

## Judges' Citation RTPI South East Awards for Planning Excellence 2019

### Category: Young Planner of the Year

**Winner:** Laura Archer

Laura is an enthusiastic and very active young planner who many will know through her commitment to the RTPI Young Planners.



Whilst studying at Newcastle University she was involved in the volunteer group Yes Planning, which seeks to discuss the planning process and issues with young people. Through that involvement she taught a module on planning in schools.

She was nominated as the Chair of the South Coast Young Planners and in 2019 set a target of 10 events, which the network is set to achieve. She has been active in organising their committee meetings, social media promotion and newsletter preparation. She was also elected as Vice-Chair of the National RTPI Young Planners in 2018. In that role she helps to organise their quarterly meetings and assists the RTPI at events and competitions such as the Chief Planners of Tomorrow and the Schools' World Town Planning Day. She's on the Solent Women in Planning Committee and has written articles for IEMA's Transform magazine.

She worked as an Assistant Planner for Adams Hendry and has recently moved to work as a Planner for Barton Wilmore. Whilst working for Adams Hendry she gained a wide variety of experience of planning from research, community engagement, EIA screening and scoping major schemes, appeals and mentoring. She has also been assisting one Local Authority with planning appeals.

The judges were particularly impressed by her passion for planning and active volunteering. They wish her every success in her new role, in her continued volunteering and feel she has a bright future ahead of her in Town Planning.