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Picture
Overall Winner for RTPI South West Awards for Planning Excellence 2020
Jersey Integrated Seascape and Landscape Character Assessment
Entered by Government of Jersey and Fiona Fyfe Associates Ltd

www.rtpi.org.uk/southwest

BRANCHOUT **NEWS**

No 184

SUMMER 2021

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the second edition of Branchout 2021! Time is flying! We are almost half way through the year, and what a year it has been already!

With the easing of lockdown restrictions, it is my hope that we are all in for a much more positive future and hope that many of you have now had a chance to reunite with family and friends.

As has been seen from the webinar events that we have been hosting so far, social interaction is key to our health and wellbeing, together with access to outdoor space, and activity. It is therefore no surprise that the pandemic has had an impact on all of us in many different ways including our mental health.

My theme of health and wellbeing continues to be the golden thread through our events this year and seeks to highlight why we, as planners, can do so much to improve the environments we live in, not only making it accessible for everyone, but improving our general health whether it be through exercise or conversation with others.

This year's webinars have seen the introduction of what I called "our personal perspective speakers". The idea behind this was to get the real stories from people who are living with the subject matter in order that we can get a better understanding of what we can do to change things for the better. This started with our first webinar in February where we heard from Keith Oliver, Alzheimer's Society Ambassador, who lives with Dementia, and Keely Mitchell on why it is important that we are neuro-diverse in our thinking; why it's important to consider how we can improve the environment for all individuals including those who live with dyspraxia. This is just the start of us learning how different conditions can affect the way people experience the environment and what I hope will be the start of us making some positive changes to enable access for all and the creation of an environment which anyone can enjoy.

The importance of achieving this has also been highlighted in the Spring Urban Design Group Journal (<https://www.udg.org.uk/publications/journal/urban-design-158-spring-2021>). This hosts a number of articles from likeminded professionals who share their research into why it is so important that we start planning for these changes now, and not later. Whilst the pandemic has shown us that we can successfully work from home, it has also shown us that we need each other, and access to social interaction.

This leads me on to the creation of the "Chair's Page" on the RTPI website, which our Regional Co-Ordinator, Charlotte Daborn, and myself have been working on to showcase a number of case studies that are considered to be best examples of inclusive developments. The webpage will also feature blogs from myself and I will be inviting others who have spoken at our CPD events to contribute. The page is intended to become a learning hub and a place to signpost people to in order that developments and places that are already achieving diverse and inclusive environments can be learnt from and used to inspire future creations. You can access the page here: www.rtpi.org.uk/southwestchairspage and I invite readers to get in touch and be involved in this as much as possible.

Going forward, whilst many of us have benefited enormously from online webinars, there is a hope that we will be able to host some physical events towards the end of the year. This is of course subject to Government guidelines and the importance of making sure any such events can be held safely.

In the meantime, continue to remember how important our role is and the amazing things that we have the ability to change. Together, we can make a difference and each one of you is important in making that happen. Keep going, keep fighting, and keep inspiring, and remember, small changes can make a big difference and can change the world.



Angharad Williams
RTPI South West Chair 2021

Editor's blog

Hello there. Where has the time gone? It seems only five minutes since I was last doing this and then bang... the end of June!

Last time I likened life to Groundhog Day, an endless cycle of the same situations and events with no obvious end; well things are looking to be getting better. Not long now and perhaps we'll have righted our wrongs, become the best version of us that we can be and proven it to Andie MacDowell; then life will be allowed to return to normal for us but as improved and more resilient people; happier and more selfless people as we more greatly appreciate what we do have, and always had, but perhaps took for granted.

But we're not quite there yet. As we see ourselves moving towards a different but freer way of living there will be those that are embracing life and are doing well knowing it'll be okay soon; those who are where they were and continue to struggle; and, inevitably those who have declined further. Be kind and understanding to everyone around you, you may not know what they are actually going through and please, just be there for each other. We all need someone, even if we don't always show it.

So turning to Branchout, what goodies have we got for you this time? Once again there is so much content for you to enjoy; we really do spoil you!

With this year's theme being around health, wellbeing and inclusive environments we kick off with an article from Dominic Gallagher of Public Health England that discusses the importance of the integration of health considerations into neighbourhood plans. Getting an environment that works for everyone can also mean smaller changes and just a little extra thought; Geoff Walker shares some of the challenges he and his wife, who walks with the aid of a wheeled walker, encounter on a daily basis. His final paragraph really is food for thought- we can do better- we must do better.

We return to community engagement with a short review of an engagement based Planning White Paper webinar hosted by the South West Planning Aid Task Group; the link to the webinar is included so you can see and hear for yourself too; it's well worth a watch and provides some interesting thoughts on changes to how we engage. Are you feeling rushed off your feet? Do you fancy a slower pace of life? Chris Hart shows us that it ISN'T at Dartmoor National Park with his entertaining overview of the life of our National Park planning cousins.

The 19th May saw the confirmation of which Authorities had been successful in securing Future High Streets funding; one being my own Teignbridge District Council. We present a short overview of the bid and what we'll be doing with our share of the £9 million that was available.

We continue looking to the future; this time of the profession, with updates from the region's Young Planners and Planning Schools followed closely by a retrospective of The RTPi South West Awards for Planning Excellence. This has been a staple of the region for almost 30 years, so have a look at some of the highlights over that time. Perhaps it'll inspire you to submit an entry yourselves; we are currently accepting entries for 2021 but time is short; with the deadline being the 2nd July 2021. For more information and details of how to apply please go to our website page here. Maybe your entry will appear in a retrospective in thirty years from now!

Whilst we look to the future we should never forget our past. It is with sadness that we had to say farewell to one of our retired Members this year. Mike Oakley provides a tribute to George McDonic who passed in February; he did much for the Institute and profession at Local and National level and will be sadly missed.

We've all had to deal with new working practises or getting to know our jobs in a different way over the last twelve months but what would it be like having to do all

that but in a new country under an unfamiliar Planning System? James Joubert has done just that by leaving South Africa for the UK and jumping into his first UK based planning position; get his first impressions of the UK planning system that we all know (and love?). We round off this issue with a low-down of events and training opportunities; including an exciting series of webinars under the heading of Future Plymouth 2030; please do take the time to have a look at the past webinars and sign up to others in future when they return in the autumn. It may say Plymouth in the title but they are relevant to everyone covering issues such as climate, health, housing and more and some of the future topics look particularly interesting. Since you "completed Netflix" over lockdown you have no excuse not to go and have a look!

If you read everything I said above, well done and thank you for sticking with me. Are you still here? There is no after credit scene, go on, enjoy the issue and if you have anything you would like to contribute to a future issue or anything you'd like us to cover please do get in touch at southwest@rtpi.org.uk

Semper ad meliora



Ian Perry
RTPi South West
Junior Vice Chair

Integration of health considerations into neighbourhood plans

There are many factors that influence our long-term health. From the environment we live in, to the environments we work and play in. People living in the least deprived areas of England live around 20 years longer in good health than those who live in the most deprived. Neighbourhoods have a direct impact on many public health areas such, as mental health, obesity, physical activity, cardiovascular disease, musculoskeletal conditions, health protection, and the health of communities. Access to healthy environments can encourage healthy behaviours by encouraging walking and cycling through well-connected neighbourhoods, improving access to healthier food and green spaces, reducing air pollution and encouraging social connections throughout communities.

COVID-19 has affected population health and wellbeing both directly and indirectly. The global pandemic has highlighted why now more than ever, everyone should have access to well-designed neighbourhoods, a good home, and be able to have easy access to and be able to use good quality green spaces. Otherwise we risk widening these inequalities further.

The importance of population health and wellbeing is highlighted in the 'Spatial Planning and Health' evidence resource. Evidence demonstrates that place and health are inter-connected and are complex. If designed and planned well the built and natural environment can have a positive effect over people's physical and mental health and wellbeing. Research commissioned by Public Health England (PHE) in 2019 found that despite knowledge of evidence that significant progress was being made in many areas, there remains a clear set of challenges and opportunities to be addressed by practitioners in order to take necessary actions.

Neighbourhood plans can provide a valuable opportunity to develop a shared vision. The plans ensure developments are designed to support people's wellbeing. Although people who live in most deprived areas, are less likely to contribute to the neighborhood planning process.

In 2019, The Getting Research into Practice 2 (GRIP2) project was commissioned by PHE. Delivered in partnership with the University of the West of England (UWE) and the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA). The project explored the challenges of applying evidence based principles into practice at local level in local planning and decision making, set out in 'Spatial Planning for Health'.

Gloucestershire County Council and its districts brought together representatives for a regional workshop to build capacity and embed research in practice in the context of neighbourhood planning. In attendance were representatives from across the planning and public health system, councillors, clinical commissioning groups, community groups and other key public and private sector organisations.

This resource was developed to help and support neighbourhood local health and wellbeing evidence that can be used to inform their statutory neighbourhood plans and in turn support the need of their communities.



Figure 1: Getting research into practice
A resource for local authorities on
planning healthier places

Integration of health considerations into neighbourhood plans cont...

A community group, or a parish or town council, will coordinate the development of the neighbourhood plans. It is important to ensure that as many views and voices are heard from the early stages of planning process to help to understand the (health) needs of the community. From those who work in health and social care settings, educational establishments, and individuals who work at the local convenience store. It is important to include a wide range of community experiences as this is vital to help to reduce and prevent future inequalities.

Neighbourhood groups should think about what makes a healthy place and how this can improve the health and well-being of the community. A healthy place is not just about access to health care services, it's about designing walking and cycling routes that are accessible for people of all ages and abilities, to accessing good homes, green spaces, community facilities and allowing for individuals, families and communities to be connected.

A neighbourhood plan should be evidenced based. Though local public health teams regularly collect data, the data often covers large populations across county and planning groups; communities should be aware of this and ensure appropriate information is sourced to support specific policies.

PHE calls on neighbourhood groups to take the leading role in creating local health promoting environments. The GRIP2 resource is a starting point to embed health and wellbeing into the neighbourhood planning process, setting out a step by step process for neighbourhood planning groups and local authorities to meet the needs of the local area. Its templates can help support proposal in the Planning White paper to provide greater certainty and consistency across the plan-making process.

Acknowledgments GRIP 2 project:

- Michael Chang, Planning and Health Lead, Public Health England
- Dr Danni Sinnett, Director of the Centre for Sustainable Planning and Environments, UWE
- Julia Thrift, Director of Healthy Placemaking, TCPA
- Gloucestershire County Council representatives



Dominic Gallagher,
Health and Wellbeing Manager,
Public Health England

Planning for inclusive environments?

