

News story: Planning Inspectorate staff raise over £21k for charity in 2018

The Planning Inspectorate prides itself on supporting charities close to the heart of its staff and the local community. Staff members took part in a range of activities from long distance cycling, trekking, cake baking, moustache growing and a velothon with donations going to various charities including Cancer Research, Parkinson's UK and Bloodwise.

Martin O'Brian, Head of Digital Services and a keen advocate for Bloodwise, who cycled with Planning Inspector Rebecca Philips from London to Paris said: > There have been previous Inspectorate fundraising initiatives for Bloodwise and I have a very personal connection to the charity and the great research they fund – indeed advancements in blood cancer treatments featured heavily in the press in 2018. I have great colleagues who are most generous in helping with fundraising for numerous charities and ensuring each campaign is a success – they are a true reflection of the kindness of everyone at the Planning Inspectorate. I'm sure the fundraising activities and events in 2019 will be just as impressive as 2018.

Matthew Meredith, Matthew Grady, Andy Cronin and David Jones pose for their Movember 2018 challenge.

Among some of the charity fund raising initiatives: * 'The Gentleman of PINS' raised over £400 in the Movember challenge. * Planning Inspector, Rachel Walmsley cycled over 800 miles from Lands End to John O'Groats raising over £1000 for GRIT breakthrough programmes.

* Planning Inspector, Hayley Butcher raised £845 trekking in Iceland. * The 'PINS Spins team', braved the summer UK heat wave and entered the 'Cardiff Velothon' back in July, in which the cycling team managed to raise over £1018, alongside the £2000 they raised from the previous year for Cancer Research in memory of lost friends and colleagues.

Karen Curnock, PA to Director of Corporate Services, said: > I am proud that once again our staff have given up so much of their spare time throughout the year to raise thousands of pounds in support of charity. Our colleagues are committed to working together and constantly surpass themselves in going above and beyond for good causes. Equally, PINS as an organisation prides itself in supporting staff who are affected by illness or disability. I am delighted that we were able to raise so much money over 2018 and long may it continue.

Inspector Rachel Walmsley completed her cycling challenge from Lands End to John O Groats on behalf of charity GRIT.

Inspector Hayley Butcher braves the arctic temperatures on her Iceland Trek for Parkinson's UK.