



Planning *for* Change: Planning in Times of Change



Wednesday, 6th November 2019

The Great Hall, Ulster University - Magee Campus Derry/Londonderry



Planning for Change: **Planning in Times of Change**



PROGRAMME

Energy Policy, Belfast School of Architecture and the Built Environment, Ulster University

08.45–09.45 **Registration & Refreshments**

Session 1: Planning for Sustainable Change

Chair: Prof Deborah Peel, Emeritus Professor of Planning, University of Dundee.

09.45–10.00

Welcome

Mr. Peter Cassells, Chair, ICLRD
Dr. Malachy Ó Néill, Provost, Ulster University – Magee Campus
Prof Deborah Peel, Session Chair

10.00–10.20

Keynote Address: Planning for Change: Reflecting on 20 Years of Smart Growth Policy and Practice... Where to Next?

Prof. Gerrit Knaap, Director, National Center for Smart Growth, University of Maryland

10.20–10.40

Places of Tomorrow: A People-Centric Approach to Sustainable Development

Dr. Louise Kempton, Project Manager, Newcastle City Futures

10.40–11.00

Uncertain Times but Strong Ties: Planning for a Cross-Border City Region

Mr. John Kelpie, Chief Executive, Derry City & Strabane District Council and Mr. Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, Donegal County Council

11.00–11.20

Q & A

11.20–11.45

Refreshments

Session 2: Parallel Sessions

A number of parallel sessions focusing on key themes facing planners, policy-makers and decision-makers in the short to medium term.

Parallel Session 1: Planning for an Ageing Society

Chair: Ms. Caitriona Mullan, Cross-Border Analyst & Senior Research Associate, ICLRD

11.45–11.50

Welcome from the Session Chair

Ms. Caitriona Mullan

11.50–12.05

Re-imagining Age and Place: Planning for 'Caring Places'

Mr. Diarmaid Lawlor, Director of Place, Architecture and Design Scotland

12.05–12.20

Smart and Healthy Ageing: Adaptive Environments for an Ageing Population

Dr. Michael Cooke, Co-PI, ALL Institute: Assisted Living and Learning, Maynooth University

12.20–12.35

Planning for Positive Ageing – Age Friendly Planning in Local Government

Ms. Alison Forbes, Project Manager, South West Age Partnership & Ms. Leza Cleary, Project & Partnership Development Co-ordinator, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

12.35–13.15

Q&A

13.15–14.15

Lunch

Parallel Session 2: Climate Change Adaptation – What this Means for Spatial Planning

Chair: Dr. Heather Ritchie, Lecturer in Spatial Planning and

11.45–11.50

Welcome from the Session Chair

Dr. Heather Ritchie

11.50–12.05

Building Resilient and Agile Places: Placing an Emphasis on Climate Informed Planning and Design

Mr. Niall Cussen, Chief Executive and Planning Regulator, Office of the Planning Regulator

12.05–12.20

Approaches to Adaptation Planning in Local Government

Mr. Stephen Jones, Climate NI Officer, Climate Northern Ireland

12.20–12.35

Environmental Sensitivity Mapping: A Tool for Evidence-based Planning

Dr. Ainhoa Gonzalez Del Campo, Assistant Professor, School of Geography, University College Dublin & Developer, ESM Tool

12.35–13.15

Discussion / Q&A

13.15–14.15

Lunch

Parallel Session 3: A Place with (No) Purpose? The Future of the High Street

Chair: Dr. Linda McElduff, Lecturer, Belfast School of Architecture and the Built Environment, Ulster University

11.45–11.50

Welcome from the Session Chair

Dr. Linda McElduff

11.50–12.05

The High Street is Changing....The Future of the High Street

Mr. Conor Skehan, School of Spatial Planning and Transport Engineering, TU Dublin

12.05–12.20

Re-Purposing Place: Boyle 2040 and the Role of the Main Street

Mr. Brian Farragher, Acting Senior Executive Planner – Regeneration Team, Roscommon County Council

12.20–12.35

"It doesn't happen overnight"...The Story of Lisburn's High Street Renaissance

Ms. Suzanne Lutton, Regeneration and Infrastructure Manager, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council

12.35–13.15

Q&A

13.15–14.15

Lunch

Session 3: Principles, Policy and Practice – Looking to the 22nd Century

Chair: Ms. Mary MacIntyre OBE, Former Chief Planner, Northern Ireland

14.15–14.25

Welcome from the Session Chair

Ms. Mary MacIntyre OBE

14.25–15.15

Panel Discussion: Where Next for Planning Policy and Practice?

