



IN PERSPECTIVE

INPERSPECTIVE

SPRING 2020

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

**Please contact:
Susan Millington**

Southeast@rtpi.org.uk

The Chair's Word

Well, what an odd situation we find ourselves in. I had drafted a piece for our newsletter a few weeks ago and, reading it back now it's hard to believe how much our world has changed in the space of just a few weeks.



**Eleanor Gingell,
MRTPI**

RTPI South East,
Chair

My draft spoke of excitement for the year ahead. Now we find ourselves in uncharted territory, some of our members are in social isolation, others have found themselves thrown into home working and many of us are trying to juggle childcare on top of work. As such, despite the linked-in posts claiming 'business as normal' it is far from it. Consultation events are being cancelled, hearings and examinations delayed and there is an increasing nervousness about what 'the other side' will look like. However, no matter how bleak things feel now, there will be another side, we will emerge, and our skills will still be required.

Rather than wondering on what planning can do during this crisis I have been reflecting on how this situation could be used as a catalyst for change. Will we finally see the end to dry information boards in draughty village halls? How might we alter the design of our public parks and spaces (2m pathways anyone?)? What about the changes to retailing and restaurants and leisure? We will see a wider spread of food retailing and a move away from large, central stores? For most of these questions there isn't yet an easy answer. However, I suspect some of the emergency changes such as allowing restaurants to provide take-away may become more permanent. [Read here](#) how planners have risen to the challenges they faced in the past few weeks in responding to the impacts of Covid-19 on the planning system.

Looking forward it's hard to contemplate what the rest of this year may bring. At present, many of our CPD activities have been moved to the end of the year. Our CPD Day in Brighton has been re-designed to ensure that all the topics we would have hosted will be available albeit in a shorter form. We are still (at the time of writing) hoping that our annual dinner will go ahead and that our Planning Awards for Excellence will, once again, showcase some of the amazing work that is happening across the region.

Entries will shortly open so please do start thinking about projects across all categories that you may like to enter. Last year's winner, Milton Keynes Council entered the evidence base and new local plan (Plan:MK) which was prepared in record time and was certainly inspiring. It put to bed the myth that all planning policy officers do is sit around drinking coffee.

On a final note, I am absolutely delighted that two of this month's contributors and members of the Regional Activities Committee have been shortlisted for the Young Planner of the year. I'd like to wish Laura Archer and Jeffery Ng the best of luck- they are both inspiring young professionals with so much talent.

Congratulations Stephen Harness, Deputy Head of Profession for DIO, who has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Town Planning Institute. [Stephen was a member of the Regional Activities Committee \(RAC\) until 2019. Stephen said ...](#)



**Stephen Harness
FRTPI**

Deputy Head of
Profession for DIO

"I'm delighted to be elected as a Fellow of the Institute and have my experience and contribution to the profession recognised in this way. Personally, I feel it will inspire me to continue to capacity build for future generations of planners and encourage more to get involved with the Institute. I'd also encourage more people to apply as I found it interesting to take a step back from the day to day pressures and think about what I've achieved and hope to do in the future to deliver best practice and innovation in the profession."

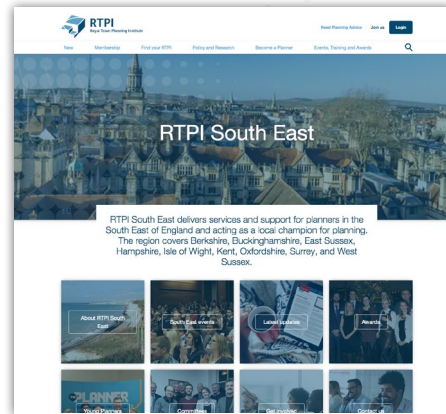
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RTPI NEWS

Spring 2020

New RTPI Website Launched

The RTPI's newly designed website has recently launched. We have found it easier to navigate both on computer and mobile. We hope that you share our excitement.



[Email to let us know what you think >>>](#)

COVID-19 Update

Read our summaries of the latest government updates relating to the economy and planning via our website.



[Read update from the RTPI in response to COVID-19 >](#)

RTPI Awards for

Research Excellence 2020



Now open for entries.

The RTPI Awards for Research Excellence 2020 are now open for entries of high quality, impactful spatial planning research carried out by chartered members, students and staff in accredited planning schools, and planning practitioners in consultancies and organisations from around the world.

Categories this year are:

- Sir Peter Hall Award for Research Excellence
- Early Career Researcher Award
- Student Award
- Planning Practitioner Award

The awards will be presented at the opening ceremony of the UK-Ireland **Planning Research Conference**, which will be hosted by the Bartlett School of Planning on 7 September 2020.

Entries for the RTPI Awards for Research Excellence close on

18 May 2020

For more information on how to enter...

[click here >](#)

RTPI South East

Awards for Planning Excellence 2019:



In November we celebrated the winners of our Regional Awards for Planning Excellence 2019 at our Awards ceremony on 21 November.

The regional awards have grown in recent years and entries reflect the diversity of planning achievements irrespective if they recognise an individual or a team, are urban or rural, large or small in scale, involve new development or regeneration and conservation and, also recognise the contribution that communities make to planning for their areas. In 2019, twenty four entries (including Young Planner entries) were received, fifteen were shortlisted by the Judging Panel as being potential examples of 'Planning Excellence in the South East'.

