



**Michael Doran**  
Chairman  
RICS Environment Faculty

## Minerals and Waste Management

The last couple of months have been an exciting time for the Minerals and Waste Management Faculty. In September we held our autumn conference in Wakefield, with an excellent line-up of speakers. All the papers are available to download from [www.rics.org](http://www.rics.org)

Autumn also saw the Planning for Energy research project come to an end, with the findings due to be presented to members at a number of seminars around the country. The faculty also produced the promised new guidance note, *Form and Structure of Mineral Lease and Option* (see page 29). I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brian Wake and Gordon Wood for their hard work on this document.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that next year's MWM Faculty conference will take place at the Jury's Inn Hotel, Milton Keynes, on 13 and 14 March.

**Rachel Halley**



**Rachel Halley**  
Chairman  
RICS Minerals and Waste Faculty



**Simon Harrison**  
Chairman  
RICS Planning and Development Faculty

## Environment

In the light of the devastating flooding earlier this year, I welcome the attention drawn to environmental issues in this edition of the *Land Journal*. Particularly important for surveyors involved in valuation is the article *The 360° View* on page 26, which highlights the importance of taking account of environmental factors such as flood risk in the valuation process and explains how this is reflected in revisions to the *Red Book*. To find out more, please go to [www.rics.org/redbook](http://www.rics.org/redbook)

I am also happy to see the article on page 22 on the Stakeholder Advisory Group ELF EMFs (SAGE). This is a topical subject and one the Environment Faculty has been very much involved with over the last couple of years.



**Rebecca Jam**  
Chairman  
RICS Rural Faculty



**Ken Hall**  
Chairman  
RICS Geomatics Faculty

Now that RICS has entered its second year as a Constituent and Licensed Body of the Society for the Environment, new application procedures for the chartered environmentalist qualification apply. To find out more, visit: [www.rics.org/socenv](http://www.rics.org/socenv)

**Michael Doran**

## Planning and Development

Flooding is an increasingly important issue in many parts of the world. Summer 2007 saw an unprecedented amount of rainfall in the UK and, with climate change likely to cause such extremes in future, it is clear that property professionals have an obligation to ensure that our properties are flood resilient.

To that end, RICS has been contacted by Defra to discuss ways of making advice more available to the public and the P&D Faculty is happy to co-operate with government on this in ways that are still being worked out.

But climate change is only one part of the sustainability agenda. How we design our neighbourhoods and link them with social infrastructure is equally important. A new report from The Prince's Foundation, *Valuing Sustainable Urbanism*, makes the case for integrated communities (see page 24). Along the same lines, the faculty has commissioned a report on suburban development and was due to present the interim findings in Brussels on 17 October. The details will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Land Journal*.

**Simon Harrison**

## Geomatics

This will be my last statement as faculty chairman before I hand over to vice-chairman Ruth

Adams in December. Ruth is a chartered hydrographic surveyor who hails from the South West region.

The coastal mapping feature on page 6 highlights the work of Newcastle University, an accredited RICS university and a centre for geomatics in the UK. The cutting-edge work undertaken by Newcastle was made possible by a grant from RICS Education Trust (part of RICS Research), one of many the trust confers during the year. You may have seen the department featured on a recent episode of the BBC's *Coast* series. I do believe that links such as these and support for academia is vitally important to the profession and I would commend the work and portfolio of RICS Research to all readers of the *Land Journal*.

**Ken Hall**

## Rural

I am delighted and privileged to have been elected chairman of the Rural Faculty Board and look forward to a challenging and exciting year ahead.

With the Countryside Policies Panel, the Rural Faculty has been involved in preparing the RICS response to the coastal access consultation. The main points of the response are outlined on page 12.

The faculty took the lead in organising a series of energy seminars in October and November targeting all members of the Land Group. The seminars introduced the *Renewables Briefing Paper*, written by Rural Faculty member Peter Fane, assisted by a steering committee, and included a presentation by the Carbon Trust.

The review of the faculty guidance suite continues, with the *Valuation Information Paper No 5* on rural property due to be published shortly.

**Rebecca Jam**