



# RTPI

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## RTPI ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND PROTECTION NETWORK

### Bulletin 7 – April 2005

Dear all,

Please can you send any items you would like to include in the bulletin to me at [epp@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:epp@rtpi.org.uk).

If you are reading this bulletin but have not yet registered for the network, please can you join online at <http://epp.rtpi.org.uk> if you are an RTPI member, or contact me at [epp@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:epp@rtpi.org.uk) if you are not a member of the Institute.

And a reminder - this is very much an *active* Network. Its success can only be guaranteed if Network members contribute to its activities. Please therefore do contribute as much as you are able, so that all Network members can benefit as much as possible from their membership.

#### Network News

**Network Events:** Following the success of the first EPP Network event held in London, we have now arranged a further three events for Network members. These are in Chinnor, Oxfordshire on 25 April, in Birmingham on 9 May, and in Norwich on 20 June. Further details about these events can be found on the website at <http://epp.rtpi.org.uk> - the events' section can be accessed via a link at the top right-hand side of the page. Please do support EPP Network events by attending if you are able. They are all very kindly hosted by Network members for the benefit of their fellow members. All bookings for Network events should be made to me at [epp@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:epp@rtpi.org.uk).

**Seminar report:** A report from the first EPP Network event on EcoHomes, which was held in London on 3 March, is now available on the website at <http://epp.rtpi.org.uk>. This is in the 'Network papers' section, which you will find in the 'members' area'. The link to this is at the top right-hand side of the page, and you will need to input your membership number (password) and email address (user name) to gain access to this part of the site. If you would like me to email you a copy of the report please contact me at [epp@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:epp@rtpi.org.uk).

**Resources:** Resources currently available in the 'members' area' of the website are on: environmental assessment; sustainability appraisal; planning for nature conservation; planning for health, hazard and risk; environmental data and management systems; and environmental legislation and policies. The Network needs the help of Network members to keep these pages topical and Task Groups are being set up to undertake this task. If you are able to contribute to one or more of these themes, can you let me know which one(s). Please contact me at [epp@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:epp@rtpi.org.uk).

**Network Policy Position:** Thank you to all Network members who have already sent me their response to the question posed: "Is there an urgent need for funding support and training provision for UK Local Planning Authorities to be able to deliver the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, particularly in respect of Sustainability Appraisals for Local Development Frameworks and Regional Spatial Strategies?" We need more than half of Network members to respond to be able to use this effectively in the media, and so far only a third of you

have done so. If you haven't yet responded, please can you email your yes/no answer to me at [epp@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:epp@rtpi.org.uk). Please also feel free to add any comments as we will continue the debate through the bulletin.

**Articles:** I have not yet received any response from Network members to the request in last month's bulletin to submit articles for publication in professional journals. This is a chance to air your views, as well as helping to raise the profile of the Network. Is there a burning issue you feel strongly about? If so, please send a brief outline of your ideas to me at [epp@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:epp@rtpi.org.uk). We can develop your article through debate within the Network.

**Conference speakers:** Unfortunately I have had very little response to the request in last month's bulletin to help build up a database of speakers for conferences and seminars. Please contact me at [epp@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:epp@rtpi.org.uk) to let me know your areas of expertise if you feel you could comfortably contribute to the work of the Network in this way.

**Online database:** A reminder that you can access the skills and contact details of all EPP Network members in the 'members' area' of the website at <http://epp.rtpi.org.uk>. Please do use this facility. It is there to allow you to network with each other where you have areas of common interest. Can I also remind you to keep your own details up-to-date. To amend your data please go to the networks sign-up page which can be found from a link at the top right-hand side of the website at <http://epp.rtpi.org.uk>, just under the 'members' area' box. If you have any difficulties accessing the 'members' area', please contact me at [epp@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:epp@rtpi.org.uk).

### Members' Bulletin Board

**EIA effectiveness:** A Network member who is studying for an MA in Town and Country Planning at the University of Sheffield is doing his dissertation on EIA effectiveness. He would very much like to interview Network members for this project. Please do participate if you are able.