With special thanks to our sponsors:

Turley



ftb
Francis Taylor Building



Shortlisted entries were:

1. Warnham Neighbourhood Plan, submitted by [Horsham District Council](#) and [Warham Parish Council](#)
2. South Downs Local Plan, submitted by [South Downs National Park Authority](#)
3. Plan: MK (2016-2031) - Milton Keynes Local Plan and Evidence Base, submitted by [Milton Keynes Council](#) and [AECOM](#)
4. Winterton Square, submitted by [Horsham District Council](#) and [Saxon Weald](#)
5. Perch @ Eco Business Centre Elmsbook Bicester, submitted by [Cherwell District Council](#)
6. Greenham Business Park Local Development Order, West Berkshire, submitted by [West Berkshire Council](#), [Greenham Trust](#) and [Pro Vision](#)
7. Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge Corridor Future Planning Options for the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC), submitted by [5th Studio](#)
8. Heatherwood Hospital Redevelopment, submitted by [Vail Williams LLP](#)
9. Homes for Neighbourhoods – Kensington Street Re-Development, submitted by [Brighton and Hove City Council](#)
10. Lewes Neighbourhood Plan – Pioneering An Ecosystem Approach To Neighbourhood Planning, submitted by [Lewes Town Hall](#)
11. Basingstoke and Deane Heritage SPD (Adopted March 2019), submitted by [Basingstoke and Deane District Council](#)
12. A Heritage Strategy for Canterbury District, submitted by [Canterbury City Council](#)

RTPI Young Planner shortlisted entries were:

13. Rebecca Bacon, Savills
14. Zahra Waters, Lichfield
15. Laura Archer, Barton Willmore

Regional Winner 2019:



Plan: MK (2016-2031)

Milton Keynes Local Plan and Evidence Base,
Submitted by Milton Keynes Council and AECOM



Above: RTPI President 2019 Ian Tant (far left) and RTPI South East's Cian Cronin (far right) present the award to Heather Seale and Michael Moore

Plan: MK (2016-2031)

Milton Keynes Council adopted a new Local Plan (Plan:MK) and has refreshed two related Supplementary Planning Documents in a rapid timeframe, providing certainty for the local community and businesses.

A 12-week turnaround time from the end of Regulation 18 to Regulation 19 ensured that the plan was submitted in March 2018, with the plan being adopted one year later having been found sound.

This was achieved by working in close partnership with consultants AECOM and utilising an MKC project manager responsible for all stakeholder engagement. The approach led to cross-party approval of the plan by Full Council, few objectors at examination and no significant concerns raised by the Planning Inspectorate.

"This is a great example of collaborative working between the public and private sectors and shows Milton Keynes Council yet again leading the way in planning."

Ian Tant,
President of the Royal Town Planning Institute 2019

"This is a great example of effective collaboration between public and private planners working together to support the production of Plan:MK. Public engagement was proactive, comprehensive and continuous and the overall approach illustrates planners' passion for plan making with high levels of technical and soft skills demonstrating excellence in plan making and leading practice."

Sue Percy CBE,
Chair of the judging panel and Chief Executive of the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation

**The Winning ...
Judges' Citation
RTPI South East
Awards for Planning
Excellence 2019**

[Can be read here >>>](#)

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RTPI South East

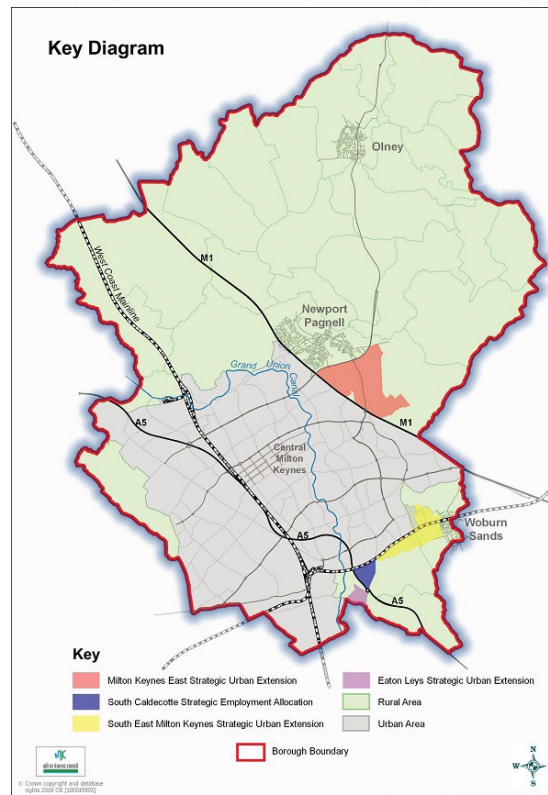
Awards for Planning Excellence 2019:

The full list of category winners were:

Excellence in Plan Making Practice

Plan:MK (2016-2031) - Milton Keynes Local Plan and Evidence Base (Milton Keynes Council and AECOM)

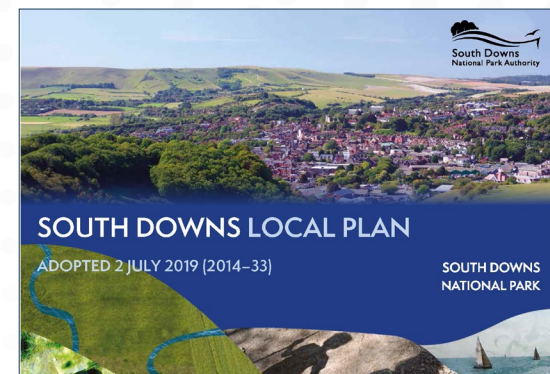
In under 3 years, Milton Keynes Council (assisted by AECOM) produced multiple technical studies; adopted a new Local Plan (Plan:MK); and consulted on two related Supplementary Planning Documents.



