

21 November 2017

Dear Colleague

### **SOUTH WEST DESIGN REVIEW PANEL: an open letter**

Many of you will have noticed that there are now two organisations operating under the name **South West Design Review Panel** and this is causing some confusion. This letter is to try to clarify the situation.

The original South West Design Review Panel (SWDRP) – our Panel – was set up in 2005 under the auspices of the South West of England Regional Development Agency. Later, we became part of a national network under CABE (the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, later Design Council /Cabe). SWDRP throughout has been run by Creating Excellence, a not-for-profit social enterprise that supports good design in the South West<sup>1</sup>.

The Chair of the Panel is Peter Clegg, founding partner of Bath-based Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios, and Professor of Architecture at the University of Bath. The Vice Chair is MJ Long of Long and Kentish, who is based in Cornwall and for several years was Head of Design Review at CABE.

Panel members (*see page 3*) are drawn mainly from the South West but have reputations both nationally and internationally in their specific areas of expertise. For each review we choose panel members with experience relevant to the project and we organise site visits prior to the review. We follow a well-established process defined by Design Council/Cabe which allows for presentation, discussion and feedback and ensures an independent and transparent process.

Confusion over our name has been created this year by the registration of a limited company of the same name by Jonathan Braddick – he used to operate under the name *The Design Review Panel* but has decided to use the same name as ourselves<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Services offered by Creating Excellence, as well as design review, include design training (e.g. for elected members), community planning, place checks and place appraisal.

<sup>2</sup> He also set up a web link from a shell company called 'Creating Excellence.co' that diverted internet searches to his website rather than ours, but has now agreed to remove this

We do not wish to enter a debate on the differences in the value between the services Jonathan offers and our own. There is considerable demand for design review to be met. But we do find it disconcerting that our name and reputation are being confused with the services that he is offering. We have tried to suggest that there should be ways in which we could establish a clearer identity between us, but Jonathan has declined to meet with us on this matter.

Please feel free to forward this message to colleagues and others, in fact the wider the circulation the better to promote clarity about design review. It is fine that there is a choice for those wanting design review, but the recent ambiguity is unhelpful for local authorities and developers.

If you would like to talk to us about these matters, please do not hesitate to contact any of the people listed below.

Yours sincerely

**Peter Clegg**  
**Chair, South West Design Review Panel**

Julie Tanner, *Panel Manager*: 07970 514480  
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Timothy Cantell, *Panel Secretary*: 07974 674639  
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Dominic Murphy, *Chair, Creating Excellence*: 07853 295003  
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*CC: SWDRP panel members; RIBA central and regional;  
RTPI central and regional; Landscape Institute central and regional*

*SWDRP is independent, giving advice in its own name. It is managed by Creating Excellence, which is a member of the national Design Network. It is hosted by Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) South West, Bristol.*

SWDRP, c/o RIBA South West, Unit 4.8, Paintworks, Bath Road, Bristol BS4 3EH

[www.creatingexcellence.net/design-review/](http://www.creatingexcellence.net/design-review/)

SOUTH WEST

**Design  
Review  
Panel**

**Design  
Network.**

Creating Excellence (SW) is a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales number 6148133. Registered address: 9 Beechen Cliff Villas, Beechen Cliff Road, Bath, BA2 4QR

## South West Design Review Panel

Professor Peter Clegg, RDI	Architect (CHAIR)
MJ Long, OBE	Architect, Conservation (VICE-CHAIR)
Laura Alvarez	Urban Designer, Community Planner
Roger Ayton	Urban Designer, Planner
Juliet Bidgood	Architect, Urban Designer
Scott Carroll	Landscape Architect
Simon Carne	Architect, Planner, Urban Designer
Chris Carter	Transport Planner
Nick Childs	Architect
Alan Corner	Hydrologist
Marc Dix	Landscape Architect
James deHavilland	Urban Designer, Masterplanner
Tim Gale	Landscape Architect, Urban Designer
Jackie Gillespie	Architect
Professor Jeremy Gould	Architect
Professor Andrew Grant, RDI	Landscape Architect
Rob Gregory	Architect
David Halewood	Surveyor
Ben Hamilton-Baillie	Transport Planner, Innovator
Chris Haworth	Surveyor
James Howard	Surveyor
Anthony Keown	Planner, Urban Designer
Professor Doug King	Construction Innovation, Sustainability
Nick James	Sustainability, Property Design
Phil Jones	Highways, Urban Designer
Lisa Jackson	Town Planner, Urban Designer
Julia Kashdan-Brown	Architect
Annabel Keegan	Urban Design, Transport Planner
Jane Knight	Landscape Architect
Stefan Kruczkowski	Urban Designer
Justine Leach	Landscape Architect, Urban Designer
Jonathan Lewis	Environmental Sustainability
Frazer Reid	Transportation, Urban Designer
Geoff Rich	Architect
Alan Ringe	Architect, Urban Design, Conservation
Charles Russell-Smith	Surveyor
Professor Richard Silverman, OBE	Architect, Urban Designer
Pat Steward	Planning, Regeneration
Piers Taylor	Architect
John Waldron	Architect
Emily Walsh	Transport Planner, Engineer, Urban Designer
Andrew Ward	Urban Designer, Masterplanner
Dean Ward	Hydrologist
Michael Westley	Landscape Architect
Mark Whitby	Engineer, Sustainability
Craig White	Architect, Urban Designer
Professor Alex Wright	Architect