

**Scottish Planner**

The Journal of RTPI Scotland



**RTPI Scotland**

Royal Town Planning Institute

**SP**

Spring Issue / #181/ April 2020

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

# Planning for a Zero Carbon Scotland

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ISSN 1353-9795

The RTPI is a registered charity  
Scottish Registered Charity  
No. SC037841  
Registered Charity No. 262865

**Registered office:**

Royal Town Planning Institute  
41 Botolph Lane  
London  
EC3R 8DL

**Printing:**

Cover: 150gsm Recycled Offset  
Inners: 100gsm Recycled Offset  
4 Colour Process by WATERLESS  
offset using vegetable-oil based  
inks to ISO 12647 standards.



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**Editorial**

The Covid-19 outbreak may have pushed climate change down the news agenda, but we would be foolish to lose sight of the urgency with which we need to start taking action to prepare and adapt to our changing world. The global pandemic has perhaps given us a taste of the disruption and uncertainty that we will have to get used to. Catherine Payne's article on pages 10-11 gives a nothing short of frightening overview of the latest science, reminds us of the need for all of us to act now. On page 8 Lisa Davison summarises the feedback from our NPF4 Member Survey, which also left us in no doubt that climate action is the number one priority for planners in Scotland over the next 30 years. I hope that the other articles in this quarter's Scottish Planner help to provide some answers as to exactly what solutions planners can be helping to promote.

This is my last editorial for Scottish Planner, as I will be moving on from the RTPI at the end of March. Thank you to all of the contributors who I have harangued by email over the years, and to our very creative designers at Barton Wilmore. Thanks also to all those members and volunteers who I've been in touch with over my time with the Institute, it's been great to meet and work with so many of you, and I'm hoping that won't change too much in my new role. Finally, in these sad and uncertain times everyone in the RTPI Scotland office wishes good health to all of our readers and their loved ones.

– Kate Houghton - Co-Editor

# Convenor's Comments:

## 'Unsuited to a career in planning'



Irene Beautyman, Convenor of RTPI Scotland 2020

Irene Beautyman  
MRTPI  
Convenor  
RTPI Scotland  
[@convenorrtpis](https://twitter.com/convenorrtpis)

Hello, I was 'unsuited to a career in Planning'. Having received this stinging advice in my early twenties, I find myself poignantly prouder than ever to be introducing myself as your 2020 Convenor. That I am here at all is testament to having had a warrior mum who force fed me her grit and determination in the form of an 'they told me I couldn't, that's why I did' approach to life. We know that how each individual's life pans out from birth is heavily influenced by parental nature and nurture. But when we think back to where we grew up – be it playing as a child, being a gawky teenager or ultimately moving out into the world on our own – the places we moved through in those years feature as heavily as our parental figures.

Just as with parenting, for good or ill, place also impacted on the daily and cumulative choices we made. Shaping who we are now.

Thirty years on and working at the Local Government Improvement Service to support gritty and determined spatial planners, community planners and public health professionals across Scotland, the contribution of place in reducing Scotlands biggest challenges is centre stage. Its impact on habitual choices from the moment we step out our front door accumulate to either increase or reduce carbon emissions, expand or restrict our sense of isolation, increase or decrease our monthly finances and enable or restrict how long we live our lives in good health.

In response to these challenges, Planning is changing. A quick look at NPF4 content on the Scottish Government's transformingplanning.scot website confirms it. Gone is the heavy emphasis on delivering GDP growth and accommodating more cars. Back is a recognition of Planning's impact on the health of our planet and our people. What a relief. I now dream of a system that enables way more weight to be given to implementing policies on access to active travel, green space, walkable neighbourhoods, community amenities, play and public transport. Those of you who know me will not be surprised that I mean that literally – I'm actually dreaming the stuff.

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**"I now dream of a system that enables way more weight to be given to implementing policies on access to active travel, green space, walkable neighbourhoods, community amenities, play and public transport."**

I'm also lucky enough to have this opportunity to shape that into action. Actions that give us all more confidence and consistency in creating EVERY place with the health of people and planet as the priority. More focus on the long term preventative contribution of Place within a whole system approach to slashing Scotland's sadly shocking health inequalities at the same time as cutting carbon emissions.

Being part of the solution means we are all lucky enough to have way more than a 'career in planning'. And, with our friend and colleague Angela Adams's sudden passing in mind (see page 17 for a tribute to Angela), be more aware than ever that we are only here once so let's make a difference. ■

## Article:

# Place at the heart of meeting Scotland's infrastructure needs

**Tony Rose**, Secretariat for the Infrastructure Commission for Scotland, introduces the Commission's vision for infrastructure's contribution to achieving a zero-carbon economy

The Infrastructure Commission for Scotland was established in early 2019 to provide independent advice to Scottish Ministers on a 30-year vision (the 'why and what') of infrastructure for Scotland and to consider options for delivery (the 'how'). The 'Phase 1: Key findings report, A blueprint for Scotland' was published in January 2020 and focused on the 'why and what' of these challenges. Phase 2, with a focus on the 'how', will be published in the Summer of 2020

Our remit covers a broad spectrum of infrastructure sectors including transport, energy, telecoms, water, waste, flood defences, housing, education, health, justice and culture, and as we progressed it became evident that Scotland's natural infrastructure should also be incorporated in this definition. This diversity of infrastructure sets the Commission apart from similar work undertaken in many other countries, where economic infrastructure has principally been a focus. However, given the desired combined outcomes of inclusive economic growth and net zero carbon that have framed our work, consideration of this diverse infrastructure base is both appropriate and essential. It ensures that a coherent understanding and a systems-wide approach to infrastructure investment and prioritisation can be developed. The need to assess all of this in the context of place, and what is appropriate for a given geography, also helped frame the work of the Commission.

To establish an evidence-base to underpin the work of the Commission, we engaged with over 200 organisations, receiving 150 written responses to our call for evidence as well as through regional forums and specialist roundtable events, the contributors to which

came from across business and academia, all levels of local, regional and national government, private individuals, as well as public and private sector infrastructure operators and deliverers. As importantly, we have also engaged with over 1,000 members of the public in Scotland through either face-to-face workshops or an online survey, to understand better what they view as key infrastructure priorities for the future, as well as some of the trade-offs that may need to be considered.

As set out in the diagram the report identifies 8 core areas of recommendations, that between them also contain 23 specific recommendations that we believe can help to achieve these desired outcomes of an inclusive net zero carbon economy. To highlight one of those 8 themes through our engagement - 'Place' - was identified as a key element to achieving an inclusive net zero carbon economy. It has become clear that a number of essential elements of place contribute to a successful vision of an inclusive net zero carbon economy, and that in combination these need to be further developed to tackle both the challenges of achieving this vision as well as seeking to exploit its opportunities:

- Decision-making has a role in place-making at a national, regional and local



**Tony Rose**  
Secretariat for  
the Infrastructure  
Commission for  
Scotland

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**“as we progressed it became evident that Scotland's natural infrastructure should also be incorporated.”**

level. During our engagement activities, stakeholders who were aware of tools such as the Place Standard believed they provided a strong resource for local decision making, however our engagement also suggested place-making was not sufficiently embedded in practice.

- Appropriate co-ordination of all partners' activities was also a theme, to ensure the different spatial priorities are blended to create places that most meet expectations. Trade-offs and best-fit of priorities across areas needs to be considered.
- Housing has been highlighted by a range of stakeholders as a key driver and enabler of inclusion, from both a spatial and affordability context. One of the fundamental aspects that has been highlighted to the Commission by a range of stakeholders is the need for a clear long term, coherent across Scotland housing needs and demand assessment to be completed.
- Enabling and supporting infrastructure is also considered by a range of stakeholders as an important component to successful housing and commercial property development across Scotland, and is often referred to as the principle of an Infrastructure First approach to development planning and implementation. Local and strategic planners, infrastructure providers (both private utilities and public asset owners) and many housing developers that the Commission engaged with, all identified a need to address the systemic challenges currently faced.

In seeking to build on these aspects, the Commission identified that a coherent place based approach to development planning and investment across all of Scotland should include:

- a strategic national perspective in the first instance, for all tenure housing supply and demand, driven by, in particular, demographic and inclusive net zero carbon economic trends over the long term;
- assessment of existing and currently planned infrastructure investment that could impact on this strategic housing demand profile through effective utilisation of existing assets;
- an across Scotland integrated and effectively co-ordinated Infrastructure First approach to development planning and investment; and
- integrated with a place based assessment at a local, regional and national level that considers key labour market and supply opportunities that will arise from an inclusive net zero carbon economy.