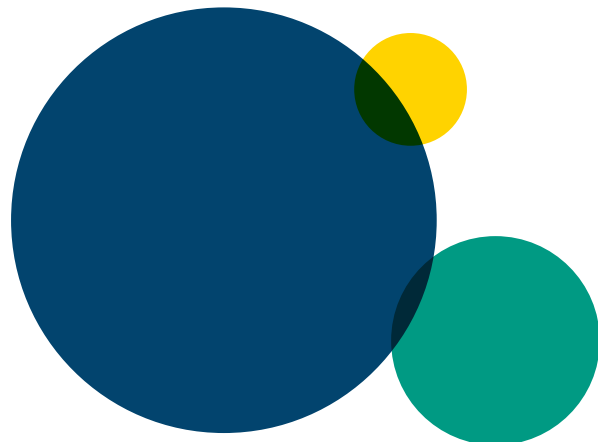
Excellence in Planning for the Natural Environment

South Downs Local Plan (South Downs National Park Authority)

The first local plan for the UK's newest national park. It is landscape led, delivers ecosystem services and facilitates localism in a protected landscape.



[Read the judges' panel winning citation here >>>](#)



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RTPI South East Awards for Planning Excellence 2019:

Excellence in Planning for Heritage and Culture

A Heritage Strategy for Canterbury District (Canterbury City Council)

The strategy provides a framework to protect, promote and prosper from the district's unique historic environment; placing heritage at the heart of all we do.



[Read the judges' panel winning citation here >>>](#)

Young Planner of the Year

Laura Archer - Barton Willmore



Laura is an ambitious, highly motivated and passionate planner who seeks to promote the planning profession and inspire younger generations into the built environment.



Laura Archer –
Young Planner of the Year 2019

[Read the judges' panel winning citation here >>>](#)

Young Planner commendations were also awarded to ...

Commendation: Young Planner

Zahra Waters - Lichfield

Zahra is a Senior Planner in the Lichfields Thames Valley Office and the co-chair of G4C Berkshire.

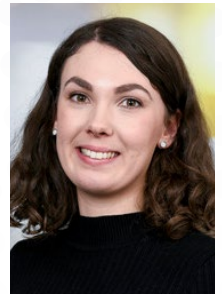


[Read the judges' panel winning citation here >>>](#)

Commendation: Young Planner

Rebecca Bacon - Savills

Rebecca has experience working on a broad range of planning projects and is particularly passionate about inspiring other planners and future planners in the profession.



[Read the judges' panel winning citation here >>>](#)

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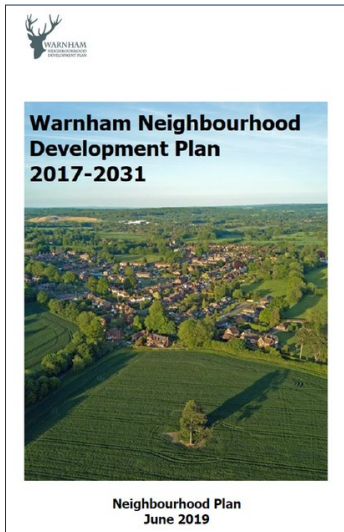
RTPI South East Awards for Planning Excellence 2019:

The full list of awarded commendations were:

Commendation: Plan Making Practise

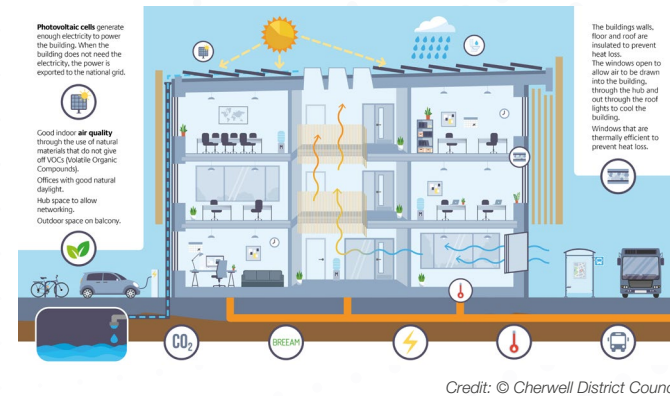
Warnham Neighbourhood Plan (Horsham District Council and Warnham Parish Council)

Warnham Parish and Horsham Council have demonstrated that a collaborative approach towards Neighbourhood Planning can deliver a plan of which the community is duly proud of.



Commendation: Successful Economy

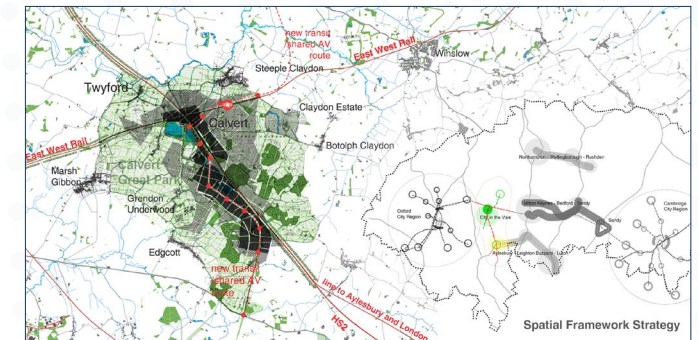
Perch @ Eco Business Centre, Elmsbook, Bicester (Cherwell District Council)



The Eco Business Centre is an exemplar in sustainability, the first non-residential Passivhaus Plus building in the UK, it will provide office and co-working space.

Commendation: Tech in Planning

Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge Corridor Future Planning Options for the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) (5th Studio)



Future planning study for the globally significant Oxford-Cambridge arc to 2050, integrating infrastructure, development and the protection and enhancement of existing landscape and urban settings.

