



Commonwealth Association of Planners

Connecting planners and planning across the Commonwealth

CAP Newsletter – CHOGM 2018



Welcome to a special newsletter celebrating the CAP involvement at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London in April. The theme of CHOGM was ‘Towards a Common Future’.

The formal outcomes are communicated in the [Communique](#) and the [Leaders Statement](#)

CAP was strongly represented at the series of events with President Dyan Currie, Secretary-General Clive Harridge and Youth Network Coordinator Viral Desai involved in events. Clive and Dyan attended the Business Forum, the People’s Forum and Viral attended the Youth Forum. It was a busy week and highly productive. Dyan was invited to attend the formal opening of CHOGM at Buckingham Palace.

Inputs included a range of activities ahead of the formal meetings as well as those during the CHOGM week.

Committee of the Whole Submission

The Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting of High Commissioners or other Senior representatives of all Commonwealth countries took place on 20 March 2018 at Marlborough House, London. The meeting included an opportunity for civil society organisations to present to COW issues which civil society wishes to promote to heads of Government. CAP, represented by Clive Harridge, worked with the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) on behalf of all civil society organisations to prepare a paper for COW entitled “A More Sustainable Future”. CAP was most honoured to be given this responsibility. The paper was one of five papers presented by civil society to COW, the others being:

- A Fairer Future
- A More Prosperous Future
- A More Secure Future
- Partnerships in the Commonwealth

The full civil society report including the section prepared by CAP and CAA is available on the CAP website <https://www.commonwealth-planners.org/committee-of-the-whole>

Youth Manifesto

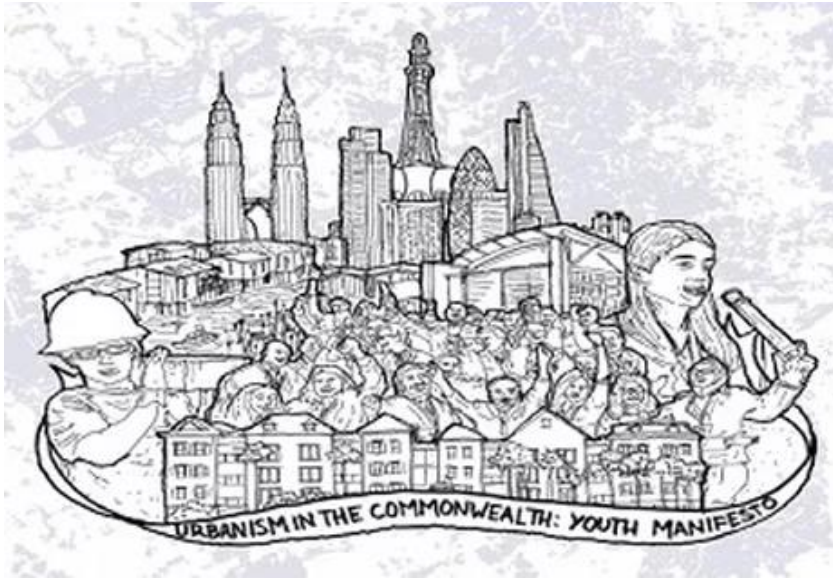
Youth network coordinator Viral Desai worked with young Architects and young Planners from around the Commonwealth to develop a Youth Manifesto - [Powering Our Common Future: Urbanism in the Commonwealth](#).

The manifesto, written in collaboration with young representatives from the CAA (Commonwealth Association of Architects) and CAP (Commonwealth Association of Planners) seeks to respond to the question:

‘How can young people in Commonwealth Nations help in making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable?’ (SDG11)

As young Planners and Architects, we feel strongly about sustainable development and believe that we have a strong role in helping alleviate the problems of urbanisation globally. We have produced a manifesto that is centred around the topic of urbanism. The manifesto has been produced through the engagement of young architects, planners and others from Australia, The Caribbean, Malaysia, Nigeria, South Africa and the UK with an interest in the urban environment, in order to be as widely informed as possible. Our initiative and the resulting manifesto closely align with the Youth Forum’s thematic priority item of Sustainable Future, further to this however we also seek to deal with cross cutting issues in relation to attaining a Fairer and Prosperous Future for all - working in partnership towards a common future.