It is anticipated that such a coherent and iterative process would promote greater infrastructure planning coherence across spatial geographies and also assist in identifying the potential economic and business opportunities from an inclusive net zero carbon economy.

The overall work of the Commission across all 8 themes has highlighted the need, in both the public and private sectors, for a transition to a resilient system-wide approach to infrastructure strategy, planning, delivery and operation across all infrastructure sectors supported by a coherent place-based

approach to planning and decision making. Having placed an inclusive net zero carbon economy at the core of its thirty-year vision, the Commission does not underestimate the nature and scale of the challenges as well as the opportunities that this presents to Scotland. Whilst the journey to this vision has already started, the urgency and pace of change will need to increase, and the scale of change required will affect almost every aspect of daily lives. It is also becoming clear that the vision of an inclusive net zero carbon economy, will sometimes require

**“the Commission does not underestimate the nature and scale of the challenges as well as the opportunities that this presents to Scotland.”**

difficult choices to be made and trade-offs to be addressed. Therefore, if we are to be successful in capturing the opportunities whilst facing up to the challenges, it is not a matter of choosing change or no change; it is a matter of what, how and when future change will happen and the choices we make to get there. Informed, enhanced and inclusive engagement with users and citizens throughout that process of change will be critical to the outcomes. ■



<p>↓01</p> <p><b>Leadership</b></p> <p>To provide leadership and demonstrate intent, the Scottish Government should prioritise all new infrastructure investment decisions based on their contribution to the delivery of an inclusive net zero carbon economy.</p>	<p>↓02</p> <p><b>Place</b></p> <p>To achieve an inclusive net zero carbon economy, the Scottish Government should put "place" at the heart of coherent, infrastructure prioritisation and planning.</p>	<p>↓03</p> <p><b>Making the most of existing assets</b></p> <p>Most of the underlying infrastructure that will be used in 30-years' time already exists today. It is therefore essential that these assets are most effectively and efficiently utilised, maintained and enhanced to net zero carbon readiness.</p>	<p>↓04</p> <p><b>Heat and Transport</b></p> <p>Key priorities for Scotland in reaching net zero carbon over the next 30-years will be accelerating the decarbonisation of heat and transport.</p>
<p>↓05</p> <p><b>Regulation</b></p> <p>To incentivise investment at the necessary pace and scale to meet future infrastructure requirements for Scotland, regulation will be a critical component to the delivery of a 30-year inclusive net zero carbon economy vision.</p>	<p>↓06</p> <p><b>Digital &amp; Technology</b></p> <p>Ensure every citizen, organisation and business in Scotland has the ability to access digital public services, to undertake trade and commerce and to participate in future global economic markets regardless of geographic location.</p>	<p>↓07</p> <p><b>The role of the public</b></p> <p>Much greater participation of the public needs to be incorporated as an integral part of infrastructure investment decision-making.</p>	<p>↓08</p> <p><b>Independent long-term advice</b></p> <p>To enable government, regulators and industry to make the transition to a long-term, coherent, systems wide approach to place-based infrastructure strategy and planning.</p>

## Q&A

# Public Enquiries



**Lisa Proudfoot**, Chair of the Scottish Young Planners' Network in 2019/20 and Planner at Montagu Evans, answers our questions

**Lisa Proudfoot**  
MRTPI  
Chair of the Scottish Young Planners' Network in 2019/20 and Planner at Montagu Evans

**1 Who has been the biggest inspiration or influence on your career and why?**

It's been almost 9 years since I started studying Planning at Dundee University, and it's now coming up to 5 years of putting that degree into practice – where has the time gone?! Over the years I have met so many inspiring people who have shaped and influenced my career. When I think about this question, how could I not mention my fellow members on the Scottish Young Planners Network – what an inspiring and passionate group of young planners! Together we seek to champion the voices of young planners throughout Scotland, and to encourage others to be passionate in what they do.

**2 What do you feel is the biggest issue facing planners and planning at the moment?**

There are many issues which people look to planning to solve, but right now Climate Action is at the forefront of the agenda, and quite rightly so as we look to deliver real and significant change at a global, national and local scale. This year our Young Planners Conference will focus on Placemaking in a Climate Crisis and we will look at a range of topics including healthy places, sustainable travel, design and masterplanning, and energy – to name a few! However for me, climate action needs to have a strong focus on the public good, and the health and wellbeing of our people.

**3 Why is planning important?**

Planning is important because it is everything that we do; it influences all aspects of life – geography, politics, the environment... whereby it is the thread that weaves all these competing priorities together to create good places for people, places where people can feel safe, happy and healthy.

**4 Where do you think best exemplifies planning's role in creating great places for people?**

It's everywhere! ...and we need to celebrate it more. We need to shout about the good things planning can do. On a personal level, I really enjoyed judging the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning last year as the passion amongst the participants was inspiring. It really reinforced what I love about planning and I left the process feeling encouraged and motivated to share the amazing work of others. Too often the focus is on the negative issues and constraints that planners face, however we should promote the positive efforts of planners, the work of our profession, and the ability of planners to positively shape the future even more so. Let's be our own cheerleaders!

**5 Reflecting on your shortlisting for Young Planner of the Year, what has been your career highlight so far?**

Some might say that chairing the Scottish Young Planners is my career highlight, and for sure it is one of many! The role has opened so many doors and allowed me to meet new people and be part of topical discussions facing planners of today. But what really hit home for me was volunteering in Kenya with Homes for Scotland / Habitat for Humanity last year. This humbling experience brought back the importance of the basics of planning, of working together to provide homes, spaces for communities, and places where people can feel safe, happy and healthy. This experience whilst taking me out of the everyday and kicking me out of my comfort zone, really settled my view that the wellbeing of people and working together needs to be at the forefront of what we do. Together we can create inspiring places to live, work, communicate and connect. ■

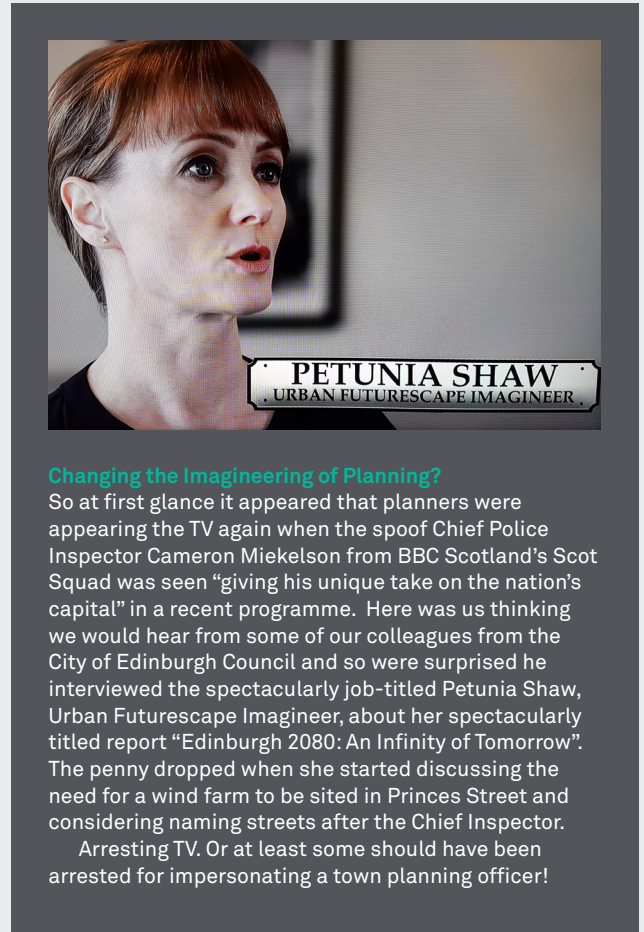
# Immaterial Considerations

An irreverent look at the world of planning...

## Taking the Sherbet?

Thanks to RTPi member David Gibson for sharing an article from [www.glasgowlive.co.uk](http://www.glasgowlive.co.uk) that discusses a plaque near the River Kelvin that, apparently, marks the site of the “Glasgow Sherbet Municipal Works”. The plaque alleges that the site was ‘one of the leading producers of sherbet in the world’ until the day in 1906 when a young apprentice named Bert dropped a glass of Pineappleade in Powder Room B which resulted in an explosion that blew him from the first floor into the adjacent brewery sending beer everywhere, the sign claims. Importantly the plaque goes on to say “The resulting mix of sherbet and fuzzy liquid caused a foam explosion which could be seen from Port Glasgow and was to rewrite the town planning rulebook on the placement of sherbet factories”.

