



**Reduced  
Conference  
Prices**

IPI National Planning Conference 2010

# Planning for a Smarter Ireland

Thursday 15th April & Friday 16th April, 2010

Tullamore Court Hotel,  
Tullamore, Co Offaly.

[www.irishplanninginstitute.ie](http://www.irishplanninginstitute.ie)





## President's Invitation

I would like to invite you to attend the Irish Planning Institute's 32nd Annual Conference. This year the conference is in the centre of the country in the Linked Gateway of Tullamore.

The Annual Conference is the main event on the IPI's calendar and it provides a forum for learning and discussion on planning issues both in Ireland and abroad, and in particular looks at the way forward at this crucial juncture for the country. It also has a social side, allowing delegates from all over the country to get together and chat during the various breaks, particularly the conference dinner on Thursday night and the field trips.

This year the theme of the Conference is "Planning for a Smarter Ireland". Today, in the aftermath of the economic crisis and the bad decisions which led us here, the need for good planning is more evident than ever.

The Conference will focus on smarter enterprise and the green new deal; it will suggest solutions to ghost estates and deal with the development of town centres as well as rural areas, where a County Councillor will present his views on planning. It will examine smarter travel including rapid transit innovation in Belfast, reflecting the IPI's all Ireland remit, and we will be looking at planning in Helsinki. On Friday after lunch you can choose your field trip: either a walking tour of Tullamore or a bus trip to Lough Boora Parklands and nearby Bord Na Mona housing.

I look forward to meeting members of the Institute, Elected Members and all those interested in planning over the two days of the Conference.

**Gerry Sheeran,**  
President, IPI





## About the Programme

The Irish Planning Institute is pleased to announce details of the National Planning Conference for 2010. The growth years of the Celtic Tiger have left a considerable legacy but how prepared is Ireland as it faces into a more uncertain future? The challenges of the next decade require us to embrace innovative thinking to build a more sustainable economic model, to improve and develop our urban areas and our physical and social infrastructure, and to build sustainable and inclusive communities. Planners must also adapt to increasingly complex roles which encourage economic and social development alongside the management of our physical environment. The next decade must be "smarter" to ensure we can develop our society to its full potential.

This year's conference will explore themes such as:

- the changing roles of local government and planning as we seek to develop a smarter economy and society;
- the challenge of dealing with some of the negative legacies of the recent economic downturn;
- the future for our town centres in more challenging times;
- developing smarter, more efficient transport solutions;
- how to encourage greater community involvement in planning and development and build social capital.

## Venue Information

Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

**Please book directly through the hotel**

Tel: + 353 (0)57 934 6666

Fax: + 353 (0)57 934 6677

Email: [info@tullamorecourthotel.ie](mailto:info@tullamorecourthotel.ie)

### Bed & Breakfast

€75 single rate / €135 for 2 nights.

€55 per person sharing / €100 for 2 nights

*NOTE: Please note that booking is for one person only to attend on both days. Booking cannot be transferred or broken into two days.*

## Fees

IPI members: €350

Non-members: €550

Unwaged IPI Members: €190\*

\*There are a limited number of places available

### 5% discount for bookings of 3+ persons.

The conference fee includes lunch and light refreshments each day, the conference dinner, field trip and conference materials.

## Booking

**Online Booking:** Please visit our website: <http://www.irishplanninginstitute.ie/ipi/events/> For Members rate please book through the 'Members area'. Log on using assigned IPI Profile, then go to Events Page to book.

Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, subject to payment in advance or purchase order number confirmation (in the case of Planning Authorities and other statutory bodies).

\* to avail of membership rates, delegates must be members at time of booking.

Cheques should be made payable to: **Irish Planning Institute** and returned to: **National Planning Conference, Irish Planning Institute, Floor 3, The Courtyard, 25 Great Strand Street, Dublin 1.**  
Tel: 01 878 8630 Fax: 01 878 8682  
Email: [info@irishplanninginstitute.ie](mailto:info@irishplanninginstitute.ie)

## Who should attend?

Planners, architects, staff responsible for promoting economic development, city and county managers, community representatives, elected members.