**Planning permissions:** Disappointingly, no response was received from a Network member to her request for examples of outline planning permissions where the time condition has been amended to allow more than 3 years for the submission of reserved matters because of the size of the development, its speculative nature etc. Also where the input of reserved matters has been linked to phasing for similar reasons.

**Habitat loss:** A Network member had a letter about habitat loss imperilling the UK's bird population published in *Planning* (18 March 2005, p11). The RSPB has launched a four-year project in London to establish why the sparrow is declining. Further information can be found at: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/gardens/advice/sparrowinitiative.asp>

### News items

**World Environment Day:** 5 June 2005 is United Nations World Environment Day. You can pledge to help make a difference at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wed/>

**The Essex Guide to Environmental Impact Assessment.** Endorsed by the RTPI, the Essex Planning Officers' Association has updated this Guide, which was first published in 1992. The cost is £30.00 and further details can be obtained from Peter Hakes at [peter@hakes3334.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:peter@hakes3334.fsnet.co.uk) or on 01277 220043.

**Planning and design conflict:** A potential new programme for the BBC is attempting to find interesting and visual examples where a proposed design solution is being challenged on conservation grounds. One example is in the Ribble Valley where a bridge designed to aid rambler's right of way across the River Ribble is being challenged by conservation groups for its

impact on the surrounding area. The programme, currently in development, would offer to send in designers and mediators to help solve the dispute

**EC Programmes and funding opportunities:** The EU Center has published a brochure on various EC programmes and funding opportunities, of interest to organisations from the energy and environmental sector. The brochure contains up-to-date information on relevant EU funding opportunities, conferences and similar events. The brochure is available online at: <http://www.eucenter.org/brochure.php>

**Climate Change effects on the UK:** At a meeting of the Futures Forum last month, Ilan Kelman, from the Cambridge University Centre for Risk in the Built Environment (CURBE), gave a presentation on Climate Change effects in the UK – extreme events. A copy of his powerpoint presentation can be found at: <http://www.arct.cam.ac.uk/curbe/FuturesForum.ppt> and accompanying notes are at: <http://www.arct.cam.ac.uk/curbe/FuturesForum.doc>.

**New International MSc Programme "Management of Protected Areas":** A new postgraduate MSc programme, "Management of Protected Areas", has been launched by the University of Klagenfurt (Austria), in cooperation with international organisations such as the IUCN, RAMSAR, WWF, EuroParks and MAB. The learning goals of the programme are: an excellent and comprehensive understanding of the aims and roles of Protected Areas in relation to the conservation of biodiversity and (integrated) regional development; detailed knowledge when applying the full range of tools available for the management of Protected Areas so that they can effectively fulfil their aims; and an ability to analyse and solve problems encountered when establishing, planning and managing Protected Areas, to conduct inter- and transdisciplinary dialogues. More information can be found on the programme's website at [www.mpa.uni-klu.ac.at](http://www.mpa.uni-klu.ac.at).

### Consultations

**Welsh Assembly Government: Draft Town and Country Planning (Environment Impact Assessment) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2005.** This is to comply with the requirements of the 'Public Participation' Directive 2003/35/EC. The RTPI's Welsh Planning Policy Officer is responding to this consultation on behalf of the RTPI. If you would like to contribute to her response, please can you send your comments by **22 April 2005** to [welshpolicy@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:welshpolicy@rtpi.org.uk).

**ODPM consultation: The Planning (Control of Major Accident Hazards) Regulations 2005.** Responses are required by 16 June 2005 and the consultation paper can be found at: [http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm\\_planning/documents/page/odpm\\_plan\\_036903.pdf](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_036903.pdf)

**Adapting to Climate Change – A Checklist for Development:** A final reminder that we would appreciate your contribution to the RTPI's co-ordinated response to this UKCIP and the offices of GOL, Mayor of London and East of England's Sustainable Development Round Table consultation document. Please send your comments by **15 April 2005** to [epp@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:epp@rtpi.org.uk). The document can be viewed at: [www.go-london.gov.uk/sustainable\\_development/checklist.asp](http://www.go-london.gov.uk/sustainable_development/checklist.asp).

**Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations:** A reminder that we would also appreciate your contribution to the RTPI's co-ordinated response to this ODPM consultation which is at: [http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm\\_planning/documents/page/odpm\\_plan\\_035976.pdf](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_035976.pdf) Please send your comments to [epp@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:epp@rtpi.org.uk) by **3 May 2005**.

### Reports

**ODPM: Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks.** This is an interim advice note on frequently asked questions. It can be found at: [http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm\\_planning/documents/page/odpm\\_plan\\_037013.pdf](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_037013.pdf)

**ODPM: Summit 2005: Report back.** This is a report from the Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit held in Manchester earlier this year and it can be found online at: [http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm\\_communities/documents/page/odpm\\_comm\\_037034.pdf](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_communities/documents/page/odpm_comm_037034.pdf)

**ODPM: Minerals Policy Statement 2: Controlling and Mitigating the Environmental Effects of Minerals Extraction in England.** This was published last month and can be found online at: [http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm\\_planning/documents/page/odpm\\_plan\\_036832.pdf](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_036832.pdf)

**Scottish Executive: Prevention of Environmental Pollution from Agricultural Activity.** This Guide can be found online at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/environment/pepfaadd.pdf>

**Northern Ireland Executive: Guidance for public bodies on climate change impacts in Northern Ireland.** This report can be found online at: <http://www.ehsni.gov.uk/pubs/publications/guidanceweb.pdf>.

**House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee: The International Challenge of Climate Change.** This investigative report on the objectives that the government should aim for in its leadership of the EU and G8 group of developed nations this year can be found online at: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmenvaud.htm>

**European Commission Directorate-General for the Environment: Reclaiming city streets for people – chaos or quality of life?** This report explores the difficulties faced by European city planners when trying to balance demand for personal mobility and economic growth with a sustainable environment and quality of life for citizens. Using case studies to provide guidelines for urban planners it presents new approaches such as the concept of traffic evaporation. The report can be found at: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/pubs/pdf/streets\\_people.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/pubs/pdf/streets_people.pdf).

## Events

**Effective Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs):** This is an evening lecture on **Wednesday 20 April 2005** at the Town Hall in **Manchester**. Professor Hilary Russell from European Institute for Urban Affairs at Liverpool John Moores University will be looking at case studies from the national review of LSPs. This is an early and important opportunity to discuss the implications for the future of community involvement in local decision making. Sue Kidd from Liverpool University Department of Civic Design will discuss what impacts the recently published document 'Securing the future – delivering UK sustainable development strategy' has for local governance and living within environmental limits whilst ensuring a cohesive, healthy and just society.

**Can Managing the Environment Benefit Rural Businesses and Communities?:** The Sustainable Development Research Centre (SDRC) and the National Trust for Scotland are jointly hosting their first Propositional seminar on **Friday 22nd April 2005** at Glencoe Visitor Centre, **Glencoe**. The programme has been designed to debate different aspects of environmental management from differing perspectives, giving actual case studies from the business and communities. Robin Pellew, Chief Executive National Trust for Scotland is the keynote speaker. He will outline the importance of sustainable development for the National Trust in Scotland. For full detail of the programme and booking please go to: <http://www.sustainableresearch.com/events/seminars.asp>.

**Sole Practitioners Conference:** The RTPPI Sole Practitioners' Network is holding a one-day conference on **Monday 25 April** at the Resource Centre, Holloway Road, **London**. This event, which is the first of its kind, aims to provide sole practitioners with useful CPD through presentations, discussions and networking. The cost is £58.75. For further information about the event or the Sole Practitioners' Network, please contact the Network's manager, Chris Sheridan at [spn@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:spn@rtpi.org.uk) or on 020 7929 9483.

**Planning for Energy Efficiency and Climate Change:** This is an RTPI North West branch event which is taking place on **Wednesday 27 April 2005** at the Foresight Centre in **Liverpool**. Drawing on recent research and developments in practice, this event will provide an opportunity to explore climate and energy-conscious planning and design at a variety of scales from the site to the region. For further information and to book please contact [northwest@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:northwest@rtpi.org.uk).

