



plaNIIt

Bill Morrison Tribute

Bill Morrison was Chair of RTPI Northern Ireland (or RTPI Ireland - Northern Branch as it was) from 1982-1983 and was presented with the Outstanding Service Award in 2006. Our current Chair, Chris Bryson who worked with Bill has written a tribute to him.

The word 'legend' is greatly overused in society but its true to say that Bill Morrison was a real legend in the world of planning in NI. I've known and worked with Bill since starting my planning career over 20 years ago, when Bill was the Division Planning Manager at the Belfast office of DoE Planning. I was a 'wet behind the ears' planning officer and Bill always had time for and took an interest in my, and other new recruits, development as a planner. Bill's visionary approach to planning was ahead of its time and something that inspired others.

When Bill retired from DoE, he joined us at Gravis Planning (then Strategic Planning) in consultancy and Bill's enthusiasm for planning did not wane during his days as a consultant. Having a passion for and an extensive knowledge of all things planning, in of itself, does not make a legend. However, combined with Bill's friendly and positive personality and willingness to go the extra mile for those he knew, meant he left a lasting impression on everyone he encountered. The NI planning world is a poorer place with his passing and he will be greatly missed but fondly remembered by those who knew and worked with him.

Chris Bryson, RTPI NI Chair



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Potential articles and images are welcome. The Editor reserves the right to amend articles as necessary.

The opinions expressed are contributors' own, unless otherwise stated. The RTPI is not responsible for statements made or views expressed in this Journal.

RTPI NI Executive Committee 2024

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Chair: | Chris Bryson |
| Senior Vice Chair: | Emma Aldridge |
| Junior Vice Chair: | Nick Salt |
| Immediate Past Chair: | Catharine McWhirter |
| GA* Representative: | Sophie Burch |
| Corporate Members: | Chris Blair Sophie Burch Catherine McKinney Diane O'Neill |
| Student / Licentiate: | Justin McHenry Emily Wray |

Co-Opted Member: Áine McBeth

Full details of the Committee can be found here: www.rtpi.org.uk/find-your-rtpi/rtpinations/rtpi-northern-ireland/committees/

(*GA is the RTPI's General Assembly)

Welcome to the winter edition

Welcome to the latest edition of planIt. It has been a year of change for RTPI Northern Ireland, which is why our first 2024 issue is slightly delayed. I started my new role as RTPI Northern Ireland Director in March, and I have spent the last 7 months meeting members throughout Northern Ireland. If you would like to meet to discuss all things planning in NI and how the RTPI can best support planners, please get in touch.

It has been an action-packed year already. In June we held our RTPI NI Planning for Excellence Awards ceremony which we incorporate into our Welcome event to welcome and celebrate our newly Chartered members. The RTPI President, Lindsey Richards visited Northern Ireland in September and were delighted when she agreed to give the closing remarks at our Annual Conference where we looked at positivity around planning and planners. Thanks to our event sponsors Gravis Planning, to all the speakers and delegates, and to TSA for sponsoring some RTPI student places which allowed the next generation of planners to attend. More information on these events is featured in this edition. It is never too early to think about nominations for next year's Awards - let's celebrate our profession's achievements with pride. Still to come if the final event of this year, our popular Planning Law Update at W5 in November, kindly sponsored by Francis Taylor Building (FTB), if you haven't booked your place there is still time to do so.

Finally, a big thank you to all our contributors. Please contact us if you would like to contribute content for our next edition.

Mark Hand, Editor

Direct Professional Access to Counsel

RTPI has recently submitted an application to The Bar of Northern Ireland to receive fresh accreditation to allow practitioners to instruct barristers directly on planning appeals/court cases and we wish to inform members that we have been successful in retaining accreditation.

Congratulations to our newest Chartered Town Planners

It is with great pleasure we welcome the RTPI's newest Chartered Town Planners in Northern Ireland who were celebrated at our NI Welcome Event in June.

Karen Bronte

Niall Carr

Callum Henderson

Stephen Hughes

Jordan Jenkins

Melissa Martin

Laura McCausland

Peter Stewart

Matthew Tanswell

Ryan Watt

James Whatton

Richard White



(Note those more recently being awarded Chartered status will appear in the next edition of PlaNIIt).

For further information and to keep updated, please refer to our website: www.rtpi.org.uk/membership/

The website includes resources to support you make the step to becoming a Chartered Town Planner, including guidance, podcasts, FAQs and dates for briefing events.

Employers recognise the high quality of skills and experience that are held by Chartered Town Planners. They know that they can rely upon the designation as a sign of professionalism.

www.rtpi.org.uk/membership/assessmentof-professional-competence/

NI Planning Consultants Forum

We recently held our inaugural NI Planning Consultants Forum meeting.

The purpose of the Forum is to bring together the expertise and knowledge of its membership to help shape the future of the Northern Ireland Planning System by actively engaging with its planning partners and other stakeholders.

Planning Consultants operating across Northern Ireland recognise that through a collective voice, they can engage in greater collaboration and contribute positively to informing the skills, knowledge and behaviours of those working in NI's planning system to shape our thinking on how we each contribute to creating places that deliver well-being, sustainable homes and inclusive growth.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday 22nd November 2024 at 8.30am. If you are a local consultant who would like more information or to get involved please contact [Julie Sullivan](#).