Planning history, planning mystery or – more likely - planning mythery we think!



## Changing the Imagineering of Planning?

So at first glance it appeared that planners were appearing the TV again when the spoof Chief Police Inspector Cameron Miekelson from BBC Scotland’s Scot Squad was seen “giving his unique take on the nation’s capital” in a recent programme. Here was us thinking we would hear from some of our colleagues from the City of Edinburgh Council and so were surprised he interviewed the spectacularly job-titled Petunia Shaw, Urban Futurescape Imagineer, about her spectacularly titled report “Edinburgh 2080: An Infinity of Tomorrow”. The penny dropped when she started discussing the need for a wind farm to be sited in Princes Street and considering naming streets after the Chief Inspector.

Arresting TV. Or at least some should have been arrested for impersonating a town planning officer!

## And the winner is...

The keener eyed reader may remember that last edition of the Scottish Planner asked for people to let us know their favourite front cover of the Scottish Planner. Thanks to all of you who took part. The votes have now been counted and verified and the winner is...drum roll.... the Winter 2017 edition, nicknamed Carlos the Planner! Thanks to the design team at Barton Willmore for all their great work on this and to our former Intern Project Officer Luke Slattery who supported them on this. The cover will now be framed and hung in the RTPi Scotland meeting room.



## Anagram-arama

The new Planning Act has introduced some new planning phrases, soon to be come jargon no doubt. So, for a bit of fun the Immaterial Considerations team has pushed some of the through an anagram generator at [wordsmith.org](http://wordsmith.org) to see what else these words and phrases could be.

So a new **Chief Planning Officer** could be a **caffiene flinching pro** or even the **Chief Refinancing Flop**.

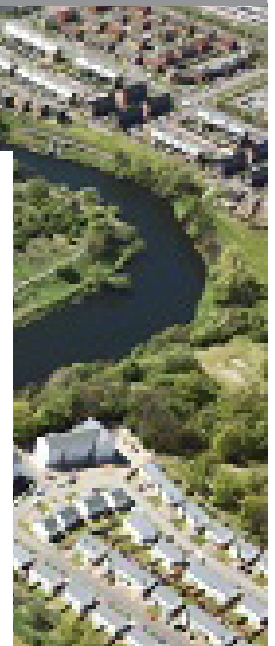
Unsettlingly, the **Purpose of Planning** could be a **planner fusing poop** or a **planner spoofing up**. Hopefully neither!

And we are really hoping that the new **evidence report** to be produced as part of the Local Development Plan gatecheck process will not be a **reconverted pie**



## In Focus:

# RTPI Scotland National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) Members' Survey



**Lisa Davison**, Intern Project Officer at RTPI Scotland, summarises the results of our NPF4 Members' Survey

Last year, the Scottish Government announced that they will be beginning work on the fourth edition of the National Planning Framework. The NPF is Scotland's plan for spatial development over the next 30 years, and NPF4 itself will have a lifespan of 10 years.

It is a priority for RTPI Scotland to ensure that our members, representing the planning profession, have their say on what Scotland needs from NPF4. The first stage of canvassing and understanding these views was a members' survey, which ran from December 2019 to January 2020. Twenty eight members, from across the public and private sectors, provided their feedback to the eleven questions in the survey. The results brought out a number of themes and ideas that will help to inform RTPI Scotland's work on NPF4 in the coming months.

### Climate change

Climate change was the policy theme that emerged time and time again, and members are keen for it to underpin the entire NPF. The 'climate emergency' was referenced in most responses. Many of the respondents suggested that national developments should address environmental concerns directly and where they do not, should be designed with sustainability in mind.

### Format

The format of NPF3, in terms of division into four key themes, was well-received and members wanted this to continue into NPF4. But, they also suggested that each theme should link to climate action and sustainability in some way. In addition to this, as well as the economy, NPF4 should equally embrace environmental and societal priorities.

### Engagement

Members wanted more engagement in the preparation of NPF4, involving both experts and the community in a 'critical' cross-sector approach. Many responses included suggestions on how to improve the accessibility and inclusivity of NPF4 as well as requests to make the framework relevant for all areas of Scotland.

### Deliverability

Members wanted to see how each project would be delivered on as well as clear referencing of how policies will deliver objectives. They were also keen for monitoring to take place to make sure NPF4 is delivering, as well as flexibility to make changes if it is not.

### Future-Proof

Lastly, members wanted to future-proof NPF4 as they were not fully satisfied with how the NPF3 planned for future shifts in circumstances and priorities. They made some innovative suggestions as to how this could work. Ideas included implementing sustainability goals, introducing more technology and online services for engagement and making the NPF4 more accessible and user friendly.

### Next steps – how will we use the results?

Thank you to all of the members who took part in the survey – your feedback has been really valuable. The NPF4 Chapter workshops, run in partnership with the Scottish Government and which many of you participated in during February and March, were partly informed by the survey results. A young planners and international seminar are still to come,

and will provide further opportunities for members to feed their views to the Scottish Government. We are busy collating the outcomes of these events and will provide a full analysis of the issues raised to the Scottish Government by late Spring.

Alongside this work the RTPI Scotland Executive Committee is also working on an 'Issues Paper' that will be submitted to the Scottish Government in response to its NPF4 call for ideas. The paper will highlight RTPI Scotland's priorities for NPF4, and will be published on the website once finalised.

If you have any questions or comments about the survey, it would be great to hear from you. Please email me at [Lisa.Davison@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:Lisa.Davison@rtpi.org.uk)

■ Local Government

■ Private Sector (Developer)

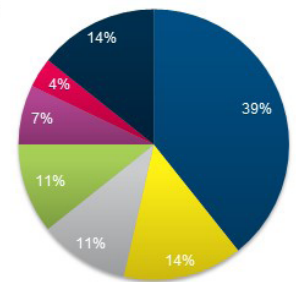
■ Private Sector (Consultancy)

■ Charity Sector

■ Key Agency

■ National Government

■ Other



**Lisa Davison**  
Intern Project Officer,  
RTPI



## In Practice:

# How can Planning support modal shift in new housing developments in Scotland?

**Marian Marsh**, Senior Development Officer at CoMoUK, explores the role of shared transport in enabling sustainable travel

The Climate Emergency has heightened awareness that we should plan to reduce carbon emissions. With transport the greatest contributor in Scotland, shared transport offers a way to support modal shift in new low car neighbourhoods. These are planned with limited parking and high-quality shared transport (shared bikes, including e-bikes, and car club cars, hybrid or electric), public transport, cycle and walking routes.

CoMoUK is a charity promoting the benefits of shared transport for the public good. We support the development of shared modes including car clubs, bikeshare, rideshare and demand responsive transport, as an alternative to private car ownership. We work with planners and developers to raise awareness of the benefits of shared transport and advise on how to plan for shared mobility.

Planning low car neighbourhoods can encourage modal shift. We know that people are more likely to switch travel from the private car to sustainable modes when they move to a new home. Having access to a shared vehicle leads to reductions in car ownership and miles driven plus increased use of other modes. In Scotland, car clubs have been shown to reduce emissions. Shared cars have 48 per cent less tailpipe emissions than the average car while 14 per cent of shared bike users have switched their journey from car. Furthermore, shared e-bikes have huge potential to replace short trips by private car since half of car journeys are under three miles.



### Mobility hubs

Shared transport can be part of an easily planned journey when incorporated into a hub or a network of hubs. These hubs can include other components including public transport, cycle parking, Amazon lockers and more. This approach is popular in mainland Europe.

### Case studies

**Seestadt**, Vienna provides high density housing for 20,000 inhabitants. A fixed annual fee for car spaces in parking garages funds sustainable modes. There is a strong focus on last mile logistics including good walking and cycling routes, bike share and cargo bike share. This package creates streets with more space for people and enables a modal split of 80% sustainable modes, 20% car travel.

**Bremen's** Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan promotes shared transport through a citywide network of hubs and a strong awareness campaign. The city is on target to take 6,000 cars off the road by the end of this year.

One car space per 2 households is allocated at a 600 homes development in **Blicken**, Stockholm. Personal travel planning is introduced at the viewing and buying stages. Half of households joined the car club within a few weeks.

### Ways forward for Scotland

The National Planning Framework 4 provides an opportunity to introduce planning and design tools to encourage the development of low car neighbourhoods and reduce carbon emissions.

Planning tools include reducing car parking alongside minimum cycle parking standards, share bike and car club parking spaces. Travel planning for residents could raise awareness of these alternatives to the private car.

