

# Transport Planning Society

<b>Meeting Date</b>	19 March 2020
<b>Report Title</b>	Chair's Report
<b>For Decision or for Information?</b>	For Information
<b>Decision Sought</b>	N/A
<b>Report Summary</b>	This report summarises my main activities since the last Board meeting and other key issues.

## **TPS Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response**

I spent time recently discussing and agreeing the TPS response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as per my recent communications. I would like to thank all Board members for their support in the decisions we have made on this, and for working hard to ensure events can be either held remotely or postponed until later, with all the disruption that causes. In particular, I would also like to thank Kath Coldwell for her efforts in communicating this to the membership and liaising with ICE colleagues, as well as Andy Costain for posting updates on the website. We will continue to monitor the situation for further upcoming TPS events and our next Board meeting in Nottingham in May 2020.

## **Transport Planning Day Campaign 2020**

I have spent time managing the preparations for TP Day 2020 since the last Board meeting. This included reviewing responses to our tender process for Campaign Manager, appointing the Campaign Manager (JFG Communications) and setting up the initial kick-off meeting on 11 March 2020. I am chairing the Steering Committee.

Further details are provided in the TP Day Board report at this meeting.

## **TPS Employment Matters**

I attended a meeting with Kate Morris and our legal advisor, Martin Philips, on 9 Jan 2020 to discuss the proposed employment arrangements with TPS 'staff'. This is in progress and Kate Morris will report on this separately.

### **National Association of Local Councils meeting**

On 15 January 2020 Lynda Addison and met with Chris Borg (Policy Manager) and Jessica Lancod-Frost (Policy Officer) at NALC to discuss collaboration. We discussed:

- priorities for the year
- connecting The Transport Planning Society with more local councils
- the 2020 Transport Planning Day and the People's Award
- promotion of The Good Councillor's guide to transport planning

NALC agreed to support TP Day 2020 with their members, which is great, and we intend to have ongoing communications and collaboration with them.

### **CIHT Awards**

As you will be aware from our January Board meeting, CIHT has launched its 2020 Awards – see: <https://www.ciht.org.uk/events-listing/featured-events/ciht-awards/>. It came to our attention that there is now a Transport Planning award that could be seen as overlapping with our TP Day Peoples award (note that this award did exist last year as the 'Planning for Transport' award but did not exist before that).

Following contact with CIHT (Andrew Hugill), they agreed to add a notice about our TP Day award on their awards page, to provide clarity for members, and we did the same on our website – links below:

CIHT: <https://www.ciht.org.uk/events-listing/featured-events/ciht-awards/ciht-award-categories/ciht-transport-planning-award/>

TPS: <https://tps.org.uk/news/transport-planning-awards-announced>

### **TPS Policy Group**

I have joined a number of meetings / calls with the Policy Group. Details of plans and initiatives are in the Policy Group update at this meeting.

### **TPS at the European Transport Conference 2020**

I have spoken with the ETC conference organisers (Sally Scarlett and Hermann Maier) about holding a TPS seminar at the event in Milan in September 2020. We proposed this last year for Dublin, but this was not picked up by the host organisations. They seem keener this year.

Tim Morton has kindly drafted a note on our proposal for a seminar on the TPS itself and on skills and routes to TP qualifications. We are in the process of agreeing this with the ETC organisers. See Board report at this meeting for details.

### **Better Planning, Better Transport, Better Places Advice Document Meeting**

On 29 January I attended a meeting with Lynda Addison, plus CIHT and RTPI to discuss capacity building and the dissemination for the BPBTBP advice document. This was a really positive meeting about a proposal to secure funding to deliver a long-term capacity building and dissemination programme with and on behalf of the DfT. This is currently with the Treasury (via the DfT) for approval and is being managed by Lynda Addison under her Land Use and Transport work.

### **Future of TPS Working Group (12 February)**

We held the third meeting of the Future of TPS Working Group. This included myself, Kate Morris as Company Secretary, David Connolly as Treasurer, and Andy Costain as TPS Business Manager.

We are making progress on formalising our employment arrangements. Kate and I met Bishopsgate Law on 9 January to discuss details and this is now being progressed.

We discussed the succession plan for the TPS Business Manager. Steve to bring a proposal to the next Board meeting.

We propose to hold a second annual Future of TPS Board session in the first half of 2020 after we have more clarity on employment matters. Steve to bring a proposal to the next Board meeting.

To ensure sustainable funding, David to consider a sensible level of financial reserve needed, and what further funds are available to invest in growth activities.

### **TPS and Australia**

On 17 February, Keith and I joined a call with Joanne Carmichael (former Board member and now working in Sydney) and several transport planners from Australia who are interested in setting up something similar to TPS there.

The call was mainly explaining our journey from early days of TPS to now, and the activities we undertake, which they found very useful.

### **Elliot Wood Event**

I was invited to be a panelist at an event on Transport Planning and the Climate Crisis in EW's London office (this is Jo Ward's firm) on 24 March 2020.

Unfortunately, this has now been postponed to end April due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

### **TPS Officers Group Meeting (6 March)**

The TPS Officers Group comprises myself, Kate Morris (Company Secretary), and David Connolly (Treasurer).

In this meeting we spent a lot of time discussing our response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, resulting in the changes to the Board meeting and AGM.

We discussed the Treasurers Board report, the proposed change in Financial Year dates, and the financial reserves amount.

We also discussed the progress on the employment situation and the upcoming Board meeting and AGM.

Stephen Bennett, TPS Chair

15 March 2020