[Read the judges' panel winning citation here >>>](#)

[Read the judges' panel winning citation here >>>](#)

[Read the judges' panel winning citation here >>>](#)

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RTPI South East Awards for Planning Excellence 2019:

Commendation: Health and Well-being

Heatherwood Hospital Redevelopment
(Vail Williams LLP)



Credit: © Vail Williams LLP

A new elective care hospital, 230 'enabling' residential units, conversion of an existing building for a GP Hub and office and creation of bespoke SANG.

[Read the judges' panel winning citation here >>>](#)

Commendation: Natural Environment

Lewes Neighbourhood Plan



Credit: © Richard Eastham

Pioneering An Ecosystem Approach To Neighbourhood Planning (Lewes Town Council, South Downs National Park Authority, Feria Urbanism, Lewes Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and many local community groups and representatives).

[Read the judges' panel winning citation here >>>](#)

RTPI

Awards for Planning Excellence 2020



Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), this year's RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence will be delivered as a virtual ceremony instead of a live production. We would be delighted if you and your colleagues would join us on ...

30 April, at 1pm, on our [YouTube channel](#)

... where we will be announcing the category winners and our **Silver Jubilee Cup** winner, awarded to the best project overall. Please join us then to celebrate our excellent winners and finalists.

[Click here >>>](#)

for details of last year's winning and commended entries.

RTPI South East Young Planner of the Year 2019



An Interview with
Laura Archer



How and why did you embark on your planning career?

On a family holiday I visited Port Merion in Wales after watching the tv series 'The Prisoner'. Seeing this idyll, colourful place inspired me to want to be involved in shaping places and from then I always had an interest in the human side of geography. When applying for university, it was actually my sixth form teacher in Liverpool who pointed out he thought my passions would best suit a degree in Urban Planning.

I wanted to have a say in creating and adding value to places to make sure they are welcoming, intriguing but most of all healthy, incorporating well connected green spaces with sustainable transport and walkability at their heart. So, I agreed with my sixth form teacher, packed my bags (sorry mum!) and went to study my undergraduate at Newcastle University – the rest is history!

What made you apply for Young Planner of the Year?

As I was becoming more and more involved with different networks and became the Chair of the South Coast Young Planners Network, I received a few messages from those encouraging me to go for it – which was lovely! I also felt I was developing skills as a Planner in my job and wanted to apply to show that it doesn't matter how early you are in your career you can be active and make a difference.

I was very lucky that my ex-colleague, SCYPN committee member and friend, Lawrie Blyth, supported my application and nominated me for South East Young Planner of the Year.

What does your current job involve?

Currently, I am a Planner at Barton Willmore based in their Southampton office working on strategic allocations and large-scale residential and commercial applications. More recently, I am involved with the proposals related to the redevelopment of St James' Hospital, a Grade II Listed Building, in Portsmouth and the proposals of a mixed use scheme at Ford Airfield which is understood to be the largest Neighbourhood Plan-led proposed allocation in the country.

In my previous job, I was part of a team involved in several infrastructure schemes across the country including the upgrades to Beckton Sewage Treatment Works and a DCO application for the replacement of the Southampton to London pipeline.

I am really lucky that even at the start of my career, I have been able to work on a range of projects – which makes everyday exciting!

Do you feel you have gained something from the experience/do you have any goals for your time as South East Young Planner of the year?

Yes, I have 100% gained from this experience. Personally, I have always tried to avoid any self-reflection but when completing the application progress... you have no option but to do this! This highlighted a lot of things that have been a real positive in my career and personal journey, even if they started with a set back or made me nervous.

Continues overleaf...

RTPI South East Young Planner of the Year 2019

An Interview with **Laura Archer** (continued)

Continued from page 10 ...

Do you feel you have gained something from the experience/do you have any goals for your time as South East Young Planner of the year?

For me, it has been a journey (and still is) to be able to control those nerves whilst public speaking. I have lots of feedback from people saying how calm and controlled I look when I am speaking but inside my head I am overthinking like crazy. It is so common, and we can all learn and support each other.

I would say my goals for my time as South East Young Planner of the year is to continue to get encourage those into the profession and to join the RTPI. At the present time of writing this, due to COVID-19 we are all on lockdown apart from key workers and I am very passionate to make sure the network stays active. I am currently in the process of turning our planned face-to-face CPD events into accessible online platforms for all. I think its is also very important right now to think about our mental health and through the SCYPN we hope to bring fun interactive challenges... watch this space!

What advice would you give to students and recent graduates about to start their career in Town Planning?

I would advise getting to know the different levels of planning policy, such as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and becoming familiar with finding Local Plans on different Councils website – they aren't always so easy to find!

Coming from university, it is best to separate the two worlds. Your writing style will change, and you will naturally become quicker at picking out relevant parts of large documents.

And finally, take every opportunity... even if it makes you nervous! Nerves are normal but by showing enthusiasm and eagerness to get involved with things inside and outside of work you will progress at a much faster pace. Think of those nerves as just how much you care about doing well and succeeding. Don't worry if you don't get it right the first time – we learn better from our mistakes.

Laura Archer

Young Planner of the Year 2019

Planner, Barton Willmore

If you could make one positive change to the current planning system what would this be?

I have always advocated the use of digital technologies to enhance the planning system. There is no time like the present, with the current pandemic, to see how remote working, for example, can be incorporated within normal practices. It is also important to highlight that remote working can have a huge positive impact on the environment and air quality! Digital technologies can also be used to our advantage to speed up the planning process and increase data sharing.

And of course, I must add that I believe we should bring back national and regional plans... for many reasons such as assessing housing needs and delivery fairly, lifting the burden on Local Authorities and their local plan and to enable 'larger than local' or strategic development issues to be dealt with consistently.