Making pedestrian street design compatible with the needs of disabled people

Much attention has been given by local authorities recently, as part of the 'greening' and 'decarbonisation' agenda, to facilitate easier pedestrian and cycling movement within our urban areas. The pedestrianisation of streets has been a growing feature of our urban scene over many decades, but things have gone much further recently. Cycle ways, bus lanes and other road traffic management including one-way systems and closing off vehicular access to particular streets have been added, all in the interests of making a safer and more pleasant environment and not least a less polluted one. Whilst much of this can be welcomed, in principle, has enough thought been given to the implications for disabled people, not to mention the old and frail who are becoming a growing proportion of our community?

In seeking actual examples of the issues this raises, I need go no further than my home city of Bath, where my disabled wife has been feeling steadily 'shut out' as a result of changes being made to the urban environment in the interests of 'greening' and pollution control. She is still able to drive, using hand controls, and has a 'Blue Badge', but once out of the car, can walk only short distances using a wheeled walker.

New one-way systems and closing off vehicular access to streets can have serious implications for disabled drivers wishing to access kerbside parking spaces reasonably close to shops and other facilities. In the centre of Bath for example, stretches of road along which drivers were previously able to access dedicated disabled parking spaces, have recently been closed off. These parking spaces have not been fully replaced elsewhere nearby, whilst having disabled spaces in car parks some distance away is not always an adequate alternative. Once out of the car, a whole raft of pavement and access hazards await the disabled pedestrian. Particular surfaces,

common in historic centres, such as cobbles, granite setts and 'York stone' slabs are difficult to negotiate for those who do not walk very well. Steps into and out of shops and other buildings are another problem mostly, but not only, found in the 'historic' street scene whilst the much less historic 'pimple' slabs at the threshold of road crossing points, introduced with the best of intentions to aid those with poor vision, can be a serious trip hazard. Many of these surface hazards, including steps and high kerbs are also a problem for electric mobility scooters, which tend to have small wheels. All of these problems are compounded where there are broken or uneven paving slabs.

Other notable pavement hazards include 'A boards' and, increasingly now, the tables and chairs that restaurants have been encouraged to provide for Covid-safe eating and drinking. To all this should be added the creation of extra-wide pavements 'guarded', by plastic barriers. These make more space for pedestrians to pass each other in a socially distanced manner, but their erection has quite often sealed-off kerbside parking spaces previously used by the disabled.

Once out of the car, a whole raft of pavement and access hazards await the disabled pedestrian.

Convenient, accessible and well-maintained public lavatories are important in any context and particularly in towns and cities, like Bath, seeking to attract visitors. These facilities are even more important for the disabled, yet in many areas, Councils have been busy closing many of these down, claiming problems with maintenance.

How many planners, highway engineers or local councillors take the time or trouble to put themselves in the place of a disabled person - spending time (and energy!) getting about in a wheelchair or walking with a wheeler frame for example? If they did, they would quickly appreciate the problems.



Geoff Walker

Member of the RTPi SW Regional Activities Committee

The Planning White Paper: A radical shift in how we engage with our communities?

Organised by Planning Aid England South West Task Force

March 2021 saw the South West Planning Aid Task Group host their first webinar on engagement in planning and the potential impact the recent Planning White Paper may have on how we engage with communities.

The webinar was hosted by Dawn deVries (Principal Planning Officer for Sedgemoor District Council and former Chair of the RTPI SW (2020)) and was structured as an informal question and answer session with three speakers sharing their knowledge and expertise.

The webinar focussed on examples of community projects in the South West with experts from planning policy (Richard Grant - Head of Planning Policy at Cornwall Council), development (Paul Brockway - Founding Director at Hyas Associates Ltd) and the community (Hannah Sloggett - Co-Founder and Director of Nudge Community Builders). The webinar kicked off with a short introduction by Dawn on the role of Planning Aid England (PAE) before turning to the questions.

The talk provided a useful insight into the impact the proposed changes in the White Paper may have on how planners engage with communities with each speaker bringing their own different viewpoint on what the opportunities and challenges may be. There was collective agreement on the importance of engagement within the planning system and how changes to the planning system should help and not hinder other voices' being heard. There was also discussion on the importance of the availability of data and information to ensure communities can make well-informed and meaningful contribution to discussions and to not be afraid to engage.

The talk is now available for viewing on YouTube on the RTPI account 

Later this year the South West Task Group are looking to host another online webinar, this one aimed at elected members and again focussing on engagement in the planning process.



Jessica Vaughan

Member of the RTPI SW Planning Aid Task Group



Planning Aid

England

Engaging Communities in Planning

Dartmoor National Park - A quiet rural backwater?

Close your eyes and conjure your most evocative image of Dartmoor - a wild open expanse of moorland, a few ponies dotted around and the peaceful sound of skylarks ascending to the heavens. Not much happens out there you would think - well you are wrong.

Not everyone would perhaps realise that the Dartmoor National Park has a planning role, being the Local Planning Authority straddling the boundaries of four Districts/ Boroughs. While we are a small team we like to think we are perfectly formed and cover all the same bases as our bigger cousins.

While the world around us has been in the grip of the pandemic with the minor distractions of lockdown, furlough, etc. the demands on the Dartmoor Planning Team have been relentless. From the moment the first lockdown arrived it seems everyone has re-evaluated their lives and wants to talk to us about their business aspirations, proposed extensions, home offices, etc. Home working has also given some the opportunity to 'shop' their neighbours and highlight potential planning issues for us to investigate.

Moving our systems to cope with full electronic delivery was a major headache but we're proud to say it is now bedding in and embraced by our customers. The public desire for instant gratification is hard to feed and there is still plenty of work to do to bust the myth that electronic delivery is suddenly more efficient or less resource hungry. Add in the small matter of a Government White Paper which intends to turn the planning world upside down and you can appreciate life has not been dull.

While we have proved that you can do a lot by 'virtual/ remote' means, planning is all about the land and the people who shape Dartmoor. Maintaining human contact through site visits, meetings, etc. is a vital component – it's been a challenge with Covid restrictions but remains an essential element of how we run our service. We're still out there every day of the working week serving the businesses, farmers, communities and residents of the National Park. Work on the prototype teleporter is still in progress (fifty years after Star Trek perfected it!).

Channel hoppers may have stumbled across the 'virtual' Development Management committee – a blockbuster series to rival a Scandinavian thriller. Lots of plot twists and turns, dramatic scenes, use of CGI and some potential Oscar winning performances! There is also a similarity to the series 'Through the Keyhole' for those of a certain age. It's a huge team effort involving many outside the planning team. We have been commended for the quality of our 'show' and have produced some good results. If not an Oscar a Bafta will do.



Images of Dartmoor

#WeAreDartmoor

Dartmoor National Park - A quiet rural backwater? cont...

Strangely, lockdown coincided with the culmination of two major applications which we have been working on for many months.

Buckfast Care Village - perhaps the largest and most complex application that we have had to deal with in recent years. The proposed Care Village will sit on the site of the former Axminster Carpet spinning mill adjacent to the River Dart at Buckfast. It aims to provide a full range of care provision from extra care homes (limited care needs), a fully serviced care home and a dedicated dementia unit. Overall there will be 224 new units on the site with associated facilities including catering, swimming pools, a restaurant, gym and fitness studio, small cinema, craft workshops and meeting spaces – all aimed at engaging residents to live a full and active lifestyle. There are significant community benefits not least the anticipated jobs, a new community centre, enhanced retail units, access to the range of on-site facilities and a new hub for domiciliary care. This major project will transform the way care is provided in this area of the National Park and will enhance this important site adjacent to Buckfast Abbey.

Linhay Hill Quarry extension - the culmination of over four years of negotiations relating to a planned extension of the existing limestone quarry at Ashburton.

Quarrying in a protected landscape will always hit the headlines however we still need to recognise the demand for stone to feed our development industry is stronger than ever. Put simply, you can only quarry stone where you find it - and this precious resource just happens to be under our feet in a National Park. The proposed extension will safeguard resources and local jobs for the next sixty years. We have worked hard to ensure the restoration package is tightly controlled and fitting to its sensitive location.

Our Forward Planning team has also been busy drafting and submitting our new Dartmoor Local Plan to the Secretary of State - no small feat for a team of three. While it may be tempting to hold fire pending Govt reforms that's unfortunately not an option. The necessary examination in public ended up as a session of 'remote' virtual hearings which, while a daunting prospect, were very successful with few technical glitches. Public participation levels were much higher than usual - we aim to use this experience to illustrate the positives in the 'call for evidence' on virtual meetings. Virtual means are here to stay and are a positive tool helping a remote rural Authority connect with its audience. It's also part of our commitment to the climate change agenda.

We've also been very busy working out how we aid businesses and support their recovery post Covid. The '#WeAreDartmoor' campaign around understanding the faces behind our business was very well received. Through continuous engagement with local businesses, we are now developing new projects aimed at building local community resilience, supporting them to work together, and build on successful community enterprise models. We hope 2021 will start off with positivity, building on the positive behavioural and environmental changes we have all experienced, as we hopefully leave some of the tougher challenges of 2020 behind us.



Chris Hart

Head of Development Management
Dartmoor National Park Authority

#WeAreDartmoor

A Vision for the Future of Market Towns

Newton Abbot, Future High Streets Fund

The Bid

The Future High Street Fund (FHFSF) was established by the Government to deliver £1 billion of investment across the UK to renew and reshape town centres and high streets in a way that improves experiences, drives growth and ensures future sustainability.

As communities recover from COVID-19 the role of towns and how they can best serve residents is more important than ever.

The Newton Abbot project, which has secured £9 million of investment to the Town, is set to the backdrop of an ambitious Local Plan and Town Centre Masterplan and will be a key component part of the evolution of the Town's Garden Communities status.

In 2016 the Council took a significant step toward rejuvenating the Town Centre by acquiring the Market Walk shopping centre which immediately adjoins the existing Market Hall & Square, enabling the Council to take a lead in preparing the town for the next generation.

The centre was refurbished in 2018/19 and the Future High Streets opportunity is the next phase of structural change.

The project seeks to achieve the widest functional change in order for the Town to best align with the growing population that it serves and also capture those it doesn't currently.

In order to understand the opportunities and identify the existing challenges in the Town an assessment of the demographic makeup of was undertaken. This highlighted a very wide socio-economic catchment, part of which was not being fully supported by the current offer. In conjunction with significant urban expansion some opportunities were presented.

A multi-faceted approach was taken in the projects to ensure alignment with the bid parameters but also to ensure the Town can thrive for existing and future generations.

The project seeks to achieve the widest functional change

History & Culture

Newton Abbot has a long history of being a successful Market Town. Central to this is the Market Hall, which has evolved and developed since its creation in the 1870's. Retail shopping habits have gone through a sizable change in recent years and will continue to do so as the Country emerges from the pandemic. However the opportunity for a strong and vibrant market can be seen through the UK and beyond and is key to the success of a healthy town centre, not just for retail but as a social setting.



