



President's Column



With Christmas almost upon us and a very busy six months into the 2012/2013 IPI Council Year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for their support of the work of the Institute and give a brief overview of what the Institute is doing for you and for the profession.

The Irish Planning Institute has recently notified members that the process of preparing a Corporate & Business Plan has commenced. This Plan will set out the strategic objectives of the Institute and will provide guidance to the Council of the Institute for the four-year period from 2013 – 2017. We are asking all our Members to engage with the Plan process so that we can deliver a shared vision for the future of our Institute. We are conducting a comprehensive survey of Members (sent by email on 10th December) and will be holding a series of workshops, stakeholder consultations and interviews. An Issues Paper and a Draft Corporate and Business Plan will be made available to all Members for their comments, analysis and suggestions. Members will be notified by email of key dates and a dedicated website, corporateplan.ipi.ie, has been launched so that you can keep up-to-date on upcoming milestones, timelines and progress.

With regard to raising public awareness of planning, the Institute is in the process of drafting a comprehensive programme for planning education at primary school, secondary school and adult education level and will roll out pilot events in the coming months. The first of these pilot events was a free public seminar entitled "Introduction to Your Planning System", which took place on Tuesday 11th December. The seminar aimed to demystify the planning process. It is hoped that this event would be rolled out on a regional level so as to promote a better understanding of the planning process and the role of planners.

The Irish Planning Institute continues to engage with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local

Government on planning and the planning profession. The Institute met with the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan TD and the Minister for Housing and Planning, Jan O'Sullivan TD on 25th September 2012 to discuss a variety of issues, including local government reform, educational initiatives and the establishment of a planning regulator for Ireland. The Institute will also be meeting the Minister for the Environment, Northern Ireland, Alex Attwood, MLA, in the coming weeks.

Since June the IPI has made written submissions to the Department on the Draft 'Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland', the draft 'Guidelines for Local Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment', 'Development Contributions - Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities', draft 'Local Area Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities and Manual for Local Area Plans', 'Supporting Economic Recovery and Jobs – Locally. Sectoral Strategy of the Local Government Sector to Promote Employment and Support Local Enterprise', the establishment of a Planning Regulator, the draft changes to the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive and planning policy in general.

The IPI has also met with a number of other organisations and groups to discuss issues of mutual interest. We met with the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and held an Appropriate Assessment workshop. Following media reports of planning corruption in Ireland the Institute met with Transparency International Ireland and will continue to engage with this group.

In particular, the Institute has been in consultation with the Ageing Well Network with regard to the involvement of graduate planners in the Age Friendly Towns Initiative.

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Branch Updates

Following on from the success of the pilot project in Ardee, Co. Louth as part of the Age Friendly County Programme, the next phase of the Age Friendly Town Initiative will see eight Age Friendly Towns in 2013 across the country move to significantly improve the quality of life of older adults living in that area and to engage them in shaping and enhancing their own communities.

The Institute is delighted to announce that the Ageing Well Network is inviting applications from graduate planners to coordinate and manage the Age Friendly Town process as part of a Dublin Institute of Technology MSc programme in Local Development and Innovation, which will be funded by the Ageing Well Network, with input from the Irish planning Institute and the Local Authorities. Applications will be now open and close on 3rd January, full details are available from the Job Listing section of www.ipi.ie.

Ageing Well Network

The Irish Planning Institute, as part of a project team of six national and two regional town planning association and organisations from eight European member states led by the UK Town and Country Planning Association, has been successful in a proposal to Intelligent Energy Europe, 2007-13 (IEE) to undertake the Spatial Planning for Energy in Communities In All Landscapes (SPECIAL) project. The SPECIAL project will foster the exchange of experiences and competence building amongst national and regional town planning associations and organisations with the aim to demonstrate the integration of sustainable energy aspects into spatial planning strategies at local and regional levels. SPECIAL will document the project processes and resources and produce guidance for other national and regional town planning associations and organisations (and related professional bodies) in Europe to replicate the project's approach.

It has been a very busy six months and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all Council members who have given their time so generously to the work of the Institute and who have also been very supportive of my own personal objectives for the year. I, in particular, would like to

acknowledge the dedication of the three officers, Vice-President, Mary Crowley MIPI, Treasurer, Darragh McGonigle MIPI and the Hon. Secretary, Amy Hastings MIPI who give a lot of their own personal time to managing day to day operations of the Institute that very often go unnoticed. I also would like to acknowledge the hard work of our new Planning Manager, Sean O'Leary MIPI and the two interns, Stephen Walsh and James White whom many of you would have met at November's Annual Dinner. Having a full-time planner working for the Institute allows us to concentrate on developing policy papers and taking a proactive approach in raising awareness of the importance of good planning in improving the built environment for all. Finally, I would like to wish all of our members Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh - a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2013. I look forward to meeting all members at various events in the new year and, of course, if you feel there are areas that the Institute should be dealing with please feel free to email me at j.kelly@ipi.ie.