“It is such an honour to have been awarded South East Young Planner 2019. I now have this platform to use to encourage young generations to join and get excited about the planning profession!”

This award has given me so many opportunities to develop my career and grow my confidence!

Winning this award at such an early stage in my career (pre-chartership) shows you can have impact no matter how new you are to the profession!”

In this article Nigel Hawkey and Jonathan Bainbridge from Bidwells give us their view on:

WILL DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY IN PLANNING BE ONE OF THE LEGACIES OF COVID-19?

Planners in both the public and private sectors will find their work is massively disrupted over the next few months and the impact has been acknowledged in a [letter from the Chief Planner to all English Local authorities](#).

As well as human impacts of the pandemic, there will be disruption to democratic processes. For example, while planning authorities currently only need three committee members to be quorate, they must be physically present. However, Clause 78 of the [Coronavirus Act 2020](#) gives the ability to make regulations for virtual meetings of local authorities, so that they can continue to proceed. We understand that it will apply until 7th May 2021 - this new way of working could therefore continue for well over a year.

We have already seen remarkable resilience and innovative use of resources available. City of Cambridge Council, Camden Council, The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Aylesbury Vale District Council and Central Bedfordshire Council to name a few, have quickly set up the ability to use video calls for pre application meetings via Skype, MS Teams and Zoom.

East Suffolk Council have stopped site visits and are considering options for site notices and consultations. However, Officers are enabled for Skype audio meetings and conference calls.

Several authorities are now also giving officers significant powers of delegation, such as The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and Norwich City Council. Where an application would previously have gone to Committee, officers will have to consult with the Chair or Vice Chair and if they agree with the recommendation (or are unable to be consulted) then the application can be determined by Officers. Use of processes such as this will become more widespread.

The Government is also enabling Councils (at their discretion) to designate planners as key workers, although many are now also being redeployed to frontline work.

There are also issues regarding plan-making. We are seeing timetables being delayed significantly, for example in North Herts and Chiltern/South Buckinghamshire - both areas with significant housing delivery challenges, where the EiPs have been postponed indefinitely.

In addition, on many sites under construction, or with outline planning permission, condition deadlines might be missed because of the pandemic. Bidwells is lobbying Government to seek a moratorium of at least six months on all such deadlines, to try and mitigate the impact. Furthermore, with sites closing and work halting, there will be an increased shortage of homes, including affordable and key worker accommodation. This will affect future housing delivery test figures.

There is now [updated PINS guidance](#) on appeals and hearings but the picture is changing rapidly. In a [letter to Robert Jenrick](#), barristers at Landmark Chambers are challenging PINS' suggestion that it "is not straightforward" to use technological solutions for appeals hearings. Clearly, these issues need to be resolved quickly.

Greater use of online or virtual public consultations could also become the new standard, although great care will be needed not to alienate those who are less confident with modern technology, or do not have access to it.

Greater use of digital technology in planning must be the way forward and will surely be one of the enduring legacies from the COVID-19 crisis. In the meantime, we must recognise that we're all in this together.



Nigel Hawkey, MRTPI
Partner, Bidwells



Jonathan Bainbridge
Partner, Bidwells

Check out the free webinars and videos from our regions and nations here :

[SCYPN:Nitrates webinar](#)
– 5 May at 11am

[Climate Resilience webinar](#)
– 15 May at 12pm

Our four nations update is available to view here >>>

Planning and the public

Once again, our profession is mulling over the public's role and involvement in planning. The January edition of *The Planner* covered the well-trodden path of the uneasy relationship between the planning system and the public. See the report on Gavin Parker's Nathaniel Lichfield Lecture.

The surveys of attitudes to planners and planning for those involved does not make for pleasant reading: the public does not have a great deal of confidence in the planning system nor those that work within it. It sees decisions being made which they find hard to understand, not aided by lengthy jargon-ridden reports which have a liberal sprinkling of acronyms and subjectivity.

To make matters worse the public see little evidence that their comments on applications, input into the pre-application process or local plan engagement events has had a positive reception nor helped shape the outcome. Public consultation is often seen as tokenism, late in the process and after the key decisions have been made.

If we are to build trust, we must address this state of affairs. I suggest the starting point is to build public confidence in us, the planning professionals

by improving the quality of our work and ensuring it is accessible to all. If we want meaningful input from the public on shaping a new local plan or development proposal we need to be clear about the evidence and choices early in the process. Whilst some of this may be assisted by technology and all the tools now available it is also about making it easy to find the information being relied upon and in an easily understood form.

In plan making we must take steps to avoid tokenism in our engagement. It is better to make clear where there are genuine choices rather than to generate options which are most unlikely to be pursued.

In doing so, we may be able to reduce the burdens we are placing on communities and encourage positive engagement in the areas where there are alternatives. In development management, we must remember our reports are planning's 'shop window'.

They are published and scrutinised by applicants, elected members and the public. The reader should be able to follow the arguments for and against the proposal and, at the very least understand how the decision-maker reached their decision. It is something easily overlooked when caseloads are high and deadlines looming.

A report that ends "on balance" where there has been no balancing throughout is not serving the public or the profession.

Those working on behalf of applicants have a key role to play as they may be the first contact the public have with a planner. They too need to provide high quality reports and be sensitive to local issues and concerns. A well-presented proposal can attract unnecessary ire from a community if attention is not paid to small details such as getting street name and places correct.



Steve Lees

*Planning consultant
RTPI SE RAC member*

Check our new
online event series

RTPI Learn

It offers FREE modules (a mixture of text, web links, video clips, diagrams and interactive quizzes) for planners.

