

Minutes

TPS Annual General Meeting

Thursday 21 February 2012, 6:00pm, Institution of Civil Engineers, London

Chair	Keith Buchan (KB)
Treasurer	Charlotte Welch (CW)
Secretary	Nicola Hill (NH)
Members	34 attendees

1 Chair's report on the year (KB)

- KB noted how the last year has been difficult for the profession as a whole and as a result, a lot of the Board's activities in the past year have reflected the challenges now facing the profession.
- Over the last year the TPS Board have worked to raise the profile of the profession and the Society. The Board have had some success, particularly in the transport planning press, and the publishing of the open letter to the Secretary of State, which TPS led on, was reported in the national press including The Mail, The Telegraph and The Financial Times.
- What the Society have found interesting when trying to raise the profile of the profession in the media is the apparent obsession in the media that economic growth is related to infrastructure spending and just providing evidence of the facts is not 'sexy' enough to get coverage in the media.
- The TPS argue that there are a lot of policies that could be pursued which would bring benefits to the economy for less cost than funding infrastructure projects. There seems to be an aggressive emphasis on infrastructure for growth which, it could be considered, may not bring long term growth.
- TPS will continue on a longer term strategy to make comment on main issues / consultations issued by DfT.
- TPS undertook an annual survey of members which showed continuing support for smarter choices. And despite changes to WebTag, there is still concern amongst the membership about the DfT methods of appraisal.
- TPS continue to have a good relationship with the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transport (CIHT) and the two organizations have been working closely to promote the Transport Planning Professional (TPP) qualification and review its operation. Both organisations have been disappointed that TPP candidate numbers remain low and with the help of funding from the Rees Jeffreys Road Fund, we jointly commissioned research into barriers that prevent potential candidates from applying. This research has led to joint action to review the requirements of the TPP qualification and revise the documents to make it more accessible. Consequently, TPS have also revised the Professional Development Scheme (PDS), which is a structured way to develop transport planning skills, to make it more user friendly.
- The PDS has also been audited for the first time this year.
- TPS continues to support young professionals, particularly through the bursary process, and the talent of young professionals is clear in the bursary work that has been submitted. Bursarians produce a paper (available on the website) and present their findings to the Board.
- 10 years ago the TPS Chair was part of the team that submitted an open letter to government on the state of transport planning. This year it was decided that this process should be repeated and led by TPS, an open letter was produced and sent to the Secretary of State outlining the value of transport planning. The letter was successful in that it gained widespread support (was signed by 32 Professors) and was given coverage in the national press. As yet however there has been no response from the Secretary of State. TPS will continue this work by liaising with the Professors to develop an events programme that can be taken around the country to discuss issues raised in the letter.
- Transport planners need time to relax and with that in mind, the next National TPS pub quiz will be held in March.
- KB thanked the Board for their support over his term and noted that he had thoroughly enjoyed his time as TPS Chair.

2 Financial Statement to 30 September 2012 (CW)

- The accounts were presented to the meeting by the Treasurer.
- There is a surplus this year but this will be used to cover the back payments of VAT.
- The greatest financial outlays relate to skills and the development officer role – both these expenditures are considered to play a vital role in the Society.
- The budget for the coming year is relatively similar to the previous year.
- Printing costs have been reduced – the replacement of the bi-annual 'All Change' with an annual newsletter has contributed to these savings. The money saved on printing has been diverted into the fund to support regional branches.
- TPS is in a strong financial position and we hope to see membership levels remains the same this year.
- The accounts were agreed and passed.

3 Vote on Special Resolution (KB)

- A vote to amend Article 16.8 of the Articles of Association was proposed.
- The amendment was proposed because there is confusion over the length of term elected Directors can serve given that the current Articles (Article 16.8 of the TPS Articles of Association) states that *Directors shall not serve for more than 6 consecutive years except that an individual can serve for 7 years if one of those years has been served as Chair, Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer.*
- As the normal term of office for an elected Director is 3 years, it is not clear within the current Articles when the extra year is permitted. For example, the current Chair has served 3 years on the Board – because KB has served as Chair does his term become 4 years or should the additional year be added to the second term?
- It was therefore proposed by way of a resolution that Article 16.18 be amended to: *Directors shall not serve for more than 6 consecutive years except that an individual can serve for 7 years if one of those years has been served as Chair, Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer. The additional 1 year should be served within the term in which the Director held the position of Chair, Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer.*
- A query was raised by a member about what we define as an 'within the term' and it would be clearer if it was stated that the additional year would be served 'immediately following' the current term. It was therefore proposed that the amendment to the Article 16.8 read: *Directors shall not serve for more than 6 consecutive years except that an individual can serve for 7 years if one of those years has been served as Chair, Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer. The additional 1 year should be served immediately following the term in which the Director held the position of Chair, Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer.*
- This resolution was passed by show of hands.
- No objections were received.

4 2012 Bursary of the Year Award (KB)

- The 2012 bursary programme attracted a lot of interest.
- The bursary awards allow young transport planners to write a research paper on a theme chosen by TPS.
- To recognise excellence TPS have established an annual award to recognise the best bursary submission.
- A meeting was held in January where bursarians presented their study findings to the Board. Following the meeting, Board members were asked to vote on which bursary was of the highest quality.
- The 2012 Bursary of the Year award has been awarded to Rebecca Fishburn for her paper 'Reaching the target audience: how can we encourage increased mode shift if our surveys are biased towards those already using smarter modes?'
- The bursary research will form an event to be programmed in the Spring.

5 Announcement of new Chair and Board Directors (KB)

- Four vacancies were available on the TPS Board, subject to the vote on the special resolution (item 3). As the resolution was passed, KB remains on the Board for one more year and three vacancies remain.
- Six nominations were received.
- The newly elected Board members (in no particular order) are Graham Grant, Tim Morton and Alina Tuerk.

6 Welcome to new Chair (NR)

- Nick Richardson takes over as Chair of the Society for the next 2 years.
- NR thanked KB for his work for the Society as time as Chair, thanked outgoing Board

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Directors for their efforts on the Board and welcomed the new Directors onto the Board.

- NR provided some information on his transport planning experience, noting how he started his career in local government, at Bedfordshire County Council and Hampshire County Council, before moving into consultancy working initially for MVA and subsequently his current position at Mott MacDonald.
- NR is starting his fifth year on the Board and in that time has been Treasurer and more recently, Policy Director.
- At Mott MacDonald he manages the PDS and is Chair of the TPP Professional Standards Committee. He is also on the Board of CILT and Chair of PTRC.
- NR also contributes to the transport planning media, writing a regular column for Passenger Transport.
- NR continues to see the development of skills as a very important role of the Society and hopes to see up-skilling in the profession. Our skills are needed more than ever.
- NR will build upon the existing links with Corporate and Stakeholder members.
- TPS will work closely with the Professors who signed the open letter to build connections with the academic community.
- There will be continued efforts to raise the profile of the profession and the Society. There appears to be a widespread confusion / mis-understanding with decision makers about what transport planners do. We need to raise our profile and address issues head on to ensure an integration of transport and land-use planning.
- What we do is invisible to the travelling public and we need to change public perceptions.
- Climate change continues to be a huge issue and sustainable transport is a key element of this debate.
- NR asked that all members therefore join the Board in raising the profile of transport planning.

7 AOB

- No comments – the meeting was closed.