economic, social and environmental benefits for the place and its people.

**From the outset the Panel was clear that the primary reason for shortlisting this project was the evidence of exceptional community engagement vital in this very sensitive project involving the demolition of houses and displacement of many residents.** In the Panel's view the Council is to be commended both on its choice of a consultant with a good track record of such work and on its decision early on to devote significant resources (officer time and a house on the estate adapted as a permanent base/ point of contact)

It was clear to the Panel that the Nash Partnership had worked hard to liaise closely with the Local Authority as client and involve/empower/educate local residents. A key initiative was the establishment by the consultants of the Residents' Design Group, a voluntary group comprised of up to 25 local residents (across all age groups) to voice the needs of the local community. The up-skilling of the local residents through this Group in relation to design and development terminology was without doubt an important factor in the general acceptance by the Priorswood community of the redevelopment proposals. The Panel considered it unfortunate that a 'toolkit' has not been developed relating to the principle of establishing a 'Residents Design Group' which could be applied to other similar sensitive projects where the support of the local community is essential.

**The Judging Panel's view was that the professional work of the Nash Partnership in involving the Priorswood community was clearly very good; the Council subsequently described the community engagement programme as 'an exemplar for future projects'. The Design Review Panel has stated that the 'The design process and community consultation process undertaken to date has been extremely rigorous and is considered to be outstanding'. The Panel generally endorsed these views and concluded that the programme of community engagement in this project is an example of 'Planning Excellence in the South West'.**



Estate regeneration in Taunton

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## Finalist

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### Bedminster Green Placemaking Framework Entered by Nash Partnership and Streets working with Bristol City Council and Windmill Hill City Farm

Bedminster is an area in south Bristol that has potential opportunities for significant development and intensification to assist in meeting Bristol's acute market/affordable housing and related needs. The area to which this Framework applies comprises five sites (approx. 6ha) of under-used land, currently providing a poor-quality environment between Bedminster station and the centre of Bedminster. Progressing proposals for developing these sites was proving difficult. In collaboration with Bristol City Council, the four developers agreed that Nash Partnership should prepare a Placemaking Framework to set broad principles and parameters to help shape and integrate individual site-based development proposals, as they came forward through the planning process, to create a high quality new urban quarter.



The Judging Panel considered that the Nash Partnership working closely with the City Council, a group of developers/landowners and the local community (in particular the Windmill Hill City Farm, which lies within the heart of the area), had undertaken good work in putting together, in a very short space of time, a realistic place-making urban regeneration framework for this neglected and rather forlorn area in Bedminster. This has the potential (though not yet tested) to guide what would otherwise have remained an un-coordinated process whereby four different developers would have been submitting individual development proposals for five separate sites spread across the area .

The Panel's view was that although this is a well-structured project involving collaboration with key stakeholders there were a number of concerns including the scale of consultation that had taken place with, for example: the numerous small local businesses that potentially could be displaced. Other concerns included the local community awareness regarding the Framework and that the developers, though contributing financially towards its production, had yet to demonstrate that their individual site proposals were going to honour the Framework's guidelines including the maximum height and massing of new buildings. The Panel concluded therefore that it was too early to judge the ultimate success of this Framework and although its decision to shortlist this submission was fully justified, the project was of insufficient merit to be judged as an example of 'Planning Excellence in the South West' and thus would not be the recipient of an Award or Commendation.



The Bedminster Green Placemaking Framework



## Overall Winner of the RTPI SW Awards for Planning Excellence 2019:

### Somerdale

Entered by Barton Willmore working with Taylor Wimpey, St Monica Trust, Tetlow King Planning and Bath & NE Somerset Council

Winning these prestigious awards is a clear demonstration of quality, and an excellent way to raise the profile of a project, team or individual.

## South West Young Planner of the Year 2020

Karen Phimister, Planning Policy Officer,  
Swindon Borough Council



*Karen was a passionate, knowledgeable planner who uses her previous non planning experience to help inform and enhance her current planning role. Karens understanding of current legislation, planning changes and understanding of the benefits of community consultation is exemplarily. Karen has a good breadth of planning experience and is taking on new challenges which will enhance her understanding of planning and enable her to keep growing personally and professionally. Karen's commitment to learning was also evident as she helped to establish a 'lunch and learn' session.*

*Overall, Karen is a well-rounded young planner who will be an excellent example to all young planners across the region".*

# Awards Presentation Ceremony at Somerdale on 20 January



# Enter a project for our 2020 Awards.....



Our regional Awards for Planning Excellence celebrate projects and people who have helped create exceptional places and improved the lives of those who live and work there; highlighting how planning and planners work to create a safe, healthy and sustainable future.

Winning these prestigious awards is a clear demonstration of quality, and an excellent way to raise the profile of a project, team or individual.