**Get in touch to
contribute to the
Regional magazine**

Please contact:
Susan Millington
Southeast@rtpi.org.uk

General Assembly

What is the General Assembly? Experience from the Sout East regional representative

The General Assembly (GA) is governed by the RTPI Charter, and is a central part of the governance structure of the RTPI. The GA acts a forum for debate about the development of planning policy and practice, the corporate policy of the Institute, and other issues relevant to the Institute. The GA meets three times a year and is chaired by the RTPI President.

The first meeting of the GA is held in January (usually in London) and is followed by the formal inauguration ceremony for the incoming RTPI President. At its meeting in January 2020, Ian Tant chaired his final meeting, and handed over the reins of his RTPI Presidency to Sue Manns who will chair the next three GA meetings. The RTPI's Chief Executive (Victoria Hills), Chair of the Board of Trustees (Sue Bridge), and other senior RTPI representatives also attend and address the forum.

The GA is made up of around 70 Members, comprising representatives who have been elected to the Board of Trustees, Regional representatives, and other General Assembly members across a range of RTPI membership classes (including Licentiatees, Fellows, Associates, and Legal). Members are also expected to volunteer to be part of a standing committee for which further meetings are programmed. Since January 2019 I have been the RTPI South East region's representative on the General Assembly.

This 2-year post requires me to attend all GA meetings (two of which are in London, and one held outside London), to vote in RTPI elections, to join a standing committee (I have recently joined the Membership and Ethics Committee), and most importantly, to act as a liaison between Members in the South East Region and the Institute.

My role is to participate in debate and discussion about future practice of the Institute, with a particular focus on representing the views and priorities for RTPI members in the South East. I am required to report these discussions back to the South East Regional Activities' Committee, to ensure awareness and enable continued debate.

My experience of attending the GA meetings over the past year has largely been positive. The Corporate Strategy Review was a big part of GA discussion in 2019 and I enjoyed being a central part of the debates around this, and bringing the viewpoints of the South East Region directly to the table. Going forward into 2020 it will be interesting to see what the GA consider relevant to focus its attention on.

Unsurprisingly, at the most recent meeting in January 2020, the climate change agenda was a big talking point. It is hard to know from my relatively limited experience of the GA whether the policy and corporate discussions and debates that are had between representatives actually result in useful actions or outcomes. My gut feeling is that this is achieved, but for the benefit of the wider RTPI Membership and GA representatives themselves, I would be keen to see the RTPI monitoring and reporting the outcomes of GA discussions for all to see.



Angela Moore
*Senior Planning Officer ,
Horsham District Council*

**RTPI South East,
Honorary Secretary
GA Representative**

Thames Valley Young Planners Network

Neighbourhood Planning Event

On Tuesday 25 February, the Thames Valley Young Planners Network hosted a Neighbourhood Planning event sponsored by London based consultancy, Oneill Homer. The event was held at Oxford Brookes University, and well attended by young planners from across the profession.

In the past eight years, Oneill Homer have assisted with 141 Neighbourhood Plans across 47 different local planning authorities, and a total of 51 of these have been 'made'.

Neighbourhood planning was introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and gives communities power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood. Neil Homer, the Co-Founder and Planning Director of Oneill Homer, used Blandford Neighbourhood Plan as an example to highlight key considerations and interactions between stakeholders in the Neighbourhood Plan process.

Growth around Blandford in North Dorset is restricted by its classification as a Conservation Areas and its close proximity to an AONB. The town had grown organically across the course of the past 2000 years, leaving limited options for future development. Blandford Town Council, Blandford St Mary and Bryanston Parish are working collaboratively to formulate a Neighbourhood Plan to incorporate the current and future demands of the growing population in the town, ensuring that social infrastructure, including schools, are provided as required and accessible to the residents.

Neil used this example to emphasise the importance of Neighbourhood Plans as effective tools for growth in the 'right' places. Communities such as Blandford and the surrounding Parishes are willing to incorporate growth providing a suitable plan is endorsed.

In the case of Blandford Neighbourhood Plan, Neil stressed potential interactions between new development and existing social provisions – where without adequate thought and preparation, it is all too easy to introduce developments in the wrong locations, affecting traffic flows and existing infrastructure.



Continues overleaf >>>

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By providing communities with the relevant support, they can apply the fundamentals of planning to their own communities, where they fully appreciate how a place really ‘works’.

Neil also ironed out common misconceptions, asserting that ...

“Neighbourhood Plans are not formulated by communities as a way of avoiding development. They are about communities who want the right development in the right places.”

The event was following by an additional hours’ worth of questions from the audience, evidencing how Neighbourhood Planning is a highly emotive topic often overlooked in, when it should be the key to unlock brilliant opportunities at a local level.



Laura Robinson
Planner,
WYG

International Planning

The Story of Kai Tai in Hong Kong

In 2015, I joined the Planning Department of the Hong Kong Government as a Town Planning Graduate at the Kowloon District Planning Office and I was delighted to participate in one of the largest urban redevelopment projects in Hong Kong – Kai Tak Development.

History of Kai Tak

Kai Tak was located at the heart of Kowloon Peninsula and it was originally developed in a private upper-class residential area, which was called “Kai Tak Bund”. However, the residential development failed due to economic difficulties. The site was then bought by the Hong Kong Colonial Government. Kai Tak was rented to an aviation school and later it became the military base for the Royal Air Force. Kai Tak’s runway was then extended by the Japanese Army during the Second World War as Hong Kong was occupied by Japan for three years and eight months.

