



NOVUS x RIG
Revolution Within The Institution

RIG was arguably the last time planning was radical in the UK. Formed in the 1970s, the Radical Institute Group was a loose collective of young, politicised planners who tried to revolutionise the Royal Town Planning Institute from the inside. They believed Planning is not neutral; it should be a positive force to promote social, economic and environmental equality. RIG was an influential thorn in the side of the system, campaigning successfully for issues including gender equality and planning for a multi-racial Britain until they disbanded in the 1980s.

Initially seen upstarts by the 'old guard', former RIG members went on to become Chief Planning Officers and Chief Planning Inspectors, University Professors and RTPI Presidents. How far did these positions of power enable them to act as trojan horses for more radical agendas? Or how far did the power itself institutionalise their original ambitions?

If RIG was the last time planning was radical, NOVUS are now taking up the torch. NOVUS is a new collective of public servants working at the coalface of public planning. To mark the launch of the NOVUS manifesto, they are reuniting the Radical Institute Group for the first time in nearly 30 years to debate revolution within the institution.

NOVUS and RIG will be asking what kind of radical thinking planning needs today. Is the best way of implementing systemic change from the inside? Or is radicalism within an institute, or even the public sector, a contradiction in terms? What might a new generation of planners learn from the people who led the way?

As a first step towards some answers, the NOVUS manifesto will call for a bolder future for public planning.

Friday 16 May, 2–4PM
Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon CR0 1EA

Closing Event of the Planning Officers Society Spring Conference
Free entry from 1.30PM, no registration required

PARTICIPANTS

Cliff Hague (RIG, Planning Aid for Scotland, Heriot-Watt University)

Euan Mills (NOVUS, GLA)

Finn Williams (NOVUS, GLA)

Lovelace Poku (NOVUS, LB Enfield)

Malcolm Allan (RIG, Placematters, former Colliers International)

Mike Gibson (RIG, JVM, former London South Bank University, Community Planning Associates)

Peter O'Brien (NOVUS, LB Haringey)

Rob Krzyszowski (NOVUS, Hammersmith & Fulham)