- Free to enter
- Entry into the Awards will open on Monday 4 May 2020 & close Friday 26 June at 17:00
- Overall Winner automatically shortlisted to national Awards in London for 2021
- Check out [www.rtpi.org.uk/southwestawards](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/southwestawards) for more information and check out our handy how to win guide

Register your interest to [southwest@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:southwest@rtpi.org.uk) and an entry form and guidance note will be emailed to you as soon as the Awards open for entries.

# Soap box – Diversity in Planning

**The facts are that I am a middle class, middle aged, straight, white female. Most, but not all, of my friends are similar. I celebrate the fact that for my gay friends and family members, their sexuality is accepted and normalised, 20 years ago that wasn't the case. But why does diversity matter in planning? Because at a human level we all experience the environment, whether built or natural differently and we experience it in very different ways.**

If I were a 6'2" strapping male, the underpass below probably wouldn't feel very threatening. As a 5'2" (in my Docs) female, I find it really threatening, especially if there are men there, lone or in a group.

When I'm walking away from the office at night, it can often feel very frightening when I hear footsteps behind me, knowing the area within the city centre is not as safe as it might be. I would bet that most men reading this don't even realise how intimidating their footsteps might be. Or that many women are often hyper-vigilant walking in darkness, ensuring that their keys are in their hands, the quicker to escape or to attack if needed.

Vienna is a city leading the way in inclusive planning, which began in 2000 after a 1999 survey highlighted the different ways men and women used the city and its infrastructure. In a survey, the city council found that men tended to only travel between work and home (and maybe the gym) whereas women used public transport or walked more, and made more linked trips – food shopping, the school run, caring responsibilities and other chores. After 20 years, Vienna has introduced more than 60 gender mainstreaming projects, from adding extra streetlights to make travel at night safer, widening pavements and adding wheelchair (and pushchair) ramps to the Frauen-Werk-Stat (Women-Work-City) complex – a residential complex designed specifically for the needs of women. The design process began by looking at the needs of the end users. This resulted in

additional green space, allowing children to play outside without having to travel, an on-site kindergarten and on-site GP surgery and pharmacy.

This approach won't be appropriate everywhere, though would work equally well in our towns and cities. But I would bet that every single local authority in the UK could begin to include similar policies, so that places work better for women, children and the elderly.

At the brilliant RTPI SW diversity event last May, I heard speakers from Bristol Women's Voice talk eloquently about how they felt that unable to respond to consultation on major schemes and that in any event, major developments were not inclusive of their needs (which include better/safer access as well as access to child and healthcare, shops etc). We also need to think much harder about how we consult, and I know that Plymouth City Council are doing ground breaking work on this.



Kath Haddrell  
Associate at WSP



Photo laciudadviva;  
Nicholas Shore

## News just in....

The President of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) has launched a 10-year action plan to make the planning profession more diverse and inclusive. It follows the launch, in January 2020, of the RTPI's new Corporate Strategy 2020-2030 which sees Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity as one of four integrated Pillars.

**Find out more** [www.rtpi.org.uk/briefing-room/news-releases/2020/february/rtpi-takes-action-to-make-planning-more-diverse/](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/briefing-room/news-releases/2020/february/rtpi-takes-action-to-make-planning-more-diverse/)

# RTPI South West Events 2020

## Intervention overload? – Development Management and Planning Law update with Ashfords

Wednesday 4 March at 10:00AM - 4:00PM

The Mercure Rougemont, Exeter

The legislative and legal framework for Development Management appears permanently in flux. Amongst the UK/EU debates, new legislation and wealth of permitted development rights to increase housing delivery and streamline the planning process, do these interventions work and do they result in appropriate homes or are we reaching intervention overload?

This conference aims to review recent Development Management updates to highlight what climate change means for planners, changes in legislation and interpretation, reviewing the “good, the bad and the ugly”; permitted development rights for residential use and use of conditions from the developer perspective.

View the topics and speakers at:  
[www.rtpi.org.uk/swplanninglawmarch2020](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/swplanninglawmarch2020)

ashfords

BOOK NOW



Visit  
[www.rtpi.org.uk/southwest](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/southwest) to book or download a group booking form

## Is integrating low carbon transport into the planning process procedurally possible or flippant fiction?

Sponsored by CIHT and supported by the Transport Planning Society

Thursday 26 March at 10:00AM - 4:00PM

STEAM in Swindon

With the gradual reduction of greenhouse gases the Transport Sector remains as the highest UK contributor. Expectations and the demands on travel have changed with time and convenience constraining sustainable travel choices. How can planning predict and respond to increasing demand and accessibility whilst decreasing the environmental impacts and achieving ‘better places’?

This conference seeks to review the conflict of Urban Design and Transport planning and what can be done to increase compatibility. There will also be a focus on government response to transport, how this is influencing local transport strategies and a reflection on the challenges of securing ‘better planning, better transport, better places’ against carbon reductions.

