



Young Planners' Conference 2024

Connecting Town and Country

11-12 October 2024

The Hilton, Cambridge

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Friday 11th October 2024

9.00 am **Registration**

10.00 am **Welcome Address**

Lindsey Richards - President, Royal Town Planning Institute
Melissa Murphy KC - Barrister, Landmark Chambers
Errin Marshall - Chair, RTPI East of England Young Planners
Committee

10.10 am **Keynote**

The keynote speech will welcome attendees to the city of
Cambridge, setting out some of the challenges and opportunities
the region faces across cities, towns and the countryside

Stephen Kelly- Director of Planning and Economic Development,
Greater Cambridge Shared Planning

10.30 am **Growth and the historic environment**

This panel session examines the possible tensions between
growth and historic preservation. How can we balance new
development whilst retaining a sense of place, and respecting the
setting and significance of our historic buildings?

Tim Murphy - Historic Environment Manager, Place Services
Cllr Katie Thornburrow- Councillor, Cambridge Council
Daniele Haynes - Associate Heritage Consultant, Bidwells
Katharine Elliot - Barrister, Landmark Chambers

Chairs: Katie Fowler- RTPI East of England Young Planner Vice
Chair

Errin Marshall - RTPI East of England Young Planner Chair



11.30 am **Break**

12.00 pm **Growth and the natural environment**

This panel session examines the possible tensions between growth and the preservation of the natural environment. How can we better connect our rural and urban areas and provide the infrastructure our growing population needs?

John Cornell - Natural Environment Team Leader, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Services

Mark Hodgson - Director, Savills

Professor Tom Holbrook - Director, 5th Studio

Alex Shattock - Barrister, Landmark Chambers

Chairs: Errin Marshall - RTPI East of England Young Planner Chair

John Mason - Planning Consultant, Carter Jonas

Sponsored by Landmark Chambers



1.00 pm **Lunch**

2.00 pm **Breakout Sessions**

Delegates can choose one of the following sessions.

BREAKOUT 1

Sustainable Tourism and Rural Economies

England's tourism sector contributes £106 billion to the British economy and supports 2.6 million jobs. It brings many benefits – but also causes issues of overcrowding, litter and pollution. How can we attract visitors beyond a few honey-pot destinations to lesser-known places?

Maria Manion - Chief Executive, Cambridge BID

Rob Pearce - Head of Parks Consultancy, Nene Park Trust

Chair: Asif Ali - Senior Planning Officer, Peterborough City Council

BREAKOUT 2

Development in the Countryside and Green Belt

The Green Belt is a highly emotive and often misunderstood designation that affects large parts of the Eastern region and beyond. How can we successfully release land from within the



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Green Belt in a way that promotes sustainable development and addresses misconceptions?

Sam Hollingworth - Associate Partner, Creres

Matthew Hare - Planning Director, Axis Land Partnerships

Andrea Pearson - Senior Planning Policy Officer, Brentwood Borough Council

Chair: Emily Grapes - Planning Consultant, Carter Jonas

BREAKOUT 3

Local Nature Recovery Strategies

Local Nature Recovery Strategies have the potential to play a key part in responding to the nature crisis and identifying off-site provision of biodiversity net gain at a regional level. Find out more about their relationship to planning.

Helena Taylor - Local Nature Recovery Coordinator, Essex County Council

Gabriella Yeomans - Local Nature Recovery Strategy Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council

Chair: Bethany Jones - Principal Planning Policy Officer, Colchester City Council

BREAKOUT 4

Importance of Clusters to the Life Science Sector and the Changing Dynamic between City and Campus

In this breakout session, Bidwells will explore the evolution of life sciences in Cambridge, the power of clusters, and the crucial role of thoughtfully designed urban spaces in shaping the future of innovation and attracting the best talent in a global market.

Guy Kaddish - Partner, Planning, Bidwells

Mark Callendar - Research Partner, Bidwells

Philippa Kelly - Strategic Sites Manager, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service

Edward Crooks - Architect, Hawkins Brown

Chair: Sophia Nitschke - Planner, Bidwells LLP

Sponsored by Bidwells





BREAKOUT 5

Urban Design and Placemaking

This breakout session will focus on the “subjectivity” that surrounds urban design and will explore how design can be made less subjective through tools such as design guides and codes.

Maggie Baddeley – Co-Vice chair, Essex Quality Review Panel
Chris King - Design Champion and Specialist Services Manager, East Suffolk Council

Chair: Katie Fowler- RTPI East of England Young Planner Vice Chair

3.15 pm

Study Tours

Delegates will have a choice of 6 tours on the following topics.

1. CB1 and the Regeneration of Cambridge Station

Once dominated by outdated industrial parks and offices, CB1 has been revitalized into Cambridge's premier business hub, now home to global giants like Microsoft and Amazon. Through this redevelopment, Bidwells will highlight the strategies and challenges involved in turning a historically industrial space into a thriving centre for innovation and commerce.

Alan Barrett - Brookgate
Alison Wright - Bidwells

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BIDWELLS

2. Cambridge's Historic Centre

Cambridge has 67 Grade I listed buildings and an extensive number of conservation areas. This walking tour of the historic city centre seeks to understand how development balances sustainable growth whilst maintaining the historic significance of the city.

