

Extract from the **Valedictory Speech - Ian Tant** , retiring RTPI President 2020 From page 4 of the speech

... We are 50 years on from the landmark Skeffington Report of 1969 which sought to draw out lessons from the planning failures of that decade and set a route map for better involvement of communities in planning. It's chastening to learn that as a profession we still have a long way to go in improving our processes and in planning with and for communities.

When I say "learn", I'm not just referring to the excellent Nathaniel Lichfield Lecture in November in which Professor Gavin Parker of the University of Reading set such a challenge to the profession. I'm also referring to a number of direct discussions I've been privileged to hold in the course of the year. The first was in Peckham where, thanks to RTPI London, I was introduced to Eileen Conn of Peckham Vision.

A retired civil servant, Eileen has a carefully considered view of where planning goes wrong and what we could do to improve. At the core, her argument is that we approach communities in a structured manner from our councils and organisations with our appointed leaders and roles. And we expect communities to follow suit. But communities are not structured bodies – they are a wide range of people and families and businesses and groups who come together for widely differing reasons and in each area form an organic cluster of communities, not a single community.

To plan well for an area, planners need to take the time to sit down with and understand the various community groups and their objectives and desires.

Eileen's arguments resonated on the other side of the world, at the Planning Institute of Australia Congress in Gold Coast...



Ian Tant showing photo of Peckham Vision studio when mentioning PV in his valedictory speech 2020. ©Lubaina Mirza



Photo of Ian Tant's visit to Peckham Vision studio April 2019. ©Corinne Turner 2019