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Forum goes online

The Pandemic has changed the way we are working. It is now different for almost all of us. Meetings and most travel has given way to virtual meetings and the many and various electronic accessories we can use – e.g. Telephone, Email, Texts, Conference Calls, FaceTime, WhatsApp, Zoom, Messenger, Skype, etc. Each, of course, has its own foibles. (Clear writing and telephone interaction don't need to be replaced by a new method simply because it is new).

What the virus can't do is stifle imagination, ideas and creativity which we will persist in using to facilitate placemaking, plan making and maintaining business viability and profitability in new ways.

For some, the progressive lockdown gives them time, without having to commute, to think more widely and even perhaps less selfishly, developing qualities of proper empathy to modify lifestyles beyond the period of self-isolation – getting in someone's shopping, and helping different age groups with new ways of doing things.

The April edition of Planning in London helps to fill the gap left by the postponed March Planning Update meeting with CULS and the ACA at Dentons. The London Planning & Development Forum therefore invites you to submit your thoughts and reactions to the ideas set out in the magazine.

It is also an opportunity to contribute constructive and practical new ways in which the different professions can collaborate in the equally important changing circumstances of our lives and work – for example after membership of the EU, new infrastructure plans for the country and London's new role in the world.

It is important not to confuse thinking to some purpose or insight with having a talking shop just for gossip, though good jokes are always welcome. Humour, though a rarity in town planning, has its place!

– Drummond Robson, Hon Sec, Brian Waters Chairman & Jonathan Manns, vice-chairman LP&DF

SEE page 34 for details of the Forum meeting on 1st June. Please Zoom with us!