

JUNE COUNCIL CEO REPORT

Prepared by Stephen Matthews

The summer sun is providing a pleasant dappled light on the windows of Balham and almost

The Governance Task Force deserves a huge thank you for a very lengthy and time consuming review. The fact that the resolution was passed unanimously by those present speaks volumes for the hard working volunteers and advisors who served the Institution.

all our memories of a long a dreary winter have passed. As the seasons change there is also a reassuring cycle of CIBSE life but to believe that is to believe that life behind the tranquil Victorian façade of Delta House follows a steady rhythm would be grossly misleading. I for one am glad 2017 is behind us but we are acutely aware that the challenges of the Grenfell Fire Disaster, BREXIT and the

consequences of the Carillon collapse lie ahead. We are all very conscious that unless CIBSE serves its members and has an attractive proposition for those who are interested in joining us we shall fail and indeed our higher calling of serving society will also be jeopardised. I often speak of “spinning plates”, “tight rope walking” and sometimes “living with dinosaurs” as we continue to strive to create a better tomorrow for those who live and work in the built environment.

We offer out thanks to our first President from the Hong Kong Branch, I am sure we all agree Peter Y Wong has had an outstanding year.

At the June Council we welcome our new President, Stephen Lisk, and say au revoir to Peter Y Wong. Being President is not an easy task it requires fortitude, commitment and patience. It is to Peter Wong’s credit that he has achieved all that and more in the last 12 months. As

a founding member and our first President from Hong Kong Branch, and a past President of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers he was well prepared for the challenges – I am sure we all agree Peter has had an outstanding year.

As our new President Stephen Lisk brings different strengths, skills and experiences I am sure they will be equally valuable, a native of New Zealand now living in Devon, as a past President of SLL he will provide further impetus to challenge the norm and instigate change. For those who may have missed the AGM I am delighted that Lynne Jack is our President Elect and, if all goes to plan, will be our first female President, another CIBSE milestone! I must now return to our Extraordinary General Meeting, which preceded our AGM. Effective governance is a crucial element of a successful organisation and when governance fails, normally due to poor communication, it is the very devil to put right. The EGM voted by an overwhelming majority for the resolution, with a significant number of proxy votes in addition to those able to attend the meeting. Final ratification lies with the Privy Council, however. I anticipate that our Nominations process and selection of Trustees will be much enhanced by the changes. A big thank you to all those involved.

2018 Building Performance Awards Once again we enjoyed a quite outstanding evening at the Grosvenor House Hotel. This client facing event attracted record numbers in the Great Room, although we still have room for expansion. The faces of those receiving awards was very inspiring and the photograph of all the winners on stage in the March Journal rather captured the spirit of the night. If you haven’t yet attended the Building Performance Awards, I do commend it to you: we look forward to seeing you on 12th February 2019. And if your

organisation has not entered before, then I encourage you to have a go. You could be in the winners photograph next year!

Technical Symposium This was our eighth Technical Symposium and continues to go from strength-to-strength. Hosted by London South Bank University, who were outstanding hosts, we had around 260 delegates with 170 Papers, a two day event with often triple streams. I always love the poster sessions, the challenge of summarising ones MSc or PhD

The Technical Symposium is another event where CIBSE volunteers are key to the event's outstanding success.

research into a five minute slot is testing to say the least. We certainly had a very rich content, all peer reviewed, and the atmosphere was very inspiring. The age group attending was noticeably younger and more diverse than ever. All the papers from this year and previous Symposia are available on-line and I commend this wealth of knowledge to you. Thanks once again go to Tim Dwyer for his unstinting leadership of the Symposium.

Grenfell Tower and the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety

It was never our plan for Council to meet on the first anniversary of the dreadful events at Grenfell Tower last year. While the police inquiry and the Public Inquiry, chaired by Sir Martin Moore-Bick, appear to be finding progress tough going, the Enquiry has now published five expert reports which make grim reading.

I reported in February that I thought that the fire is likely to have the most influence on CIBSE and our members in the months to come. With the publication of Dame Judith Hackitt's Independent Review into Building Regulations and Fire Safety that assessment is very much reinforced. Indeed there is a widely held view that we have a once in a generation opportunity to reform the construction, building safety and property management sectors. I recommend that all Council members should be familiar with at least the summary of the report. However, Chapter 5 sets out potentially far reaching recommendations on competence, which will have a significant impact on many CIBSE members in the UK, and should therefore also be read carefully. , You can find the report here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-building-regulations-and-fire-safety-interim-report>

Now that the final report is published, there is a huge amount for us to do to support Dame Judith and her team, which continues to work, and the wider Building Safety programme within MHCLG. The Society of Façade Engineers and our Fire Engineers have really stepped up to the mark, and we are likely to have a role in the ongoing review of the Approved Documents and Building Regulations.