RTPI President NI Visit



Lindsey Richards, RTPI President visited NI in September. Lindsey met with local award winners and student members in both QUB and UU, as well as meeting John O'Dowd, Minister for Infrastructure at our Annual Conference



NI Annual Conference 2024



RTPI Northern Ireland
**Northern Ireland
Planning Conference**



Positive About Planning
Europa Hotel, Belfast
4 September 2024



NI Annual Planning Conference



NI Awards for Planning Excellence



We held announced the NI Awards for Planning Excellence winners at our Welcome Celebration event on 12 June 2024 at Riddell Hall, Belfast. Our local winners went through to the National Awards judging panel with the finalists announced on 16 October 2024. The National Awards will take place in London on 26 November. Good luck to all of our Northern Ireland finalists.

Congratulations to the following Northern Ireland Awards for Planning Excellence winners who have been chosen as finalists in the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence national awards:

Moylinney Court (HAPPI Development), Radius Housing Association in the Excellence in Planning for Communities (small schemes under 50 homes) category

Murphy's on Main Street (Ederney Community Hub), Keys and Monaghan Architects in the Excellence in Planning for Health and Wellbeing category

The Queen's University of Belfast (QUB) Business School and Student Hub, Gravis Planning in the Excellence in Planning for Heritage and Culture

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council in the Planning Authority of the Year category



**Thank you to everyone who entered
and a special thanks to our judges**

NI Awards

NI Young Planner of the Year

Nick Salt has been named NI Young Planner of the Year 2024.

Nick is a Senior Planner with Turley.

Nick's town planning journey has been somewhat unconventional but has shaped his approach to his work for the better. He graduated with an undergraduate degree in Politics, and worked in the world of politics for a period, with a stint in a car dealership beforehand. During the course of this role, local planning issues regularly cropped up, and piqued Nick's interest in the purpose of planning, public perception of the profession and its role in society. Having known very little about planning, the Planning and Development MSc conversion course provided an opportunity to explore a potential career in planning. Having graduated with a Distinction in 2017, Nick took up a role with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive before catching the ferry to the Isle of Man where he worked as a Planning Officer in 2018 and 2019. Planning on 'the Island' provided an invaluable opportunity to 'get stuck in' to all types of schemes, present at planning committee, attend appeal hearings and travel all over the island speaking with business owners, residents and agents concerned with planning applications. Nick then moved back home to Northern Ireland just before the outbreak of Covid-19, and worked at Capita as a Planning Consultant and then Senior Planning Consultant from late 2019 until early 2022. Nick began working with Turley as a Senior Planner in January 2022, working with both the Ireland and the Midlands planning teams. Nick was most recently involved in the NI Young Planners Committee and is currently Junior Vice Chair on the NI Executive Committee.



Sophie Burch received highly commended by the Judges. Sophie is a Senior Planner with Capita and is Chair of the NI Young Planners Committee.



We present annual awards to students in both QUB and UU.

Congratulations to Zoe Hanna and Alex Wu who were joint recipients of the Hugh McKay Award for attaining the highest marked final dissertation at QUB

Congratulations to Tiernan Fitzlarkin who received the NI Student Project Prize for the highest mark in Ulster University's MSci in Planning, Regeneration and Development



NI Policy Forum

RTPI Northern Ireland Policy and Research Forum (2025-2026) - Applications now open

Support RTPI NI in developing and promoting planning policy, practice and research in Northern Ireland by applying to join the next RTPI NI Policy and Research Forum.

It is a busy and interesting time for planning in Northern Ireland. The planning system has a vital role to play in the future development of the places in which we live, work and enjoy our leisure time. Planners and the planning system in Northern Ireland are well placed to guide and encourage a positive, collaborative, and integrated approach to development, with positive outcomes for health and wellbeing, resilience and climate action in Northern Ireland. There has never been a better time to get involved with your professional body. We are inviting RTPI members from across Northern Ireland to get involved. Meetings will be hybrid to enable representation from across the nation.

RTPI NI's Policy and Research Forum plays a key role in the work of the RTPI in Northern Ireland, including:

Supporting the development of RTPI NI policy positions relating to planning and other built environment issues, including advising on consultation responses,

Feeding into the RTPI Research Strategy, and supporting the commission of research focused on Northern Ireland,

Promoting the use of research, evidence and the good practice of planning across Northern Ireland.

We welcome applications from Chartered, Fellow, Licentiate and Associate members from across Northern Ireland who have an interest and experience in planning policy and practice. We encourage applications from members from diverse backgrounds and sectors. Different experiences and views are essential for generating ideas and holding effective discussion.

- Being a member of the Policy and Research Forum provides the opportunity to:
- Develop and share individual viewpoints,
- Form professional friendships,
- Contribute to your own Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Forum members are required to join around four meetings per year, which will be hybrid (online and in-person for each meeting).

The application form is available on our website and must be submitted by 5.00 pm on Monday 11 November 2024.

APC Assessors

We are looking for more Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) assessors for 2025 to cope with the increased number of APC candidates applying.

Reasons to become an assessor:

- **Support young planners at a crucial point in their career**
- **Good networking opportunity**
- **Broaden your knowledge and learn about different areas of planning**
- **Valuable CPD opportunity**
- **Become more involved in the life of the Institute**

All new assessors will receive full training in January/February 2025, either in-person or online, before they start assessing candidates' submissions.

Please complete the interest form by 31 October. For more information visit rtpi.org.uk/membership/assessment-of-professional-competence/assessors/

Keep your details updated

Remember to keep your details updated. We won't bombard you with emails but it ensures we can contact you with current news, CPD events and policy updates.

You can keep your record updated by logging into the your RTPI Profile and updating your contact and employment details.