Design tools include the provision of high-quality walking and cycling links and mobility hubs. Private car parking should be located away from housing whilst shared transport should be nearby.



A package of planning, design and behaviour incentives achieves the best results and these benefit from public and private sector collaboration. Free offers to try out shared transport and free ticketing can encourage a switch to sustainable modes. Cycle training using share bikes can encourage new and lapsed cyclists without having to buy a bike. All incentives are best continued after the move-in, to embed behaviour.

The Climate Emergency may be the focus, but the benefits of shared and sustainable transport have wider policy implications including lower particulates emissions, cleaner air, less traffic congestion, more interaction on people-friendly streets, improved health and wellbeing. ■



**Marian Marsh**  
MRTPI  
CoMoUK  
Senior Development  
Officer

## Article:

# The time for action is now

**Catherine Payne, of Resource Efficient Solutions, outlines why climate change is suddenly an emergency, and what that means for planners in Scotland**



**Catherine Payne**  
Environmental  
Strategy Officer,  
Resource Efficient  
Solutions (Fife  
Council ALEO)

By the mid-noughties after years of pressure from scientists and activists, climate change had clawed its way to the top of policymakers' agendas. Then the financial crisis hit, and the issue was jettisoned. While the headlines since have been hogged by BREXIT, Donald Trump and coronavirus; the climate crisis hasn't gone away; emissions have risen and continue to rise globally by 1.5% per year.

It might feel like climate change suddenly became a climate emergency in 2019 – but – spoiler alert, it has always been an emergency. Climate scientists have been trying to warn us of this impending disaster for nearly thirty years since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. Despite three decades of climate change negotiations and much-vaunted international commitments such as the Paris Agreement; there is no sign of a slowdown, let alone a decline, in the rate at which we are adding greenhouse gases (GHGs) to the atmosphere. Over half of all of the GHGs ever released by human activities have been released since Rio.

In 2018 the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) woke the world up with a startling report that suggests we have sleepwalked to the brink an existential threat to ourselves and our children. Climate change is progressing much faster than previously estimated, and emissions need to be cut even deeper to avoid catastrophe. The latest science is clear – climate change has become an emergency because of a collective failure to act. We are on the brink of climate breakdown. We are witnessing changes to planetary systems that scientists did not predict would be observed until the 2080s. The importance of this report cannot be understated. It represents the last chance for humanity to take this issue seriously while there is still time to salvage at least a partially stable climate.

So, what do we mean by climate breakdown, or runaway warming? At present,

56% of GHG emissions are absorbed by natural carbon sinks on land and sea. Only 44% end up in the atmosphere. However, the planet's carbon sink capabilities have been exhausted to tipping point. Our emissions have warmed the climate to the point that we have triggered dangerous 'positive warming feedbacks' and rather than absorbing carbon, natural sinks are starting to actively emit it. These natural stores of GHG emissions have the potential to dwarf anthropogenic emissions. For example, the Australian megafires in 2019-20 emitted double the GHGs than had been released by all human activities in Australia, in the previous year. If natural stores of carbon are released into the atmosphere, at scale, this would trigger an unstoppable warming spiral that could continue for centuries.

Just a decade ago, this terrifying prospect – so called 'runaway climate change' or 'catastrophic climate change' was a fringe idea – it is now the most likely case. We are heading for a world which is 3-6°C warmer than preindustrial times by the end of this century. Previous targets which sought to limit warming to 2°C over preindustrial temperatures are not enough. Warming of 2°C would have 50:50 odds of triggering runaway warming this century. Would you put your children on a plane with 50:50 odds of crashing? If we limit global warming to no more than a 1.5°C increase in global average air temperatures this century, then we have a 66% chance of avoiding runaway climate change. That still gives odds of over 33% of disaster, but this is the best we can hope for.

As if that were not bad enough, there is a realisation in the scientific community that the climate models which we rely on to guide our response, are significantly underestimating the pace and scale of warming due to difficulties in modelling more complex aspects of the climate (including the jet stream, positive warming feedbacks,

and ocean / ice-cap dynamics for example). There is also an inherent optimism bias in assumptions about future emissions levels. Equally, future climate change will be determined by the emissions of people yet to be born using technologies yet to be invented. That's a pretty big ask for a computer model. It turns out our models both underestimate the sensitivity of the climate to GHG emissions and overestimate human intellect – scientists had wrongly assumed that once warned of the problem humans would act.

Perhaps what is most alarming is that decision makers do not realise the limitations of climate modelling and rely upon projections as gospel. Sea level rise modelling is a case in point: The models the IPCC has traditionally used to calculate sea level rise were not designed to account for melting of the polar ice caps (the largest ice caps on the planet), and use 'still wave modelling', i.e., do not account for wave dynamics and storm surge. The IPCC on realising that the models couldn't accurately model ice sheet loss at the poles – 'solved' the problem by removing a contribution from polar ice sheet melt from their sea level rise projections. They did mention this in the small print but awareness of this caveat didn't make it through to those that use the projections to make decisions on the ground including local and national government here in Scotland.

It is vital that planners understand the limitations of the projections. New semi-empirical modelling is trying to improve estimates of sea level rise from polar ice sheets, but the science has not yet been incorporated into flood mapping. Furthermore, SEPA flood mapping can show us flood extents from coastal flooding and pluvial flooding separately but not together. We know that these events are likely to happen together. It's not as simple as just avoiding the known flood plain – tomorrow's flood plain could be considerably larger. How do we deal with these gaps in our knowledge base? Planning decisions are made every day. We don't have time to wait for the models to perfect the science. A good rule of thumb is that we should assume de minimis sea level rise of 2m by 2100 and 1:1000 flood events in

the planning process, today. This uncertainty is writ large for sea level rise projections, but there are high levels of uncertainty for other climate variables as well.

Most of us don't appreciate that climate change impacts are not instantaneous. There are time lags in the atmospheric system, and it can take up to 30 years for the full warming impact from past emissions to be felt. Even if all emissions stopped tomorrow – considerable future climate change impacts are inevitable from GHGs already emitted between 1990 and today. Possibly half of humanity's historic emissions have yet to be fully felt. Think about how much more carbon intensive our lives have become since 1990. Today we have already warmed the climate by 1-1.2C over preindustrial temperatures but the climate impacts from the rapid industrialisation of China and India, from internet commerce and mega data-centres, from fast fashion, from budget airlines – have not yet fully materialised, but they are coming and they are inevitable. Warming will continue for at least 30 years after we reach net zero emissions.

And some changes such as rising sea levels will continue for centuries because we have destabilised major ice sheets and it is likely that we will be powerless to reverse this. We have to decarbonise ASAP and that needs to be an all-consuming wartime-footing for the next 20-30 years, but we must be clear that adaptation will be something that we will have to undertake forever because of the impacts we have already set in train.

As a society we are putting our children on a plane with near certainty of crashing if we don't change our course now. The language might sound like hyperbole, but the latest modelling suggests that the 3-6°C warming world for which we are currently headed could only support a human population of 0.5 – 1 billion. This would be an 88-93% reduction in global population within our lifetimes; something that puts COVID-19 with its case fatality rate of 1-5%, into rather chilling perspective.

### What can we do in the planning community in Scotland?

We need to design and promote places that are resilient, decarbonised and which sequester carbon and prevent it entering the atmosphere. We need to recognise that the models that we are using to plan and design developments significantly understate the problem. There are impacts which will

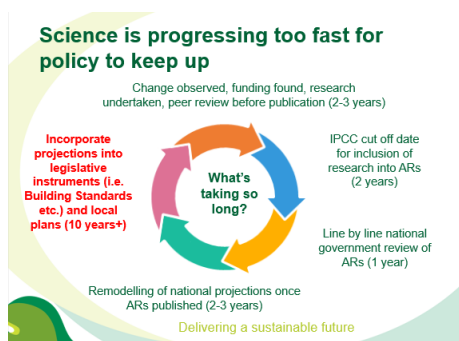
surprise us – there will be multiple black swan climate events.

Scotland is world leading in climate legislation; but building to legal minimums will not protect us because design standards are not keeping pace with the science. Our regulatory tools such as building standards and flood mapping use science that is 15 years out of date. Building to these legal minimums could lead to us making risky planning decisions: Decisions which could create climate liabilities resulting in litigation for lost investment in the best-case scenario; and for corporate manslaughter / culpable homicide in the worst. The only certainty we have about climate change impacts will be in the rear-view mirror. Therefore, as planners we must use the precautionary principle, assume the reasonable worst case, build in headroom – and double it. We must make sure that our policy making is responsive and flexible and

**“Scotland is world leading in climate legislation; but building to legal minimums will not protect us because design standards are not keeping pace with the science.”**

can change course as scientific knowledge progresses. NPF4 is going to have a powerful influence on how we shape the development of Scotland between now and 2050. We must all lobby government to ensure that they are bold enough to use this opportunity to protect our communities from climate change.