*Joanna Kelly, MIPI
President*

Young Planners Network



Since the launch of the Young Planners Network, the YPN has been busy working towards achieving their goal of holding a full calendar of CPD events. On November 15th the YPN together with the Greater Dublin Area Branch of the IPI held a CPD event titled 'Planning and Urban Design Responses to Disaster and Conflict'. This seminar explored the role that spatial planning and urban design can play in the recovery of communities affected by disaster and conflict. The speakers on the night included Commandant Damian McEvoy and Captain Tim O'Connor from the Defence Forces, Jenny Donovan author of 'Planning and Urban Design Responses to Disaster and Conflict', Brendan O'Sullivan MIPI, UCC and Hugh Murray of Hugh Murray Architects. This well attended seminar was followed by a social event in the Bull & Castle.

The next YPN event planned is the second in the CPD lecture series 'Things They Don't Teach You in Planning School' with past president of the IPI Philip Jones FIPI talking to Young Planners about what it is like to work for An Bord Pleanála. This event is scheduled to take place on January 24th 2013 in DIT Bolton Street.

Mid West Branch Event

The Mid West Branch of the IPI recently held a CPD event on November 29th titled 'The Changing Face of Agriculture: The Challenges Facing Planning'. The event focused on the agri food sector and its importance to the Irish economy. The sector contributes €24 billion to the national economy, generates almost 10% of Ireland's exports and provides 7.7% of national employment. It is one of Ireland's most important indigenous manufacturing sectors and is undergoing significant change since with the publication of Food Harvest 2020 and the reform of the Common Agriculture Policy in 2013. This CPD event tackled how planning policy needs to adapt to facilitate agricultural growth and diversification. The event included an address from Minister of State Shane McEntee and featured a number of speakers from diverse backgrounds including Ciaran Lynch MIPI - Limerick/Tipperary Institute, Barry Caslin - Tesgasc, Harold Kingston - IFA, Patrick Byrne - EPA and farmer David McDonnell.

Cork Branch Updates

In October the Cork Branch of the IPI held a talk titled 'Informed Design & Planning' focusing on how evidence-based planning can be used to inform sustainable design and proper planning. The talk was given by Eoin MacCuirc, Head of Databank and Dissemination Unit of the CSO.

On December 5th the Cork Branch held their final talk of the year along with their Christmas social. The talk titled 'Planning and Planners, the Challenge Ahead' was given by Jim Keogh MIPI and was based on the review of urban density and height policies in response to the changed economic environment. This talk was followed by the branch's Christmas social held in L'Attitude 51.

Midlands Branch

The Midlands Branch of the IPI held an event in early November where members visited the Tullamore Dew Visitor Centre where the group had a tour of the brewery which was followed by a tasting and talk by Paddy Matthews MIPI of Fáilte Ireland. This talk and tour was followed by a meal in the Blue Apron Restaurant.

Young Planner of the Year Award

The Irish Planning Institute held their annual dinner in the Clarence Hotel, Dublin 1 on November 9th, 2012. At the dinner the Institute presented a number of awards to students and recent graduates to commend them for their work within the planning system. The IPI awarded the inaugural Young Planner of the Year Award to Amy Hastings MIPI for her important work in both her planning practice and with the IPI. Two other young planners Colin Broderick and Aoife Doyle were shortlisted for the award and presented with certificates. All nominees were commended for their contribution to the planning system. Also awarded on the night were student awards to DIT and UCC, for more on these awards see P5.



IPI Autumn Planning Conference October 2012 - Dublin

Dying town and city centres can be transformed into vibrant, high quality, healthy places for both day and night time activity, IPI President Joanna Kelly told the Institute's Autumn Conference "Unlocking Town Centre Potential" which was held in the Gibson Hotel, Dublin 1 on October 5th.

The President pointed out that provincial town centres face challenges from out-of-town centres or retail parks, high car-parking charges and high commercial rates as well as the current economic environment.



"The consequential impact of these issues on the town centres is the closure of many family-run shops traditionally found in the town core. The continual decrease in footfall has a downward spiral effect for our traditional town centres", she stated.

Even though Irish towns had unusual characteristics which might inhibit development – such as medieval walls, rivers, hills etc – "our towns have thrived in the past and there is no reason why they cannot be the places we would want to live, work, shop and play in again."

The President also noted that the planning profession recognised that previous Retail Planning Guidelines were not always applied consistently saying "The days of permitting retail parks off major interchanges should be behind us.



The recently published retail guidelines should help bring more certainty to the planning system and ensure that it is the town centre first and foremost where new retail developments should be located."

By directing development to our town centres in the first instance, only then can we harness the synergy and economies of scale necessary to create vibrant and strong centres.