Mr. Angus Kerr, Chief Planner – Northern Ireland

Mr. Dave Walsh, Chair, An Bord Pléanala

Prof. Peter Roberts,

Chair, Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Plus speakers drawn from the various morning sessions

15.30

Conference Close

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CONFERENCE SPEAKERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

Deborah Peel is Emeritus Professor of Planning at the University of Dundee. During her career, Deborah worked in local government and subsequently at the universities of Westminster, Liverpool, Ulster and Dundee. As a social scientist, her research interests are interdisciplinary, embracing the reform of spatial planning in Scotland under devolution, public participation, third sector-led regeneration and the decentralisation of powers to local people as part of the transformation of local government. Deborah has recently co-authored: *The Essential Guide to Planning Law: Decision-Making and Practice in the UK* (Policy Press) and *Exploring New Models of Community-based Planning in the Devolved UK* (funded by the Planning Exchange Foundation).



Peter Cassells is outgoing Director of the Edward M Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention, Maynooth University. He is also Deputy Chair of the Governing Authority of the University. Peter was a member of the Hunt Review of Higher Education and chaired the Expert Group on the Future Funding of Higher Education. He was also on the Board of the Industrial Development (IDA) Peter is a former General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and was a lead negotiator of five National Partnership Programmes in the 1990s. Peter has recently become Chair of the ICLRD.



Malachy Ó Néill is Provost of the Magee Campus (Derry) of Ulster University and Senior Lecturer in Modern Irish. He spent five years as Head of the School of Irish Language and Literature prior to taking up his current position and has been an elected member of the University Senate since 2012. He is an appointed member of the Irish Language and Culture Committee (Royal Irish Academy) and Fóram Forbartha Teanga (the Language Development Forum of Foras na Gaeilge). His research focuses on Irish language sources of the Ó Néill dynasty, pedagogical development in modern Irish, and Irish language theatre. Dr Ó Néill was a member of the Review Board of the Official Irish Language Standard (2016). Dr Ó Néill was awarded a National Teaching Fellowship in 2019, the highest accolade in UK Higher Education.



Gerrit-Jan Knaap is Professor of Urban Studies and Planning, Executive Director of the National Center for Smart Growth Research at the University of Maryland. Gerrit earned his B.S. from Willamette University, his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Oregon, and received post-doctoral training at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, all in economics. Gerrit's research interests include the interactions between housing markets and policy, the economics and politics of land use planning, the efficacy of economic development instruments, and the impacts of environmental policy. On these subjects, Gerrit has



authored or coauthored over 65 articles in peer refereed journals, and coauthored or co-edited nine books. He received the Chester Rapkin award for the best paper published in Volume 10 of the Journal of Planning Education and Research, with Greg Lindsey, he received the 1998 best of ACSP award, and in 2006 he received the Outstanding Planner Award from the Maryland Chapter of the American Planning Association. He currently serves on the State of Maryland's Smart Growth Subcabinet, Sustainable Growth Commission, Governor's Scientific Advisory Panel, and the Mitigation and Science workgroups of the Climate Commission.