Charlotte Bailey - Turley
Sophie Pain - Turley
Colin Moses - MCW Architects

Sponsored by Turley

Turley



3. Eddington: North West Cambridge

Eddington is a vibrant and sustainable mixed-use community developed by the University as a mixture of key-worker and market housing dwellings, along with a new town centre. It is designed not just as a place to live, but for the community to thrive.

Jonathan Brookes - Greater Cambridge Shared Planning

4. Cambridge Biomedical Campus

Cambridge Biomedical Campus is one of Europe's most important research clusters transforming the city into a global hub for life sciences, which employs over 20,000 people.

Ed Watson - Cambridge Biomedical Campus Ltd
Richard Oakley - No.6 Developments

5. Cambridge's Cycle Infrastructure

Cambridge is the cycling capital of the UK, with one in three residents cycling to work. Join us on a tour of new cycle infrastructure to hear how the city has achieved this modal shift.

Paul van de Bulk - Greater Cambridge Partnership
Jonathan Camp - Greater Cambridge Partnership

6.30 pm Gala Dinner

This year's Gala Dinner is taking place at the Graduate Hotel. An evening of dinner, drinks and entertainment will be hosted at this elegant riverside venue in the historic heart of Cambridge city centre.

Drinks sponsored by Axis Land Partnerships

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Saturday 12th October 2024

9.15 am Refreshments

10.00 am Law Update

39 Essex Chambers will bring attendees up to speed with the most recent and impactful legal decisions.

Stephanie David - Barrister, 39 Essex Chambers

11.00 am Break

11.15 am Planning In the first 100 Days

At 99 days after the formation of the new Labour Government, we will look back at the reforms made to the planning system so far, and what further changes we may come to expect.

Rachael Ferry-Jones - Principal Consultant, Planning Advisory Service

Colin Brown - Planning Consultant, Carter Jonas

Chair: Asif Ali - Senior Planning Officer, Peterborough City Council

12.15 pm Lunch and breakout sessions 4&5

13.15 pm Lunch and breakout sessions 1,2&3

Please note - Lunch will take place in the restaurant and will be split between two sittings. The breakout you are assigned to will determine which lunch sitting you attend.

Breakout Sessions

Delegates can choose one of the following sessions.

BREAKOUT 1

How do we deliver affordable housing?

This roundtable discussion with contributions from experts in rural housing, policy, council housebuilding, and homelessness, will ask delegates a simple question: how do we deliver affordable housing?

Peter Canavan - Partner, Carter Jonas

Paul Morrish - Chief Executive, LandAid

Lewis Herbert - Manager, Allia Future Homes

Chair: Emily Grapes - Planning Consultant, Carter Jonas



BREAKOUT 2

Creating Landscape Led Developments

In this breakout session, Place Services will explore how landscape led developments can be delivered to achieve a more efficient use of land, whilst enhancing biodiversity net gain and creating healthy places.

Peter Dawson - Built Environment Manager, Place Services

Chairs: Katie Fowler - RTPI East of England Young Planner Vice Chair

Errin Marshall - RTPI East of England Young Planner Chair

Sponsored by Place Services



BREAKOUT 3

Connectivity and Infrastructure

Lack of infrastructure is often the loudest public objection to development. This session will explore how developments can present opportunities and unlock barriers to ensure greater coverage and connectivity through some of the largest infrastructure projects in the East of England.

Charlotte Mitchell - Chief Planning Officer, National Grid

Kevin Roeton - National Grid

Chair: Errin Marshall - RTPI East of England Young Planner Chair

BREAKOUT 4

Collaborative Planning: Revolutionising the Planning Service

This breakout session looks at how we can create effective working partnerships between the public and private sector. Discussing how we can deliver planning differently, what barriers we face and how these can be overcome?



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Jim Newton - Service Director, Peterborough City Council
Nicky Parsons - Executive Director, Pegasus
Daniel Fryd - Director, Luminare

Chair: Genny Middlemast - Land Planner, Persimmon Homes Essex

Sponsored by Pegasus



BREAKOUT 5

Connecting people and place in a rural-urban context
Urban&Civic, the UK's leading Master Developer, will lead a discussion on how to connect new developments into their contexts, considering social integration, well-being and legacy. What lessons can be learnt from Urban&Civic's experience at Waterbeach and Alconbury?

Rebecca Britton - Regional Director Communities, Urban&Civic
Mike Jenner MRTPI - Development Manager, Urban&Civic

Chair: John Mason - Planning Consultant, Carter Jonas

Sponsored by Urban&Civic



2.15 pm

Right Development in the Right Place

This session focuses on the big question: how can we achieve the right development in the right place? Our speakers will delve into some of the key challenges and solutions covered over the previous two days.

Andy Moffat - Director / Head of Department, Planning, Savills
David Ames - Town Planning Lecturer, University of Hertfordshire
Emma Goodings - Director of Place, Brentwood and Rochford Councils

Chairs: Bethany Jones - Principal Planning Policy Officer, Colchester City Council
Jade Barrett - Graduate Planner, Savills



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- 3.00 pm Closing remarks by RTPI President & Young Planners' Conference 2025 handover
- 3.15 pm Event close