The report envisages a new regulatory system, bringing the Fire Service, Health and Safety Executive and Building Control services together in a new body, which will oversee both construction and operation of higher risk buildings. It calls for radical change in the current Building Regulations and associated guidance, and for the provision of full digital models for all new higher risk buildings, and for them to be maintained through the life of the building.

CIBSE has sought attention to these issues for some time. But above all the Review is clear that we must find a way to work with the other Professional Bodies. Recommendation 5.2 of the Review could not set a clearer challenge to the built environment professions.

It says:

“a. The professional and accreditation bodies working within the construction and fire safety sectors should continue the work started in response to the interim report and present a coherent proposal to government within one year. As a minimum, this proposal should cover the role and remit of an overarching body to provide oversight of competence requirements and support the delivery of competent people working on Higher Risk Residential Buildings (HRRBs), including:

- the professional bodies, professions and disciplines in scope;*
- its membership and governance;*
- its role in receiving, agreeing and monitoring the individual competence frameworks for those bodies, professions and disciplines in scope for individuals within their membership or on their register, and/or whether a single competence framework for professional bodies in scope should be established;*
- its role in agreeing and monitoring accreditation and reaccreditation, and the period within which the competence of individuals should be reassessed and reaccredited;*
- its role in establishing a method for demonstrating or proving competence;*
- how the correct balance between construction sector skills and fire safety skills should be balanced; and*
- whether the competence requirements for those working on HRRBs should also be extended to cover other multi-occupancy residential buildings and to institutional residential buildings.*

b. Progress should be monitored by government, with the professional and accreditation bodies providing government with quarterly progress reports.

c. If government does not consider that the proposed approach provides the necessary assurance to the Joint Competent Authority (JCA), or there is evidence that the fragmented approach to the oversight of competence will continue, then government should mandate a body to establish the competence levels required and oversee its implementation.”

Senior CIBSE members and staff have been fully engaged in the review from the outset and we will seek to continue to contribute constructively as the professional bodies seek to respond to the Review and to work with Government as it sets about implementing the many recommendations which fall within its remit. I look forward to the Council debate.

Board Away Day As is our tradition now the first new Board meeting takes place at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park, immediately after the AGM. The Away Day has two aims: one for the new Board and senior staff to get to know each other better and secondly to consider a strategic aspect of the Institution. This year we looked at the market changes and developments for CIBSE and what opportunities may result, and I am delighted to report that this was a very positive couple of days and everyone left feeling really inspired and positive. As a result of this work we shall consult Council on the strategy development in due course.

Engineering UK 2018 The State of Engineering, an Annual Report produced by Engineering UK, and now in its 20th year, makes interesting reading. The full report is at: www.engineeringuk.com/research

The key messages are pretty consistent over the recent years; Engineering is vital to the UK economy, representing 23% of UK turnover. The Engineering workforce needs to expand with an annual demand of 124,000 engineers and technicians. We must develop the pipeline to address the skills shortages, with too few women, only 12% in the engineering occupations. Getting the engineering message into schools continues to be a challenge.

Staff We are delighted to welcome back Carilyn Burman, our Membership Director, from maternity leave. Bruce McGill, who provided maternity cover for Carilyn, has moved internally to head up our new Digital Services Team, concentrating on getting the full benefit for our members from our investment in the new IT systems and updating our processes. Stuart Brown, Bruce and the Marketing Team have been scaling the challenges of the **General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR**, which is being described as the biggest shake-up of data protection legislation in a generation. We hope to demonstrate Eventbrite working in a fully GDPR compliant way in our Regions, Societies, Groups and Networks to help those that run events. Also, the Board have approved the President's Membership Initiative and a "Visiting Lecturer Scheme" all of which are aimed to encourage and assist those running technical events.

I do hope that this view behind the seemingly faded façade of Delta House gives you some idea of the work of the Institution over the past four months, and also of the many opportunities that CIBSE has to be an active force for making the world a better place tomorrow than we found it this morning, all due to the unstinting efforts of our volunteers.