



**RTPI Cymru**

mediation of space · making of place  
cyd drefnu gofod · creu cynefin

# RTPI Cymru Annual Review 2016

This short report presents the highlights of the year for RTPI Cymru. It aims to show our members and our stakeholders what we have achieved in 2016.



Royal Town Planning Institute Cymru, PO Box 2465, Cardiff CF23 0DS  
Tel: 029 2049 8215 e-mail: [wales@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:wales@rtpi.org.uk) Web: [www.rtpi.org.uk/wales](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/wales)

Registered Charity Number: 262865 Scottish Registered Charity Number: SC 037841  
Head office: Royal Town Planning Institute, 41 Botolph Lane, London EC3R 8DL

## Policy and Public Affairs

### Ministers and Government

We were delighted that Lesley Griffiths AM, Minister for Environment and Rural Affairs attended the Wales Planning Conference in June, just two weeks into her post. In speaking to delegates she set out her five 'asks' of the planning system.

We are pleased that during 2016 we have continued our positive partnership with the Welsh Government. A key area of work was to take forward the work we had commenced in 2015 to develop a programme of work streams for developing strategic planning knowledge in Wales in support of the proposals in the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 on behalf of the Welsh Government. This involved running training for Local Planning Authority officers in South East Wales.

### Election Manifesto

We produced our ten asks for the Welsh Government in advance of the National Assembly for Wales' elections in May, to influence each of the Parties' Manifestos. Our asks were:

1. Embed new legislation and make the plan-led system work;
2. Ensure the provision of a quality home for everyone in Wales who needs one;
3. Coordinate policy by focusing on places;
4. Support communities to shape the place they live;
5. Ensure that planning authorities have the resources they need;
6. Promote the quality and strength of town and city centres;
7. Set out a clear and integrated framework for energy;
8. Better integrate infrastructure and development;
9. Ensure that the natural environment is protected and enhanced;
10. Promote a more equitable and resilient economy.



We were members of Homes for Wales, campaigning to ensure housing was on the agenda for the National Assembly for Wales elections, including participation in the Homes for Wales Rally in Cardiff in March.



Jointly with the other professional body members of the Regeneration Skills Collective Wales (RSCW) we held a hustings in April, focusing on regeneration and built environment issues.

## Wales Best Places

During 2016 we have engaged with our members and the public to celebrate the places protected, carefully planned or improved by the planning system for communities in Wales. From a shortlist of ten places, chosen by our Panel from nominations by the public, nearly 5,500 people voted, with Aberaeron emerging as the most popular place, followed by Tenby and Gower.



## Consultation Responses and Evidence

Through our Policy and Research Forum we submitted 25 responses to consultations and calls for evidence in Wales during 2016. We also gave verbal evidence to Cardiff Capital Region Growth and Competitiveness Commission.

- Changes to how environmental impact assessment applies to town and country planning;
- Establishment of a Flood & Coastal Erosion Committee;
- Appeals, costs and standard daily amounts;
- Proposals for secondary legislation to support the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and draft guidance;
- Proposed Technical Advice Note (TAN24): The Historic Environment;
- Law Commission: Planning Law in Wales;
- Planning Policy Wales questionnaire;
- Welsh Language Strategy;
- Draft Wales Bill;
- The Cardiff Capital Region Growth and Competitiveness Commission;
- Expert Group on Housing an Ageing Population;
- National Infrastructure Commission consultation - National Infrastructure Assessment;
- Tidal lagoon review;
- Historic Environment Chapter (chapter 6) of Planning Policy Wales;
- WLGA Draft planning committee protocol;
- Statistical outputs on population and household estimates and projections;
- Land Registry: Moving operations to the private sector;
- National Development Framework Draft Statement of Public Participation;
- Technical Advice Note 20 (TAN20);
- Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill and Explanatory Memorandum;
- Consultation on Changes to Office of National Statistics Products 2015;
- Community Infrastructure Levy Review;
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: How do you measure a nation's progress?
- Air quality and noise management in Wales
- Call for evidence on the implications for Wales of Britain exiting the European Union

## Research

RTPI Cymru published research into the “Process for Delivering Housing Evidence for LDPs” by the School of Planning and Geography at Cardiff University. The research was carried out in response to some local planning authorities’ uncertainty and concerns about how much flexibility they have to interpret household projections, an issue identified by the Forum. The research has been well received and RTPI Cymru are currently promoting and working towards the recommendations set out in the research.