A Vision for the Future of Market Towns cont...

A remodel of the building is proposed, stripping back unfavourable modern additions and creating a space that can serve the Town throughout the day and into the evening, hosting a wide range of local produce and embracing what the region has to offer given its excellent location between coast and moorland. The market will also act as an incubator for new and emerging businesses to use flexible space to grow their business before moving to permanent accommodation in Market Walk.

The existing Alexandra Cinema portion of the building is to be reconnected into the market hall. Enabling flexible use for theatre, performance and events, while not without its sensitivity for such a locally important building. A strong leading vision will be key to the successful delivery of change.

Transport

Climate change and its effects on community are increasingly relevant in today's society. The impact of COVID-19 has prompted a shift towards encouraging more outdoor exercise and localised working habits. Some of this will remain and ensuring the Town makes provision for this is critical - not just in the short term but in the long term. In this respect the project seeks to deliver significant change from the railway gateway into the Town through to the primary shopping area. Creating new cycle routes, widening pavements and putting pedestrians first and vehicle traffic second, without inhibiting traffic movement across the Town. A careful balance has to be achieved given the semi-rural position of the Town and the large catchment that it can serve, acknowledging that for the time being cars remain an important tool for people's mobility. This is bolstered by the Town's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, this being a leading market town in the county in terms of cycling and active travel delivery.

Evening Economy

Supporting the evening economy of the food and beverage elements of the market hall will be a new four screen cinema, operated by a regional business who have a long association with the Town, having had several generations run the Cinema over a 70 year period.

The opportunity to realise structural change across multiple areas of a Town is rare. Queen Street changes were first discussed ten years ago and a new Cinema was a strong consultation response from the Local Plan.

Scene setting through local policy has been critical to the projects structure, but alongside this the Council have sought to best use its land assets to facilitate positive social, environmental, and economic change and take a strong lead in how this is delivered.

The Government announced the funding awards on the 19th May 2021 and the project will now commence with delivery in phases being complete by late 2023.



Tom Butcher

Senior Estates & Development Surveyor
Teignbridge District Council

Further information on the projects and their progress can be found on the Councils website through this direct link www.teignbridge.gov.uk

South West Young Planners Round Up

Devon, Cornwall & Somerset Young Planners (DCSYP)

News & Events

After a difficult couple of years, we can now cautiously think about bringing the types of events we all know and love back into the calendar, getting Young Planners back together to socialise, learn and network in a shared environment.

There is still a way to go before the RTPi can start hosting in-person events in September / October, but just know that a plan is coming together for our first in-person events post-lockdown and the Steering Group are extremely excited for it! You will be hearing more in Branchout over the coming months.

In the meantime, there will be two virtual events which will present an opportunity to have a bit of fun and give you a chance to get to know your professional colleagues, but will also provide some great CPD such that Young Planners can continue to develop in their careers. These events are shown below but keep your eye on the SW Young Planner's social media pages and the RTPi's events page for more details as they emerge!

Steering Group Update

We would like you to join us in welcoming two enthusiastic new members to the DC&S Young Planners Steering Group, who are keen planners and are both excited to help in directing Young Planner events down here in the South West Peninsula. These are Toby Clayton, currently a student at Plymouth University, and Jozie (Jojo) Bannister, who is a Planner at Tetra Tech Planning. Both have already contributed greatly to the workings of the group and we have no doubt they will continue to be a positive addition.

The group now comprises as follows:

- **Keegan Ferreday** Avalon Planning and Heritage - Chair
- **Opani Mudalige** LRM Planning - Vice Chair & Treasurer
- **Faye Stewart** Bailey Partnership
- **Elliot Dommett** Stantec
- **Jozie Bannister** Tetra Tech Planning
- **Toby Clayton** Plymouth University

Our newest members introduce themselves on the next page and let you know how they've been keeping busy through lockdown!

Forthcoming events:

Informal Online Social and Networking event

23 June on Microsoft Teams

CPD: Planning Committee and Presentation Skills

(Mid-July exact date TBC)

BOOK NOW

www.rtpi.org.uk/ypnetworkingjune2021



South West Young Planners Round Up

Jozie Bannister



Where do you work/study?

I currently work at Tetra Tech Planning as a Planner

Where did you study to become a planner?

Before planning, I studied a law degree that I started at the University of Brighton and finished at Plymouth University. I then stayed at Plymouth for my MSc in Planning and graduated in 2019.

What is the best thing about your job?

I really enjoy the diversity of projects that I get to work on and the variety of clients that we work for as a team and wider business, no two days are the same which keeps things really interesting. I particularly enjoy the many challenges planning can throw at us and the cross sector collaboration that makes finding solutions so much more rewarding.

How have you been passing the time during the lockdown?

Aside from work, I enjoy being out and about walking or running with my dog and, with my usual sports cancelled during the pandemic, I have really got into cycling. I've spent a bit of time gardening recently as well, but there's work to be done there!

Toby Clayton



Where do you work/study?

I am currently a student at the University of Plymouth

Where are you studying to become a planner?

I am currently studying MSc Planning at the University of Plymouth full time. I also graduated from the University of Plymouth in 2020 with a degree in BA Geography.

What is the best thing about your job/course?

Gaining a working knowledge of the planning system from a great degree programme that has been accredited by the RTPI. The course has fantastic teaching staff, a wide range of guest speakers and challenging assignments that give you a taste of what it is like to be a part of the planning profession.

How have you been passing the time during the lockdown?

I started running at the worst possible time of year in a city with its own weather system and I watched a lot of football.

Find out more
www.rtpi.org.uk/swyp

South West Young Planners Round Up

Dorset Young Planners

We are delighted that one of our steering group members has been nominated as a Woman of Influence.

Frances Summers tells us more...



Being nominated as a Woman of Influence 2021 has opened a lot of doors.

It was International Woman's Day when an email landed in my inbox congratulating me on being selected as a Woman of Influence 2021. I had no idea I had been nominated! To be selected alongside Sue Manns, Victoria Hills and Charlotte Morphet, all idols of mine, was really inspiring. I wanted to let you know about the opportunities this has afforded me, to encourage you all to nominate your fantastic Woman of Influence next year.

My colleague Millie Rose voted for me. I don't know if there was anyone else (they have kept quiet if they did) but because Millie and I had worked closely together with enormous workloads, tight deadlines and lots of stress, her nomination meant a lot and made me feel humbled. What a lovely example of women helping women on the most pertinent day of the year.

Due to the nomination I've now met with none other than Victoria Hills to discover opportunities to work closer with the RTPI. This has led to further meetings with the Head of Education at the RTPI to discuss best practice when offering work experience. I'm going to apply to join the English Policy Panel and I hope to get involved in any Diversity and Inclusion work the RTPI are undertaking through CHANGE. It's probably obvious to you by now but being selected as a Woman of Influence has motivated me to continue working hard in this rewarding career.



South West Young Planners Round Up

Healthy Working & Yoga

Following a recent South West Young Planner's Chairs Meeting I was struck by SW Chair Angharad Williams' theme for the year for the South West. Angharad noted how she wanted to encourage colleagues to think about their role in creating an inclusive, healthy environment that enables everyone, no matter who or where they are, to live a good quality of life. When I discussed this with the RTPI Dorset Young Planners Steering Group (DYPSG) we discussed how this topic could include 'healthy working' and work life balance and how we as Young Planners have adapted to a different working environment since the first national lockdown.

Despite planning professionals being separated, we made a conscious decision to get together on Teams calls and WhatsApp groups to share our lockdown learnings. Conversing with fellow members we found that there were several positive unintended consequences of the lockdowns. WFH meant we were still just as busy but were able to better connect with our families and manage our time more effectively. The effects on the body and the mind however were less easy to pinpoint.

Along with scores of other young professionals I took up Yoga pretty recently after the first lockdown, so I was personally very grateful to a local yoga teacher for keeping my head clear and my body moving during this odd year through online classes. The DYPSG hosted a free lunchtime CPD session in April 2020 with Bournemouth based Yogi Melanie Lovegrove. The DYPSG wanted to bring a CPD session of this nature was that research in the Journal of Work and Stress found that lunch-break yoga significantly reduced work-related anxieties and improved productivity.

A day of tapping at your keyboard might not seem all that physically demanding but the unnatural posture of being hunched over your desk can throw your whole body out of sync. Taking the time to do yoga you can realign your spine, shoulders, neck and start to ease any aches and pains. So, after a quick lunchtime session when you inevitably do have to return to your desk, you are better set to sit without slumping and doing further damage. Benefits of taking some time for yourself during a are huge and even though the RTPI are a professional body we really wanted to share some lunchtime wellness, as well as our usual CPDs and social events and bring a skilled teacher on board to pointers for keeping healthy and relaxed a lunchtime yoga flow that was then emailed to attendees. We hope that the session inspired the attendees to take some time for themselves and get something positive out of the pandemic making more of us work from home.

Carla Fulgoni

Chair of Dorset Young Planners



South West Young Planners Round Up

West of England Updates

Review of Recent Events

The end of April saw the South West Young Planners host an online lunchtime Networking Session led by committee members (Chair – Emily Johnson and Members – Jane Drumm, Ellen Fortt and Victoria Gee). The session was an opportunity for an informal chat and social event for familiar faces and new participants in the area.

There was no formal agenda for the session but conversations focused on recent planning policy changes and latest developments in and around Bristol, in particular in relation to Bristol City Centre and Cribbs Causeway.

The group attending was also keen to discuss the recent changes and implications of unlocking the lockdown. With people commenting on the potential return to office working, shops reopening, and the end of virtual Planning Committee meetings proposed from 7th May.

We are keen to hold a mixture of online, and potentially in person, events towards the end of the year, 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 southwest@rtpi.org.uk.

Licentiate Assessment of Professional Competence (L-APC) Discussion event

On 17 May 2021, the West of England Young Planners hosted an event on the Licentiate Assessment of Professional Competence (L-APC) which aimed to provide some lessons learned and top tips for a successful APC application from young planners who have recently achieved Chartership.

Taking the form of an informal and relaxed discussion via Microsoft Teams, attendees were invited to submit questions and topics ahead of, and during, the event to guide the content of the discussion. The panel, made up of Steering Group members, Laura Eimermann, Ellen Fortt and Victoria Gee, provided insightful reflections on their experiences of completing their APC submission. It gave attendees real-life examples of how they went about completing their reflective journal, demonstrating their competencies and choosing case studies, amongst many other tips. Neil Pearce, RTPI Membership Assessment Manager, was also on hand to answer any technical queries on the process and assessment criteria.

With a great turnout of nearly forty attendees and lots of participation, it was a helpful way for APC candidates to gain more insight into the process, learn some top tips or avoid common pitfalls, and benefit from being part of the young planners network. If there is the appetite for a similar session in the future, please do feed this back to the Steering Group.