**Urban River Management and the Water Framework Directive:** This two-day project conference is free of charge and being held in **Birmingham** on **4-5 May 2005**. The conference is organised by the SMURF project (the Sustainable Management of Urban Rivers and Floodplains) and is an opportunity to review progress made during this three-year LIFE-Environment project and critically assess the project's outputs. Further details can be found online at: <http://www.smurf-project.info/events.html>.

**SDRN/RICS Lecture:** The second SDRN/RICS Sustainable Development and Quality of Life lecture will be given by Dr Andrew Stirling of SPRU, University of Sussex, on the subject of 'Deliberate Futures: Precaution and Progress in Technology Choice'. The lecture will be held in **London** on the **10 May 2005**. If you would like to attend this event, please book your place by email to [sdn-events@psi.org.uk](mailto:sdn-events@psi.org.uk). More details about the lecture are available at [www.sd-research.org.uk/events](http://www.sd-research.org.uk/events).

**SEAs and SA:** This is an RTPI North West branch event which is taking place on **Wednesday 11 March 2005** at the **St Helens** World of Glass. This event will consider the implications of the SEA Directive and the latest government guidance for Strategic Environmental Assessment /Sustainability Appraisal of Local Development Frameworks. For further details and to book please contact [northwest@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:northwest@rtpi.org.uk).

**Sustainable Developments: a tool kit.** This RTPI conference is being held on **Wednesday 18 May 2005** in **London**. The conference will consider the role of sustainable appraisals and the positive contribution they can make to the development process. The conference will be chaired by the EPP Network's leader, Paul Tomlinson. Further details and booking at: <http://www.hawksmereltd.co.uk/rtpi/>

**Creekside Education Trust seminars:** This is an independent charity which promotes habitat creation in urban landscapes. They are running two seminars: 'River Wall Habitat' on **Friday 13 May 2005**; and 'Green Roofs and Brownfield Landscapes' on **Friday 10 June 2005**. Both seminars are taking place in Deptford, **London**. For further information please contact Chris Gittner at [creeksidecentre@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:creeksidecentre@yahoo.co.uk) or on 0208 692 9922.

**Planning Convention:** A reminder that this year's Planning Convention is being held at the QEII Conference Centre in **London** on **30 June / 1 July**. Further details and booking at: <http://www.theplanningconvention.co.uk/>

### [RTPI News](#)

**New RTPI Networks:** The RTPI now has nine Networks. Recently launched are two new topic Networks: details of the new **Transport Planning Network** can be found at <http://transport.rtpi.org.uk>, and details of the new **Development Planning Network** can be found at <http://devplan.rtpi.org.uk>. The **Young Planners' Network** and the **Sole Practitioners' Network** also both have a new look, and RTPI members can now join online. Details of all the RTPI networks can be found at: <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/resources/networks/>

**Community Planning Initiative:** The RTPI has recently launched a Community Planning Initiative and Skills Website. The Initiative is funded by the ODPM and designed to aid the development of mainstream practice in which planners work with communities to deliver sustainable communities. Further details can be found at: <http://www.communityplanning.net/>

**RTPI Planning Manifesto:** Last month the RTPI launched a Planning Manifesto which sets out ideas for pushing forward spatial planning. The manifesto promotes sustainability, embraces change, and recognises that by investing in planners and spatial planning we are investing in safer streets, healthier places, and more vibrant communities. Further details can be found at: <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/front-page-news/2005/q1/24032005.html>

**2005 RTPI Awards:** A reminder that the deadline for entries to this year's RTPI planning awards is **Friday 29 April 2005**. Categories include 'Rural areas and the natural environment' which seeks entries on all aspects of planning in rural areas including creating, restoring, conserving, enhancing and protecting the natural environment. There is no requirement for entries to be submitted by RTPI members although the achievement entered must be located in the geographical British Isles. Further details are available from [awards@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:awards@rtpi.org.uk) or on 020 7929 9473.

**Consultations:** Current consultations on which the RTPI is responding can be found at: <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/resources/policy-statements/consultations.html>. The RTPI welcomes contributions to policy responses.

Best wishes,

Trish

Trish Cookson  
EPP Network Manager