Making the case for Town Centre Management, the President said planners had a key role to play in this. The narrow view of planning as solely relating to the processing of planning applications was far too common and instead planners must use their leadership, negotiation and management skills to actively lead the way in creating more sustainable and vibrant communities within our town centres.

"The need for positive thinking and action is critical if we are to restore the towns to the vibrant places they once were," she stated adding that issues such as site assembly should be resolved with local authorities taking the lead and using powers such as Compulsory Purchase Orders.

More innovative solutions should not only be sought but also expected regarding design, layout and access issues, the President stated adding: "Town centres are the heartbeat of towns, serving the needs of local communities, acting as hub for commerce and enterprise and representing a significant tourist attraction."

Student Award Winning Projects

Opening the conference, Jan O'Sullivan T.D., Minister for Housing and Planning, said town centres were the barometer for our current economic challenges as retailers and businesses experienced first-hand the decline in the purchasing power of consumers.

While responding successfully to this economic context was not a matter for planning alone, she said that the Retail Planning Guidelines 2012 recognised the critical part that planning and the retail sector has to play in the Irish economy adding: "A strong retail sector is a key element of the vitality and competitiveness of cities, towns and villages throughout the country."

The Minister said she believed that implementation of the new retail guidelines by local authorities would provide a clear policy framework for retailers and communities and ensure good vitality of our cities, towns and villages and ultimately achieve competitiveness, nationally, regionally and locally.

Referring to development contributions, she said that since their introduction in 2000 these had assisted in the delivery of much needed investment in essential infrastructure but added that a changed economic landscape meant that "The days of huge revenues from development contributions are gone. Therefore, a key aim for future development contribution schemes must be to promote sustainable development patterns, secure investment in capital infrastructure and encourage economic activity."

Following the opening addresses from the President and the Minister, a number of key figures in retail planning and town centre management addressed the audience.

Aileen Doyle, Senior Advisor, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, discussed the New Retail Planning Guidelines and their focus on planned retail development. Gabrielle McKeown, Senior Advisor, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, continued the discussion on the Retail Planning Guidelines and also spoke about the Retail Design Manual.

James Nugent, Managing Director of Lisney gave an insight into the distressed market and the role the planner has in urban regen-

eration. John Spain MIPI, Managing Director of John Spain and Associates discussed the Retail Planning Guidelines in greater depth.

Chris Goddard, Head of Planning, Development and Regeneration in GVA gave an insight to the experiences of retail planning in the United Kingdom and discussed the approaches to unlocking town centres. David Fitzsimons, CEO of Retail Excellence Ireland discussed a framework for town and city management.

Alexander Nicoll, Director of Capital Shopping Centres Group PLC discussed town centre management with a focus on who manages what in terms of town centre management.



Dublin's experience of town centre management was discussed by Richard Guiney, CEO of Dublin Business Improvement District. The challenges faced by Dublin as an attractive destination for shopping, dining and socialising were focused on as well as Dublin's efforts to attain Ireland's first Purple Flag.

Joe Crockett, City and County Manager for Kilkenny, spoke of the successes seen in Kilkenny's centre and lessons which can be learned from them. Finally, Gerry Sheeran FIPI, Acting Director of Services in Limerick County Council, gave an overview of the role planner's play in economic development.

The presentations from the IPI's Autumn Conference are available to download online from the IPI website.

DIT – Greencastle



This project was completed from September to December of last year by DIT's 4th year spatial planning class, as part of the masterplanning module. The assignment was one of the more significant projects of final year, and indeed, the whole course. The brief assigned to the class presented an area in Coolock, namely, the Malahide Road Industrial Estate. The project required the hypothetical design of a Strategic Development Zone for the industrial estate.

The Site

The current site is an outdated, low density industrial estate, situated within mainly residential surroundings, such as Darndale. This 68.8 hectare site is bisected by the Malahide Road, a QBC, and Greencastle Road, and is situated approximately 6 km north-east of Dublin City centre. Cadbury's, the main employer here, has been at this location since 1964. The remainder of the site comprises mostly light industrial uses such as car repair, furniture and engineering. There is also limited retail and service provision with multinationals such as Aldi, Lidl and Mc Donalds located within the industrial estate.

Objectives:

The key objectives for the SDZ may be described as follows:

- To encourage new employment opportunities which will both attract investment and provide opportunities for the local community
- To establish the basis of a coherent urban structure, based on urban design principles, as a focus for the new community and its integration with established communities in the area, including Darndale, Coolock Village and east of the Malahide Road
- In the interest of sustainability, to

create a greater focus on public transport and to reduce the reliance on cars, taking advantage of Quality Bus Corridors on the Malahide Road, Oscar Traynor Road and the N32 Orbitals

- To achieve a sufficient density of development to sustain efficient public transport networks and a viable mix of uses and community facilities
- To promote the creation of high quality, permeable public realm that has well linked open space, with the Santry River as a centerpiece
- To achieve a sufficient density of development to sustain efficient public transport networks and a viable mix

Throughout the design of the project, the site was split into a number of character areas, depending on suitability to certain uses and densities. Five main character areas were proposed, with a further zone being made up of mainly recreational uses.