Since 1950s, Hong Kong Colonial Government has attempted to relocate Kai Tak Airport as there was an increasing demand for airport capacity. In 1970s, Hong Kong Colonial Government has earmarked Chak Lap Kok as the designated site for the new airport but the relocation was finally completed in 1998 as there was a confidence crisis on the future of Hong Kong after the 1 July 1997.



Former Hong Kong Kai Tak International Airport

International Planning

The Story of Kai Tai in Hong Kong

Planning Story in Kai Tak

The first draft plan for Kai Tak Development was launched in 1993 and a feasibility study of Kai Tak Development was completed in 1998. However, Kai Tak Development was revoked as the High Court laid down three tests before commencing any reclamation at the entire area of Victoria Harbour, including (1) Compelling, overriding and present need, (2) No viable alternative and (3) Minimum impairment in Society for Protection of the Harbour Limited v Town Planning Board [2013] HCAL19/2003.

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government therefore had to undergo the planning review with “zero reclamation” as the starting point. One year later, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government commissioned the Kai Tak Planning Review. The cruise terminal and two public housing estates, which were the first development projects in Kai Tak, were finally commenced in 2013.

Having an Airport at the city centre is always a challenge for planners due to its limited expansion potential and its impacts on the surrounding area.

Kai Tak Outline Zoning Plan¹

¹Civil Engineering and Development Department, Hong Kong Government, 2008. Overview of Kai Tak Development. [Available here](#) [Accessed 13 May 2018].



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The relocation of a city airport may unlock the development potential of the airfield and its surrounding area and, more importantly, a long-term post-airport planning is needed to ensure that the redevelopment can support the city. Although Kai Tak relocation and redevelopment were delayed due to political uncertainty and legal challenge, planners should be aware of these “unexpected” circumstances.

Sharing the Story of Kai Tak

In 2018, I was delighted to share the story of Kai Tak at the 2018 Edition of Young Planners Workshop during the General Assembly of the European Council of Spatial Planners – Conseil Européen des Urbanistes - at the Maison de l’Environnement of the Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport.



Young British planners present at major European Planning Conference

Interested in International Planning?

RTPI South East and RTPI London are setting up a Joint International Group. If you are interested in international planning and would like to help promote International Planning, you are invited to join our first **CPD Day - Creating Sustainable Communities** on 26th November

For more details about Joint International Group or our CPD Day, please contact RTPI South East southeast@rtpi.org.uk



Jeffrey Ng MRTPI

*Planning Officer, West Berkshire
RTPI South East Honorary Treasurer
RTPI International Committee*

To register your interest in the RTPI SE and London International group.

Please contact:
Southeast@rtpi.org.uk



Planning Aid update:

- PAE continues to deliver planning advice via our volunteer-led advice email advice service, which can be accessed via advice@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk. A huge thanks to our volunteers who are helping to ensure that this service runs smoothly by providing timely and accurate email advice.
- Planning advice is also available via planningaid.co.uk.
- PAE volunteers are continuing to deliver 1:1 support for our casework clients via remote channels, again many thanks to all those volunteers involved in supporting casework.
- The development of PAE’s new RTPI Learn CPD module on Planning and Community engagement is progressing and, in light of the current circumstances, we are particularly mindful of creating content about virtual engagement practices. The module is scheduled for launch in early summer.
- PAE staff continue to engage in community consultation for NSIP projects via remote channels and, in due course we will share our experiences/lessons learned from this shift to virtual engagement, should it be helpful for your own practice.

We are recruiting a PAE in the Regional Activities Committee.

To register your interest, contact:
southeast@rtpi.org.uk

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Measuring planning outcomes

Commissioned research

The RTPI commissioned research on measuring the social, environmental and economic outcomes of the planning system. As part of this the research team have developed a survey to collect the views of planners and other users of the system. The project is co-funded by the Governments of England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland and this is a great chance to feed in your views.

You can complete the survey via the Dundee online surveys website ...

– [Click here to complete the survey >>>](#)

Best practice

Read the “[best practice across local planning authorities](#)” in responding at pace to the challenges of the pandemic and lockdown.

RTPI Corporate Strategy 2020-2030



[Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Action Plan](#)

Sue Manns, RTPI President has launched a 10-year action plan – CHANGE - to make the planning profession more diverse and inclusive. It directly aligns with our recently published Corporate Strategy 2020-2030 which sees Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity as one of four integrated Pillars.

CHANGE was developed by specialist diversity and inclusion consultancy Brook Graham, who found that while the RTPI performs ‘above average’ in terms of equality, diversity and inclusivity when compared to others in the built environment sector, there is still much to do.

This bespoke action plan will help guide both members and employers to work to achieve a more balanced profession.

RTPI Blog

Top tips on how to adjust to home-working during lockdown [click here >>>](#)

Article by Roisin Willmott OBE FRTPi,
RTPI Director of Wales and Northern Ireland

COVID-19 and APC Assessment schedules

The RTPI continues to see the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) as a key priority and every step has been taken to ensure that the published assessment schedule dates are adhered to.

However, given the current situation with COVID-19, we are keenly aware that things could change quickly - should our plans for the APC change we will keep candidates informed.

For now, please refer to the 2020 [APC Assessment schedule](#) for upcoming submission deadlines and when the outcome of each assessment round will be sent to candidates.

RTPI South East will be hosting an APC webinar on the 3 June

– [Click here to book >](#)

Why I Joined the Thames Valley Young Planner's Steering Committee.



Following my Graduation from Queen's University in Belfast in December 2016, I moved back to the Thames Valley in order to seize the exciting planning opportunities in the region. I started my career in the Planning Policy team at Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils before moving to Turley (South East) in December 2017.

