

ICN Steering Group

Peter Lloyd



I am based in north Wales and regularly update the network on Wales matters. If I don't know it's happening, it probably is anyway, just don't take my word for it! I find the network, and Forum in particular, a wonderful resource, full of talented (and humorous) people who give much needed guidance, moral and other support to daily working life.

Alyn Nicholls



Having graduated from Oxpoly in 1979, I started my career working for a national planning consultancy. I progressed through the ranks from planning assistant and bag carrier to a full equity partner, opening and running an office for the practice in Leeds. However, in 1990 dissatisfaction with

the way the Partnership was run, the lure of independence and propulsion by a dare led me to establish my own practice. I have now been pottering along, plying my trade independently for 32 years. I am a general practitioner, but I have become known for dealing with town centres and retail development. I am appointed an Expert by the High Streets Task Force. I do much the same sort of work as I did in 1990 but nowadays I do it better and with more panache.

Outside of work I have an enduring interest in the delights of older motor cars, I make models professionally and for the last 26 years I have been learning to play the piano accordion, unsuccessfully.

Brian Waters



I am a chartered town planner and chartered architect and have been in private practice since 1972 and continue working as a sole practitioner. I have for many years enjoyed the ICN and have contributed occasionally.

I value private practice and have twice served as president of the ACA- the Association of Consultant Architects. I have also been a Vice President of the RIBA.

For five years, recently, I chaired the national planning forum and I have chaired the London planning and development forum since 1990. I edit Planning in London magazine, the Journal of that forum.

Starting up as an independent planning consultancy can be daunting to say the least. I bring 22 years of planning experience working in the public and private sector and also volunteering for the RTPI England Policy. This would be a great opportunity to both share my experiences to those that are starting off and learn from others that have been in the game a lot longer. This is about sharing and working together to develop and maintain a network that is professional and upholds the value and integrity of the RTPI, whilst also helping the next generation of independent consultants find their feet within the complex and ever-changing world of planning.

Ranjit Sagoo



Andrew Metcalfe



Graduating from the University of Liverpool in 2010, I worked at two LPA's before moving to consultancy. In April 2019 I left the consultancy I was working at and setup 'Squires Planning'. Initially working from home, it soon became impossible with a growing family and work moved to a nearby office in a converted barn close to my home... the client base has grown through word of mouth, and we have a good variety of projects including but not limited to planning applications, appeals, neighbourhood planning, development management, site promotion, representations, and preparing evidence base documents to inform policy.

I like to think I have played an active role in the ICN network since going it alone and it has proved a vital resource for myself – benefitting greatly from the collective wisdom of the ICN. It has also been great to meet many of you at ICN Conferences and I hope to continue meeting new people at such events.

I have been keen to increase my involvement in the RTPI in recent years and have given my participation in the ICN. I am keen to contribute, enhance the profession, and make it easier for people to excel as Town Planners in small consultancies.

Debbie Marriage



I've been a Chartered member of the RTPI since 2007. After benefitting from the invaluable resource that is in the ICN for four years, I'm hoping to give something back to those whose brains I have come to rely on every week for their wide knowledge and friendly support.

I started out in 1996 as a trainee Planning Officer at Brighton and Hove City Council, fresh off my Planning MA course at South Bank Uni. I moved around for several years, working for local planning authorities in London, the Midlands, Yorkshire and Sussex. In 2006, I moved into private consultancy, working for companies specialising in the fields of leisure, mobile telecommunications and renewable energy. In April 2020 after too many years of procrastination, I finally set up my private practice, DJM Town Planning, based in West Sussex. I work for a broad range of clients across the South East, from homeowners up to a UK based modular building company. No two days are the same.



Mark Turner



I've been working in planning for more than two decades now. Although the bulk of that has been in Local Government this will be the third time I've been an active member of the ICN. Each time I've found the forum to be a fantastic source of knowledge.

I came to the profession by accident, having previously spent time working in animal welfare and security, but really got hooked on what planning could achieve (given the right circumstances – but that's a discussion for other networks!). I ended up as a Chief Planner in local government but was really pleased when I heard how most consultants regarded me as a pragmatist who just wanted to get the right things happening in the right places, and the wrong things stopped. Mind you it would have been nice if they'd told me that when I was there instead of after I'd left!

I decided at the beginning of the year to set up my own consultancy, which has been a bit of a whirlwind. But one of the greatest sources of comfort has been the ICN and some of the genuinely kind members on here who have freely given up their time to advise me and make sure I'm working in the right direction. I can't say I was surprised; the network

was the same when I joined it first time around about 15 years ago (the only reason I left was because I was working full time for an LPA).

You'll see a dog in the photo; that's Storm. At the beginning of the year I also had to finally accepted my health was such that I was now deemed to be disabled. Storm is an Assistance Dog who accompanies me everywhere and to be honest as much as I thought it would be an issue I've found my clients love her (just a shame I can't teach her to type then I really could sit back and relax!). I'm one of the many with a "hidden" disability and my eyes have really been opened to what that means. The friendship and support a network like the ICN can give to those of us who are, or might suffer at some stage, is invaluable so having the opportunity to step up and help was something I couldn't miss out on.

Christopher Kendall



Following my diploma course at Glasgow School of Art I got my first job with Beverley Borough Council in 1974. I stayed there till reorganisation in 1996 and had two years at the East Riding. I was there 2 years before leaving to join two former colleagues in private practice. One day in 2016 I woke up to find they had both retired and I was on my own and have been so since then. I have been involved with the network since it started.

Outside the day job I fly radio-controlled model aircraft, build plastic model aircraft and play guitar, a lot.