We shouldn't lose hope. We know what we need to do: The IPCC is clear, emissions need to fall as low as possible by 2030 and must reach net zero by the middle of the century at the very latest if we are to have any chance of getting off that plane destined to crash. The technologies and policy knowledge needed to avoid this catastrophe already exist, but transformations must begin now. Climate change isn't a zero-sum game – the problem is incremental; any and every action we can take will reduce the scale of the disaster that is approaching. If we act decisively and proactively now our actions could help to tackle not just climate change but many other social and economic problems. We could create a better world out of the prospect of catastrophe. The 2020s MUST be the decade of transformational action or there is no hope of avoiding runaway climate change. Climate change is not a problem for the future – the window for action is now and it is rapidly closing. ■



## Article:

# Five Reasons for Climate Justice in Spatial Planning

Isabella Krabbe, Research Officer at the RTPI, reflects on just transition

Climate change is far from a purely scientific problem and its associated effects will impact communities differently according to socio-economic status, age, culture, health and governance structures, with disadvantaged places and communities being disproportionately more vulnerable to climate change. The concept of 'climate justice' focuses on these social dimensions, and makes clear that climate change represents an ethical challenge, as much as a scientific or technical one.

As part of our "Better Planning: Climate Change" series, the RTPI have recently published "Five Reasons for Climate Justice in Spatial Planning", a position paper calling for 'climate justice' to be at the centre of decision making around climate change. As instances of extreme weather become more frequent, planners and policy makers must recognize that under-resourced planning services, economic disadvantage, and an overwhelming national policy focus on housing delivery make already vulnerable communities even more prone to the impacts of climate change. These interlocking issues point to a much bigger question about whether a planning system that continues to prioritise housing delivery and economic growth above social objectives is compatible with a resilient and net-zero carbon future. The position paper calls for a lens of 'climate justice' to be applied to current planning policy and practice in order to ensure

equitable social outcomes of climate change policies. The paper explores the following five key reasons for placing 'climate justice' at the centre of decision making;

- It reinforces the importance of diversity and equality in planning for climate change
- It puts real engagement at the centre of planning for climate change
- It focuses attention on the wider social costs and benefits of adaptation and mitigation measures
- It opens up crucial questions about governance, resourcing, and institutional capacity
- It helps planners to tell compelling stories that spur action and collaboration.

Taken together, these points highlight that a response which treats climate change as a predominantly technical challenge is not sufficient. Even from a purely pragmatic perspective, our responses to climate mitigation and adaptation must be people-centred and have diversity, the public interest, public engagement and equality as central concerns if they are to be effective. They must address governance structure and they must paint a convincing, shared vision for the future.

The concept of 'climate justice' frames the RTPI's programme of work on climate change. More details are available on the RTPI website: [www.rtpi.org.uk/knowledge/better-planning](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/knowledge/better-planning).



Isabella Krabbe  
Research Officer RTPI

# Article:

## Carbon capture and storage: new infrastructure for humanity's biggest challenge



**Rebecca Bell**  
Scottish Carbon  
Capture and Storage  
Policy & Research  
Officer

**Rebecca Bell, Scottish Carbon Capture and Storage Policy & Research Officer, discusses how and why we will need to deploy CCS**

Imagine you had to plan a whole new transport network, starting from scratch, knowing a few beginning and end points and roughly how much it needs to carry, but not knowing for certain if people will use it (although you suspect they will). How would you approach that?

This is the challenge facing planning in light of the Scottish Government's commitment to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. The UK's Committee on Climate Change (CCC) tells us that carbon capture and storage (CCS) will be essential if the UK is to meet its targets. However, the infrastructure needed for this doesn't actually exist yet – and renewed government commitments to CCS have yet to be translated into policy, regulation and, crucially, funding.

Net zero means there is nowhere to hide – all greenhouse gas emissions sources now need to be tackled, including industry, heat and transport. And the fact that some emissions can't be avoided means that a way of offsetting them, by removing greenhouse gas from the atmosphere, needs to come into play.

CCS is the only way of decarbonising industries that emit large amounts of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) – either because they have a high heat demand that can only be met by

fossil fuels, or because CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are an unavoidable part of their process. In Scotland, this includes cement manufacture, chemical processing and refining, glass manufacture and many others – in fact, around 20% of Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions come from industry.

CCS prevents CO<sub>2</sub> reaching the atmosphere. It does this by isolating CO<sub>2</sub> from the stream of gases given off by an industrial process, compressing and transporting it to offshore storage sites, then injecting it into porous rock, such as depleted oil and gas fields, around 1km or more below the seabed, where it is held securely in place.

Immediate action should focus CCS deployment on industrial clusters, where a group of high-emitting

industries can share the infrastructure that takes away their CO<sub>2</sub>, but this is only the beginning – this ability to store CO<sub>2</sub> will need to be extended to all industries across Scotland that can't avoid CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by other means.

That infrastructure is likely to involve on- and offshore pipelines, whether new or repurposed, to carry the gas from source to storage. This, broadly, implies a pipeline network from the Central Belt to North East Scotland, which means even planning authorities that don't have heavy industry in

their area could still have CO<sub>2</sub> infrastructure passing through it.

Once the ability to transport and store CO<sub>2</sub> is in place, it opens up further decarbonisation opportunities: hydrogen (which burns without CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) can be made from methane, with the CO<sub>2</sub> off-gas captured and stored, to displace fossil fuels for heat and transport needs. In existing homes, which are connected to the gas grid, converting to hydrogen is likely to require less disruption than converting to other heat sources.

In addition, CO<sub>2</sub> can be captured from non-fossil sources, such as biomass combustion, biofuel production and refining, and fermentation. This CO<sub>2</sub> isn't counted in national inventories, which means that storing it would constitute a "negative emission" – or a greenhouse gas removal. This makes the "net" in net zero achievable.

Is the planning profession ready for this? Scottish Planning Policy only requires CCS-readiness for fossil fuel power generation projects, but net zero implies that this requirement should be expanded to all unavoidable CO<sub>2</sub> emissions sources: industry, energy from waste, anaerobic digestion and more. The infrastructure first principle needs to be applied to CO<sub>2</sub> transport and also, most likely, to hydrogen deployment, which will bring its own planning issues – enough for a whole other article. ■

**“Net zero means there is nowhere to hide – all greenhouse gas emissions sources now need to be tackled, including industry, heat and transport.”**

## Article:

# Real circular success begins with the planning

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Growing up in the 1980s and 1990s the idea that human pollution was accelerating global warming and the greenhouse effect were beginning to enter the mainstream media and grab headlines.

In fact, numerous scientific papers from these eras accurately forecast that this ‘warming’ (now ‘heating’) effect would produce an increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events and global sea level rise.

Over the past 30 years these predictions have come to fruition with striking accuracy and are showing no signs of abating. Their destructive force consistently has dramatic and extensive financial, social and environmental costs. Having sleep-walked into this, what can be done to mitigate further effects – and the big question is – what part can planning play in the solution?

A few years ago, I contacted two planning professionals to take part in a roundtable event we were organising to gather insight and expertise about how we could support the Scottish construction sector to become more resource efficient. Both declined on the basis that they could add no value to the process as they could see no link between their jobs and sustainability. This assumption is problematic and if you’re of the same persuasion, you might be surprised to learn the truth.

The concept of sustainable development was defined in the Bruntland Commission’s report **Our Common Future** in 1987 as; **meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.** The report suggests that to achieve this we must maintain a balance between economic growth, environmental protection and social equality. Achieving this is easier said than done, particularly in a politically fragmented and commercially turbulent world. Even at a domestic level it is difficult to find agreement on important matters.

However, Scotland has set itself apart from the fray with the development of a Circular Economy Bill, which places the concept of circularity at the heart of our economy. It is based on the understanding that our current ‘linear’ economy is broken – our world can no longer sustain the rate at which we extract raw materials, manufacture, use and waste them. Indeed, the idea of waste is one that is unique to humans – nowhere in nature do we see this, rather every by-product of one process is the feedstock for another. Think of a forest or any other ecosystem, they form perfect closed-loop cycles.