These character areas were:

- Malahide Way
- Castle Park
- Grattan Place
- Traynor Place
- Priorswood Park
- Green Cross

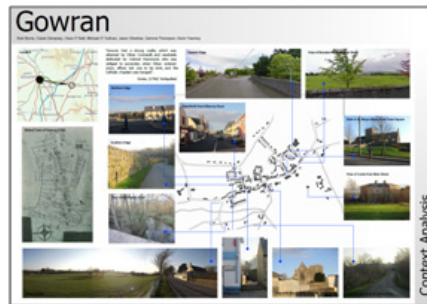
The site, it was proposed, would become home to 2,500 inhabitants occupying between 800 and 1,000 various forms of residential units. The new area would provide 1,500 jobs within the commercial and light industrial zones. Provision was proposed for 289,000 sqm of commercial space to be divided among office space, light industry, and innovation space. There would also be adequate provision made for open space throughout all zones, with a total of 19.5 hectares set aside for this use.

Conclusion

Although an extremely challenging module, masterplanning was, for much of the class, one of the most interesting elements of the spatial planning course. The project required realistic thinking, group work, and countless late nights, which assisted in preparing the class for real life planning jobs. To win an award for this project is a huge honour and the class is extremely pleased with, and appreciative of the recognition.

Michael Barry

Gowran Village Appraisal



In February 2012 the second year MPlan students visited the four Kilkenny villages of Bennettsbridge, Gowran, Inistioge and Kells. Each group was given two hours to conduct a village appraisal that adequately identified and responded to the contemporary planning challenges facing typical Irish villages.

Gowran

In conducting an in-depth and comprehensive village analysis, the Gowran group identified a number of key issues facing the village. Firstly, the group conducted a contextual analysis of the village, noting boundaries, key views and prospects, 'quirky' features, distinctive characteristics and architectural details. Secondly, a cursory land use survey was carried out which highlighted vacancy as a contemporary challenge. Thirdly, the group identified that, given its location within commuting distance of Kilkenny city, there is a particular concentration of residential development to the north of the village resulting in an unbalanced village environment and an observed disconnect between the historic village and recent residential developments.

The group proposed a number of short term and medium/long term interventions for Gowran with a view to formulating a planning policy response to the contemporary challenges facing the village.

The recommendations included:

In the short term:

-It was recommended that a restrictive approach to development should be applied to the north of the village. The group considered that further residential development to the north would not have any positive effects on the village and

would serve only to facilitate commuting and jeopardise both the community and the distinct rural character of Gowran;

- The village is rich in natural heritage and is a historic walled settlement. Small scale urban design interventions, improved public realm and increased signage would serve to enhance the pedestrian environment and increase its attractiveness.

In the medium/long term:

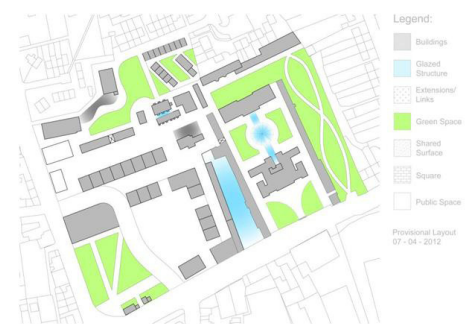
- The Main Street could benefit from an increased level of activity and mix of uses. Infill development on the Main Street should be encouraged in keeping with the vernacular fabric of the village in order to create more vibrancy;

- Future residential development should be accommodated to the east of the settlement and a particular opportunity was identified to the south, in proximity to the currently underutilised river;

- Tourism has the potential to play a larger role in the functioning of the village in the particular context of its proximity to Gowran Racecourse. Efforts should also be made to improve the poor condition of Gowran Castle.

Klara O'Neill

The Kickham Barracks Development Proposal



Introduction

The Planning Society of University College Cork is an academic society, whose members are students at the Masters Programme in Planning and Sustainable Development at the Planning school of University College Cork. The Planning Society decided to undertake this voluntary project after some discussion with members of local community groups interested in using the facilities within the barracks site. The draft-

ing process took just two months and the end product comprises of a comprehensive proposal for the reuse of the Kickham Barracks site. The proposal is 48 pages long and is comprehensive in scope. It contains a strong multi focused analysis of the site and its context

On examination of the site however, our society quickly determined that there was a great deal of potential for the site in terms of the future commercial, economic and social development of the town of Clonmel. In order to ensure the exploitation of that potential remained foremost in the mind of the proposal team, we adopted the following goal to focus the compilation of the proposal;

The ultimate goal of this development proposal is to ensure that the re-use of the site contributes to the vitality of the town by facilitating the location of development and uses that are beneficial socially, culturally and economically.

