

Book Reviews

Planning Law: A Practitioner's Handbook, by William Webster, (Wildy, Simmonds and Hill, £125, ISBN: 978-08549-0-255-2).

Planning Law: A Practitioner's Handbook is marketed as providing the busy planning professional with answers to a whole range of problems which commonly arise in the day-to-day practice. That is undoubtedly correct.

It provides a single reference book covering a broad range of topics. Whilst not unique in this regard, it is a welcome addition to the market and, helpfully, provides a detailed treatment of planning policy (which has occupied much of the courts' time, especially since 2012) as well as the law. The book also provides a useful commentary on associated areas to planning law such as village greens, assets of community value and public rights of way, which will undoubtedly be of assistance to practitioners.

A matter beyond the author's control was the publication of the new NPPF in July 2018. This has been dealt with by a separate chapter but future editions would benefit from an integrated commentary on the new NPPF throughout the existing chapter structure, as some cross-referencing is presently required to marry-up the jurisprudence with the present policy. Future editions might also give some thought to the presentation of the information contained within the, sometimes lengthy, footnotes.

As Lindblom LJ correctly says in the Foreword, this work is "thoughtful, lucid and comprehensive" and I would commend it to any practitioner's library.

Ashley Bowes