Forthcoming events:

July Tall Buildings Event (TBC)

Find out more
www.rtpi.org.uk/swyp

South West Young Planners Round Up

Local Plan Consultation During a Pandemic by Victoria Gee.

Member of West of Young Planners Steering Group

Between 13 January and 9 March 2021, Wiltshire Council carried out a Regulation 18 consultation on the emerging Local Plan review. This was undertaken during Coronavirus restrictions and at a time where it wasn't clear when society may be returning to normal life. In the face of the need to progress Local Plans, and meet the Government's target of an up-to-date Local Plan by December 2023, plus the proposals of Planning for the Future White Paper, there was a need ensure an element of business as usual and reach the next milestone on the path to a pre-submission consultation.

Much brainstorming went into preparing the consultation materials and supporting evidence to try and achieve the most interactive and accessible Local Plan consultation the council had ever held, despite the pandemic. The Spatial Planning team worked closely with colleagues in Communications to understand opportunities for using new and/or different digital applications to reach as many people as possible. **Below is a list of some of the elements of the consultation:**

- A library of documents available via the Wiltshire Council website. Hard copies could be requested and delivered by post.
- A dedicated interactive portal map showing consultations proposals, existing policies and land-based constraints.
- 15 online, webinar-style events held using Microsoft Live Events, each relating to one of the 15 'Main Settlements' in Wiltshire and their associated consultation papers.
- Two rural community online events held using Microsoft Live Events.
- A group of officers and customer service colleagues on hand to answer queries over the phone.

- The use of Microsoft Forms for submitting representations in response to consultation questions for each of the consultation papers and supporting documents.

An update to the council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) in July 2020 included temporary arrangements to set the framework for the activities outlined above. Some of these aspects are not exactly new things. For example, the publishing of materials on the website is required and usual practice, however a facility to request printed materials was a response to not being able to provide documents at deposit points. This approach was being taken on by many local authorities that have consulted over the last year or so, and had also been successfully implemented for neighbourhood plans that had progressed to their submission stages during the COVID-19 pandemic, in line with the temporary arrangements of the SCI. While the amended regulations outlined the opportunity to charge recipients for these materials, it was important that this system was a way of ensuring equal access to the consultation. As such there was an emphasis on the website being the first port of call and the posting of documents being the final resort for those without internet access that required this service, in order to not waste resources.

In addition to hosting presentations and Q&As online, in place of the usual practice of presenting to communities in their local village hall or holding workshops at the Wiltshire Council hubs, the team identified an opportunity to digress away from some of the software that would normally be used. For example, using interactive mapping instead of PDF maps, MS Forms instead of a consultation portal and publishing software instead of Word documents. This was testing new things during an informal stage of consultation to understand if new approaches could help make things easier for residents and encourage a greater number of responses; as well as identify where future opportunities

for efficiencies lie at a time when the Government is driving a transition for local authorities to become more digitally focused.

Working closely with the Communications team enabled the use of new communication channels, including the council's mailing lists, notifications tailored to the target audiences, enhanced press releases and enhanced local publicity. All of these aspects helped to support compliance with regulatory requirements and achieved a successful consultation regardless of COVID-19 related restrictions. This didn't happen without criticism however, as some members of the local community questioned the timing of the engagement. Others felt that the materials presented were overly complex, lacking user-friendliness and that the consultation did not manage to reach a sufficient number of the local population. Despite these criticisms, the outcome of the consultation has seen well over 3,000 responses made by members of the public, statutory bodies, developers/landowners and interested parties. While it has been difficult to compare statistics between this consultation and previous Local Plan consultations, there is a clear indication that notwithstanding difficult times, Wiltshire's Spatial Planning team has managed to successfully achieve engagement with the community en route to developing a Draft Local Plan.

South West Young Planners Round Up

Ultimately, lessons have been learnt from the recent consultation, including:

- It is important to use a wide variety of methods to notify and inform the community of the consultation to reach a wide range of demographic groups with different views and opinions.
- People are more drawn to visual materials than long wordy reports. This is both in accessing information and making representations.
- People value face to face events, very pointedly for the opportunity to ask officers questions in person.
- Trialling new software requires careful consideration of the processes needed to collect, collate and analyse data.
- Mixed methods of notifying, presenting and communicating are likely to ensure a range of views are received when consulting in the future.
- Holding online events/meetings can create opportunities for new and/or disenfranchised groups to access information in a way that works for them, but it is unlikely to be the preferred method of accessing presentations for all members of the community.
- Not all those engaging with the consultation have access to electronic means of retrieving the consultation materials and/or prefer to respond by post.
- There are opportunities to use technology far beyond what we did for the consultation, including 'consultation rooms' which imitate the village hall format. The potential to introduce virtual reality to in person and online events, allowing people to visualise development proposals.

Many of the positives listed here echo those from other organisations that have undertaken engagement since March 2020. Therefore, it seems that while not being able to undertake consultations in the usual way has been one challenge, among many for Local Plan timelines, there is a clear benefit of continuing to consider the use of interactive formats and online events to engage with communities on planning matters as society emerges towards somewhere between old times and the new normal.



Victoria Gee

Planning Officer, Wiltshire Council and Member of the RTPI West of England Young Planners Steering Group

Planning School Updates

The South West of England has two planning schools accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute, namely the University of Plymouth and the University of the West of England. Both institutions are critical to the promotion of planning as a future career and play important roles with respect to the professional development of both new and existing planners. In addition to leading on cutting-edge research, both institutions are also active in environmental education and are committed to supporting the communities and stakeholders that surround them.

Moving on from a difficult year

As you would imagine, the last year has been challenging with the COVID-19 pandemic requiring us to considerably change the ways through which we teach, assess and research. While staff have shown considerable resilience in responding to these difficult circumstances, they have also sought to apply themselves with both creativity and flair. Our students have seized these innovations with considerable enthusiasm, and their drive and resilience have been a source of inspiration to us all. So, for our students reading this, thank you!

With restrictions beginning to lift, we are now turning to the future and there is much to focus on. Despite the uncertainty that the pandemic brought about, the need for planners seems as high as ever with both institutions advertising as many jobs as they did pre-pandemic. It is also great to see that many of these opportunities are aligned to the Degree Apprenticeships programmes that both planning schools are supporting.

As planning schools, we pride ourselves on the strong relationships that we have across the region, such as those with local planning authorities, consultancies, developers and community groups. If you have anything that we might be able to help you with, such as small-scale research projects (that might be suitable for student projects or placements) and/or continuing professional development needs (including in-house training where that might be more effective for you), please do get in touch with us and our teams. Our students are also constantly seeking experience of varying length, so if you think you can offer some support, then again please get in contact with us.

Planners feature heavily in the 'build back stronger' rhetoric that is currently being advanced by government, but of course their reforms for planning are likely to have significant implications for how English planning operates moving forward. While the planning schools, as a collective, have actively contributed to debates concerning this pending reform, it is critical that we also listen and reposition ourselves as universities to ensure that these needs are catered for. The knowledge, skills and behaviours that planners are expected to have is already vast, but these expectations are only likely to increase. It is therefore timely that the RTPI is preparing an education review to identify needs and to ensure there is an adequate, and suitably diverse, pool of planners coming forward. While the future ahead looks dynamic, we thought it would be useful for both planning schools to offer an update on our current activity! This update is provided below, but you might also want to keep in touch with the activities of the broader Planning Education and Research Network that the RTPI hosts.



University of Plymouth planning students visit the Royal William Yard, Stonehouse, Plymouth with Dr Olivia Wilson.



Both socially distanced field trips, together with virtual site investigations, have been hosted through the pandemic. Here, UWE Bristol students visit Bristol.

Nick Smith

Head of the UWE Bristol Planning School

Dr Stephen Essex

Head of the University of Plymouth Planning School

Planning School Updates cont...

The University of Plymouth

Programmes

The 'Planning School' at the University of Plymouth is based in the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences. It offers two RTPI-accredited MSc Planning programmes: (1) MSc Planning, which started in 2010, and has been designed as a full-time one year programme or, for those already in planning-related jobs, as a 2.5 year part-time course; and (2) Level 7 Chartered Town Planner Degree Apprenticeship (MSc Town Planning), which started in September, 2019, as a 2.5 year part-time course. Both programmes draw on the same modules, although there are extra modules on the Degree Apprenticeship to support students through the End-Point Assessment for Chartered Membership of the RTPI. The programmes are led by Dr Stephen Essex, with Dr Olivia Wilson.

The Plymouth programmes aim to provide students with the knowledge and practical skills required by planners today, including design and 'place-shaping', development viability and delivery, and community facilitation, negotiation and mediation. This content is achieved through academic and skills training, teaching in research methods, and extensive use of case studies, practitioner talks and field work leading to a dissertation based on the student's area of specialism. Some of the assignments have involved practical exercises, such as the design, collection and analysis of questionnaire surveys for local authorities and Planning Aid England and a development proposal, including viability and design, for a 'real-life' derelict site.

The core modules of both programmes are:

- **Issues and Values in Planning Practice:** the development and application of planning theories, together with the core professional values and skills.
- **Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development:** the institutional framework, policy, assessments, appraisals, and the sustainability agenda.
- **Development Management and Delivery:** planning law and procedures, development control, appeal process, finance and project management.
- **Environmental Knowledge:** from field to stakeholder: quantitative and qualitative methods used in the planning process in building an evidence base for policy and evaluation, together with preparation for the dissertation project.
- **Urban Design:** theories, methodologies and practice: issues facing contemporary and future urban design and place making in spatial planning.
- **Dissertation project:** independent research project.
- **For Degree Apprenticeship students only:** two reflective learning modules.

In addition to the core modules, students take one specialist module from the following list and choose their dissertation topic on a related theme:

- **Coastal Urban Regeneration:** This module examines the economic, social and environmental challenges facing the planning and regeneration of coastal communities, together with the implementation and effectiveness of planning initiatives in port cities, seaside resorts and post-defence sites.
- **Rural Planning:** This module examines how planning policies reflect and affect rural economy, environment and society. Rural governance and decision-making are critically evaluated, together with a focus on rural sustainable transport policy and practice.

Research

There are four main areas of research for staff on the MSc Planning programmes related to the Centre for Research in Environment and Society:

- **Coastal urban regeneration:** Outcomes of regeneration schemes in seaside resorts and waterfront redevelopments; planning response to climate change on the coast; integration of terrestrial and marine planning in the inter-tidal zone.
- **Green infrastructure:** Importance of urban green spaces to the quality of the public realm, health and well-being, biodiversity and climate change strategies.
- **Rural Planning:** The governance of the countryside and policy formulation in rural areas, including studies of citizenship, dementia, policing and animal geographies.
- **Transport Planning:** The promotion of sustainable transport within planning policies and practice, including strategies for smart ticketing and high-quality public transport.