In the short term, we advocate the use of the site by local voluntary groups that are short of space and facilities; however we also recognise that the Kickham Barracks site needs a long term development role within the context of the wider development of the settlement of Clonmel.

Ultimately we see the site as a key site in the development of the whole town centre as a space for commerce and economical activity. Strengthening the town centre of Clonmel is vital in terms of sustainable development in a social and economic sense. The strengthening of commercial/economic infrastructure is key in ensuring that the town centre is able to compete with the peripheral retail and commercial poles/developments located on the Frank Drohan Inner Relief Road and with settlements in the wider region. Therefore the development of this site is critical to the long term sustainable development of Clonmel and the County of Tipperary as a whole.

Integrating this goal with the challenges posed by the nature of the site posed some interesting challenges, however we feel that the measures we advance within our proposal successfully accomplishes the goal we set to achieve the most efficient reuse of the site while being sympathetic to the context of the site's cultural and historical heritage.

Structure of the Proposal

Our proposal puts forward short, medium and long term uses for the redevelopment of the Kickham Barracks site. The short term uses of the site are designed to ensure that the site does not become a marginalised and neglected space within the urban environment and ensure its upkeep over the medium term.

The nature of the proposed uses is to engage with the site without requiring much investment of monetary resources, which we determined to be paramount given the current economic climate. It capitalises on the community spirit and appetite of local society for the reutilisation of this important site within the urban fabric of the town of Clonmel. The following is a list of some of the uses we advocate for the short to medium, term use of the site;

- Use of the "Private's Mess" as the setting for a social club for elderly members of the GAA and society generally. Given Ireland's aging demographic, we believe that there is an appetite for the development of such a use locally. Social exclusion of the elderly is a real issue; however an initiative such as this would serve to reuse a historic structure sympathetically while also locating it within close proximity to the town centre and its services.
- Community Group Workshops, training areas and vehicle storage space for voluntary groups active within the Clonmel area would constitute an efficient use of the space within the site. These
- A public events space, capitalising on the area of McCarthy Square and its proximity to the town centre and the lacks of such an existing space within the town. Clonmel has a strong tradition of hosting open air events and festivals and as such, the Kickham Barracks site is well suited to satisfying the demand for the space required for the hosting of these events in a town centre environment.
- Creating "Walking Tours" of the site, capitalising on the heritage attachments of the sit, especially given its relationship to the First World War, the War of Independence and the Civil War as well as the development of the Irish Defence Forces. The development of this type of use on the site is linked to elements of our

long term view for a portion of the site to be converted into an interpretative centre for the analysis of Irish Military History of all period, both pre and post colonial.

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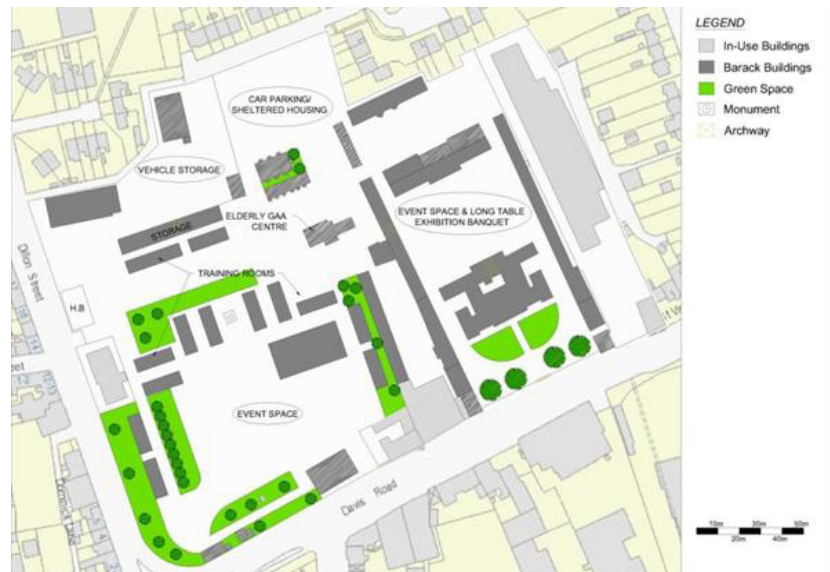
The purpose of this section is to illustrate and define the long term uses that we believe would be best located on the Kickham Barracks Site. Our approach to formulating a development framework for the site has been guided by the needs identified within local and regional Planning Policy and also by considering precedent for the development of large urban opportunity sites in other locations. The development of the site in the long term has also been influenced by the special attachments and often contentious heritage that historical processes have bestowed on the site. The military heritage of the site presents a development opportunity as well as a challenge to how the site may evolve in the future. We have therefore designed the following development layout options for the site that encompass the heritage, social and economic considerations required of any future development. The following is a list of uses we propose for the site with a view towards it long term development.

