



ISOCARP
Knowledge for better Cities

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ISOCARP Workshop: Dundee, 8 to 11 May 2014 **The Realism of Implementation. Engagement of Local Resources**

Arising from the very successful ISOCARP workshop held in London in June 2013, it was proposed to hold a workshop in Scotland in 2014. That proposal has now taken shape with a weekend event proposed for Dundee in early May. The choice of location in Scotland leads us to recall that it is twenty years since the ISOCARP Congress was held in Glasgow, in 1993.

This year the University of Dundee celebrates the 50th anniversary of the setting up of the planning school. The Royal Town Planning Institute in Scotland, and the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland are both supporting the workshop. The University of Dundee is providing a venue for the workshops and discussion areas on the campus, in the new Dalhousie Building. Tea, coffee and buffet lunch will be in the ground floor atrium.

There is ample hotel accommodation in the city centre; at the Queen's Hotel, Premier Inns, the newly opened Malmaison Hotel and the Apex Hotel nearer the harbour. There is a wealth of attractions in the surrounding area with the Heritage West End Walk, Captain Scott's ship The Discovery, The McManus Gallery, and not least all of the fair City of Perth, 20 Miles up river to the west. The railway station is close to the city centre and the venue. There is a direct connection of the City of Dundee with the central belt of Scotland, with rail connections from Glasgow and Edinburgh and their respective airports. The railway station is central to the subject area at the Waterfront, and a short walk from the workshop venue.

Over the past few decades, the City of Dundee has been outstanding in the continuing process of redeveloping and renewing the urban fabric of the city, and, in particular, the Waterfront area. The process of reconnection the city centre with the Waterfront has stimulated dramatic new projects. The process of renewal is writ large in Dundee, while the appreciation of its history, culture, commercial and industrial heritage is celebrated. The West End Walk, linking 31 different points of interest in the city centre, touches on the Patrick Geddes Quadrangle, where Geddes, as Professor of Botany in Dundee used the area as a teaching garden.

The subjects of the workshop sessions will explore the special character, and challenges which have been addressed in the process of renewal and recovery and the establishment of a new pride and direction for the city. There will be talks from some of the main players and practitioners involved in the process, and views from the professional associations which contribute to the initiatives being worked out on the ground. The workshops will review the big ideas of regeneration and place making, in a river city, and see what lessons are being learnt. Speakers will address the emerging recovery of the economy and give thought to the contribution of professional practitioners to the process and management of Planning.

We will take time to reflect on the special contribution of ISOCARP members over the past half century, and look to the contribution which planners and associated practitioners will be called to make, in the period ahead. We will have walking tours and visit projects on the ground.

Planning is an enduring necessity without which commercial imperatives and priorities would fall into disorder in town and cities. We will explore examples how planning policies and programmes are being worked out in Dundee through the contribution of practitioners and through the establishment of a vision of the future.

The **PROGRAMME** for the presentations and workshops is still subject to some confirmations, but we hope you will find the Dundee Workshop stimulating and full of interest.

Thursday 8 May

- 17.00 Arrival of participants, welcome and coffee at the Dalhousie Building
- 17.15 Purpose and Expectations of Regional Workshops of ISOCARP: Judith Ryser
Introduction of the workshops topics by Hugh Crawford
- 17.30 **Workshop session 1:** Theme 1, Scottish Planning in Action, the contribution of planners in driving policies and initiatives: led by Stephen Tucker Convener of RTPI Scotland.
Mediator/Facilitator, Suzanne McIntosh
- Workshop Session 2:** Theme 2, Dundee, City of Discovery, leading the way out of recession, local developments, current achievements: led by Colin Doig, President Dundee Institute of Architects. Mediator/Facilitator, Karol Swanson
- 18.15 **Plenary session**, reporting back for brief discussion and questions, drawing out points for consideration in following presentations and workshops. Chaired by Judith Ryser.
- 18.45 Break for the evening
- 19.30 Informal Dinner and Drinks

Friday 9 May

- 09.00 Outline of programme for the Presentations, highlighting themes for discussion, key issues, identification of key challenges, common ground, new approaches and achievements. Descriptions of points of interest in the Walking Tours. Chaired by Hugh Crawford.
- 09.15 Scottish Government speaker (TBC) on the new National Planning Framework 3.
- 09.30 Dundee City Council Planning Department speaker (TBC) on the achievements and current challenges, touching on support from outside, and resources for change and improvement within the city.
- 09.50 Discussion around the national and local planning initiatives as expressed in the context of the regeneration of Dundee with particular regard to the Waterfront. Chaired by Craig McLaren
- 10.00 The City of Perth: Initiatives for renewal and experiences in regeneration. Living with history and heritage. Presentation from David Littlejohn Head of Planning and Regeneration
- 10.20 Questions and comments from the presentations. Craig McLaren
- 10.30 Coffee break followed by walking tour in the central area, and Waterfront, with commentary from Stephen Garry Director of the Unicorn Property Group, Dundee.
- 12.30 Return to the Dalhousie Building for buffet lunch.
- 1.30 Round up of themes and initiatives arising from the morning presentations and the walking tour of the city centre. Identification of the subjects for discussion, in two working groups.

1.45 Divide into working groups to address:

Group 1: The use and effectiveness of planning policies at national and local level to stimulate change. Other agencies to be engaged, to address the tasks, in the immediate and longer term. The importance of regular review and adjustment.

Group 2: Experiences on the ground as described in the morning presentations, and where can lessons be learned from other places in Scotland and abroad? How effective are the current initiatives and policies as seen?

2.30 **Plenary session** with reports back from the working groups and discussion. Reports will be prepared for publication.

3.00 Break for coffee

3.15 Barbara Illsley. Talk on the 50th anniversary of planning education in Dundee; the progression of the style and nature of planning education. Past events and current initiatives. The legacy of Patrick Geddes, a local man, a world reputation, with supporting presentation and commentary by Hugh Crawford

3.45 Scotland's Favourite Places. A presentation by Craig McLaren about the RTPI Scotland's identification of a list of successful planning initiatives and policies which have produced improved living standards and environmental quality.

4.15 Mediation and Facilitation in the Development Plan Process: the roll of the mediator in drawing in the comments and contributions of the public, and resolving conflicts. Karol Swanson, formerly of Planning Aid Scotland and an accredited Mediator.

4.30 Case studies in regeneration and urban improvement, from ISOCARP Members

5.30 Concluding discussion around predetermined topics and summing up

5.45 Close

7.30 Informal dinner

Saturday 10 May

9.30 Review of the presentations and findings from the workshops and discussions. Achievements identified from the workings of the planning system nationally and locally.

Lessons for the future

Highlighting what has worked well

Opportunity for further presentations from ISOCARP members

10.30 Summing up, and description of the points of interest in the tours and attractions:

The Dundee West End Heritage Walk led by Joe Dagen, Architect and Town Planner

Further options for the afternoon:

The McManus Gallery

City Tour of Central Perth