

MEETING: NATIONAL PLANNING FORUM

TIME: 12.45pm for 1.30pm WEDNESDAY JUNE 23rd 2010

LOCATION: ROOM 8.01, LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOUSE, SMITH SQUARE, LONDON, SW1P 3HZ

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and opening remarks.**

Councillor Mike Haines, Local Government Association, Chair of the National Planning Forum and NPF Vice-chair (Local Government)

2. **Bob Neill MP - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government**

Address and Q and A followed by discussion

Bob Neill has ministerial responsibility for:

- Fire and resilience
- Thames Gateway and Olympics
- Local government and planning

Bob Neill MP was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at Communities and Local Government on 14 May 2010.

He was elected as MP for Bromley and Chislehurst in June 2006. Following his election to parliament he was appointed to the Justice Select Committee. After only a year he was appointed Shadow London Minister, joining the Shadow Communities and Local Government team.

In 2008 he was made Shadow Local Government Minister and Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party and in January 2009 also took over the shadow planning brief.

He has served as a Local Borough Councillor, Member of the GLC and Leader of the Greater London Authority's Conservative Group and has been a member of the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority and The London Assembly from 2000-2008 where he was leader of the Conservative Group.

3. **The work of the CRC and an overview of current issues in rural planning**

Graham Russell, Executive Director, Commission for Rural Communities (CRC)

Graham joined the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) in June 2007. and leads the major policy programmes on Rural Services and Rural Places, which includes sustainable development and affordable rural housing.

Graham joined CRC from Business in the Community where he was responsible for engaging businesses across a wide range of community programmes including a specific Rural Action initiative. He has also set up a number of social enterprises and worked for local authorities on regeneration and economic development. Amongst other qualifications Graham has a post graduate degree in Environmental Planning.

4. Updates from the Executive Board

The Secretary

- 'Improving the Connection' update on the NPF report on Planning and Building Control
- Culture Change Action Plan Monitoring
- Website refresh
- Newsletter
- NPF at the 2010 RTPI Planning Convention
- Member subscriptions

5. RTPI /Planning Officers Society - Coalition for Strategic Planning

Presentation

6. Mediation in Planning – presentation of final report

Leonora Rozee OBE

See attached summary

7. Draft note of March 2010 meeting (attached)

For approval and signature

8. AOB

FUTURE FORUM MEETINGS IN 2010

- **October 8th**
- **December 15th**

All at 12.45pm for lunch - start of business 1.30pm at Local Government House, Smith Square, London