- A Primary Care/Hospice Centre: Such a centre would serve the local community by providing a space where the care of these ailments could be provided. The central location of the site facilitates easy access to the surrounding services located within the town centre. Such a use on site would answer an identified need within the community. There is also scope for the development of a Hospice unit, fulfilling a need recognised need for such a service within the town.

- A centre for the interpretation of Irish Military Heritage: Capitalising on the existing heritage assets of the site and its linkages to a long history of military interaction with the site, it is our firm belief that the development of such an attraction within the town of Clonmel would be a major boost to the economy of the town. This is one of the key components of our development proposals for this site. The historical attachments of this site with Irish military heritage is palpable and as such, here exists an opportunity for the development of a space dedicated to the remembrance and exploration of this heritage. The development layout options for the site indicate that the "Officer's Mess" and the buildings forming the quadrangle to its front have been identified as being suitable for the development of such an amenity.

Given the links to the heritage towns of South Tipperary, the development of such an amenity would tie in with the exploitation of the county's heritage assets for the generation of revenue and employment. The upcoming centenary of the outbreak of the First World War (1914-1918) provides the opportunity to develop a site that would attract visitors to the town. This would tie into European wide remembrance of the event. John Condon, the youngest soldier killed during the conflict was trained in Clonmel, further emphasising the links between this space and the conflict. The upcoming centenary of the 1916 Rising and the War of Independence (1916-1922) provides the opportunity to explore the history of the site in relation to these events. The combination of pre and post independence perspectives on Ireland's military heritage would help to develop the recognition of a more complex historical narrative than the one which was built up popularly in post independence, nationalist Ireland. In the long term, the connection of the site to the events of the Civil War should also be developed.

- Public Event Space: We believe that the site and the wider development area could derive huge benefit from the incorporation of a small scale outdoor event space. Presently the town is lacking in a suitable space to facilitate the 'strong and growing number of amateur clubs and societies' in the town. Arts and culture play a vital role in community and economic development and are becoming an increasingly important facet of modern community life.



In the short term it is suggested that an event space be incorporated to facilitate community based cultural organisations such as drama groups, art groups and musical organisations. The open space located within the centre of the site will allow for outdoor festivals and fairs and has ample room for spectators. The area would also be appropriate for the beginning or end of the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The cultural profile of the town would be further raised with the development of the Military Interpretive Centre which will draw visitors (local, national and international) into the town throughout the year.

- Incubator Office Spaces: The idea to develop this aspect of the development came from an analysis of economic and employment trends in Clonmel. While the extensive presence of Multinational Corporations is a major benefit to the town, there is an immediate need for the development of facilities which promote indigenous commerce and industry. This site would be ideal for such economic activity as it is immediately adjacent to the town centre and is served by a large area of surface car parking. The development of such a use on this site would also assist in the rebalancing of contemporary development trends in favour of the town centre as a place to do business within Clonmel. It would also result in spin off economic activity for businesses serving commercial and office activity within the town.

The location we advocate for this development is outlined within the development layout options, within the office complex located in the North Block.

The Development Proposal advances several layouts for the orientation of the uses on that site.

Conclusion

This development proposal has attempted to incorporate a sensible and vibrant combination of uses for the Kickham Barracks site. The appetite for the site's use within the local population and the requirement of space by voluntary community groups combine to generate the conditions where community engagement and mobilisation may stave off deterioration within the site's built environment. In to foster the conditions required for the mobilisation of this interest, this proposal has proposed uses that would allow the community to engage with the site in a myriad of ways. Some of the short to medium term uses of the site have the potential to generate some revenue, e.g. the walking tours proposal. It is envisioned that this revenue goes towards the maintenance and up keep of the site. The importance of the Kickham Barracks Site in terms of the future development of Clonmel cannot be underestimated. As such, it is the belief of the proposal team that while the short to medium term use of the site should not compromise the important role that this site will play in the development of the town centre's capacity to sustain economic activity. While short to medium term use of the site will rely on its use by the community, large scale development, as defined by the long terms uses in this proposal will require some alteration in the manner in which community groups are accommodated within the site.

Northern Branch Activities

On consideration of the attributes of the site and its relationship with the wider urban environment, the need for a balanced and sustainable pattern of development on the site is critically important. We see the space becoming a place where community uses and commercial interests may be harnessed in order to create a high quality urban quarter in the centre of Clonmel. This proposal also recognises the long term need to develop this site commercially in order to redress the sustainability issues of Clonmel's current spatial pattern of economic activities.

There are precedents for the development of former military sites dotted throughout the country. The redevelopment of Murphy Barracks in Ballincollig and Ebrington Barracks in Derry serve as indicators for the potential of the Kickham Barracks site. These redevelopments contributed greatly to the manner in which the settlements in which they are located operate. We envision a development on the Kickham Barracks site that facilitates the incorporation of a distinctive new space within the region and nationally in terms of the heritage lead commercial and community development. The space that will be created by this development proposal will go on to serve future generations in an efficient and sustainable manner.

