

**National Planning Forum 08.10.10
Agenda Item 4c**

The National Planning Forum at the Planning Convention 2010

The RTPI 2010 Planning Convention – ‘Planning: Shaping the Future’ – was held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre from June 28th – 30th 2010.

The event was attended by approximately 500 delegates and was addressed by a wide range of high quality speakers in both plenary and workshop sessions, including both Greg Clark and Bob O’Neill. Notwithstanding the difficult economic climate the attendance was only five fewer than the previous year and there were several new exhibitors in the exhibition area. Initial delegate and exhibitor feedback has been very positive. The event benefitted from greater ‘face time’ for delegates as a consequence of the longer daily programme allowed by a mid-week event; and from both the plenary sessions and exhibition being on the same floor allowing much easier access to the exhibition and longer periods for visiting the exhibition.

The National Planning Forum rented exhibition space in the Whittle Room, which seemed to be a very popular location for delegates and was usually very well attended. The exhibitor’s fee included a delegate ticket for the Convention, which was used by the Chairman. The NPF stand was manned by the chair, secretary and a number of members of the Town and Country Planning Association, who had been briefed to help out.

We offered space to display and distribute literature to NPF members and this offer was taken up by:

- TCPA
- The Theatre’s Trust
- London Planning and Development Forum
- Civic Voice
- Planning for Real

Alongside our own literature, this included a copy of Bob Neil’s recent speech and a leaflet giving information about the NPF. CABE had requested to use the NPF stand; but unfortunately their literature did not arrive at the Convention centre.

The stand was very popular and a considerable amount of material was taken.

This initiative represented good value for money for the Forum and is well worth repeating. It did not prove difficult to organise; apart from CABE all the literature was delivered to the Convention by the participating organisations; and members’ literature proved popular with delegates.



Also at the Convention the report *Planning and Mediation* was successfully launched at the NPF stand by the Chair and Leonora Rozee. This was followed up by a workshop sponsored by Planning Aid attended by around 50 people at which Leonora and Kay Powell spoke. The NPF press release on planning and mediation was produced in *Planning Magazine*.

The NPF budget for the event was as follows:

Stand and 1 x delegate ticket	£881.25 inc. vat
Transport and Delivery of NPF literature	£ 44.79 inc. Vat
Leaflet printing	£125.00
Total	£1051.04