

CPA National Conference 2009 – 18th June 2009

This year's National Conference was well attended despite the economic climate and remains the highlight of the Association's annual calendar. A new venue at Glazier's Hall overlooking the Thames at London Bridge provided a change of scene for the day.

The keynote address was given by Clive Dutton OBE, Director of Planning and Regeneration at Birmingham City Council. Clive provided a fascinating insight to the progress that has been made in regenerating Britain's second largest city, the plans for the future and how compulsory purchase has been used throughout the process.

Our immediate past Chairman, Colin Smith of CBRE gave an update on the Association's law reform agenda, including our successful campaign for modification of s.237 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 which was implemented in last year's Planning Act. Our proposals for reform of the statutory planning assumptions in the Land Compensation Act 1961 are currently enjoying cross party support.

Mark Watson, London Area Manager for the Tribunals Service gave a timely insight into the past and future of the Lands Tribunal in the context of the major reforms being implemented to the Tribunals Service, and technical topics in law and valuation were covered by David Elvin QC, John Hobson QC, Paul Astbury of GL Hearn, Richard Owen of Drivers Jonas and Alison Ewing of Grant Thornton prompting an interesting Q&A session.

The day was given an international flavour by the exchange of gifts between CPA Chairman Barry Denyer Green and Doug Hummel who attended the conference as a guest of the Association. Doug had travelled from Connecticut, USA to represent the International Rights of Way Association which has 10,000 members across the USA and Canada involved in compulsory purchase.

Our own representative has since attended the IRWA annual conference in Indianapolis. Look for a report on the visit on the CPA website in the near future.

Paul Astbury.