The Plymouth Planning School has a presence on LinkedIn.



Planning School Updates cont...

The University of the West of England

Programmes

The UWE Bristol Planning School extends across two departments, namely the Departments of Architecture and the Built Environment and Geography and Environmental Management. Programmes are offered at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

At an undergraduate level, there is (1) BA (Hons) Architecture and Planning and (2) BSc (Hons) Urban Planning. Architecture and Planning is 4 years in length and is led by Allison Dutoit and Jonathan Bassindale. The programme is accredited by the RTPI, alongside the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and the Architects Registration Board (ARB). Urban Planning is 3 years in length and is accredited by the RTPI as a spatial planning degree, meaning that further study (or experience) is required before a graduate can fully satisfy the RTPI's educational requirements. Both programmes offer excellent employability and student experience, with the two programmes being successful in securing '100%' overall satisfaction scores through the National Student Survey. Urban Planning is led by Dr Deepak Gopinath. Alongside these accredited programmes, there is also BA (Hons) Property Development and Planning that is accredited by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Postgraduate study comprises (1) MSc Urban Planning and (2) MSc Planning and Urban Leadership. Both are available in full-time (1 year) and part-time (2 year) modes and both are accredited by the RTPI as combined programmes meaning that graduates can proceed to become licentiates and follow the Assessment of Professional Competence without any further study. Urban Planning includes core modules focused on policy and plan-making, development management, implementation and design quality, and is supported by options that offer

in-depth coverage of healthy planning, conservation and design, transport and grassroots planning. There is also an opportunity to take a 30-day professional experience placement. While Urban Planning requires physical engagement each week, Planning and Urban Leadership is delivered completely online and provides the opportunity for students to learn at a time and intensity that fits their circumstances. Although the programme shares some modules with MSc Urban Planning (but in a virtual format), Planning and Urban Leadership also focuses on planning for major projects and managing strategic change, creating a distinctive and valuable specialism for students to take forward into practice. MSc Urban Planning is led by Dr Katie McClymont, with Planning and Urban Leadership being led by Nick Croft.

Alongside these traditionally styled programmes, the UWE Bristol Planning School also offers degree apprenticeships in planning, with both undergraduate (known as entry point 1) and postgraduate (known as entry point 2) options available. These programmes, that can be funded from the Apprenticeship Levy, provide a great opportunity for study to be combined with work with apprentices attending the university each week. Although the offer links to existing provision provided through BSc Urban Planning and MSc Urban Planning, the offer is supported by enhanced opportunities for work-based learning and regular meetings between the apprentice, the employer and the planning school. The degree apprenticeship programmes are led by Nick Smith.

All programmes are research-informed and successfully combine theory and practice. Live and real-life project briefs dominant, with a multiple of guests being invited each year to share experiences and expertise.

The UWE Bristol Planning School has a presence on LinkedIn, Facebook and YouTube.

Research

Planning research is directed by two Research Centres: The Centre for Sustainable Planning and Environments (SPE) and The Centre for Transport and Society (CTS). SPE is led by Dr Danielle Sinnett, an Associate Professor in Green Infrastructure. The centre is committed to developing an understanding of how to achieve places that are environmentally sustainable, socially just and economically competitive. Research activity is focused around the pursuit of sustainable urban environments, the governance of place, planning theory, policy and practice and smart cities. SPE has a dedicated blog, while current and recent projects are listed on their website.

Allied to SPE, but with links across the university, is the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Healthy Urban Environments (WHO CC). This centre is led by Dr Louis Rice. Louis is an architect, urban designer and Associate Professor who specialises in architecture and urban design for health and wellbeing.

CTS seeks to improve and promote understanding of the inherent links between lifestyles and personal travel in the context of continuing social and technological change. The centre is led by Professor Graham Parkhurst, Professor of Sustainable Mobility.



MSc Planning dissertation summary report

Name: Daniel Young

Degree programme: MSc Planning

University: University of Plymouth

Current employment: Principal Planning Policy Officer
with Oxford City Council

Dissertation title: 'The implementation of climate change adaptation in the planning and regeneration of coastal urban areas: barriers, priorities and future prospects'

Dan explored the progress that has been made by the planning system in England in addressing the challenge of climate change adaptation in coastal urban areas. His research drew on three original survey components: a content analysis of adopted Local Plan documents that had been approved since 2012, semi-structured interviews with senior planning officers and a questionnaire survey of development management officers. The results indicated that the adaptation produced through the planning system remains incremental rather than transformative. It is focused on experienced hazards, especially flooding, and there is a lack of attention being paid to wider impacts of climate change, such as rising average temperatures. Furthermore, it was found that the contemporary contribution of planning to climate change adaptation is seriously limited by the government's emphasis on housing and economic growth and by the development industry's emphasis on economic viability.

The findings of this research offered some new insights and directions in climate change adaptation research and policy. First, it was clear that planners require useable information from climate science which provides location-specific estimates of a wider range of climate change impacts and in ways that can be defended politically. The creation of such an evidence base geared towards planning decisions represents a challenge to the scientific community. Second, more policy focus and research effort might be given to assessing the awareness, knowledge and responsibility of other stakeholders, especially developers, about climate change. Of particular concern was the use of viability considerations to reduce or negate their planning obligations towards climate change adaptation, which might otherwise have potential long-term benefit and value for these new developments. Third, a higher profile might be given to policy and research into the potential social inequalities and injustices accentuated or created by climate change adaptations, especially for the poor and elderly in coastal communities.



A version of this research was published as a paper in a peer-reviewed journal:

Young, D. & Essex, S. (2020) Integrating climate change adaptation in the planning and regeneration of coastal urban areas: priorities barriers, and future prospects, *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, 63 (5), 912-934.



[/click here for link](#)

RTPI SW Awards for Planning Excellence 2021

Celebrating outstanding planners, plans and projects that demonstrate the power of **planning in our region**

Our awards highlight exceptional examples of how planning and planners have a positive impact on our quality of life in creating exceptional places and protecting our environment. In recognising and rewarding excellence we aim to inspire others to achieve the same high standards.

We have five categories open to entries:

Excellence in Planning Delivery

(Physical buildings or structures etc. which should be totally or substantially completed on the ground)

Excellence in Plan Making Practice

(e.g. Local Plans, Masterplans, Strategies, Neighbourhood Plans, reports or studies)

South West Planning Team of the Year

(public, private or third sector)

South West Young Planner of the Year

2021 Chair's Award is Health Wellbeing and Inclusivity

“What does our overall winner for RTPI South West Awards for Planning Excellence 2020 say?”

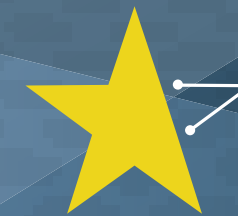
Jersey Integrated Seascape and Landscape Character Assessment Entered by Government of Jersey and Fiona Fyfe Associates Ltd

“The Government of Jersey’s Place and Spatial Planning Team, working with Fiona Fyfe Associates, is thrilled to have won the South West RTPI Award for Planning Excellence. As planners, we strive to deliver better places and a more sustainable future, and it is fantastic when our work is regarded by the judges, and relative to that of our peers, to be worthy of recognition. It is also gratifying that the awards provide a platform to acknowledge and celebrate that planners working in diverse contexts – including small places like Jersey - are delivering planning excellence”.

Kevin Pilley

Head of Place and Spatial Planning
at States of Jersey

Find out more at
rtpi.org.uk/southwestawards



AWARDS for
PLANNING
EXCELLENCE

Entry Deadline
2 July 2021



RTPI SOUTH WEST
AWARDS FOR
PLANNING
EXCELLENCE 2021

Reflections on previous award winners

Since their launch nearly 30 years ago, the RTPI SW Awards for Planning Achievement (1992-2015)/Planning Excellence (from 2016) have celebrated the very best of town and country planning and planners across the South West. The Awards have recognised projects that have enhanced both the urban and rural environments and the lives of those residing, working and visiting the region. In assessing Award entries, the RTPI SW Judging Panels have sought to identify projects of quality demonstrating best practice and innovation.

These annual awards have been given to a very wide range of projects including large scale developments/ redevelopments/ environmental enhancements and smaller scale conservation and community schemes and environmental education initiatives. They have also recognised quality in plan making that, in many cases, sets the context for these projects. The range of projects and plans is clearly demonstrated in the Overall Winners: a schedule of these can be seen using the following link

A similar range applies to the many other entries that have been Category Winners or been Highly Commended, Commended or Shortlisted. It is very relevant to note that many of the successful projects have involved planners working in partnership with other professionals and also consulting regularly with local communities. Examples of these very varied successful schemes across the South West over the last 10 years are set out over the next few pages.

Boscombe Spa Village Regeneration (Bournemouth Council) - a scheme that transformed the seafront and surrounding area, seen as an example by the Judges of what could be achieved in other SW seaside resorts (SW Overall Winner 2010)

Weston-super-Mare Seafront enhancement (North Somerset Council) - A good example of partnership working involving North Somerset Council and the Environment Agency; the updating of the sea defences presented an opportunity to enhance the public realm of the seafront. (SW Overall Winner 2011)



Teignbridge - Learning and Planning Together (Teignbridge District Council) - In its Learning and Planning Together Programme the Council Planners involved local primary schools, secondary schools, sixth formers and planning students from Plymouth University in the preparation of local planning policy. In the Judges' view this was a model that other SW LPAs should follow. (Joint Best Entry in the SW Category 'Other Planning Work' 2011)

Arne Clay Pit Operations/Restoration for wildlife, Isle of Purbeck, Dorset (Dorset County Council) - This project focussed on the restoration of a former ball clay extraction pit as a saline lagoon at a remote location in SE Dorset. Over many years, clay extraction schemes had been devised to safeguard ecologically critical areas, including Ancient Woodland. Throughout both the extraction and restoration phases, there was extensive collaboration between the minerals company, Dorset County Council and the RSPB, in the Judges' view an exemplar of partnership working. (Joint Best Entry in the SW Category 'Schemes on the Ground' 2013)

Reflections on previous award winners cont...

