

PEBA The Planning & Environment Bar Association

Dear Colleague

MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

1. Our last newsletter was produced in October 2016. This newsletter summarises PEBA's activities since then.

Future event

2. The PEBA AGM will be held at 6 pm on Friday 14 July 2017 at Francis Taylor Building.

Recent events

3. The PEBA annual conference was held at Hogan Lovells on Friday 5 May 2017. There were record levels of attendance this year. The conference was organised by Simon Bird QC, Tom Cosgrove QC and CPT. The Keynote Address was given by Mr Justice Holgate. Lord Justice Lindblom delivered the inaugural Frances Patterson Paper. The speakers were David Elvin QC, Alex Booth QC, Justine Thornton QC, Ruth Stockley, Asitha Ranatunga, Will Upton, Megan Thomas and Richard Kimblin QC.
4. Other recent events include:
 - (i) 2 February 2017: Megan Thomas attended a meeting in Cardiff with the Welsh Government on the proposed National Development Plan.
 - (ii) 24 February 2017: PEBA seminar at FTB with the Planning Inspectorate, arranged by Asitha Ranatunga. Ben Linscott, the Director of Inspectors at PINS and senior inspectors Bridget Campbell and Christine Thorby delivered presentations and debated current issues with PEBA members.
 - (iii) 24 February 2017: the seminar was followed by the PEBA dinner at Inner Temple, organised by Richard Ground QC. Those attending included our President Lord Carnwath, our honorary members Lord Justice Lindblom, Mr Justice Ouseley, Sir Konrad Schiemann and Judge Alice Robinson and our guests Caroline Allen (chair of the Law Society's Planning and Environment Committee), John Rhodes OBE (Quod) and Ben Linscott, Bridget Campbell, Christine Thorby and Stuart Reid from PINS.
 - (iv) 13 March 2017: Tim Mould QC and Will Upton took part in a seminar with Lord Justice Jackson on fixed recoverable costs and judicial review. He is reporting to the Government on extending the use of fixed costs generally, and they are then likely to launch a consultation process on the recommendations that they accept. There will therefore be a further opportunity for PEBA to comment.

- (v) 7 April 2017: Andrew Tait QC and Will Upton attended a meeting with the RTPI to discuss changes to the RTPI's Ethics and Professional Standards Advice and to discuss the production of advice to RTPI members on the role of advocates and expert witnesses at planning inquiries and hearings. Megan Thomas and Victoria Hutton have kindly agreed to take part in this project.
 - (vi) 24 April 2017: Andrew Tait QC and Paul Brown QC met Sarah Richards, the Chief Executive of PINS, and Ben Linscott, the Director of Inspectors, to discuss current issues.
5. There were meetings of the PEBA committee on 14 November 2016, 16 January and 13 March 2017.
 6. At the meetings of the Bar Council, PEBA has been represented by Celina Colquhoun. Chris Lewsley and Cain Ormondroyd have represented PEBA at the meetings of the Valuation Tribunal Users' Group (Chris Lewsley has now stood down from this role). At a number of meetings of HMCTS's Tribunal Professional Engagement Group, PEBA has been represented by Hugh Flanagan. Tim Mould QC is PEBA's representative on the Planning Court Users' Group.

Consultation responses

7. Please let us know if you become aware of any consultation documents to which you think PEBA could usefully respond.
8. We have responded to the following consultations:
 - (i) January 2017: the future of training at the Bar.
 - (ii) February 2017: the CPA's review of the CPO process.
 - (iii) March 2017: the National Development Plan for Wales.
 - (iv) May 2017: the Housing White Paper.
9. Those who have contributed to the drafting of the responses include Andrew Tait QC, Paul Brown QC, Guy Roots QC, Megan Thomas, Stephanie Hall and Tim Mould QC (who has also co-ordinated all the responses).

Administration

10. HH Judge Alice Robinson has been elected as an honorary member of the Association.
11. Tom Cosgrove QC has been co-opted as a committee member with a view to succeeding Simon Bird QC as the organiser of the PEBA conference. PEBA is very grateful to Simon for organising a succession of highly successful annual conferences.
12. Thanks to Rebecca Clutten, the PEBA handbook for 2017-18 has been produced and the website has been substantially revised.

13. We thank CPT for their administrative support for the work of PEBA.

New silks

14. We are delighted to congratulate our members Paul Shadarevian QC, Tom Cosgrove QC, Matthew Reed QC and Andrew Tabachnik QC on their appointments to silk earlier in 2017.

The Hon. Mrs Justice Patterson DBE and Roy Vandermeer OBE QC

15. PEBA mourn the loss, in December 2016 and January 2017 respectively, of two of its honorary members, Frances Patterson and Roy Vandermeer.

