



Planning Aid Conference 2010

Workshops

**Please register at reception
for individual workshops
as space is limited.**

Thank you!

Planning Aid Conference 2010

Workshop session 1:

Thursday, 11.00am to 12.00pm

Food in the city - a new planning agenda

Plenary room (11.00am to 12.00pm)

Speakers / facilitators:

- Professor Kevin Morgan, School of City and Regional Planning, Cardiff University
- Katie Jones, Wales Co-ordinator, Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens
- Lucie Taylor, Planning Policy Liaison Officer, Newport City Council

This workshop will explore the role of food growing and provision in urban communities. Three brief presentations will be followed by a panel discussion.

Professor Kevin Morgan will set the scene and highlight the importance of food in urban planning.

Katie Jones will give an insight into the work of the Federation of City Farms and Gardens and some of the priorities, challenges and opportunities for community food growing.

Lucie Taylor will share some practical experiences from a community food project in the Pillgwenlly ward of Newport.

The presentations will be followed by questions and debate.

Achieving effective engagement with BME communities

Breakout room 1 (11.00am to 12.00pm)

Speakers / facilitators:

- Debbie Holland, Volunteer, Yorkshire Planning Aid
- Jacqui Baines, Regional Manager, Yorkshire Planning Aid

Yorkshire Planning Aid ran the '*Planning for BME Communities*' project from November 2007 to October 2009, aiming to help BME communities across the region to understand and engage with the planning system. There were training sessions and tailor-made consultation workshops to enable people to comment on proposed development plans for their areas.

This workshop will give an overview of the lessons learnt and enable participants to share their own experiences and 'top tips' for effective engagement of BME communities in planning issues.

Bridging the democratic deficit with local community and parish councils

Breakout room 3 (11.00am to 12.00pm)

Speaker / facilitator:

- Elwyn Thomas, Chief Executive, Planning Aid Wales

Planning authorities can't reach everyone so they expect community, town or parish councils to collect and channel local opinion on planning applications, policies and plans. This makes community councils key to effective local planning and gives them more responsibility. But the relationship between most planning authorities and their local councils is less than perfect, and there are usually tensions between local councillors and local people.

This workshop will look at the lessons learnt following a three year programme of work in Wales which has aimed to build understanding and capacity at this lowest level of local government. How can the Planning Aid services develop this and other work to help bridge the democratic deficit in local planning ?

Planning to Act® - using 'animateurs' to deliver training to seldom heard groups

Breakout room 4 (11.00am to 12.00pm)

Speaker / facilitator:

- Lynn Wilson, Head of Development, Planning Aid for Scotland

There are many great ways of facilitating training using 'animateurs' to support planning professionals to deliver complex information to lay groups.

This workshop introduces the Planning Aid for Scotland unique training tool Planning to Act®, a drama based training programme for young people which relays the complex language of planning in a fast and informative way. Planning professionals deliver the complex messages about planning and the drama specialists retain the interest and energy of the participants who may be daunted by the concept of the subject.

Participants will watch a short DVD and then split into break out groups to discuss other creative ways to deliver training and what the challenges and advantages might be.

Community involvement in the regeneration of Cardiff Bay

Breakout room 5 and field trip (11.00am to 1.00pm - double slot !)

Speakers / facilitators:

- Peter Kingsbury, Senior Planning Officer, Cardiff Council
- Betty Campbell, former Butetown councillor

This workshop and tour will look at the large scale changes that have occurred to the former dockland area and adjacent residential community over the past twenty years, as Tiger Bay has metamorphosed into Cardiff Bay.

There will be focus on the role of the former Cardiff Bay Development Corporation and its attempts to involve local people in shaping future change in the area, as well as more recent community involvement initiatives. The tour will visit sites where significant change to the built environment has taken place and where regeneration is ongoing.

Central Cardiff tour

Guided tour on foot (meet in hotel lobby) (11.00am to 12.00pm)

Speaker / facilitator:

- Nigel Hanson, Operational Manager for the City Centre and Cardiff Bay, Cardiff Council

This walking tour will outline the background and context to the recent '*Saint David's 2*' development in central Cardiff, the involvement of various user groups and consultees, the planning process and outcomes from the development including public realm and public art.

