

# Transport Planning Society

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11 January 2019

Dear Member,

## **Transport Planning Society Board of Directors Call for Nominations to the Board**

TPS provides support and leadership to the transport planning profession but it needs its own leadership in the form of 15 elected Directors. All members of the Society are eligible for election as a Director and we urge you to consider joining the Board in the March 2019 elections. There will be six Board positions available, with the opportunities to provide support aligned to a number of functions including policy, communication and marketing, events, young professionals and international development.

The Board needs to reflect the views of all our diverse membership. We welcome you whether you work in the private sector, the public sector or academia. We welcome you whether you work in the UK or elsewhere. We welcome you whether you work for an SME or a larger organisation. We welcome you whether you are a student, a Young Professional, in mid-career, in late-career or retired. The current Board embraces almost all of these. Whatever your position, you will bring your own perspective to the Board's work.

Being a Board Member is a unique and rewarding experience. It puts you at the heart of the transport planning community. It gives you a new insight into what the Society is already doing and how it seeks to influence the political transport agenda. It enables you to make many new contacts. With Board support, it enables you to pursue any personal initiative you may have to improve the profession or the Society's offer to members. Or you can participate in existing roles essential to ensure the efficiency, sustainability and improvement of TPS itself.

In return, we ask for a 3-year commitment to being part of the Society's leadership (extendable to 6 years on re-election). We ask you to attend six Board meetings/annum, usually in London. We ask you to progress various actions between Board meetings. Input varies but most Board members contribute upto 15-20 hours of their time per month – so Board membership may require the support of your employer.

If you are in a position to do this, if you are motivated to contribute to the development of our profession and if you are enthusiastic about the role of the Transport Planning Society – then get yourself nominated for election in March.

Nominations should be supported by three members in addition to a proposer. Please note, as the TPS is a Company Limited by Guarantee, all Board Members are required to be Company Directors. Should you require further information related to this please feel free to contact me at [company.secretary@tps.org.uk](mailto:company.secretary@tps.org.uk) .

Nomination forms have been sent to every member along with a copy of this letter but can also be downloaded from our website [www.tps.org.uk](http://www.tps.org.uk). Completed nomination forms and a 150 word supporting statement need to be returned to the Board by 5pm Monday 4th February 2019. Should we receive more nominations than spaces available on the Board a member ballot will be held with results announced at the AGM on 21st March 2019. Your first commitment will be to attend the next Board meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 in Leeds (the majority of our meetings are in London, but try to hold at least one a year in the regions).

Yours faithfully



Kate Morris  
Company Secretary  
Transport Planning Society

## **CASE STUDY**

### **Tim Morton (Board member from 2013 - 19)**

I joined the TPS Board on retirement and have enjoyed six very fulfilling years as a Board member. It has given me a great insight into the Society itself, what it stands for and how it operates. It has enabled me to connect with people at the leading edge of transport planning and key decision makers. I have been impressed by the Society's Skills Initiative and what that is doing for the profession. I will finish my Board term even more enthusiastic about the role of transport planning and the role of TPS than when I first joined.

Throughout, I have found my fellow Directors to be a committed, supportive and friendly group of people. On joining a long functioning Board, it took a while to clearly understand everything that was going on and the responsibilities of those involved but with the help of fellow Board members, things became clear. As in many organisations, the Board addresses many administrative and financial matters not visible to the ordinary member, but essential to the smooth running of the

Society. I did my best to grasp it all by, for example, undergoing the PDS mentor training course.

I was allocated to one of the Board's sub-groups, the Policy Group. Within that, I volunteered to write responses on behalf of TPS to government consultations on transport policy matters, all part of TPS' efforts to raise its profile and influence government policy. I took over management of the annual Bursary competition and succeeded, I think, in raising awareness of the competition and its importance, while making sure that it operated in an efficient and timely manner each year. In addition, I have managed TPS' engagement at the annual Transport Practitioners' Meeting and the European Transport Conference, including reviewing and raising the standard of our publicity material, and managing our selection of the Best Paper by a Young Professional at TPM.

On joining the Board, I realised that the Society's representation in Ireland was at a low level and given my Irish roots, I embarked on my own initiative (with Board support) to raise the profile of the Society in Ireland, and thereby support the profession there. Over the next three years, membership tripled in Northern Ireland (admittedly from a low base) and I established an entirely new branch of the Society in the Republic of Ireland, with an enthusiastic Regional Representative and a thriving programme and membership. In addition, two of our last three Transport Professionals of the Year are from Ireland (one from the North, one from the South) so our profile in Ireland has risen considerably.

Following on from establishing our first branch outside the UK, I took on the role of Director for International Engagement with the aim of raising TPS' profile in the international transport planning community. There is scope for much more work in this area but I have made a start. There is no organisation comparable with TPS anywhere else that we can directly relate to, so international engagement will take a variety of forms depending on circumstances. I have drafted arrangements for setting up a TPS Branch in another country and have created links between the Society and the transport planning profession in France through the Ecole National des Travaux Publics de l'Etat (ENTPE) within the University of Lyon and the leading transport planning school in France. I have been working with ENTPE to seek opportunities for student placements in the UK and have visited the University to present a lecture about Transport Planning in the UK and the TPS.

My membership of the TPS Board has been an illuminating experience, offering me contacts, friendships and experiences that I would never have had otherwise. At the same time, I have the satisfaction of having made my own contribution to the advancement of the Society and the profession and those are legacies that I am proud to leave behind.