

Welcome to the IPI E-Zine – March 2010 Edition

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NAMA and the IPI—Update

Message from the President of the IPI– Gerry Sheeran:

The Irish Planning Institute made two formal submissions to the Government last year when the *NAMA Bill 2009* was going through the Oireachtas in late 2009. These submissions stated that NAMA presented an opportunity to facilitate and encourage a 'plan-led' rather than a 'developer-led' approach to development in the State. The IPI also recommended that the main purpose of NAMA should not be solely to seek the 'best possible financial return', but that it should also be guided by the principles of proper planning and sustainable development, including the delivery of wider social and community policy objectives for the benefit of the Irish taxpayer. Unfortunately, these recommendations have not been included in the *NAMA Act 2009*. It now appears that we are in danger of following the narrow financial-based model for NAMA rather than adopting a more integrated and strategic approach to ensure the best socio-economic return for existing and future generations in this country. Members are asked to note that the **IPI** intends to review NAMA's progress over the next 18-24 months. Regular bulletins will appear in the IPI Ezine.

CPD Events—March, April & May 2010

23rd Mar	<i>Green City Guidelines</i> CPD Event—3pm-5pm, Venue: Room F14 Newstead Bldg, UCD, Richview Campus, D14. Contact Dublin@irishplanninginstitute.ie .
25th Mar	Free. Private Practice CPD Event—EU Directives, Appropriate Assessment (AA), O'Callaghan Mont Clare Hotel, Merrion Square, D2. Thursday 25th March, 2-5pm. Cost €10 (Members Only), Contact Stephen Little—Tel 01 475 8090.
15/16th Apr 26/27th May	IPI Conference—see below and IPI website Introduction to Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), 10 Institutes including IPI, Contact Alison Harvey, aharvey@heritagecouncil.ie .

IPI Annual Conference—'Planning for a Smarter Ireland, Tullamore, 15/16th April 2010

The IPI's National Planning Conference 2010 -'**Planning for a Smarter Ireland**', will take place **Thursday April 15th and Friday 16th April** at the Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co Offaly. View the IPI Conference Brochure [here](#). The conference fee has been reduced to pre -2007 prices—€350. Discounts are available for groups and for unemployed/graduate planners. An early bird fee is also in place. Please contact Rachel at Tel 01 878 8630.

European CPD Tour (3rd-5th March): Roundup



In early March a group of intrepid and energetic IPI Members travelled to SW England to visit the Duchy of Cornwall (Prince of Wales) development at Poundbury; an urban expansion of Dorchester designed by architect and urban planner Leon Krier based on new urbanism (walkable neighbourhoods etc) principles with traditional British design coding. From their base in Bristol, the group also visited the historic and vibrant City of Bath, designated as a World Heritage Site in 1987, where it was noted with interest that it is the City Council's stated objective to make "*Bath and North East Somerset an **even** better place to live, work and visit*". Many thanks to Mary Crowley for organising the whole trip!

Students' Corner

Student Blog: Read [here](#). This month focuses on Evelyn's exposure to regional planning in European countries during the UCC Study Tour to Lille, Brussels and the Flanders Region.

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