

National Planning Forum

Draft Notes of Meeting

14th December 2004

LGA House, Smith Square, London

Welcome from the NPF Chair, Liz Peace (Chief Executive, British Property Federation)

Pre-Meeting Sessions

- * Appeals update, Katrine Sporle (PINS) and John Stambollouian (ODPM)**
- * Design Issues, Esther Kurland and Lee Scott (CABE)**

Formal Business

1 Apologies: Cllr David Sparks (Vice Chair NPF) and others-see attached list.

2 Notes of last meeting-signed as a true record.

3 Matters arising

*** John Stambollouian updated colleagues on progress at the ODPM since September (see attached note)**

*** Following the last meeting, the most votes cast for themes for 2004/5 were for:**

- Infrastructure for sustainable communities (this meeting)**
- S106/planning gain supplements**
- Skills training for councilors and officers**
- Planning for climate change**

*** The Annual Conference will be on Monday March 7th at the Cavendish Centre, London. The Secretary replied to questions that the cost would be more modest than last year but that the LGA fixed prices, not the NPF.**

4 Secretary's report: The report was received.

*** Grant application: The Secretary reported that the application to ODPM**

had been unsuccessful as the applications had far exceeded the amount available for new starts. However other avenues were being explored. The Chair encouraged all Forum members to consider sponsorship of our activities to enable the NPF to be more self supporting.

* **Interbrand Workshop:** In response to the Secretary's request for attitudinal surveys involving planners and planning, CABE mentioned that they had recently undertaken a MORI poll which offers some public attitudes on various professions. Planners do better than some but not as well as others. The Secretary agreed to follow this up. It was mentioned that attitudes from people that had regular contact with planners (rather than anecdotal) would be useful to gather and also views among school leavers who are potential recruits to the profession. It is hoped to hold the 1/2 day workshop in the New Year.

5 Good Practice Notes: (see attachments on website) After discussion, the principle of the GPN's and the Design Manifesto was agreed. It was generally felt that what was lacking in detail was compensated by the brevity. Any detailed comments to be sent to the Secretary before cop on 7th January. Specific comments on the day:

- Planning Aid should be mentioned where appropriate
- The cross sectoral nature of the Forum should be re-enforced by including logos from all sectors.
- ODPM suggested holding publication until late January to include latest updates
- GPN's should primarily be web based to facilitate dissemination and frequent revision.
- There should be hyper-links to other web sites to network the messages as widely as possible.
- If more funds are available we could expand the Notes-the research project on SCI's was still awaiting support.
- ODPM is preparing GP on member involvement and also (possibly) on charging for pre-apps
- RTPI produced similar GPN's many years ago-we should re-discover them.

NPF Design Group and Planning Awards: These proposals were agreed in principle and remitted to a meeting of specialists in January.

AOB

* **Possible name change.** This item was postponed to the next meeting and colleagues asked to send their views to the Secretary in the interim. It was mentioned that the London Planning Forum had changed its name some time ago to the London Planning and Development Forum.

* **PINS:** Following the pre-meeting Katrine Sporle mentioned that she

should be in a position in the New Year to update colleagues on latest initiatives.

* ODPM will be making major announcements tomorrow re culture change

Research

Andrew Wright (POS Enterprises) presented his report "The Conditions for Creative Planning" (see web site), sponsored by the BPF.

The Chair welcomed the report and discussion followed. Many colleagues identified with the findings and recognised that the soundings must have provided a catharsis for council planners, some of whom are being 'ground down'. Other colleagues mentioned that developers reaped the detrimental effect of speed over quality of negotiation.

Andrew agreed to pull together a group in the New Year to discuss the recommendations and how the work may be taken forward.

Address

Richard Simmons, CX CABE introduced himself and his organisation. He is keen to work with all partners on the many initiatives to which CABE is committed and on which we have a shared interest.

PRESENTATION

Infrastructure. What cost? Who pays? Who delivers? (See attachments on the web site)

This discussion was opened by Alison Quant (CSS and Hampshire CC) and included a presentation by Chris Kenneford (Bucks CC and Henry Brougham (Roger Tyms and partners). Discussion touched on what the SE Regional Assembly was already doing in this area, the need to isolate how investment decisions are triggered and where critical gaps are in knowledge. It was agreed that this was an important area of common concern and that a full meeting was needed to do it justice. The secretary agreed to liaise with the principals and the ODPM to bring on such a meeting early in the New Year.

Meeting ended 15.15

DATE OF NEXT MEETING TUESDAY APRIL 29th 2005

Don't forget Annual Conference 7th March 2005

www.natplanforum.org.uk