Hudson and Manser Streets Regeneration, Cheltenham (Nash Partnership) - A scheme which transformed what had long been a problem housing area in north Cheltenham. The range of physical, social and economic actions engendered a new sense of community pride with reduced crime rates and increased property values. The project was also the winner in the Category 'Exemplary Planning to deliver Housing' in the RTPI National Awards (Silver Jubilee Cup) 2014 (SW Overall Winner 2014)

Cranbrook New Community, Devon (East Devon District Council) - Community involvement in the on-going planning and development of this new community of some 6,000 homes east of Exeter was particularly highlighted by the Judges. Other features were the scale and speed of development and the extensive early infrastructure including the District Heating Scheme. (Best Entry in the SW Category 'Other Planning Work' 2014)



Exe Estuary Trail (Devon County Council) - Designed for both leisure and commuter use, this 16 mile cycling/walking trail around the Exe estuary incorporated significant measures to protect the sensitive environment (eg extensive bird life). The Judges were impressed by the partnership working involving a number of agencies coordinated by the Devon planning team. There were lessons for other schemes being developed in areas of high environmental quality. (SW Overall Winner 2015)



Plan for Homes, Plymouth (Plymouth City Council) - The Plan aimed to significantly increase and accelerate housing supply in the city with an ambitious target of 5,000 new homes from 2014/5. A number of actions were set out in the Plan including the identification of every possible Council owned site suitable for housing and the release of 33 such sites for houses. This project was judged to be a fine example of a local authority recognising its unique position as a facilitator rather than being just a policy maker and regulator. This was recognised by the RTPI nationally as the Plan was the overall winner of the 2016 National Awards (Silver Jubilee Cup). (SW Overall Winner 2016)

Water Space Project, Bath (Water Space Partnership and Bath & NE Somerset Council) - the project aims to develop and deliver projects to enhance the 16 miles alongside and on the River Avon and Kennet & Avon Canal within Bath & NE Somerset. Significant features of the project were the active partnership working involving the Council, the Environment Agency, the Canal and River Trust and Wessex Water and the extensive community engagement programme including a 'boater survey' of Canal users. (SW Overall Winner 2017)



Reflections on previous award winners cont...

Stafford Close Housing Scheme, Christow, Devon (Dartmoor National Park Authority) - This development of 18 energy efficient 'passivhaus' dwellings for local people in a nationally protected landscape was, in the Judges' view, a clear example of collaborative and partnership working. The involvement of the Christow Community Land Trust provided lessons for the provision of affordable housing in rural areas not only in the South West but throughout the country. (Joint Best Entry in the SW Category 'Excellence in Planning Delivery' 2017)



Old Railway Quarter, Swindon (Swindon Council and Thomas Homes Ltd) - This 200 home development included the restoration of a Grade II* listed building in the Swindon Railway Works Conservation Area, it also incorporates the restoration of the site's remaining key heritage assets. The Judges concluded it was a good example of heritage led regeneration achieved by an effective partnership between the local planning authority and a sympathetic house builder, a model for the redevelopment of similar historic sites. (Joint Best Entry in the SW Category 'Excellence in Planning Delivery' 2017)

Army Basing Programme/Creating Sustainable Communities on Salisbury Plain (Defence Infrastructure Organisation and WYG) - A national £1.2bn Programme included greater concentration of the Army on Salisbury Plain, in particular accommodating 4,300 troops and their families returning from Germany in the year 2000. The Judges concluded that this was an impressive project demonstrating what can be achieved when there is a clear defined aim, committed participants and a local authority prepared to be positive across its responsibilities. The outstanding feature, in the Judges' view, was the excellent working relationships established at the Masterplan stage coordinated by the Army Basing Strategy Group led by Wiltshire Council, an exemplar for developers and local authorities involved with major projects (Best Entry in the SW Category 'Excellence in Planning Decision Making' 2017)



Planning to ensure Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) realise tangible legacies (Sedgemoor District Council) - This innovative approach was taken to deliver legacy benefits of the Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station. These benefits included a number of significant developments in the Bridgwater area, an outcome of work over many years to ensure that the local community derives maximum benefit from the HPC development. As such, the Judges concluded it was a clear example of excellent partnership working and community engagement. (SW Overall Winner 2018)



Plymouth and SW Devon Joint Local Plan (Plymouth City Council) -The Joint Plan is an example of a successful collaboration between local planning authorities committed to meeting the needs of their communities, in this case Plymouth City Council, South Hams DC and West Devon BC. A committed Joint Member Steering Group and wide ranging community involvement programme were particular features. (Highly Commended in the SW Category 'Excellence in Spatial Planning' 2018)



Somerdale Redevelopment, Keynsham (Barton Willmore) - Redevelopment of the former Fry's/Cadbury's complex focussed on the iconic former chocolate factory buildings. New uses include housing, employment units, retirement accommodation, a care home and a new school. The local Keynsham community was involved in the development of the site's Masterplan and this collaboration continues with the new Somerdale leisure facilities being available for use by the whole Keynsham community. (SW Overall Winner 2019)



Southmead Regeneration - Working for the community (Nash Partnership and Streets Reimagined) -This community led scheme aimed to take forward the proposals for this area of north Bristol originally set out by the Southmead Development Trust(SDT) in its Community Plan. The Judges were particularly impressed by the nature and degree of community involvement in the preparation of a Masterplan which even extended to the SDT being involved in the selection of the planning consultants! (Highly Commended in the SW Category 'Excellence in Other Planning Work' 2019)

Swanage Pier Restoration and Regeneration (Swanage Pier Trust) - This £2.2m project involved the urgent repair of the Pier, replacing 41 Greenheart piles and refurbishment of the Grade II listed Marine Villas. The Judges were impressed with the professional planning work involved in the development of the concept/strategy, the coordination/management of the project team and the positive and constructive community engagement programme. (Highly Commended in the SW Category 'Excellence in Planning Delivery' 2019)

The Jersey Integrated Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment (ISLA) (Government of Jersey) – The Assessment provides an understanding of how the island's landscape/ seascape character contributes to the unique sense of place seen as critical for the planning and management of development and change on Jersey. The ILSCA is seen as a pioneering exemplar incorporating much that can be applied within the planning processes in other islands and coastal areas where the natural environment is under pressure from developments. (SW Overall Winner 2020)

Geoff Walker

Head Judge RTPI SW Awards for Planning Excellence 2021

Mike Oakley

Secretary RTPI SW Awards for Planning Excellence 2021

Regional Management Board & Activities Committee Up-date

There are two joint meetings of the Regional Management Board (RMB) and Regional Activities Committee (RAC) to report: 5 February and 23 April. We're planning (or is that hoping?) to meet in person later in the year but for the time being meetings are being held virtually.

Chair's Report

Reports from the chair update the RMB / RAC across a number of matters relating to the running of the region so they have a heavy focus on 'business of the day'. But they're also an opportunity for the chair to add their flavour to how business is run. So, for example, Angharad has encouraged meetings to be recast (with more reports being taken as read) so as to give sufficient time to discuss those agenda items of particular interest to the RMB / RAC. The recasting has also provided an opportunity for presentations relating to Angharad's chair's theme for the year - health and wellbeing.

Corporate Activity

At the February meeting, David Lowin our newly-elected representative on the RTPi General Assembly (GA) provided feedback on the GA held in January. His report included an update on the proposed changes to the composition of the Board of Trustees following a governance review. The topic was explored more thoroughly at the April meeting where Tom Venables, on behalf of the Trustees, set out the proposed reforms to the RTPi constitution. He explained that the Charity Commission expected every registered charity to review its board effectiveness and governance arrangements on a regular basis (the last major review was in 2003). The review was undertaken by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) in 2019/20 and the RTPi

Board of Trustees had considered 60 recommendations. Recommendations on internal workings of the Board had been considered and implemented while recommendations requiring changes to the bye-laws requiring Privy Council approval after a membership vote were being consulted on in 2021. Recommendations that required changes to the regulations would be considered by the Board following consultation with the GA.

In what was a lively discussion, members of the RMB / RAC underlined to Tom that it was important to establish a meaningful role for GA; the English regions' trustee should be nominated by members from more than one region; there needed to be clear expectations on how the regions' trustee engaged with the regions to ensure the views expressed were truly representative; the treasurer should be a directly elected post; and, it was important for the workings of the RTPi's governance architecture to be fully transparent and accessible to the membership.

Our April meeting also welcomed Craig McLaren, the RTPi's Director of Scotland, Ireland and English Regions, who was gathering views on what was needed to support a 'One Institute' approach across the Institute. Craig explained the 'One Institute' approach' had never been defined in any detail but it involved: corporate consistency working towards a common goal across the Institute in terms of brand, offer and quality of service; developing services and products to meet members' needs and circumstances, building on strengths of nations and regions; embedding early engagement, collaboration and co-design across all relevant parts of the Institute in the development of new products and services; and, ensuring there was regular, constructive and ongoing dialogue between corporate services and the nations and regions.

In what was another lively discussion, Craig heard views that the maxim 'one size doesn't fit all' should be applied, as should the principle of subsidiarity. It was also underlined that co-design should mean just that, not 'decide, announce, defend', with sufficient time given to allow proposals to be revised to reflect views in the regions. And, again, the point was made that there should be full transparency in decision-making processes so as to secure willing participation in 'One Institute' decisions.

In his Treasurer's updates Alexis Edwards carried forward the cautionary message from 2020 - in managing the region's finances it was important to mitigate risks given the uncertainties with regard to likely income. Working group leads have been asked to provide updates on their required funds for the remainder of the year so as to allow the budget to be reviewed

Reports from working groups

The region's working groups provide the impetus for a broad range of activities, including our social and CPD events, and report back to RMB / RAC at each meeting. Because of the amount of ground to be covered reports are largely taken as read other than where there are specific matters to discuss and recommendations to be agreed. So, for example, at the April meeting we had an update on this year's RTPi SW Awards for Planning Excellence and an opportunity to consider and confirm award categories and membership of the judging panel; heard about the excellent progress being made in implementing the agreed delivery and communication plan for the South West Engagement Network; and, agreed that the PAE South West Task Group should deliver a webinar for elected members looking at engagement in the planning process.

Obituary - George McDonic

Many planners in the South West, in particular 'retired' members, will have been sad to hear that George McDonic, for many years the Wiltshire County Planning Officer, died in mid February aged 93.

He was a well respected member of the planning profession and was a strong advocate of the vital role played by Branches in the work of the RTPI. In the SW Branch he served for 26 years (1967-1993) on the Committee including as Branch Chairman in 1971/72 and Branch Representative on the Institute's Council between 1972 and 1982. He was subsequently the National President of the RTPI in 1986 one of only two SW Members to have held this office during the last 50 years. He richly deserved to be given the Institute's 'Outstanding Service Award' in 1996 in recognition of his work for the RTPI at both National and Regional levels. For a period he served as Chairman of the South West Aggregates Working Party that sought to establish good working relations between mineral operators and local planning authorities in the region. In recent years he was actively involved with the Wiltshire branch of the CPRE including a long period as Chairman.



George receiving a presentation in 1993 marking 26 years service on the Branch Executive.