In a circular economy everything is valued, and nothing is wasted. This involves changing the way we design, manufacture and procure goods and services so that they can be maintained, repaired, reused, remanufactured (restored and warranted to a state of equal or improved functionality), recycled; and the increased use of renewable natural materials.

Our society is currently in a place where goods are manufactured with little consideration of reparation and maintenance, never mind what happens to the materials at the end of their lives. These principles apply to our built environment, which for too long has been delivering buildings that leave us with little option but to knock them down and scrape through the rubble to extract what little value can be recovered at the end of their lives.



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**Nick Ribbons**  
Sector Manager –  
Construction  
Zero Waste Scotland

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**“Our society is currently in a place where goods are manufactured with little consideration of reparation and maintenance, never mind what happens to the materials at the end of their lives.”**

For various reasons such as low market demand, lack of policy and a chronic skills shortage, circular economy principles have not been embedded as strongly in our built environment as we would have hoped, exacerbating low quality, high lifetime costs and climate change. Now the tide is turning and every day organisations are approaching Zero Waste Scotland to understand how they can build circular economy into their developments. This sudden rush has been triggered by Scotland's response to the global climate emergency to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045.

From our experience we know that intervening as early in the construction process as possible is essential to maximise impact. This includes all the pre-construction phases (0 – 4) of RIBA's plan of work: strategic definition; preparation and brief; concept design; spatial coordination; and technical design.

Granted, modern methods of manufacturing and construction such as offsite, modular building can improve the circularity of a build dramatically but often by the time ground is broken the opportunity to positively impact the project has greatly diminished and become an exercise of improved material handling and storage, and site waste management (both important nonetheless but with smaller returns).

This is why the planning process is so important, not just to our agenda of embedding circular economy principles in the built environment but as gatekeepers responsible for delivering buildings and places that maintain a balance between economy, environment and society. Too often buildings are approved that have no end-of-life prospects and where no consideration has been given to how they will be maintained or updated.

For a long time the focus has been on energy use in buildings and the terms sustainability and resource efficiency for many have become synonymous with energy efficiency. With this drive toward more and more efficient buildings the carbon emissions associated with the manufacture, transportation, installation and disposal of the materials that make them has been lost. These embodied emissions of the materials that make our buildings could soon outstrip the in-use emissions and is already being

targeted by the more astute clients that want to ensure their buildings are 2045-ready.

The circular economy can also help achieve this ambition by applying its principles to the entire 'construction' process. Broadly speaking this includes considering the following: the site selection; refurbishment vs. newbuild; material selection (natural renewable materials, recycled and reused materials); designing for adaptability and flexibility (change of use/ function in the future or retrofitting for climate resilience); designing for accessibility (building in layers); designing for deconstruction (buildings as material banks); building information modelling (BIM); digital twins; materials and buildings passports; augmented ad virtual reality; circular procurement; offsite construction; and modular building.

Many of these might seem like ideas beyond our reach or outside our gift to implement them on everyday projects but they are not. With regard to site and material selection, we've been re-using and repurposing buildings for centuries and many of the materials we use contain recycled material. The design principles I've highlighted are not highly technical, rather basic common-sense approaches to help reduce lifetime costs and carbon emissions. As for the digital tools to help embed circular economy, most of these exist – it's about demonstrating value to the client and developing them further.

While planners moderate spatial development and ensure the balance between economy, environment and society, it is also vital that they understand the importance of circularity in the built environment and how all of these aspects can be implemented. More importantly the planning professional is pivotal to delivering a place with these principles at its core.

Of course, there are challenges facing the profession – with a looming shortage of new entrants to the sector and a current skills shortage placing pressure on local authority planning departments across Scotland. However, this is also an opportune time for change with the development of the 4th National Planning Framework (NPF4) that will incorporate Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) and have stronger statutory power for decision making.

An important question for us is what does an NPF4 with circularity at its foundation look like? Only planning professionals can tell us. And as for the skills shortage, it's now been acknowledged and down to us to plug that gap. Planning suffers from a draconian reputation while it should be viewed as a profession at the bleeding edge of spatial change and development in the Scottish environment. It's down to us to communicate this to the world.

Please contact me at Zero Waste Scotland - [nick.ribbons@zerowastescotland.org.uk](mailto:nick.ribbons@zerowastescotland.org.uk) - to find out what support might be available to your organisation. ■

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**“For various reasons such as low market demand, lack of policy and a chronic skills shortage, circular economy principles have not been embedded as strongly in our built environment as we would have hoped.”**

## Article:

# Ground Zero for Scottish Planning



**Stephen Tucker**  
MRTPI  
Partner - Barton  
Willmore

As I write, we are in the process of submitting several bids to the Call for Ideas on NPF4 – a process which feels different primarily because of the inclusion of new settlements and the ambitious target for Scotland to be carbon neutral by 2045.

The question for the NPF, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plan's (LDPs), is how can our planning system lead and direct that process?

### There are some certainties

Scotland has some of the most rigorous statutory targets in the world to achieve net-zero emissions. Critically, we are now [at last] having the conversation about integrating land use and infrastructure planning. The most significant improvement (in principle at least) to come out of the recent Planning Review.

### So what will we be planning for in 2050?

- **Energy Generation** - In 2000, 12.2% of Scotland's electricity consumption was delivered by renewable energy. By 2010 it was 24% and by 2018 all of Scotland's electricity consumption requirements were met by renewable sources. We expect to consistently maintain this position, plus a surplus, as we seek to become an energy exporting nation;
- **Manufacturing** – Our past strength was partly triggered by natural resources. With surplus renewable energy, could we be witnessing the dawn of a new green industrial revolution? What will the physical implications of that mean for land use and infrastructure?
- **Work** - We continue to focus business activity within our town/city centres, but enhancing connectivity and remote working will have a radical impact upon our work practices, our society and its movement networks;

- **Homes** - We will need more homes that are smarter, more energy efficient and quicker to build. More sophisticated relative to heat, energy and digital networks, they may be built at higher densities and look different, but ultimately, we will still face challenges regarding constructing the right number and type of homes, in the right areas;
- **Community** - We will need to plan ambitiously for green infrastructure which supports health and enriches lives; and
- **Communication** - We will need to plan for and prioritise communication infrastructure at scale. The capacity of our digital network has grown enormously and will continue to do so.

But it is perhaps the relationship between these aspects of our daily lives that will change beyond recognition. The way we use power in our homes and factories; how and when we take our recreation; or, critically, the way we transport and move people and goods. The physical, commercial and community infrastructure of our cities, towns and villages is already changing in response and why we must plan for infrastructure and land use in tandem, and plan at a larger scale, over longer timeframes.

Surely therefore, the NPF could not have come along at a better time? Today, planning in Scotland

remains too politicised. Unless a big project idea is already anchored in the LDP, there is very little chance of engaging and delivering it through a planning application. Working on projects Scotland-wide, developers and landowners are most open to radical ideas and imaginative outcomes on their sites (the kind of ambitious thinking that carbon neutrality needs and the NPF craves), when they are trying to get a position in the LDP – a fact endorsed by the three radical new settlements and two mixed-use/ infrastructure related ideas we are submitting to NPF4. We therefore must encourage and enable Local authorities to think 'outside the box'. To deliver Development Plans that are more flexible, ambitious, even visionary, as well as deliverable beyond political cycles.

I believe the NPF can support and deliver this, and is critical to achieving the Carbon Neutral 2045 target as a result. We need it to offer national direction and regional strategic thinking that we have not embraced for the last 50 years. The potential clash between this and the concerns of local democracy are obvious, but I believe this is truly ground zero for Scottish Planning. ■

**“Today, planning in Scotland remains too politicised. Unless a big project idea is already anchored in the LDP, there is very little chance of engaging and delivering it through a planning application.”**





## Update:

# Scottish Planner: March 2020 Scottish Government News

We knew 2020 was going to be a big year for planning in Scotland. And so it is. By the end of this year, we'll be deep into the big conversations over the draft National Planning Framework 4; the reform of the Scottish planning system will be taking shape with much having come into force or be just about to; and the Digital Strategy for Planning will have moved into implementation phase.

Here we highlight how things are progressing, and how you can be involved.

### National Planning Framework 4

Early engagement towards the preparation of NPF4 has brought valuable input from a wide range of interests and different perspectives since the turn of the year; all to help shape Scotland's future development over the next three decades.