Clara Millar
Planner, Turley

Having attended a number of Young Planner's events, I joined the Steering Group in January 2019 as I was keen to play a more active role in organising and hosting the Network's engaging and informative events. The events hosted by the Thames Valley Young Planners (TVYPN) are wide ranging and provide many opportunities for CPD and networking throughout the year. In the year that I have been on the Steering Committee, the TVYP have hosted a wide range of events including a Neighbourhood Plan workshop, a Heritage Tour of Reading, as well as more informal social events like crazy golf at Junkyard Golf!


The Steering Group are also currently looking at opportunities to continue delivering events over the coming months – albeit via Webinar for the time-being!

Networking is an important skill for Planners and these events provide an excellent platform to develop these skills in a fun and informal setting.

I was, therefore, also enthused by the opportunity to build my local network and to get to know other young planners in the area, particularly since I had attended university in Northern Ireland.

Most importantly, I wanted to be part of a group which inspires young planners: our role as a Steering Group is to promote planning and its significant role in society, as well as to educate other young planners on important and topical areas of the profession.

More recently, we have been particularly encouraged by the number of students getting involved and attending the events – long may it continue as young planners are the future!



If you are interested in joining the Steering Committee, please get in touch.

Please contact:
Southeast@rtpi.org.uk

Your upcoming RTPI South East CPD events

Please note: many of our events have been cancelled or postponed due to Covid-19. The following events are still scheduled to run.

Local Plans

[Wednesday, 30 September, Milton Keynes](#)

This seminar is aimed at those preparing a Local Plan in the context of change and uncertainty. Whether ‘almost there’ or at the early stages of plan making this seminar will examine a number of key issues relating to the development of Local Plans. You will hear from the Regional Awards winner and many more.

Thanks to [Milton Keynes Council](#) for hosting us, and thanks to our sponsor:



Francis Taylor Building

Autumn Legal Update

[Monday, 5 October, London](#)

Barristers present on topical planning issues at this ever-popular annual event hosted by Landmark Barristers Chambers. Looking at new and emerging legislation, recent case law, and the implication these may have.

Brought to you in association with:



Minerals and Waste Planning

[Wednesday, 15 October, London](#)

Join RTPI London and RTPI South East for an introduction to key minerals and waste planning policy and related development management aspects. This workshop aims to provide an overview of the important role planning has in minerals supply and waste management with a focus on London and South East. Considerations will include the relationship of Local Plans (not just Minerals and Waste) with supply and demand issues as well as the challenges and considerations in related planning applications. Amongst other topics, speakers from the public and private sector will cover:

- What does the new London Plan say about waste and minerals and how this impacts on the wider south east
- The importance of Duty to Co-operate in mineral and waste planning
- The circular economy – what is it and how can planners incorporate CE principles into policies and decision-making
- Minerals and waste safeguarding
- An update on legislation affecting waste and minerals planning

Thanks to [London Borough of Camden](#) for hosting us



Housing Delivery

[Wednesday, 4 November, Winchester](#)

As pressure for housing continues to build nationally, the provision of well located, affordable homes to meet demand remains a key issue. This half-day conference considers the role of planning in seeking to meet the housing challenges of the 21st Century. Speakers will consider the wider topics of demand and supply, barriers to delivery, and potential solutions.

Thanks to our sponsor:



Francis Taylor Building

Planning 2030

[Tuesday, 17 November, Crawley](#)

What will be the issues facing planning in Britain in the next 10 years? How can we prepare ourselves and mitigate against housing crisis, climate change crisis, technological advancement in a changing population, and as our global position changes.

CPD Day: Creating Sustainable Communities

[Thursday, 26 November, Brighton](#)

Join us for our first full day CPD where you can choose from a wide range of workshops on topics which have been specifically requested by our members. Attendees will be able to choose up to four sessions (2 in the morning and 2 in the afternoon) covering:

specialist and technical planning knowledge; key skills for practicing planners; and issues in professional practice. This provides an opportunity for participants to create a programme which is tailored to their specific interests and needs.

Heritage Planning

[Thursday, 3 December, Brighton](#)

Conserving and enhancing the historic environment is an integral element of sustainable development. Taking place in Brighton’s Old Courtroom, this event will cover various aspects of heritage in the planning process. Presentations will be given by experts from a variety of backgrounds, working in different areas of the heritage and planning sector. Prior to the event, there will be the option for a guided tour around the beautiful and historic rooms of Brighton Pavilion.

Thanks to our sponsor:



Francis Taylor Building

Your upcoming
RTPI South East
CPD events

continued overleaf ...

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Your upcoming RTPI South East CPD events (continued)

Planning Law Update (morning)

[Wednesday, 9 December, Winchester](#)

This ever-popular annual event, once again hosted in conjunction with No 5 Barristers Chamber, will consist of presentations from our barristers on topical planning issues, with time for questions and answers with the speakers.

Brought together in association with:



Planning Law Update (afternoon)

[Wednesday, 9 December, Winchester](#)

This ever-popular annual event, once again hosted in conjunction with No 5 Barristers Chamber, will consist of presentations from our barristers on topical planning issues, with time for questions and answers with the speakers.

Brought to you in association with:



RTPI South East

Awards for Planning Excellence 2020

Celebrating the power of planning at the local level

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

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

To register your interest in applying, or for more information, contact

–

[RTPI South East](#)



- Entry into the Awards will open on **Monday 4 May 2020** and close **Friday 26 June** at **17:00**
- Entry is **free**
- We are open to all those in the built environment, members and non-members of the RTPI
- Overall Winner automatically shortlisted to national Awards in London for 2021
- This year the Covid-19 pandemic is having an unprecedented impact on all of us. If you are unable to meet the deadline above but would like to apply – **please get in touch to express your interest by 30 May.**