

P.E.B.A.

The Specialist Bar Association for Planning,
Environment and Local Government

Dear Colleague

WINTER 2015 Newsletter

This is part of our occasional series of updates on significant forthcoming events and dates of interest to PEBA members, including:

- **Congratulations to New Silks and Judicial appointments**
- **Planning Court's Users' Group**
- **CEDR Event: Public Inquiries Guide published**
- **PEBA Dinner: 19 March 2015**
- **Other Miscellaneous news**

1. Congratulations to New Silks and New Judicial Appointments

Congratulations to the new judges appointed: Gilbert J, Dove J, and Holgate J.

Congratulations to the New Silks: Andrew Fraser Urquhart, Dan Kolinsky, Hereward Phillpot and Vikram Sachdeva

2. Planning Court's Users' Group

As Members will recall, much progress was made last year on advancing the Planning Court's Users' Group. This is now due to get underway. Lindblom J has also offered to come and give PEBA a CPD accredited talk on the subject, and we will let everyone know once a convenient date has been found for this.

3. CEDR: Public Inquiries Guide published – 3 February 2015

Assistant Secretary, Hashi Mohamed, on behalf of the PEBA Committee, attended the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution's publication on Public Inquiries; *'Setting up and Running a Public Inquiry: Guidance for Chairs & Commissioning Bodies'*.

This guidance is aimed at chairs and commissioning bodies, and arguably is very timely. Andrew Tait QC, Vice Chairman of PEBA, and Douglas Edwards had previously taken part in the evidence gathering process for the report. In attendance at the launch were, *inter alia*, Lord Carnwath, President of PEBA, and Lord Woolf of Barnes, the author of the preface to the report, and who also made some brief remarks at the House of Lords event.

Although the guide is related to Public Inquiries in the classic sense, there was comment made about how much there was/is to learn from the Planning Inquiry system. The context was similarly not lost on the audience (child abuse inquiry, Litvinenko, Chilcot).

4. Date for the diary – PEBA Dinner: 19 March 2015

PEBA Dinner: Thursday, 19 March 2015. Tickets are available in the usual way, invitations ought to have reached Members' chambers by now. Our guests include the recent appointees. Also, as an added attraction, after the success of last year's close harmony choir, another group of talented young singers will be entertaining us before dinner this year.

And in other news...

5. Final DCLG Planning Update Newsletter before election 2015.

The last (and pre-election) Planning Update Newsletter from the Chief Planner, Steve Quartermain CBE has been published. Since the last update in March 2014, a great deal has happened and Mr. Quartermain gives a wide ranging review across various areas in Planning.

For more information [click here](#)

6. New Years Honours List

Steve Quartermain, the Department for Communities and Local Government's Chief Planner, received a CBE for "*services to planning infrastructure*".

Peter Rees, who retired as Chief Planner at the Corporation of the City of London last year was awarded a CBE "*services to architecture and town planning*".

Michèle Dix, Transport for London's Managing Director for Planning, received a CBE for "*services to the transport industry*".

John Rhodes, Founding Partner of planning consultancy Quod, received an OBE for "*services to economy planning and community*" -perhaps better known as one of the authors of the practitioners' draft of the *NPPF*.

7. Welsh Planning Bill

The Bill was introduced to the Welsh Assembly in October. Morag Ellis QC gave evidence to the Senedd (Select Committee) on behalf of PEBA in December. The Senedd's report was published recently and can be [accessed online along](#) with amendments introduced to the Bill in response. Notable changes include a duty to assess the effect of emerging development plans on the Welsh language and changing the trigger for town and village green applications to the grant of planning permission, both of which were matters discussed in the legal session of the Senedd's hearings.

8. QC Selection Panel and planning

Morag Ellis QC has been in contact with the Panel to highlight particular features of planning work and, in particular, the impact of changes in procedure upon advocacy opportunities. She has been invited to meet the Head of the Panel in June to discuss these matters with her. Liaison is also underway with PINS to establish a clear process for obtaining inspector references. Members of the organisation are happy to come and speak to any interested members of PEBA and it is intended to organise a suitable CPD event. Members are encouraged to attend, even if they may be some way away from making an application. These are good opportunities to ensure that those who decide about appointments have a better understanding of PEBA's work.

9. New Members

If you know of members of Chambers who undertake planning environmental and local government work who are interested in joining, new members are always welcomed. The membership form is now online – or you can send them this link <http://www.peba.org.uk/joining-peba-2.html>

This edition has been produced with the assistance of our Assistant Secretary, Hashi Mohamed, recently returned from his Pegasus scholarship to Dubai. **If you have queries on this newsletter and/or its content**, please send you comments and queries to William Upton, PEBA Secretary, e: williamupton@6pumpcourt.co.uk

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