We opened a Call for Ideas in late January, asking people to feed in their thinking about what Scotland should be like in 2050 and what needs to change to make that happen. To support thinking and debate, we published a broad suite of resources, including: 32 thematic policy information notes; 35 stakeholder think pieces; a 'housing targets' technical discussion paper; and tools to help people and groups host their own NPF4 workshops. You can find all of that, and more, at: [www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/resources](http://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/resources)

The NPF4 'Scotplan 2050' roadshow started in Buckie in mid-February and will take in over 20 locations around Scotland, from Lerwick to Dumfries and from Rothesay to Dundee, before concluding at Aberdeen at the end of March; when the Call for Ideas will also draw to a close.

From April, the NPF4 team will be pulling together all the suggestions and evidence coming out of the Call for Ideas and roadshow events, and getting down to the massive job of writing and producing the draft NPF, for consultation in the autumn.

### Planning reform

The Transforming Planning in Practice work programme continues. On implementation of the Planning (Scotland) Act, we've recently seen provisions coming into force in relation to changing places toilets, notifying elected members of major developments and removing the statutory requirement for full council decisions in some cases.

Consultations have closed on planning fees and performance, and on changes to permitted development rights, and we'll be saying more on those soon.

Things to look out for over the spring: we will be consulting on the arrangements for designating short term let control areas and also progressing the work package relating to community involvement in planning, including regulations for local place plans.

### Digital Planning

Work towards a Digital Strategy for Planning is moving into a new phase. Our Digital Planning team has engaged widely across Scotland's planning community about opportunities for digital technology to play a key part in the whole transformation of our planning system. To influence the next phase of this exciting and innovative programme, we've been asking for help in deciding what to tackle first.

We expect we'll have more to say on all of this in the next edition of Scottish Planner, as the Digital Strategy takes shape.

### Place Standard tool

Following a review programme, an updated version of the Place Standard is being produced, as well as new versions for children and young people and a design version of the tool. A new Strategic Plan for the tool was launched in December 2019, which you can see at:

[www.placestandard.scot/docs/Place\\_Standard\\_Strategic\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.placestandard.scot/docs/Place_Standard_Strategic_Plan.pdf)

### transformingplanning.scot

We're so pleased that people have been making good use of this new website we launched in January. It has been built as a source of essential information for keeping up-to-date and getting involved in the substantial work going on – now and over the next couple of years or so – on NPF4, planning reform and digital transformation. There's already plenty on there to help track progress and opportunities, with so much more still to come. If you haven't visited before, please take a look and get involved at [www.transformingplanning.scot](http://www.transformingplanning.scot).

To help everyone keep in touch, we're also flagging up latest news from the Planning and Architecture Division and any additions to transformingplanning.scot through our Twitter account @ScotGovPlanning and will blog regular updates on progress at <https://blogs.gov.scot/planning-architecture/>

## Update:

# Angela Adams: A tribute to a dear friend and colleague

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We are profoundly saddened at the death of Angela Adams née Logue, an exceptionally dedicated young planner. Angela passed away suddenly in Glasgow on 14 January. Thank you to member Michelle McGuckin for preparing the tribute below.

### Angela Adams – 1979 to 2020

When we worked together, Angela was at the heart of our planning team. She was a popular, highly motivated and well respected planning and housing expert who was always ready to provide advice and perspective on any issue. She made increasingly valuable contributions to local and strategic planning in the public sector over her 20 year career.

Graduating from Strathclyde University in 2001 with a 2:1 BA (Hons) in Geography and Planning, Angela also achieved a MA in Town and Country Planning from the Open University in 2004. A keen planner from the start, she had a number of summer student posts with Inverclyde and Renfrewshire planning departments and a 6-month placement with the Scottish Executive's Geographic Information Service in 2002.

From there, Angela gained a full-time permanent post in the planning team in Renfrewshire Council and it is here that her personal interest in strategic planning for housing emerged. Her knowledge of Geographic Information Systems and her aptitude for combining data and mapping were nurtured in her new post. From here, Angela worked in Clydeplan SDPA, with a short secondment to National Records of Scotland and she finally achieved the post she aspired to, Senior Planner with Scottish Government, in May 2019.

Angela spent her early years in Houston, Renfrewshire and lived in Newton Mearns with her husband, Mark, an Electronics Engineer and an inspiring musician of great skill and aptitude.

### A committed and enthusiastic planner

Angela worked at Clydeplan for 13 years and had an immediate positive impact when she joined in October 2006. She made significant contributions to the final Structure Plan, two Strategic Development Plans, and their associated Housing Needs & Demand Assessments. Her dedication and attention to detail produced weighty tomes that were of great value and comfort to all involved and the foundation of successful defences of Clydeplan housing challenges. Angela's exceptional organisation skills came to the fore during the Examination process for the 2nd SDP.

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**“Angela was at the heart of our planning team. She was a popular, highly motivated and well respected planning and housing expert who was always ready to provide advice and perspective on any issue.”**

Whilst on secondment to National Records of Scotland Angela was instrumental in developing, the first ever sub-council area small-area population and household projections for Scotland. Angela developed strong links with councils and her collaborative approach to developing the statistics and publishing them was key to the success of this project.

When she joined the Scottish Government, Angela demonstrated her expertise and professionalism, quickly and easily adapting to her new role as a civil servant and becoming the housing policy lead in Planning and Architecture Division. She contributed to the final stages of the Planning (Scotland) Bill 2019 and undertook ground-breaking work to inform the early preparation for the fourth National Planning Framework.

#### A Great Friend and Colleague

Angela had a particular passion for music and theatre and was an enthusiastic supporter of family and friends in artistic pursuits. She was regularly accompanied by a posse of friends attending events.

Few have the caring and encouraging nature of Angela. This was particularly evident in the way she spent time and effort on her personal relationships. She was very generous with her time and regularly demonstrated her appreciation of family, friends and colleagues. Over the years, many of us have been touched by her incredibly thoughtful and personal cards and gifts.

#### A Gifted Organiser

Renowned for her exceptional organisational skills, those who knew Angela were always greatly impressed by the efforts she would make to ensure meetings, professional events and social events were of the highest standard and ran smoothly. Angela would sit calmly at meetings with her agenda, always completely prepared: each agenda item tagged and meticulously annotated. The documents represented weeks of painstaking work - there was not a scrap of information or analysis in the bundle with which she was unfamiliar. She could give a concise summary of each paper, a clear explanation of the complex issues, and a rationale for decisions taken. And she did all these things - the organisation, the huge amount of work, the mentoring and supporting partners and colleagues - because she cared about what she was doing and this was acknowledged by all her colleagues. Likewise, Angela supported her and Mark's family with the same enthusiasm she gave to her professional life.

**“We mourn her deeply. Angela was an unsung hero of planning; she was a modest person who combined extraordinary achievements quietly with great personal grace.”**



One of life's natural networkers, she was personally responsible for instigating countless social gatherings between current and former colleagues, as well as friends from all aspects of her life. Meeting after or outside work with colleagues for a drink or meal was always important for Angela, ensuring that

she kept in touch with those who had moved on or retired. We all enjoyed these times immensely and will forever be thankful to Angela for her thoughtfulness and friendship. For many, Angela was more than a colleague; she was first and foremost a friend.

On a personal level, I will miss Angela terribly. She

changed the dynamic wherever she was, with her intelligence, her professionalism and especially with her warmth, kindness and consideration for others. When Angela was involved, you knew everything would be better. She was simply incomparable.

We mourn her deeply. Angela was an unsung hero of planning; she was a modest person who combined extraordinary achievements quietly with great personal

grace. Her family, innumerable friends, and her work colleagues, including many from the planning profession are very much poorer for her untimely passing.

This tribute comprises contributions by colleagues from each stage of Angela's career: Fergus MacLeod (formerly Inverclyde Council); Bill Gallacher and Sheena Stevely (formerly Renfrewshire Council); Stuart Tait (Clydeplan); David Horner and Valerie Strachan (formerly Clydeplan); Esta Clark and Esther Roughsedge (National Records of Scotland); John McNairney, Fiona Simpson, Robin Campbell and Lorna Aird (Scottish Government Planning and Architecture); Lisa Bullen (Scottish Government More Homes), Murdo Macpherson and Charles Brown (Scottish Government Centre for Housing Market Analysis); Jan Freeke (formerly Glasgow City Council). ■

## Update: PAS



### Erin Fulton, Volunteer Manager

Here at PAS, our volunteers are key in helping us to connect people with their places. That's why we place a great emphasis on supporting our volunteers at each stage of their volunteering journey with us.

From the very first enquiry phone call to ensuring training opportunities for volunteers to grow and develop, we are committed to developing a volunteer experience that allows volunteers to support the communities we help across Scotland to the best of their abilities.

