

Welcome to the IPI E-Zine – December 2009 Edition

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www.irishplanninginstitute.ie/index.php/ipi/news-article/December-ezine-2009/

UPCOMING IPI CPD EVENTS: JAN/FEB 2010

- 28th Jan:** IPI Private Branch: The Development Management System (2-5pm), Dublin (MO), Contact Stephen Little, Tel 01 475 8090, (MO) = Members Only. For details see [here](#).
- 9th Feb:** SE Branch—*Green Wind Blows Through the South-East: Renewable Vision, Energy and Industry towards 2020*, Contact [Jane O'Reilly](#), Tel. 056 7794518
- 12th Feb:** Northern Branch— Derry/Donegal Walk & Talk - Conservation Areas, Contact [Paul McTernan](#), Tel 02890 234110 (NI), 04890 234110 (RoI)

Reminder! — Deadline for Booking the 2010 European CPD Tour (3rd-5th March) is the end of January 2010—Booking Form available [here](#)

IPI Delegation meets with An Bord Pleanála

An IPI delegation, consisting of Gerry Sheeran (President IPI), Brendan Allen and John Spain, recently met with the Chairman of ABP, John O'Connor, along with Members of the Bord and Senior Planning Staff. The two hour meeting was very constructive and friendly. The IPI had the following on the agenda: Nama, the *Planning Bill 2009* and overzoning of land in the State. The IPI's submissions to the Government on these issues were presented to the Bord and discussed at length. Some of the issues brought up by the Bord were: the need to comply with *Waste Water Discharge Regulations 2007*, implementing the recent *Flood Risk Guidelines* (www.environ.ie) and the issue of partly-built housing estates. The Bord is keen to have another meeting with the IPI, particularly to discuss issues with private practice members. Another meeting between the IPI and APB will be arranged early in the New Year.

IPI National Taskforce for Unemployed Planners/Graduate Planners— Update

The IPI's National Taskforce has prepared a short information sheet on *Employment Rights, Redundancy and Self-Employment*. This information sheet is available to download from the [IPI website](#). While non-exhaustive, it is hoped that the information sheet will give a useful overview of some of the issues involved and will be a helpful first guide as to where to seek information for those who find themselves in difficult circumstances in relation to their employment. The topics covered relate to statutory redundancy entitlements for employees, collective redundancy procedures and the 'Short Term Back to Work Enterprise Allowance'. The issues discussed are of relevance to both employees and employers in these demanding times.

Appropriate Assessment (AA): Guidance for Local Authorities Launched by DoEHLG

The DoEHLG launched the *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland—Guidance for Local Authorities* on the 10th December at the IEMA Conference in the RDS, Dublin. This conference was organised in partnership with the DoEHLG, Birdwatch Ireland, IEEM and the EPA. Under the *EU Birds and Habitats Directive*, some 12% of the land area of the State is being designated as Natura 2000 sites, including SPAs and SACs. The Guidance sets out the different steps and stages that need to be observed in establishing whether a plan or project can be implemented without damaging a Natura 2000 site—please refer to www.environ.ie

Students' Corner

Planning Courses in Ireland will recommence in 2010 on the following dates:

- DIT - 1st February 2010
- QUB - 1st February 2010
- UCC - 4th January 2010
- UCD - 18th January 2010

Student Blog: This month Evelyn's blog focuses on the current 'blame game' in relation to the recent devastating floods. <http://www.irishplanninginstitute.ie/ipi/news-article/ipi-student-blog/>

President's Tour of Planning Schools in 2010: Information on the President's upcoming tour will be provided in the January edition of the IPI Ezine.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to ALL IPI Members!

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