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Workshop session 2:

Thursday, 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Lammas and One Planet Development

Plenary room (12.30pm to 1.30pm)

Speaker / facilitator:

Paul Wimbush, Co-founder, Lammas Ecovillage Project

This workshop will look at the story of how the Lammas Ecovillage Project in Pembrokeshire came into being. Lammas recently gained planning permission for nine eco-smallholdings and an education centre under a new policy initiative allowing exemplary sustainable development in the open countryside.

It will touch upon Pembrokeshire County Council's 'Low-Impact Development' policy and the Welsh Assembly Government's proposed 'One Planet Development' policy. The unusual thing about both these policies is their integrated approach to planning, incorporating lifestyle, travel, renewable energy and livelihood considerations.

Faith, planning and social cohesion

Breakout room 1 (12.30pm to 1.30pm)

Speakers / facilitators:

- Patrick Anderson, Planning Advisor, Planning Aid for London
- Councillor Lorna Campbell, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, London Borough of Lambeth

Non-traditional faith groups are finding it extremely difficult to get planning permission for worship space in London, and there is evidence to suggest that the same is happening in other areas of the UK. The vast majority of planning applications submitted by PAL in the last four years have been refused, with appeals following the same trend. This is a concern to us since Planning Policy Statements 1 and 12, the 2004 London Plan and UDPs / LDFs all support provision of community services for faith groups. This suggests that planning decisions are not following adopted policy.

This session will explore the growth in non-traditional faith groups in the UK, the lack of planning response to the needs of such communities, and the reasons for refusals given by local planning authorities. It will go on to consider possible ways of meeting the planning needs of faith communities that are involved in much more than saving souls.

Mediation in Planning - the what, why and who

Breakout room 3 (12.30pm to 1.30pm)

Speaker / facilitator:

- Kay Powell, National Policy Forum / Planning Inspectorate Mediation Project
- Sheena Terrace, Operations Manager, National Planning Aid Unit

Find out all you need to know about mediation in planning in less than an hour. What is mediation? Why do you need to consider using mediation? Who should do the mediation? Who benefits? How much does it cost, and can we afford **not** to use mediation techniques in planning?

This workshop will present the interim findings from a National Planning Forum / Planning Inspectorate project, supported by the Planning Advisory Service, which aims to evaluate the costs and benefits of using mediation, and offers the chance to input **your** experience and views. It will be presented by Kay Powell, Mediation Project Secretary and former Head of Planning for the Welsh Assembly Government and Sheena Terrace from the Project Steering Group.

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Community owned renewable energy systems

Breakout room 5 (12.30pm to 1.30pm)

Speaker / facilitator:

- Grenville Ham, Project Manager, The Green Valleys Community Interest Company

The Green Valleys CIC was dreamt up less than two years ago by two friends. Now the Brecon Beacons National Park is developing a reputation as a hot-bed of community action to reduce carbon emissions and improve biodiversity. Green Valleys is currently developing over forty hydro-electric installations, a village district heating system and other good things. They aim to make the Brecon Beacons a net exporter of green energy by 2025.

This workshop will cover the hurdles that community energy systems must overcome, discuss ways in which the planning system can assist local low carbon initiatives, and reflect on how Green Valleys has gone from an idea in a pub to a national innovation prize winner in less than eighteen months.

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Workshop session 3:

Thursday, 2.30pm to 3.30pm

Meeting the planning needs of Gypsies and Travellers

Plenary room (2.30pm to 3.30pm)

Speakers / facilitators:

- Ian Horsburgh, Director, Planning Aid Wales
- Jillian Luntz, Community Planner, East of England Planning Aid
- and guests

This workshop will look at the national policies for Gypsy and Traveller communities which are in place throughout the UK, and how local planning authorities are coping to implement these policies. We will look at council policies, how they are being implemented through development control, the provision of sites, and enforcement.

Planning Aid workers and volunteers will give examples of their first hand experience of helping. Planning officers and Travellers will be present to engage in what should be a thoughtful and stimulating workshop. We will be looking to define a future role for Planning Aid to help meet the special planning needs of this minority group.