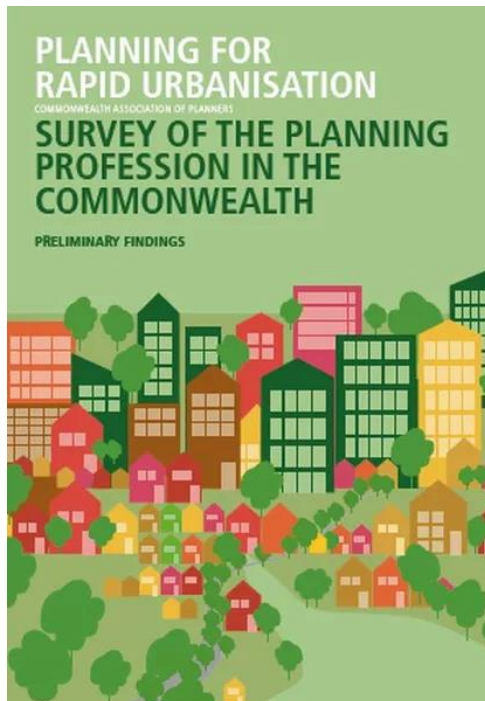
The document was launched at an event at CHOGM and then shared around the Commonwealth by the CAA and CAP. Congratulations to all young planners and architects involved in the preparation of this document.



Viral Desai, CAP Young Planners' Network Coordinator

State of the Planning Profession in the Commonwealth Survey – Preliminary findings

This survey of the planning profession represents an attempt to assess the current state of the planning profession in the Commonwealth and its capacity to help deliver the targets contained in the 2030 [Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the New Urban Agenda. Preliminary findings were released at CHOGM with the full version due for release in the coming months.



[Click here to download preliminary findings](#)

UKBEAG Roundtable

CAP is a supporter of the UK Built Environment Advisory Group (UKBEAG) which held a round table meeting during CHOGM week on the future of cities in the Commonwealth. The meeting was led by the RTPIs Janet Askew, who is the incoming Chair of UKBEAG. There were representatives at the meeting from Commonwealth countries as well as from UN-Habitat, the Commonwealth Association of Architects, the Prince's Foundation, the Commonwealth Local Government Forum and the UK's Department for International Development. Clive Harridge represented CAP and presented the preliminary findings of the Survey of the Planning Profession to the Roundtable. Representatives at the Roundtable agreed to work together "Towards a Common Future", and agreed to collaborate to build capacity and develop more effective solutions for Commonwealth countries, which are urbanising most rapidly and are among the most vulnerable. The Statement which was agreed at the Roundtable can be read on the UKBEAG web site <https://www.architecture.com/about/uk-built-environment-advisory-group>



UKBEAG Roundtable

Foreign Ministers meeting

CAP as an accredited Commonwealth organisation is permitted access to the CHOGM Foreign Ministers meeting and then to the final session of Foreign Ministers where submissions are discussed ahead of the commencement of formal CHOGM meetings.

Announcement of CAP Patron

CAP was honoured to announce the appointment of Trudi Elliot CBE MRTPI as Patron of CAP.

The appointment, which had been agreed by the CAP Executive Committee, was formally announced by CAP's President Dyan Currie at a dinner held in London on 18 April 2018. The dinner was hosted by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) for international guests on the occasion of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting taking place in London at the time.

The role of Patron is for a two year period and includes being an ambassador for the organisation and helping promote its objectives. Trudi is CAP's first and only Patron.

Trudi has had a stellar planning career and is highly regarded in the UK and internationally. Trudi is a Chartered Town Planner and held the post of RTPI Chief Executive

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between 2011 and April 2018. Trudi shaped the RTPI Centenary Year programme and the Planning Horizons papers which provide a long term, global view of planning. [More....](#)



Clive Harridge, Dyan Currie, Trudi Elliott

Other CHOGM related events

CAP was involved in a number of events organised by the Royal Town Planning Institute and others to coincide with CHOGM. These events provided an opportunity for RTPI members to find out more about CHOGM and discuss planning issues relevant to the Commonwealth. Seminars were held at Sheffield University, University College London, University of Birmingham (separate report on CAP website), and The London School of Business and Management (separate report on CAP website).