Louise Kempton joined the Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies (CURDS) at Newcastle University in 2011 as a Senior Research Associate. Her main role is focused on contributing through research and policy development to the shaping of an evolving understanding of the role of universities as 'anchor' institutions in local/regional economic growth and innovation. She is also interested in the process of building local collaborative leadership to develop innovative solutions to meeting urban challenges and opportunities. Louise was seconded to the Newcastle City Futures Urban Living Partnership programme from April 2017 to July 2018, which involved managing a portfolio of over 50 projects contributing to Newcastle's ambition to be a smart, innovative and inclusive city. She is the author/co-author of more than 20 academic and policy publications exploring the barriers and drivers to universities' involvement in regional innovation and has acted as adviser to a number of local, national and international organisations on the same topic. Louise also provides bespoke consultancy services to cities and localities in the UK and internationally on developing their 'smart' placed-based strategies. In January 2019 Louise was appointed Associate Dean of Research and Innovation for Newcastle University's Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty.



John Kelpie is the Chief Executive of the newly formed Derry City and Strabane District Council. Established in April 2015 as a result of a programme of local government reform in Northern Ireland, this new Council serves a larger geographical area and has a range of additional powers, functions and responsibilities than its predecessor councils. John led on the creation of the new organisation designing an innovative, flexible and responsive staffing structure with a clear vision and purpose to develop a thriving, prosperous and sustainable City and Region with equality of opportunity for all.



Seamus Neely has been the Chief Executive of Donegal County Council since 2010. Seamus started his public service career with Donegal County Council before moving to various roles in Local Government in Cavan and Monaghan Town and County Council. Seamus holds an honours degree in Business Studies from the University of Ulster and an MBA from Dublin City University. He is currently a Board Member of the City & County Management Association Executive, the Local Government Management



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Agency, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and is Chairman of Donegal Tourism CLG.

Caitríona Mullan is a cross border specialist with over two decades practice-based experience in facilitating evidence-informed development and transformative systems across a range of sectors including local government, regional development and health and social care. This experience has included public sector roles on both sides of the Ireland/Northern Ireland Border. A former chairperson of ICLRD, Caitríona is highly skilled in bringing diverse stakeholders to work together towards shared goals in the domain of citizen wellbeing, place making, and post-conflict transitions. This has included her brokerage and facilitation of intergovernmental collaborative arrangements for the North West City Region which ICLRD continues to support. Caitríona is an independent consultant, a member of the Expert panel of the Association of European Border Regions, a member of the AEBR Task Force on EU External Borders and an expert panel member for the Council of Europe's Centre for Capacity Building for Governance and Equality. Her recent work includes capacity building for civic diplomacy and cross border collaboration in Ukraine and the Western Balkans.



Diarmaid Lawlor is Director of Place at Architecture and Design Scotland, Scotland's champion for design and placemaking. He has over 20 years experience of crafting stories, services and spaces to support stronger communities. He facilitates sense-making of place based social, policy and investment challenges.



Michael Cooke is Assistant Professor in Applied psychology, and Interim Director of the Edward M. Kennedy for Peace and Conflict Intervention at Maynooth University. Michael's expertise is in applying psychology to the design of complex systems, emphasising a human-centred approach to shaping innovation around the lived experience of those who live and work within them. He is actively involved in EU research projects in security, peacebuilding, civil protection, and human health.



Allison Forbes is the Manager of South West Age Partnership (SWAP). Allison has worked in the Community and Voluntary sector since 1997, starting off in the Women's sector in Omagh then moving to Belfast to work with women across the city. Allison also sits on a number of voluntary boards locally, including Fermanagh Community Transport and Omagh Women's Aid. Allison started work with SWAP in 2002 and has developed this sub-regional network to where it is now. SWAP is a peer led organisation that represents over 80 older peoples groups within the Fermanagh and Omagh District and is increasingly reaching out to those older people who are not involved in groups. SWAP coordinate an Interagency Forum on Services for Older People involving both Statutory and Community and Voluntary Service Providers. Allison is the Action Lead for the Older Peoples Outcome within the Fermanagh and Omagh Community Plan.