**Please see enclosed booking form for cancellation policy.**



## Programme

### DAY 1

- 9.00 Registration
- Session One | Chair: Pat Gallagher, Offaly County Manager**
- 10.00 IPI President's Address
- 10.25 Opening Address
- 10.50 The Role of Local Government in Developing Smarter Communities  
*Speaker: Tom Barry, Carlow County Manager*
- 11.15 Break**
- 11.30 Capturing Innovation and Promoting Enterprise: A New Role for Planning  
*Speaker: Pat Ledwidge, Director of Services, M.I.P.I., Cork City Council*
- 11.55 Implementing the Green New Deal and Promoting Sustainable Recovery  
*Speaker: Noel Casserly, Director, Comhar SDC*
- 12.20 Cities as Drivers for Change: Helsinki  
*Speaker: Douglas Gordon, City Planner, Helsinki Planning Department*
- Q&A
- 13.00 Lunch**
- 14.15 **Session Two | Chair: John O'Connor, Chairman, An Bord Pleanála**
- Smarter Communities: Key Issues in Property Development and Transport  
*Speaker: James Nix, Co-ordinator for Transport & Planning Policy, Irish Environmental Network*
- 14.40 Solutions to "Ghost Estates" and Empty Buildings: The Planner's Perspective  
*Speaker: Ciarán Tracey, County Planning Officer, F.I.P.I., Leitrim County Council*
- The Developer's Perspective  
*Speaker: Bill Nowlan, CEO, M.I.P.I., WK Nowlan*
- 15.30 Break**
- 15.50 How "Smarter Travel" can deliver Smarter Communities  
*Speaker: Clare Finnegan, Transport Planner, Department of Transport*
- 16.15 Bus Rapid Transit: The Answer for Regional Cities  
*Speaker: Ciarán de Burca, Director of the Belfast Rapid Transit Project, Northern Ireland Department for Regional Development.*
- Q&A
- 17.00 Close**
- 20.00 Conference Dinner**

### DAY 2

- Session Three | Chair: Andrew Hind, M.I.P.I., Past President IPI**
- 10.00 What Is the Future for Town Centres?  
*Speaker: Cormac Kennedy, Director Retail, CBRE*
- 10.20 Town Centre Management: The Benefits of Investment  
*Speaker: Alison Harvey, M.I.P.I., The Heritage Council*
- 10.40 Business Improvement Districts: The Dublin City Centre BID  
*Speaker: Richard Guiney, CEO Dublin BID*
- 11.00 Town Centre Management Strategies  
*Speaker: Richard Hamilton, M.I.P.I., Urb Town Planning*
- Q&A
- 11.30 Break**
- 11.55 What Communities Want from Planning: The View of the Community Group  
*Speaker: Sean O'Leary, Irish Rural Link*
- 12.25 The View of the Community Representative  
*Speaker: Cllr. John Sheahan, Limerick County Council*
- Q&A
- 13.00 Lunch**
- Field Trips: Friday 14.00 - 17.00:**
- Walking Tour of Tullamore hosted by Offaly County Council.
- Visiting new developments in the town including Grand Canal Quarter.
- Bus Tour hosted by IPI Midlands Branch & Bord na Móna.
- Visiting Lough Boora Parklands and nearby Bord na Móna housing designed by Frank Gibney at Kilmacmac.
- Foyer Events:**
- Exhibits by 3 Planning Schools on conference theme
  - IPI National Planning Awards Winners 2010.



## Speakers Biographies

### **Tom Barry – County Manager, Carlow County Council**

Tom Barry began his career with Dublin Corporation before moving to Limerick County Council as County Secretary. He was appointed Director of Community and Enterprise at North Tipperary in 1999 and subsequently delegated responsibility for Planning and Development and Thurles Town Council. He was appointed Carlow County Manager in January 2008.

### **Pat Ledwidge – Director of Services, Docklands, Cork City Council**

Patrick Ledwidge was appointed Director of Services – Docklands in Cork City Council in January 2006. This Directorate is co-ordinating the redevelopment of Cork's Docklands – a brownfield area of 162ha with 4km of waterfront along the River Lee. He is a director of Cork URBAN Enterprises Ltd and a Board member of the University College Cork – Shanghai University Confucius Institute. He is also a past president of the Institute.

### **Noel Casserly – Director, Comhar Sustainable Development Council**

Noel Casserly is Director of Comhar Sustainable Development Council, Ireland's national consultation forum on sustainable development. He previously worked in the environment and spatial planning units in the Department of the Environment and has been part of the Irish delegation to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development since 2004.

### **Douglas Gordon – International Coordinator, Helsinki City Council**

Douglas Gordon is an architect and spatial planner with extensive experience in the UK and Finland. He has worked with Helsinki City Council since the 1990's, first on introducing the first Strategic Development Plan for the City, followed by nearly 8 years as Chief Regional Architect overseeing housing and planning programmes at the regional level. He currently works on international EU projects on spatial planning and polycentricity for

City Planning in Helsinki and was recently responsible for overseeing the new English version of the Strategic Spatial Plan for the city-region.