Mike Oakley
RTPI South West

Development of renewable projects in emerging markets

During the global pandemic, there has been one of the world's biggest shifts towards climate sustainability and especially the importance of renewable energy usage across the world. With the Global West, along with China and India, becoming world leaders in the development and usage of renewable energy helping to meet their sustainability targets. However, emerging markets in continents such as Africa, Asia and South America have not had the support and the finance needed to develop to meet their renewable energy sustainability goals. They are traditionally more reliable on fossil fuels, such as coal, and have not had the international support needed to convert to renewable energy sources or indeed had the support to create a competitive marketplace in which renewable energy developers can operate.

However, at Trillion Impact we focus on supporting the development of renewable energy projects in emerging markets to help bridge the gap in the development of renewable energy projects. We help co-develop and organise the finance for solar, wind and hydrogen projects through taking a local approach with international partnerships to help solve a global problem.

Our two main goals for every project are to partner with "local" organisations, businesses and governments to develop their own projects and to speed allocation of finance to their renewable projects. All our projects are driven by the local need through engaging local partners and analysing the local data to inform the best quality projects.

Below are three projects we have been helping to develop during the pandemic.

Philippines

In the Philippines, we have supported local development, EPC companies and local municipality governments, such as in Manila, to install roof top PV solar panels on factories and offices as well as solar streetlights.

We have successfully raised a \$100 million loan facility to supply funding directly to these projects and early development has started on the first four solar street light projects in the Philippines.

This project is a great example of urban development meeting renewable energy by creating safer spaces for the community. The solar street lights will allow for people to walk more safely in the urban areas in which we are installing them. The project is targeting high crime areas and those with high night time vehicle accidents.

Afghanistan

We have been working with our local partners and the Afghanistan Government to help design and manage the development of 8MW of PV Solar in Kabul City. The project is a government pilot project to help establish a wider roll-out of solar and other renewable energy projects alongside the Government of Afghanistan.

We have partnered with JACC, a specialist engineering company in Afghanistan, to help us design and build the 8MW Solar project making it a true Afghanistan project and not just another international project. This ensures we keep to our commitments in supporting local businesses in our supply chains as much as possible.

Afghanistan is a challenging country to be working in, given the current security situation. However, it is one of the most important countries we currently work in, due to the fact that only 34% of the country has access to the national grid and 70% of its energy is imported from its border countries according to national data from Government.

Alongside the development and installation of the solar infrastructure, we are also designing a programme to deliver City and Guilds training for electrical engineering and solar engineering in Kabul in order to create a sustainable work force for the development of future solar projects in the country.



Development of renewable projects in emerging markets cont...

Northern Macedonia

We are currently the finance partner for the 283MW solar plant in Northern Macedonia. Working with UK development partners and a Macedonian EPC company this project is also supported by the Northern Macedonian Government.

This solar project marks Northern Macedonia's first utility scale solar project. Currently, Macedonia only produces 26MW of Solar power generation, however the Government is committed to this project and have shown that strongly in their commissioning it.

We have successfully arranged £140 million of debt financing for the development and operation of the solar utility plant in Macedonia.

Raising finance for emerging markets can be difficult due to the high perceived risks. However, with Northern Macedonia, we and our partners have taken the approach of diversifying income streams for the solar plant to help decrease the risks within the country to allow for the right market conditions for funders. We try and take this approach with all our projects to make sure funding can be obtained.

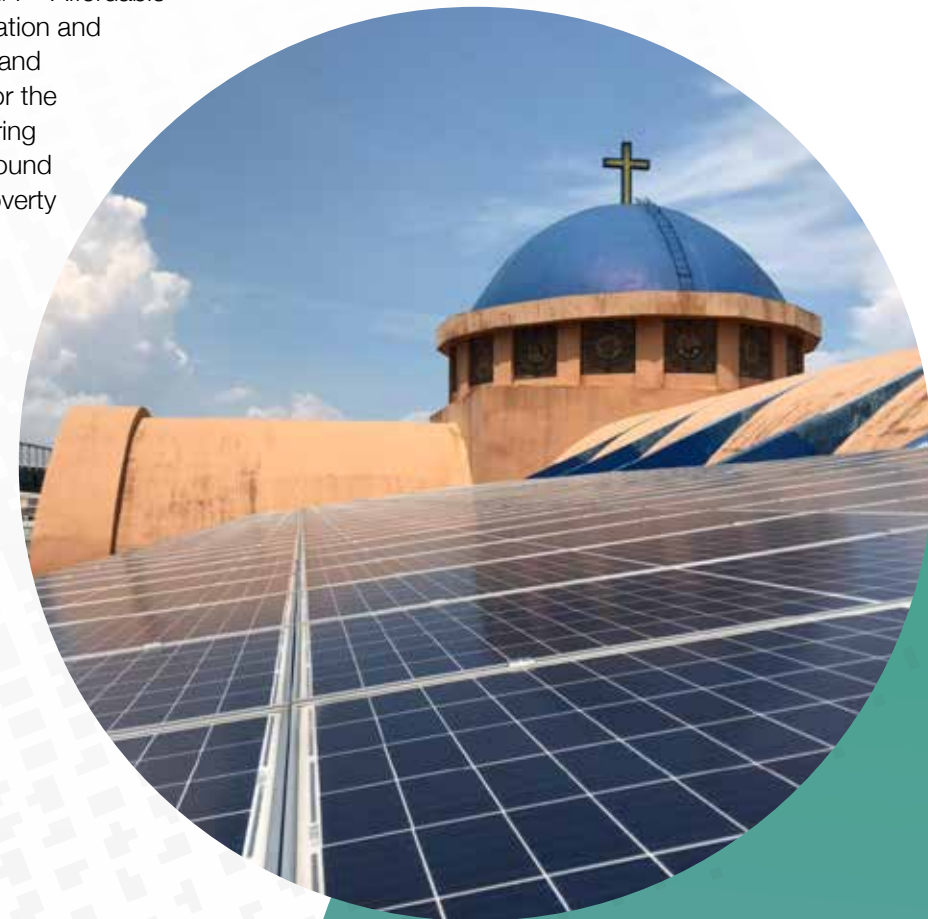
Monitoring of Suitability of Renewable Energy Projects

One of the biggest questions we are asked is how we monitor the impact of the projects on which we are partners. Our current answer is simple; we monitor our projects against the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and report the reduction of carbon emissions and usage of fossil fuels in the country.

The UN's SDGs have become one of the most important international action plans to date. It is the first time ever that the Global North and Global South have had the same UN sustainable indicators placed upon them, as well as encouraged those regions to work together supporting each other. That is why we have fully adopted this approach within the way we conduct business in emerging markets.

Trillion Impact's primary focus goals are SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, Goal 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities and Goal 17 - Partnerships for the Goals. However, our projects do try and bring in elements of the other goals especially around gender development, including lowering poverty and reducing the effect on the climate.

The most recent International Energy Agency (IEA) data shows the 26% of the world's energy is supplied by renewables. There is a long way to go to reach the 100% target, however with the world's governments taking notice of the importance of renewable energy and with the growing number of organisations able to support those projects we may get there in time to help save our living planet. Especially if a local approach is taken to solve a global problem.



Six Months On - First Impressions of the UK Planning System

As a young planner who has recently relocated to the UK from South Africa, I can certainly say the professional as well as personal journey has been interesting to say the least. I began my professional career in South Africa at the start of 2019 after completing my studies in Town and Regional Planning at the University of Pretoria. I started my work in a private sector consulting company which mainly dealt with strategic and spatial planning as well as statutory applications. After doing this for roughly two years I made the decision to relocate to the UK. Upon arriving my search was focused on a public sector role. Although it may seem odd having come from the private sector, I was guided by advice I had received from my former manager who had made a similar move to Australia. He said to me the best way to learn the system is to be at the centre of it and so my mind was set. After some searching, I landed a position as a Planning Officer dealing with minor applications at the Teignbridge District Council in South Devon.

The move to a new planning system has been quite a daunting one. Although not totally oblivious to the operations of British planning, after all South Africa inherited quite a lot of it, I have been surprised by certain things but also comfortable in the familiarity of others. The first difference I noticed is the lack of a land use scheme system (zoning schemes). In South Africa this is the crux of all statutory applications. It provides a set of guidance and rules of what you can and cannot do with your property and often does not require the input of planners to review when a change is put forward. Of course, there are instances where planners are involved such as a re-zoning (change of land use), subdivision, consolidation, etc. Planners taking these decisions are, just as in the UK, doing so under a delegated power under a Municipal Planning Tribunal.

The second difference I have observed, and I may be proved wrong as time goes on, is the policy simplification UK planning has. In the UK planning policy is guided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG), and the respective Local Plan. In South Africa on the other hand, there is a plethora of policy from all the various spheres of government (all areas of government are legally seen as on an equal level). In the local sphere you have Integrated Development Plans (IDP) (equivalent to Local Plans), Spatial Development Frameworks (SDF) (long term illustrative guides for an area based on the IDP) and in some instances precinct or local plans (equivalent neighbourhood plans). This may seem straight forward for now, but complexity comes in when you consider that these plans are legally mandated for District (county equivalent), Provincial, and the National government spheres. Further complexity comes in when you add sector specific policy (agriculture, energy, etc.). Putting this all together it quickly gets a bit overwhelming, as this all needs to be taken into consideration when putting forward and considering a planning application.

A third and final difference that I have quickly observed is the public willingness to engage and interact with the planning process. In South Africa generally, apart from the hyper concerned members of public, engagement with members of public is thin. It is viewed to some extent as a tick box exercise simply to comply with legislation and not really to gain additional inputs. From my short time engaging with the public in the UK it appears that there is certainly a higher proportion of the public wanting and willing to put forward their support, opposition, and acknowledgement for an application. These differences may lay at some obvious differences (technology, remoteness, etc.) but also to some that are less obvious such as South Africa only having an all encompassing public engagement system since 1994 and a history of overpromising by planners of what their system can bring to the public.

Apart from these major differences, a similarity between the two systems which I have found in my short time is the general policy principles and ethos behind making decisions. This is specifically referring to managing development in a manner that allows for a certain level of freedom to develop such as improving the local economy, spatial efficiency, ensuring well-functioning places, or even just improving one's own home, to name a few. Whilst at the same time ensuring that development is not left unchecked, inefficient or even utilised in an exploitative manner. This is probably largely driven by a similar democratic and market context in theory.



First Impressions of the UK Planning System cont...

In my short time working for a local council, I have begun to slowly understand the workings of the system, although by no means totally familiar with it I have come to understand the 'method to the madness' so to say in some parts. For example, the detailed assessments of applications and specifically plans for applications was at first a bit confusing to me. I have, however, quickly come to see the need for it. In South Africa for example, the construction of a balcony to one's house is only a building management matter (if at all) and the considerations of the impact it may cause are very rarely considered largely due to rights already being conferred via the respective properties zoning. This case-by-case basis provides for quite a well guided approach of assessing all aspects and impacts a development may have on the applicant as well as their neighbours and despite its longer time is in my opinion suitable.

