



Michael Doran
Chairman
RICS Environment Faculty

Environment

The new white paper on energy, published in May, is likely to have a significant impact on the way we do business and the way we live. Many would argue that it is five years too late, but at least it is a genuine attempt to set new targets that will make a difference and ensure that the mechanisms exist to facilitate delivery.

You will find several articles relating to the environment in this energy-themed issue of the *Land Journal*, plus, on page 26, we profile environmental surveyor Graham Bocking. He is an Environment Faculty executive board member who lives and works in Germany and is very active in RICS Europe.

Michael Doran



Rachel Halley
Chairman
RICS Minerals and Waste Faculty

Minerals and Waste Management

The last two months have been busy for the MWM Faculty board and I am pleased to announce that two projects are close to completion: a new guidance note on *Form and Structure of Minerals Lease and Option* (see page 15) and the *Planning for Energy* research project (page 7).

This issue includes an article on the new Waste Strategy for England (page 8). The faculty has contributed to the consultation on the new strategy through its membership of the Associate Parliamentary Sustainable Waste Group.

Time is running out for booking your place at the autumn conference on 28 September at the Cedar Court Hotel in Wakefield. We have an excellent line-up of speakers and expect the event to be over-subscribed, so waste no time making sure of your place. See the events listing on page 21 for further information.

Rachel Halley



Simon Harrison
Chairman
RICS Planning and Development Faculty

Planning and Development

I am privileged to have been elected chairman of the International Planning and Development Faculty Board (PDFB) at a time of great change in the world of planning and development. In England and Wales, consultation is under way on the reform of the planning system, and the new Scottish Planning Act 2006 is just starting to bed-down.

I see my task as encouraging and drawing upon the wealth of experience we have on the PDFB, not just in the UK, but internationally. That experience will better inform our consultation responses to government and local authorities.

In the field of development, the call for a substantial increase in house building will challenge all the core skills of the P&D surveyor, as will the challenge of providing supporting infrastructure. Consultation on the possible introduction of planning gain supplement (PGS) will also benefit from the experience of our members and, if the government decides against it, we will be able to point to other mechanisms that will achieve similar objectives.

I want to encourage our members to get involved in the moulding of our planning system and I hope to raise the profile of the P&D surveyor, not only at government level, but also among institutions such as the Royal Town Planning Institute and the Town & Country Planning Association.

I very much look forward to the challenging year ahead.

Simon Harrison

Rural

This is my final chairman's comment for the *Land Journal* as I will be stepping down as chairman in September. I am greatly honoured to have served the faculty for the past year, which

has proved highly productive in terms of delivery of products and services to members, and very enjoyable. I am pleased to announce that the Rural Faculty recently received an award for its improved service delivery to members, as highlighted in the annual membership survey.

I feel confident that the good work done will be built upon in the coming year.

The Renewables Briefing Paper, commissioned for members by the Rural Faculty, is now available – see page 12. There is enormous potential in this area of work and we hope that this paper will help members keep abreast of the issues involved.

Hugo Mallaby

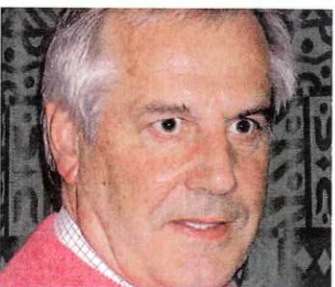
Geomatics

I had almost vacated the faculty chair in July, when my successor asked for a deferral of the hand-over until the end of the year. It is a privilege for me and I hope not too much of a hardship for you!

Like all areas of surveying practice, geomatics has been highlighting how it impacts on the really big issues of the day, such as climate change, sustainability and of course, in keeping with the theme of this issue, energy. I hope you find the article on thermal mapping (page 14) of interest and if it whets your appetite, you can keep up to date with cutting-edge technological advances in surveying through the faculty.

Meanwhile, I have just returned from the Cambridge Conference, bringing together all the Ordnance Surveys of the world, and it was wonderful to see the real global reach of RICS membership and the strong historic links with the Commonwealth. Technology helps to make the world a much smaller place for us and the profession.

Ken Hall



Ken Hall
Chairman
RICS Geomatics Faculty