Leza Cleary is Projects and Partnerships Development Coordinator with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council having previously worked for the Council. Leza has worked with the Council since 2017 and initially worked on a funded project on the use of intergenerational exchange and the technology to combat social exclusion in rural and isolated regions of Europe. Leza has worked on a number of projects in the Community and Voluntary Sector and in the field of Education specialising in the provision of services and funding for learners with learning difficulties and or disorders since the late 1990's.



Heather Ritchie took up post as a Lecturer in Spatial Planning at Ulster University's School of the Built Environment in 2009. She currently teaches across the Planning Regeneration and Development (MSci PPD) undergraduate programme and the PGDip/MSc Marine Spatial Planning postgraduate programme, and supervises PhD students. Her teaching is mostly focused on planning law and regulation, marine spatial planning, and environmental and sustainability issues. Prior to joining Ulster, she undertook an MSc in Environmental Planning and then completed her PhD on Marine Spatial Planning and Stakeholder Engagement, both at Queen's University Belfast. Heather is a member of the Irish Sea Maritime Forum, the MSP Research Network, acts as an Expert Advisor for the Celtic Sea Partnership and sits on the Marine and Coastal Working Group for CNCC.



Niall Cussen is the Chief Executive and Planning Regulator at the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) established by Government in April 2019. The OPR's functions are to oversee the effective delivery of planning services by planning authorities, including implementation of national and regional policies. Prior to his appointment, Niall was Chief Planner at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government from July 2014 and he worked in the Department from January 2000 prior to that. Niall was responsible for leading the Department's Forward Planning Section and its professional and multi-disciplinary planning team in the development of legislation and all Government policy relating to planning and related matters, including the National Planning Framework, as part of Project Ireland 2040, alongside the National Development Plan. Prior to joining the Department in 2000, Niall had an extensive planning career working for local authorities in Clare, Meath and Dublin City Council and An Bord Pleanála.



Stephen Jones is Project Officer at Climate Northern Ireland where he has worked to support and develop climate adaptation initiatives in the 6 years since graduating from Queen's University Belfast. He spends his working life bringing people together within and between public and private sectors in Northern Ireland, Ireland, the UK and Europe; co-developing a range of approaches to enable planning for a rapidly changing climate. Most recently, Stephen has been involved with the health, agriculture and local government sectors, in particular supporting



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Derry City and Strabane District Council to develop the first adaptation plan in Northern Ireland as part of the EU-funded 'CLIMATE' project. He has also co-ordinated evidence gathering as part of the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment process and led a session on place-based adaptation planning in the UK and Ireland at the European Climate Change Adaptation Conference (ECCA) 2019. Stephen is a writer and musician, and endeavours to bring a creative clarity to complex ideas, whether artistic or institutional.

Ainhoa González is an Assistant Professor in the School of Geography, University College Dublin. She is an environmental planner and her work focuses on developing and applying geospatial analysis tools and methods for assessing environmental change and impacts, to better inform planning and decision-making. In collaboration with the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO), she has developed the Environmental Sensitivity Mapping web tool: a novel and participative online mapping tool that enables simultaneous exploration and analysis of over 100 spatial datasets to support environmental assessment and land-use planning in Ireland.



Dr Linda McElduff is a lecturer in the Belfast School of Architecture and the Built Environment at Ulster University, where she teaches a range of subjects relating to planning and regeneration. She is also the director of a postgraduate course in housing studies. Her key research interests are coastal management and regeneration; marine planning and governance; and resilience.



Conor Skehan has over 30 years' experience of rural and urban planning at all scales – both in Ireland and internationally. He lectures – and was previously Department Head in TU Dublin's School of Transport Engineering, Environment and Planning and has also founded a number of environmental and planning consultancies. He has served as director and chair of a number of government agencies and companies – most recently as Chair of the Housing Agency. He regularly appears in broadcast and print media.