Practical consultation methods for major projects (including infrastructure projects)

Breakout room 1 (2.30pm to 3.30pm)

Speakers / facilitators:

- Sue Webber, South West Planning Aid
- Sarah Martin, freelance planning consultant and Planning Aid Volunteer (Wales and South West England)

This workshop will look at using a consultation mat to look at the issues, concerns and benefits arising from a major project proposal. Shadowing a current proposal for a new nuclear power station, we will run a mock consultation and share best practice for future community consultation events on major projects.

Mediation in Planning - the what, why and who

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Getting everyone involved - supporting tenants and residents to participate

Breakout room 4 (2.30pm to 3.30pm)

Speaker / facilitator:

- Helen Cook, Projects Officer, Tenant Participation Advisory Service Cymru

Housing issues have implications for tenants, residents and the wider community. This participative workshop will:

- consider why participation in the housing sector is important;
- look at who are your tenants and residents;
- explore what you need to think about to support residents and tenants to get involved in decisions concerning their local area;
- identify some of the barriers to participation and how you can help overcome them.

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Workshop session 4:

Thursday, 4.00pm to 5.00pm

Working with disabled people

Plenary room (4.00pm to 5.00pm)

Speakers / facilitators:

- Colm Ryan, Community Planner, East Midlands Planning Aid Service
- Roz Corbett, Community Outreach Planner, Planning Aid for London

This workshop will consider the experiences of Planning Aid staff working with disabled people and look at how Planning Aid services can be made more accessible to disabled people. After a short overview of the requirements on planners in relation to disabilities, you'll hear about some of the practical work that East Midlands Planning Aid Service and Planning Aid for London have been doing.

Colm Ryan will discuss his experiences of working with disabled people, focusing on a case example of working with disabled people on the Public Realm Strategy for Wellingborough. Roz Corbett will share lessons from the work PAL has been doing with visually impaired people and access groups.

You'll also get an opportunity to try out a tactile modelling exercise and share your own experiences of work in this area.

Responding to the challenges of the new Infrastructure Planning Commission process

Breakout room 1 (4.00pm to 5.00pm)

Speaker / facilitator:

- Sue Manns, National Planner, Planning Aid England

The Planning Act 2008 places a statutory duty on promoters of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects to undertake pre-application consultation. If the pre-application consultation is not considered adequate by the IPC when validating a development consent order application, then it will be rejected. The IPC are already sending powerful messages about the need to 'raise the bar' with regard to consultation.

The workshop will therefore look at the challenges of pre-application consultation from the perspective of the promoter, local authorities and communities and how the Planning Aid services could / should support this process.

Bridging the democratic deficit with local community and parish councils

Breakout room 3 (4.00pm to 5.00pm)

Speaker / facilitator:

- Elwyn Thomas, Chief Executive, Planning Aid Wales

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Community involvement in neighbourhood change

Breakout room 5 (4.00pm to 5.00pm)

Speakers / facilitators:

- Jill Harris, Community Planner, South East Planning Aid
- Don Davidson and Lindsey Curtis, Neighbourhood Regeneration, Cardiff Council

This workshop will examine ways of involving communities in practical projects which make a real difference in their neighbourhoods. Based on recent case studies, including the 'McKenzie Way-Our Way' project in Gravesham, Kent and the 'My Shops Project' in Pentreban, Cardiff, participants will have the opportunity to share experiences of successful community engagement practise.

Planning Aid Conference 2010

Friday workshops

Workshop 1 (9.30am to 10.30am)

Selecting the most promising synergy areas for future Planning Aid work

Plenary room and breakout rooms 1 to 5

Outputs

- 1) Ranked list of the most promising, 'best-fit' synergy areas.
- 2) Initial ideas of **WHAT** Planning Aid could do to assist in each area.

Workshop 2 (11.00am to 12.00am)

Targeting future Planning Aid effort in each 'best-fit' area

Plenary room and breakout rooms 1 to 5

Outputs

- 1) Agreement on the most promising areas for future Planning Aid work, with some prioritisation.
- 2) Ideas for **HOW** Planning Aid should assist in each area.