The Better planning, better transport, better places advice has been led by CIHT in collaboration with the Transport Planning Society (TPS) and Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI).

View the topics and speakers at:  
[www.rtpi.org.uk/swtransport2020](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/swtransport2020)



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## ROOM@RTPI The challenges of delivering Housing and future needs in the current sustainability and political climate

Wednesday 22 April at 10:00AM - 4:00PM

The Hilton, Bournemouth

With the housing crisis and Governments change in focus from land supply to ‘delivery’ there are political challenges in consenting and delivering ‘faster’ housing designs and concerns as to whether speed and quality are mutually achievable. Amongst the noise of delivery and sustainable construction are we remembering to deliver for future needs?

This seminar seeks to debate the key factors within the housing delivery test, reflect on the primary political challenges in housing delivery and how design innovation can increase sustainability in construction. Consideration will also be given to how planning is meeting the future needs of the population from the older generation to first time buyers.

View the topics and speakers at:  
[www.rtpi.org.uk/swhousing2020](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/swhousing2020)

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I liked the different format in the morning where there was some early on-table discussion to focus the day - this made people more engaged early on.

# Forthcoming Events 2020 cont...

## Writing skills for planners - Exeter - CPD MASTERCLASS

Wednesday 13 May at 9:00AM - 4:00PM  
*Mercure Exeter Rougemont Hotel, Exeter*

We live in a fast-paced world, where we are bombarded with information. Good communication skills have never been more vital. Do you need to know how to communicate clearly and precisely with compelling, persuasive, and powerful writing?

Attend this interactive masterclass to get valuable insight on how to effectively compose and write your content, adapting it to the situation and the audience, and enhancing your professional reputation.

Through a combination of expert trainer input, discussion and group work, you will:

- Learn how to structure your message to get your points across;
- Understand how to structure your reports so readers can extract information at speed;
- Get tips and tricks on using layout to maximise impact;
- Apply these techniques to everyday communications like emails and report writing.

View the topics and speakers at:  
[www.rtpi.org.uk/writing-skills-for-planners-exeter-cpd-masterclass/](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/writing-skills-for-planners-exeter-cpd-masterclass/)

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## Planning for the past: sustainable approaches to archaeology and heritage.

*In conjunction with ClfA*

Wednesday 20 May at 10:00AM - 4:00PM  
*University of Plymouth*

This event, in conjunction with ClfA, will provide an update on recent policy and practice relating to archaeology and the historic environment. The day will focus on three areas relating to the historic environment. In the first session, we will have a presentation refreshing us all on how archaeology fits into the planning process and a second presentation of interesting archaeology-based case studies that highlight the benefits of collaboration. Climate change is a key issue for planning and how it can be addressed in the historic environment will be explored through case studies of managing energy efficiency retrofitting in historic buildings and how flood risk and coastal change affects heritage preservation. The afternoon will focus on cultural heritage and its challenges and opportunities in the planning process, including reflections on Plymouth's museum extension project (The Box) which is opening in 2020 as part of the Mayflower 400 celebrations.

View the topics and speakers at:  
[www.rtpi.org.uk/swheritage2020](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/swheritage2020)



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Currently  
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28 Feb 2020



*I really value the opportunity to hear from a wide range of organisations and people.*

# RTPI South West Annual Dinner 2020

The 2020 dinner will take place on Friday 12 June at **We the Curious...** a venue which celebrates science and innovation and invites you to think about how we can influence the future. **We the Curious** provides an inspiring backdrop for the dinner.

## The evening will include:

- Drinks reception amongst the exhibits - get hands on and interactive with many of sciences wonders
- 3 course meal and table wine
  - Casino tables
  - Charity raffle
  - Return of our curious food scientist with new food concoctions
  - Test Judge the Poet's witty lyrical skills

## After Dinner Speaker: Rachel Bell, Stride Treglown

Rachel Bell has recently been promoted as a director architect at Stride Treglown. You'll often see Rachel who is a visible role model in the industry at both regional and national construction events which has taken her down an alternative path into the world of Business Development. In the last few years she been nominated as one of 30 UK Construction Week role models, winner at the SW mentoring awards, a RESI Trailblazer through Property Week in 2019 and was a finalist in the European Women in Construction and Engineering awards in 2018 and 2019. As well as being nominated as the Insiders SW Property Personality of the year in October 2018, Rachel also finds time to be an active committee member of Women in Property and is part of the SW regional board for Landaid.

## Charity raffle in aid of:



## With thanks to our sponsors:

ARUP



Gravity



## Network, Reward & be Inspired by the RTPI SW Annual Dinner

We the Curious, Bristol  
12th June 2020  
6pm - Midnight

Meal, Drinks & Entertainment

Tickets £55 +vat

Enquiries to [southwest@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:southwest@rtpi.org.uk)