Brian Farragher is A/Senior Executive Planner with the Regeneration Team in Roscommon County Council. Brian holds a degree in Property Economics and a Masters in Town and Country Planning. He has worked in Local Authorities in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and has over sixteen years' experience as a professional Planner. Brian is part of a Regeneration Team which is driving the re-imagining of the urban centres throughout County Roscommon, with the aim of enhancing their physical, social and economic fabric. Brian was central to the delivery of 'Boyle 2040', a plan which aims to rejuvenate the town of Boyle, in the north of Co. Roscommon. Boyle 2040 presents a framework for public realm enhancement within the town centre and delivers a vision for embracing the challenge of adapting the town centre to realise its development potential.



Suzanne Lutton is responsible for the delivery of the Regeneration and Infrastructure Programme of work at Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council in Northern Ireland. With extensive project management experience, gained over the last 15 years in local government, Suzanne has led on the delivery of major public realm schemes; heritage restoration projects; environmental improvement works and other regeneration initiatives across the Council area. Suzanne also leads the Council's City Centre Management team as they deliver projects and initiatives to support the City Centre economy and better connect the business and residential communities. The team deliver a vast programme of events and animation driving footfall to the City Centre; encouraging more regular visits and increased dwell time. Over the Winter of 2018/19 Suzanne led her team on the delivery of 'Lisburn Light Festival' an award winning event that saw innovative lighting installations take the City Centre offer and attractiveness to a new level achieving every KPI set for the project.



Mary MacIntyre OBE MRTPI Chartered Town Planner is a graduate of Manchester University and has worked as a town planner since the mid seventies, in England and Ireland, in both the public and private sectors. Having joined the Department of the Environment NI in 1991, she worked in a number of DOE local offices throughout Northern Ireland and was appointed Chief Planner before retiring in 2014. Mary is the current chair of the RTPI Partnership Board of the Planning School University College Dublin. She was awarded the OBE in the 2014 New Years Honours for services to Planning and to charity and was made an Honorary member of the Royal Society of Ulster Architects in 2015. She was appointed to the Board of Titanic Foundation Limited in 2018.



Angus Kerr, Chief Planner & Director of Regional Planning, DfI and responsible for developing planning legislation and policy. Angus is a chartered Town Planner with over 26 years' experience working in a wide range of planning posts across Government. Angus was recently Project Director over the planning reform and transfer project which was responsible for reforming the planning system and transferring the majority of planning functions to the new 11 Councils on 1 April 2015.



Dave Walsh was appointed Chairperson of An Bord Pleanála in October 2018, having previously served as Assistant Secretary in the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in a civil service career spanning 23 years in the Custom House. As Asst Secretary over the Planning and Housing Policy Division, Dave had primary responsibility for planning policy (including development and delivery of the National Planning Framework) and housing market and rental policy, with a key focus on coordinated implementation of the Government's Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness. Prior to this, Dave headed up the Department's Environment and Climate Division, leading



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Ireland's and the EU negotiations on climate change during Ireland's 2013 EU Presidency and has also previously worked on national waste policy, environmental legislation and compliance with EU environmental law, spatial planning policy, franchise, and local government.

Professor Peter Roberts is Chair of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. He is Professor Emeritus of Sustainable Spatial Development at the University of Leeds and Chair of the Planning Exchange Foundation. Peter has also been a member of the ICLRD Advisory Board.



WHO ARE WE?

The International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD) is a North-South-U.S. partnership. It was formally established in 2006 to explore and expand the contribution that spatial planning and the development of physical, social and economic infrastructure can make to peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland, and elsewhere. The ICLRD has developed out of a unique collaboration between academics and spatial planning specialists, with current partners including the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) at Maynooth University, the Belfast School of Architecture and the Built Environment at Ulster University and the National Center for Smart Growth at University of Maryland.

A central objective of the ICLRD is to strengthen the policy and operational linkages between central, regional and local policy-makers and among officials and practitioners involved in spatial planning and social and economic development across the island of Ireland. It does this through action research, policy advice and publications; professional facilitation and education and capacity building programmes that assist local governments and communities to translate policy into 'on the ground' action; and active outreach and networking that includes conferences, workshops and international co-operation and exchanges to identify best practices.

Further information on the work of the ICLRD is available at www.iclrd.org

CONTACTS

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