### **James Nix – Co-ordinator for Transport and Planning Policy, Irish Environmental Network**

The Irish Environmental Network works on behalf of 32 national organisations in the sector – from An Taisce to Friends of the Irish Environment to Zero Waste Ireland. James has worked previously for property development company Treasury Holdings and in 2005 wrote Chaos at the Crossroads with Frank McDonald. He holds a Masters in Transport and Planning, Real Estate Development and is a Barrister-at-Law.

### **Ciarán Tracey – County Planning Officer, Leitrim County Council**

Ciarán Tracey has held the position of County Planning Officer for Leitrim since 2002. He has broad practical experience of both urban and rural planning in Ireland, having held positions with Dun-Laoghaire Borough Council, Waterford County Council as well as Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. From 2000 to 2002, he was a member of the Spatial Planning Unit of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, which was responsible for the preparation of the National Spatial Strategy. Ciarán is a past president and a fellow of the Institute.

### **Bill Nowlan – CEO, W.K. Nowlan & Associates**

Bill Nowlan is a founder member of the IPI and a Chartered Surveyor specialising on the development side of the planning equation. He currently runs a property and development consultancy which advises on projects such as the Grangegorman Redevelopment, Dun Laoghaire Harbour, as well as advising private developers, investors and, more recently, NAMA. Bill is a former Property Director with Irish Life Plc., a visiting professor of the University of Ulster and President of the Society Chartered Surveyors. He continues to write regularly in the media on property and development matters.



### **Clare Finnegan – Transport Planner, Department of Transport**

Clare Finnegan is a Transport Planner with the National Sustainable Travel Office, Department of Transport where she is involved in the delivery of actions arising from the Department's Smarter Travel National Transport Policy with a particular focus on the integration of land use planning and transport planning activities. Clare previously worked in the traffic section of Dublin City Council. She has also recently completed a Doctorate in Trinity College Dublin focusing on urban freight solutions and policy for Dublin.

### **Ciarán de Burca – Director of the Belfast Rapid Transit Project, Northern Ireland Department for Regional Development**

Ciarán joined the Strategic Investment Board in 2009 as Director of the Belfast Rapid Transit Project and is based within the Department for Regional Development. This project will provide the city with a fast, reliable and modern public transport service, and, together with other departmental initiatives, will deliver a sustainable transport system. Ciarán, a Chartered Engineer and a Fellow of Engineers Ireland, was previously Project Manager for the Dublin Region's Quality Bus Network Office.

### **Cormac Kennedy – Director Retail, CBRE**

Cormac Kennedy has over 16 years of commercial property experience, having previously worked with Jones Lang LaSalle and Tesco Ireland as a property manager. He currently works with CBRE where he has headed the Retail Department for over 10 years. He acts on behalf of a large number of retail and developer clients advising on locations, layouts and commercial leasing terms. He specialises in retail property including High Street, Retail Parks and Shopping Centres.

### **Alison Harvey – Planning and Development Officer, The Heritage Council**

Alison Harvey is an environmental planner and project manager with a background in economics and community-led planning and regeneration. She has been involved in the formulation and implementation of city, town and village design and development/regeneration studies and strategies throughout Ireland, for almost 14 years and in 2005, Alison initiated and developed the

all-island Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN). She is a current IPI Council Member.

### **Richard Guiney – CEO, Dublin City BID**

Richard Guiney is the Chief Executive Officer of the Dublin City Business Improvement District which was established in 2008 and serves over 2,000 businesses in Dublin's city centre in an area that is 2.5km long and 1.5km wide. DBID works to maintain Dublin's status as one of Europe's premier choices for shoppers, tourists and business leaders alike. Richard, an accountant and professional tax advisor by profession, is a proud Dubliner, and is passionate about the city that he serves.

### **Richard Hamilton – Planner, Urb Town Planning**

Richard Hamilton is a planner with 13 years experience in both public and private sectors in Ireland with McHugh Consultants, Fingal County Council, Colin Buchanan & Partners and RPS. He has a particular interest in urbanism, and the integration between the street and the built environment as the emerging new focus of urban development. He is passionate about the value of traditional town centres for business, retail and living for all our lives, and the resilient capacity of these places to adapt and prosper. In 2009, he established Urb Town Planning, which has a particular focus on the area of town centre management.

### **Seán O'Leary – Policy & Communications Officer, Irish Rural Link**

Irish Rural Link is an umbrella organisation representing over 300 community groups across Ireland. Seán Leary is responsible for developing and conducting research on policy issues and is also responsible for Irish Rural Link's communications strategy. He has previously worked in community development in Blanchardstown and Drogheda and provided media and research support to a Member of the Scottish Parliament. He holds a BSc in Government and Public Policy and a Masters in Planning and Sustainable Development.

### **Cllr. John Sheahan – Limerick County Council**

John Sheahan is a Fine Gael member of Limerick County Council representing the Rathkeale Electoral Area.