We are always looking for new ways to develop our volunteer programme, exploring opportunities such as training through digital trainings and webinars and having a volunteer-led advisory group who offer recommendations to shape the PAS volunteer experience.

Volunteering with PAS is a fantastic way to make a positive contribution using your skills as a planner. It's not just about giving your time and expertise to help others, it's equally about boosting your career in planning through developing new skills, connecting with other professionals who volunteer with PAS and actively advancing your CPD.

All our volunteering opportunities offer rewarding experience and skills development, whether experience working with young people, advancing your facilitation skills at community events or expanding your knowledge of different areas of planning through the advice service. Invest in your career by becoming a PAS volunteer.

Your expertise as a planner can have a very positive impact on people's lives. Whether being involved in a community-led project to improve a place or giving advice to help

people participate in planning through our Advice Service, your skills and knowledge as a planner are invaluable to communities across Scotland.

To find out more about how volunteering can work for you, please contact Erin Fulton, Volunteers and Interns Manager, for a friendly chat: [erin@pas.org.uk](mailto:erin@pas.org.uk) 0131 659 9778.

## Update: SYPN



What an exciting year the Scottish Young Planners Network have ahead! Hosting the RTPI National Young Planners Conference in Edinburgh in October is just one of the many exciting events we have lined up over the next year.

I am really looking forward to chairing the Committee this year and hope to build on the amazing work done by our past chair Lisa Proudfoot. I am also delighted to announce that Sean Kelly has been nominated as Vice Chair of the Scottish Young Planners Network Committee.

We also have three new members to our Committee and I would like to take the opportunity to welcome John Cooney, Lenka Svorcova, and James Hewitt.

The Committee are working hard to deliver an excellent line up of events for young planners throughout Scotland over the next year, and I would like to take the chance to thank all the committee members for their hard work and support.

Our next big event will be a webinar scheduled for 28 April to provide an opportunity for Young Planners in Scotland to influence NPF4 and help shape Scotland's future. This event was scheduled to run as an in-person workshop in Perth, but given the COVID-19 pandemic we have taken the decision to shift the event online. We hope that nonetheless this will be an important forum to discuss and create ideas and solutions for the new national tier of the development plan. The context will still be set by the Scottish Government while external speakers will spark your imagination and get ideas flowing.

As a committee we aim to promote the role of planning, encourage new planners into the profession, and support and promote the provision of CDP opportunities for young planners. As ever if anyone would like to be more involved, or has an idea for a CDP event please to contact us [sypn@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:sypn@rtpi.org.uk).

# Update:

## RTPI Scotland Update

### Coronavirus COVID 19 Update

RTPI has agreed mitigation to guard against the 'highly likely' widespread transmission of the coronavirus in the UK. As part of this it was decided that with immediate effect all travel by RTPI volunteers on RTPI business is suspended until end of August. That means no volunteer, including the Presidential Team, member of any committee or panel, or any other individual volunteering for the RTPI will travel for RTPI business during this period. This has an impact on our work in that:

- Any events scheduled to take place between now and the end of August will need to be postponed or undertaken virtually.
- Any meetings of RTPI sub committees or Chapter committees that are arranged during the period are postponed or are take place via telephone or video conference.
- RTPI staff are working from home, travel is restricted, and conducting meetings by telephone or video conferencing.

We will be continually monitoring the situation and will keep you informed. Please check the RTPI website for updates.

### RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence

Congratulations to the 17 people, projects or organisations from Scotland that have been announced as finalists for the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence. The winners will be announced at a virtual online ceremony on 30 April. Keep an eye on the RTPI website for more details or by following #RTPIAwards on Twitter.

### Engagement

RTPI Scotland officials or representatives have met with or attended the following:

- Heads of Planning Scotland
- Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Architecture and the Built Environment
- Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Cycling, Walking and Buses
- Ministerial Joint Housing Policy and Delivery Group
- SURF awards
- Fife Council
- Built Environment Forum Scotland
- Law Society of Scotland
- Scottish Young planners Network Steering Group
- Scottish Government Digital Task Force
- Zero Waste Scotland
- Holyrood Green City Deals Conference
- Skills Development Scotland
- Scottish Land Commission Edinburgh
- Scottish Alliance for People and Places
- Dundee University
- National Walking Strategy Delivery Forum
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

### Communications

RTPI Scotland has issued the following press releases:

- 11 March - Climate action must underpin NPF4, says RTPI Scotland
- 7 February - RTPI Scotland welcomes Scottish Budget but calls for more investment in planning
- 20 January - Major Scottish infrastructure report welcomed by RTPI

The @RTPIScotland Twitter account has 4350 followers and the @ConvenorRTPI account has 1513.

### Deaths

The Institute regrets the deaths of the following members:

- Angela Adams MRTPI, Glasgow
- Edward Coogans MRTPI (Rtd), East Kilbride
- Maurice Dobson MRTPI (Rtd), Stirling
- Ian M Fraser MRTPI, Dunblane

### New Members

Warmest congratulations to the following planners in Scotland who were elected to Chartered membership of the RTPI in November 2019:

- Sepideh Hajisoltani
- Emmanuel Haimey
- Bryan Reid
- Kieran Shafiq Ali
- Jane Tennant

### Thanks Kate!

RTPI Scotland Policy Officer Kate Houghton has left for a new position at Scottish Government. We would like to thank Kate for all she has done for RTPI Scotland over the last 3 years and wish her all the best in her new role.

## Update: Policy Update



RTPI Scotland aims to lead thinking on how planning can create great places for people. We do this by:

- Responding to policy consultations from Scottish Government, agencies and other organisations; and
- Discussing planning issues with policy makers including Ministers, MSPs and Civil Servants.

We are always keen to receive comments from members on any policy issues. Please contact [scotland@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:scotland@rtpi.org.uk) if you would like contribute to our responses to national consultations. A list of consultations currently under considerations can be found at [www.rtpi.org.uk/the-rtpi-near-you/rtpi-scotland/policy-and-research/](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/the-rtpi-near-you/rtpi-scotland/policy-and-research/).

### NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 4 ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

During February and March we held in partnership with Chapters and the Scottish Government NPF4 workshops in Aberdeen, Grantown-on-Spey, Dumfries, Glasgow and Falkirk. Unfortunately events scheduled to take place in Dundee and Edinburgh had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those events that did take place generated a long list of ideas that we will feed into the Scottish Government team working on preparation of NPF4. Thank you to all of the people who took part in our NPF4 World Cup, and contributed your enthusiasm and ideas!

The young planners and international events scheduled for April and May respectively we now take place as webinars. Look out for details in the coming weeks.

In due course we will publish a summary analysis of all the outcomes from these events.

### RTPI SCOTLAND NPF4 POLICY POSITION

As well as facilitating engagement between the planning profession and Scottish Government in the early stages of NPF4 preparation, RTPI Scotland has been working to develop an organisational policy position on the new national tier of the development plan. Working groups of Scottish Executive Committee members have drawn up an issues paper looking at climate action, health and wellbeing, and delivery. This paper will be submitted in response to the Scottish Government's NPF4 call for ideas, and will provide the foundation for RTPI Scotland's input to NPF4 going forward.

### JUST TRANSITION COMMISSION

The Just Transition Commission has launched a call for evidence to which RTPI will respond. The 'Five reasons for Climate Justice in Spatial Planning' paper highlighted on page 12 will provide our foundation, but if members have any examples of just transition in practice that we could include as best practice case studies, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at [scotland@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:scotland@rtpi.org.uk).

### CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Since the last issue of Scottish Planner RTPI Scotland has responded to the following consultations and calls for evidence:

- Local Government and Communities Committee inquiry into Community Wellbeing
- Scottish Government consultation on Reviewing and Extending Permitted Development Rights
- Scottish Government consultation on Planning Performance and Fees
- Scottish Government Housing 2040 consultation

These can be read on the website at [www.rtpi.org.uk/new-from-the-rtpi/](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/new-from-the-rtpi/) - please select the consultations tab to view all of our recent responses.

## RTPI SCOTLAND CONTACTS



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**Jennie Stansfield**  
**Communications and Events Administrator**  
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**Lisa Davison**  
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Often a short email or phone call can make all the difference to a member of the public who has no knowledge of the planning system.

We have a large number of volunteers who take part in our wider activities and place-based projects, however, we are specifically looking to recruit MRTPI planners to volunteer for our Advice Service.

As an Advice Service volunteer you can count your volunteering hours toward your Continuing Professional Development. We'll also invite you to our Advice Service Forum to share experiences, network and learn something new.

**For a chat with our Volunteer Manager to find out more,  
please get in touch with Erin Fulton:**  
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