## CPD and Events

We worked to increase the level of CPD opportunities for our members in Wales throughout the year. As part of this we organised a number of events.

### **Spring Conference – The Value of Planning**

Our annual Spring Conference discussed the value of planning, hearing about recent research commissioned by the RTPI.

### **Common Ground: Shared Language**

Jointly with the Design Commission for Wales, we ran a guest panel to explore just how well designers, planners and other place-makers really understand one another.

### **Wales Planning Conference - A new planning landscape for Wales – Delivering Positively**

Our ninth Wales Planning Conference attracted a record number of delegates, from across Wales and beyond. The topic for the conference, this year generously headlined sponsored by Savills, Francis Taylor Building and PPS Group, considered the new planning landscape following the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and how to deliver planning positively at a time of reducing budgets.

### **Wales Enforcement Conference**

This year’s Conference was fully booked considered the usual update from the courts on key enforcement issues, as well as practical information on various aspects of new arrangements following the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and the experiences from Pembrokeshire County Council on ‘Hobbit Houses’.

### **RTPI Cymru Annual Dinner**

Our Annual Dinner is an opportunity to catch up with colleagues and friends new and old and celebrate the past year. This year our Dinner was held at the Hilton Hotel, Cardiff in November with nearly 200 guests attending.

### **North Wales Chapter**

Our North Wales Chapter ran two events this year discussing small scale renewable energy in March and a Planning Law Update provided by Francis Taylor Building in December.

### **West Wales Chapter**

Our West Wales Chapter organised a visit to Cenin Renewables in Bridgend.

## Awards

### Wales Planning Award

The Wales Planning Award 2016 was announced at the RTPI Cymru Annual Dinner on 18 November 2016. The judging panel comprised of Mike Cuddy, Jan Tyrer and Llinos Quelch. RTPI Cymru is very grateful for their hard work in judging the entries.



- **Winner** - Welsh National Sailing Academy and Events Centre, Pwllheli (Plas Heli), submitted by Cyngor Gwynedd Council
- **Highly Commended** - The National Lido of Wales, submitted by Rhondda Cymron Taf County Borough Council
- **Commended** – Tramshed, submitted by WYG and Cardiff Council

### RTPI Cymru Award for Academic Excellence

To reflect that the RTPI now accredits two undergraduate courses at Cardiff University, two student awards are now awarded by RTPI Cymru each year.

For excellence in examinations and coursework in the first year of their courses at Cardiff University in 2015/16, the following Awards were made:

- BSc in Urban Planning and Development - Oliver Jones
- BSc in Geography (Human) and Planning - Joshua Winkley

## Communications and Outreach

We have worked to improve our communications and sent out regular e-bulletins keeping members up to date with our work, forthcoming events and policy consultations. Our Twitter account @RTPICymru has nearly 650 followers. We have regularly updated our web pages so that they become the key place to keep in touch with RTPI Cymru activity. We have also been working to ensure that Welsh planning issues are given more prominence in The Planner magazine and other RTPI publications.

The Wales Best Places initiative gave us excellent profile in the media, with press coverage, radio interviews and Ifan Gwilym appeared on S4C's Prynawn Da.

We attended the National Eisteddfod in Abergavenny this year, principally to engage with the public about Wales Best Places. We were supported by 11 volunteers and we had 535 visitors to the stand plus 123 children.

We published a number of news releases including those on the President's visit to North Wales. RTPI President Phil Williams visited the new Wrexham super prison, meeting with representatives from Wrexham County Borough Council and the developers. Phil also met with North Wales Chief Planning Officers and members of the RTPI Cymru Management Board, as well as attending the RTPI Spring Conference.

We published four editions of our journal, Cynllunio, circulated to every RTPI member in Wales, and our key stakeholders and supporters.

