

RTPI President's Visit – Thursday 13 July 2017

The Royal Town Planning Institute's (RTPI) President for 2017, Stephen Wilkinson, in his visit to the East of England put the spotlight on social, economic and environmental projects in Greater Norwich.

Firstly, Stephen was shown the Quadram Institute; the latest landmark building at the expanding Norwich Research Park.

The construction project is well-advanced, and when it opens in mid-2018, the Quadram Institute will provide medical facilities for endoscopy, as well as undertaking leading research in food and health sciences.

Stephen and representatives from the Greater Norwich Planning Authorities also met with Dr Sally Ann Forsyth, Chief Executive of Norwich Research Park. Sally explained the Park's Enterprise Zone status, its role in being a community for 3,000 researchers and clinicians, and its intentions to grow further.



The second part of the visit gave attention to managing and maintaining the heritage and environmental assets of Greater Norwich, in addition to promoting its economic ambitions.

A riverboat tour gave the best vantage point to consider how a new strategy for the River Wensum will strengthen the natural environment, as well as appreciate the cultural and historic heritage of the City. Reflecting Stephen's job role as Head of Planning & Strategic Partnerships at the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, the river trip culminated with visiting Whitlingham Country Park, an example of a highly successful outdoor pursuits centre just a few miles from Norwich City Centre.



The day was completed with a cheese and wine reception for young planners hosted by the Broads Authority and sponsored by Lanpro. Senior officers from the Greater Norwich Partnership gave their viewpoint on what makes town planning such an interesting profession for them and why planning will continue to be so important for the Greater Norwich area in the coming years.