To date, the document has been presented to the Mayor of Clonmel, Mr. Darren Ryan and the Town Clerk of Clonmel, Mr. Walsh. The proposal has also been presented to Ms. Sineid Carr, Director of Services and Sonja Reidy MIPI Senior Planner with South Tipperary County Council. The proposal has also been presented to two Teachta Dala based in Clonmel, namely Mr. Tom Hayes, T.D and also Mattie McGrath T.D.

At present, the proposal has been dispatched to the Department of the Defence, with the assistance of Mr. Tom Hayes, T.D. The purpose of this circulation has been to generate traction for the tentative framework for the management of the site until the economic conditions are present to sustainably develop the site for the benefit of the town and its population for years to come.

*The Planning Society
University College Cork*

Northern Branch Activities 2012

On the 1st June 2012 the Northern Branch of the IPI organized a walk and talk, hard-hat preview of the new World Heritage Visitor Centre at the Giant's Causeway in County Antrim. A bus was organized from Belfast and approximately two dozen people attended, including 2 architects from Spain. The Project Director kindly briefed the IPI party on the rationale behind the highly innovative design (by Heneghan Peng Architects). He also outlined the future prospects for Northern Ireland's No.1 tourist attraction. After lunch, the party made its way down to the historic site to bring closure to what was an extremely informative and enjoyable outing.



Later in same month the Northern Branch participated in the inaugural conference of the Irish Sea Maritime Forum, which was part organized by the Treasurer of the Northern Branch (John Linden MIPI). This conference was fittingly held in the newly opened Titanic signature building, which is the flagship development for the regeneration of Belfast's docks area.

On behalf of the Institute, the Secretary of the Northern Branch (Tony Quinn MIPI) made a presentation entitled 'The sea - an important new arena for spatial planning'. It sought to highlight how the traditional role and function of terrestrial planning can be applied, to a greater or lesser extent, to marine planning. The opening address was given by the Environment Minister (Alex Attwood and copies of all submissions to this conference can be obtained free of charge at <http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/projects/current-projects/irish-sea-maritime-forum/>

The Northern Branch of the IPI hopes to jointly host a winter conference with the RTPi on the topical issue of the Review of Public Administration in NI.



Planning powers in NI are set to be devolved from the Department of the Environment to the District Councils. Coupled with this, the number of District Councils in NI is set to more than halve by the year 2015 (26 to 11). This new dispensation has significant implications for the planning system and planning profession in NI and these joint IPI/RTPi events are being organized with a view to keep members abreast of this planned transformation. Equally, it is hoped that the input and output of these conferences may help to shape, even in a small way, the new planning regime in NI.

Cork Branch Field Trip 2012 – Camden Fort Meagher, Crosshaven, Co. Cork.

This year's Cork Branch field trip was held on Tuesday 11th September. The destination was Camden Fort Meagher to view the restoration project underway there, part of which featured in this year's series of 'Dirty Old Towns'.

A group of twenty-four attended and we were delighted to welcome a mix of students and recent graduates, practising planners and some of our friends in the RIAI. On board the bus, Stephen Walsh



provided an interesting contextual introduction to the development of the various fortifications on the Cork coastline, drawing our attention to the strategic defensive locations around Cork Harbour in particular.

The site at Crosshaven was in British occupation up until 1938 when it was handed over to the Irish state as one of the Treaty Ports. It was in use as a training base up until 1989. The restoration project commenced in 2010 when Cork County Council agreed to give Rescue Camden a rolling lease to facilitate restoration works. For the previous twenty-one years the site had become derelict, overgrown and subject to vandalism and theft.

On arrival at Camden, we were welcomed by Eileen Murphy of Rescue Camden, who took us on a two-hour tour of the site along with some of her volunteer colleagues. Also on site, were some of the twenty-five strong team of FAS workers. Of particular interest around the site were the 196-step 'bright tunnel' used to move troops underground from the upper level to the pier area without detection from overhead; the massive defensive moat on the landward side of the site; the beautifully restored granite spiral staircase and the current use of buildings such as the underground magazine for audio-visual displays and art exhibitions. After the tour, the group enjoyed the views from the new decking and refreshments in the restored tea-rooms.

The project is a fine example of co-operation and partnership between Rescue Camden, Cork County Council and FAS and its initiation during this current recession demonstrates what can be achieved in a period where resources are scarce. The fort is and will be much more than a restored historical site, in its role as an exhibition space, event venue and amenity for locals and visitors alike. I'm sure all in attendance will join me in wishing the project team well for the future.