## Education

The year has seen visits to Cardiff University's School of Geography and Planning by RTPI representatives to speak to students about RTPI and career planning through outlining the role of the Institute and the different players involved across the public, private and voluntary sectors.

We were delighted that Cardiff University continues to participate in the Planning bursary scheme to support students.

We were pleased to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of planning teaching and research at Cardiff University during the year, including a special themed edition of Cynllunio in December.

We commissioned a new 'Planning my Place' Model to use with school children to explain the role of planning in communities. It has done an excellent job in gaining the interest of young people and demonstrating issues associated with planning – including the different opinions of people!

Our staff and members have visited a number of schools during the year providing information about planning to support the curriculum as well as careers information.

## Wales' Voice in the Institute

RTPI Cymru continues to spread our influence within the Institute. RTPI Cymru has two Management Board representatives on the Institute's General Assembly which in 2016 were Allan Archer and Mike Cuddy. We also have representatives on a number of key RTPI Committees:

- Policy, Practice and Research Committee– Mike Cuddy
- Nations and Regions Panel – Tom Watson

This has allowed RTPI Cymru to engage with and influence key issues such as the RTPI's review of its routes to membership and the future RTPI research programme.

## Supporters

Thanks go to the following organisations that have supported our work in the 2016:

Arup	Planning Inspectorate
Bilfinger GVA	POSW
Cardiff University's School of Geography and Planning	PPS Group
Community Housing Cymru	Savills
Design Commission for Wales	Welsh Government
Francis Taylor Building	Welsh Local Government Association
	Wrexham County Borough Council

And of course not forgetting, all the speakers at our events, our members that have helped with events and activities, written articles for Cynllunio, visited schools, entered Awards and attended our events.

## RTPI Cymru Team

### RTPI Cymru Management Board 2016

Chair	Peter Lloyd, PLPlanning
Senior Vice Chair	Alan Southerby, Alan Southerby Planning
Junior Vice Chair	Tom Watson, Arup
Secretary	Martin White, Pembrokeshire County Council
Treasurer	Martin Buckle, Independent Consultant
Immediate Past Chair	Mark Harris, Home Builders Federation
Corporate Members	Neil Harris, Cardiff University Gareth Hawke, Taylor Wimpey Terry Stevens, Wrexham County Borough Council Lucie Taylor, Community Land Advisory Service Cath Ranson, Pembrokeshire County Council
Licentiate Representative	Jack Pugsley, Amec Foster Wheeler
Student Representative	Kate Davis, Cardiff University
Technical Representative	Jane Jones, Snowdonia National Park Authority
Associate Representative	Rob Chichester, C2J Architects and Town Planners
Young Planners Cymru	Joe Ayoubkhani, Geraint John Planning
General Assembly Rep	Allan Archer, Allan Archer Planning
General Assembly Rep	Mike Cuddy, Penarth Town Council
Co-opted Member	Emma Langmaid, Prospero Planning

### RTPI Cymru Policy and Research Forum

The Forum's membership for 2014 – 2016 has been:

- Allan Archer, Independent Planning Advisor;
- Charlotte Beattie, JBA Consulting
- Martin Buckle, Planning, Transport & Regeneration Consultant;
- Jonathan Cawley, Snowdonia National Park Authority – Forum Chair 2014-2016
- Nicola Corbishley, Wrexham County Borough Council
- Mike Cuddy, Penarth Town Council
- Mark Farrar, The Urbanists
- Matthew Griffiths, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
- Mark Harris, Home Builders Federation
- Jessica Jones, Arup
- John Maitland Evans, Trefnant Associates
- Sara Louise Morris, Pembrokeshire County Council
- Karen Potter, Open University - Forum Chair 2016
- Matthew Price, Cardiff Council
- Ian Stevens, Fisher German LLP
- Clare Taylor, MWH
- Keith Thomas, PER Consulting Ltd
- Jan Tyrer, Jan Tyrer Planning
- Owain Wyn, Burum

Our **staff** are:

- Roisin Willmott, Director
- Rhian Brimble, Policy Officer
- Georgina Roberts, Administrative Assistant