One aspect that I do feel could be 'imported' from South Africa is the additional weighting and justification that must be provided by the applicant/agent in putting together an application. In the applications I assisted in putting together in South Africa, as a consultant, we were expected to provide a detailed planning statement which supported and justified the application along with plans and designs. This process involved a deep dive into policy, context, character and the impact the application would have on the site and surrounds. This is a mandatory component of applications and without it a local authority would not consider the application. This is opposed to the council side motivation for the application in which the planning officer assess the information put forward and justify why the application should be approved or refused. Although not by any measure fully knowledgeable of the UK planning system I am quickly starting to appreciate its quirks and features. I do hope to expand my knowledge of the system, whilst also bringing an external perspective of it, to help shape it as all planners do.



James Joubert
Planning Officer
Teignbridge District Council

RTPI South West Events 2021

Discussions of the Lunch Queue

Open house networking opportunities hosted by RTPI South West Committee Members

30 September 12.00 - 13.00

As we are now 'all' mostly settled back in our working from home environment, embracing technology and joining the wide variety of RTPI webinars which allow us to learn from professionals from across the UK, there is one that has been difficult to replicate... networking

Therefore we are hosting a range of virtual informal networking events which would allow a small group of members to come together to have those conversations. This could be current issues in planning On the 30 September join me Harry Quartermain, RTPI SW Regional Committee Member for an informal open house event where you can come and talk with other planners in the South West region. I will initiate the conversation with an open discussion on planning reform, we will then take the conversation where the meeting naturally takes us.

<https://www.rtpi.org.uk/events/2021/september>

BOOK NOW



Autumn events programme **COMING SOON**

We are currently working on a hybrid of virtual and physical events in the Autumn. The physical events will only run if they are in line with government advice at the time.

Please note the following dates, venues and themes and keep a look out for updated information on the RTPI Events Calendar [click here](#)

21 September (Webinar)

Planning for Active Travel

28 September

The Rougemont, Exeter

The cost of the design led approach and impact on viability

6 October

The Hilton, Bournemouth

Planning for Coastal Change

October (date TBC) (Webinar)

Enforcement Update

9 November

Bristol City Marriott

Planning Law Update

1 December (Webinar)

The National Design Code

16 December (Webinar)

Planning for Climate Change/Zero Carbon



RTPI South West Events 2021

GETTING OUTDOORS - WALKING EVENTS

Following the Chair's theme of Health and Wellbeing and a desire to offer a broader range of events for members. We are hoping to host a range of walking events. They will be great opportunities to network whilst also exploring a local planning case study or discussion



Walking events

A variety of walking events across the region including:

8 September - The good, bad and ugly of Bristol planning

Please join Julie O'Rourke (Senior Planner at Tetra Tech Planning) and Kath Haddrell (Planning Manager at the Inspectorate) for a short walking tour of the 'good, bad and ugly' examples of planning in Bristol. On the walking tour you will learn about the 'good', the transformation of Queen Square from a underutilised square with an inner ring road to a new urban space which has led to the regeneration of neighbouring neglected spaces and streets. The bad, the roundabout in front of the grade I listed St Mary Redcliffe. Learn about the opportunities to transform the area in the future, and the 'Ugly', the failed 'city in the sky concept' and the Galleries shopping centre. Learn about the plans for a series of concrete walkways above the traffic in Bristol which would have resulted in the first ever 'city in the sky' and the plans to regenerate the Galleries shopping centre which was built in the 1980's. Find out more www.rtpi.org.uk/bristolwalkingtour

14 September - The Cotswold Way and preserving nature vs human impact.

This walk of approximately 4.5 miles will take you along the Cotswold Way an ANOB which includes SSSI's. As part of the walk we will discuss the value of nature and how recreational activities are impacting on this including a discussion on nearby Cotswold Beechwoods and Seven Estuary. We will also discuss what mitigation methods are being put into place.

Leaders will include Paul Baxter who leads the Painswick Beacon Conservation Group and Dr Gareth Parry, Director for Nature's Recovery at Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Find out more www.rtpi.org.uk/cotswoldway

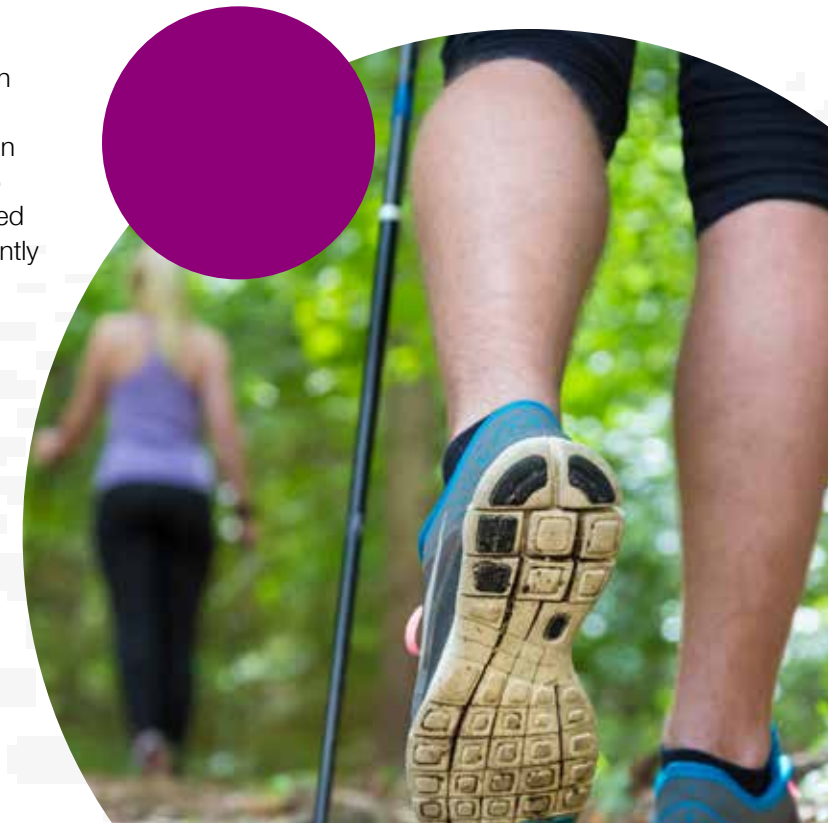
Other walks in the planning

Regenerating Plymouth - This walk will look at the Conservation Area and associated Heritage Action Zone/ Future High Streets Fund, city centre regeneration at different stages, boulevard link to waterfront (Mackay Vision), public realm projects, Pilgrim Court and finish at The Box

Teignmouth - A walk with a Coastal Town Regeneration theme. The route will look at and talk about the where the new Premier Inn hotel to be built, the consultation on the Teign Estuary cycle trail, the Network rail scheme to realigning the railway along the coast, and community led arts / crafts regeneration. Also a discussion on the recently completed Pavilions led by the Council which provides entertainment space, function rooms, restaurant and a number of small business units.

COVID19 and H&S

The health and safety of RTPI members, staff and all participants is very important. This event organised by RTPI South West will therefore only take place if local government advice in relation to the pandemic allows for group gatherings at the time of the event. If the event does go ahead, then to ensure that everyone can enjoy the event safely, we will be asking that all participants follow the any new guidelines issued by government which may include the wearing of a mask and maintaining social distancing. If we have to cancel or reschedule the event, a refund or credit will be offered. A full risk assessment will also be carried out and made available in advance.



The Future Plymouth 2030 webinar series

The Future Plymouth 2030 webinar series has been running almost fortnightly now since November 2020 (and we are just about to have our 13th one on Wednesday 19th May on the topic of Housing!)

I have been amazed how the idea has snowballed from a planned physical two day conference at the University of Plymouth back in the Autumn 2020 to a series of online webinars to share discussion and learning, research and debate on the main topics and themes related to carbon reduction in the built environment, to an ongoing annual webinar series and platform for 'climate conversations' to try to help us achieve 'net zero carbon' by 2030 nationally, not just in Plymouth.

It is reported that the construction industry/built environment is responsible for 40% of the UK's carbon emissions and we have a massive mountain to hack away at to achieve 'net zero carbon' in now only 9 years. This is an enormous task. But the COVID pandemic has demonstrated to us that we can change our behaviour and actions overnight if we have to, if there is an immediate and short term threat to life.

We all use buildings; to live, work, shop and play in, and all need to do our bit to make them better performing and less carbon consuming or emitting, whether new build or retrofitting the mass of existing buildings (which should be priority).

I was the RIBA Plymouth chair for the last 4 years and have just been voted in as Chair Elect to take over as SW Chair in September 2021, and it is with that hat on that I was invited to lots of meetings and discussions across Devon about how to reduce carbon following the national and local Climate Emergency declarations in 2019. I was amazed that we still seemed to be talking about whether a 'carrot could be dangled' to encourage people to want to commission/build better performing buildings, or whether it was time to get out the 'big stick' and tell them that they had to...! I know which type of action I would prefer in an 'emergency' ...! We've known about climate change since the 1980s so this shouldn't really be anything new, a shock or surprise to any of us!

So the webinar series aims to educate and demystify terms and themes associated with carbon reduction in the construction industry/built environment, and to empower all people to take action and make changes in whatever small way they can, because even a few 'lightbulb' moments regarding how we can do things better can ripple out to friends and family, colleagues and clients and we can all help with this mammoth task!

Each webinar runs for 2 hrs (4-6pm) live on a Wednesday with 3 talks of about 20 mins each on a similar theme/topic by speakers from different backgrounds (engineers, architects, politicians, clients, contractors etc.) each reporting/sharing knowledge about research/theories, initiatives, planned or completed projects in their area of expertise, with a Q+A session for the audience to ask the speakers questions at the end, either typed or live.

The live webinars are also recorded (with permission) and then shared through our website:

www.futureplymouth2030.co.uk and



www.youtube.com/channel/UC2v3IPMoHA1LZYIKu4KFbrg

where they remain (for now) as a legacy. We want these conversations to continue until the themes and topics become normal and engrained...



Sarah Lee
Planning Officer

**FUTURE
PLYMOUTH
2030**

The Future Plymouth 2030 webinar series cont...

We would love to get the RTPI and other construction professional institutes more involved in our discussions, learning and sharing, and in the success of the series too as it is attracting listeners from all over the South West and further afield... even up to Scotland and abroad to other countries too! This is the beauty of the series being online now I guess!

We will be taking a break over the summer but look forward to 'season 2' starting again in the Autumn. Please take a look at the topics we have covered so far in 'Past webinars' which can be watched at your leisure, and sign up to attend new webinars live later in the year. Please sign up for the mailing list and follow our activities on social media. We would love to hear about any topics, speakers or projects you would like us to include – the more controversial and thought provoking the better!



Future Plymouth Flyer



Please get in touch at
hello@futureplymouth2030.co.uk