*Michelle Bennett MIPI,
Cork Branch*

National Planning Conference 2013 Date: 25th & 26th April 2013

Change of Date and Venue

As the organisation of the National Planning Conference 2013 continues there has been a slight change of date to facilitate hosting of the event in a unique and historical venue in Belfast. The National Planning Conference will now be held on the 25th and 26th of April 2013 in Belfast City Hall. From the outset I would like to thank Belfast City Council for facilitating the hosting of the event in such a prestigious venue in the heart of the city. As well as hosting conference proceedings, Belfast City Hall will also be the venue for our Gala Dinner on the Thursday night of the conference and for those of you that may have visited the Great Hall previously, I am sure you will agree that it is a stunning venue.

The choice of venue means that the traditional format of the conference will somewhat change. We are organising a number of hotels within the city centre to secure accommodation for the conference and delegates will have a choice of recommended hotels with a preferred hotel chosen by the IPI as its base. We are presently organising a central booking system to facilitate booking of accommodation.

Results of Questionnaire & Call for Papers

At present we are investigating possible themes and speakers in order to provide a topical and interesting conference for our members. I would like to sincerely thank all our members who participated in the conference questionnaire and who submitted conference paper proposals. We had an excellent response and received sixteen conference papers from people interested in giving papers. The papers submitted were diverse and addressed issues including renewable energy, the effectiveness of greenbelts, marine spatial planning, economic development and investment and planning reform.

The overall results of our conference questionnaire were quite interesting and not at all what I would have originally envisaged. Agricultural diversification was the most popular theme followed by local enterprise and partnerships and then planning and tourism.

Themes & Confirmed Speakers

The submission of conference papers and the results of the questionnaire are heavily influencing the overall direction of the conference and it is anticipated that we should have a detailed schedule of the conference early in the New Year.

However, at this stage we are very pleased to announce that Professor Andreas Faludi, Professor of Spatial Policy Systems in Europe, at Delft University of Technology, Netherlands has confirmed that he will speak to us at the Conference. Although the details of his paper have yet to be agreed, it was considered appropriate that he would speak to the IPI in the term of Ireland's EU Presidency. Indeed the research and wisdom of Prof. Faludi from a spatial perspective will be of particular relevance as planning and local government on the island of Ireland goes through a period of reform and change and new structures and departments are put in place. Please visit planningconf13.ipi.ie for updates.

*Mary Hughes MIPI,
NPC Organiser*

Corporate Plan

Founded in 1975, the Institute is approaching its 40-year anniversary. At present, the Institute's Strategic Objectives are contained in the Articles of Association, the last major update of which was conducted in 1976. While this document has provided guidance to the Institute over the years, it cannot capture the dynamic challenges presently facing the Institute and therefore we require a policy direction that is underpinned by specific objectives, which are linked to a business plan and funding mechanisms.

The Corporate and Business Plan is being prepared by the Council of the Institute and a steering committee drawn from Members of the Council has been assembled to deliver the plan. This comprises Joanna Kelly (IPI President), Mary Crowley (IPI Vice President) and Darragh McGonigle (IPI Treasurer). The Institute's Planning Manager Seán O'Leary is responsible for managing the overall process.

The upcoming opportunities to engage in the process are the online survey issued by

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email on Monday, 10th December and the facilitated workshops being held across Ireland in the New Year.

Your participation in the survey is vital to ensure the Issues Paper properly reflects the matters you believe the Plan should consider. The workshops will discuss the areas above, the topics identified in the Issues Paper and any other matters regarding the Institute and its role and operations you wish to raise. A number of workshops are scheduled for the New Year. Planners across all categories and sectors are urged to attend but one workshop is targeted at those in private practice, one is aimed at those in the public sector and another is aimed at graduate and young planners.

It is essential that you confirm your place at the workshop you wish to attend via corporateplan.ipi.ie or by email to corporateplan@ipi.ie as soon as possible. An Issues Paper will be available in advance of these workshops. Please feel free to encourage your colleagues to participate and non-members may also attend.

County House, Lifford, Co. Donegal	2pm Monday 21st January	Open
IPI offices, Dublin	6pm Tuesday 22nd January	Public Sector only
IPI offices, Dublin	6pm Wednesday 23rd January	Private Practice only
DIT Bolton Street, Dublin	5pm Thursday 24th January	Open to all but particularly Students/Graduates/YPN
MPlan Studios, UCC Connolly Buildings, Mardyke Parade, Cork	6pm Monday 28th January	Open
Limerick County Council, Dooradoyle, Limerick	6pm Tuesday 29th January	Open
Waterford City Council	2pm Wednesday 30th January	Open
Annesbrook House, Mullingar	6pm Thursday 31st January	Open
IPI offices, Dublin	6pm Tuesday 5th February	Open
TBC, Belfast	January, TBC	Open
TBC, Galway	January, TBC	Open

If you are not available to attend a workshop, the Corporate Plan steering group welcome any comments on the forthcoming Issues Paper or general suggestions by email to corporateplan@ipi.ie and all members are encouraged to complete the online survey which closes on 21st January 2013.



IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Please note that the views expressed throughout this magazine are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Institute nor of the contributor's employer.