



ACES COUNCIL 26th April 2024

Presidents Report

It has been a productive 1st quarter of 2024. Not only did I do my 1st big trip in the campervan with the cat – 1400 miles, 24 days taking in Lincolnshire Wolds, North Yorkshire, Berwickshire, Dunbar, Perthshire, Fort William, Oban, Glasgow, Cumbria and Derbyshire! I've already planned my next big trip to Wales to take in the North West CPD day, Welsh branch meeting and the Rural branch meeting in Coventry. I cannot wait to plan my return to Scotland and how to get to meet the other branches.



(my park up at Loch Linnhe)

Activity highlights since last council meeting:

29th January – Inauguration of Tina Paillet as RICS President. It was a pleasure to attend Tina's inauguration and see outgoing President Ann Gray as well as catch up with President Elect Justin Sullivan. It was fairly informal affair which is indicative of this post Richard RICS and was heavily skewed to the professions responsibility and call to action to decarbonise and adapt to climate change. The inauguration was followed by Sir David King, former UK chief scientific advisor and climate

ambassador, who delivered a thought-provoking speech about the present and future state of the planet. Terrifying and inspiring in equal measure. I am definitely looking forward to RICS' leadership on the built environment and the circular economy as they have committed to convening a forum on this during the year.

6th February – RICS Public Sector Forum. Neil W and I attended. It was chaired by Linda Rawsthorne, Head of Profession at the Cabinet Office and attended by NHS, VOA, GPA and MoJ and of course an RICS contingent. Whilst it appears that RICS are still very central government oriented we are definitely at the table and part of the conversation with them. This forum will dovetail really well with the work Sam and Daniella continue to do with their RICS liaison and can only strengthen collaboration further.

8th February – GovProp24. It was nice to be at this conference as a delegate and take it all in. My key takeaways productivity is the buzzword at the moment. Place v portfolio sees placemaking and places for growth driving change in the central estate. Are we moving towards a spending review style sustainability review – I hope so!

15th February – RICS Podcast aired 8th March for IWD. I was delighted to be asked to record this podcast for international women's day. Chaired by Susanne Eickermann-Riepe from Frankfurt and joined by Hannah Jeong from Hong Kong, and Komilla Chadha from New York – it was great to be the sole UK and public sector voice in the conversation.

6th March – Ask the Experts FACES Q & A. I joined this online Q & A hosted by Neil and expertly answered by Helen Stubbs, Bernard White and Georgi Hill from RICS. I didn't have the best connection but I did bring the best view from my campsite in Oban. The FACES initiative has a great reach and this call certainly helped demystify the APC process for our public sector APC candidates.

8th March – Women in Property Scotland – I was invited by Aurora Tallon the outgoing Chair of the Central Scotland Branch after she attended our annual dinner in Edinburgh last November. It was an incredible insight to this dynamic organisation and the Scottish contingent of WiP certainly know how to celebrate. They also raised over £16,000 on the night!

15th March – EG shares meet the Public Sector Forum ahead of the manifesto launch at UK REIFF in May.

20th March – Local Authority Property & Estates Conference. I gave a plenary presentation on strategic asset management through the net zero lens – concentrating on data and climate action scorecards, adaptation readiness, and the skills needed to help us deliver against our plans. I also had the pleasure to host the FACES panel who did a brilliant job of answering my questions with honesty, humour and no notes!

21st March Offices for Good – webinar 2. I was delighted to take part in the 2nd of 4 webinars of this series with Local Partnerships ahead of our launching the programme at UK REIFF in May. Alice Stacey of DLUHC and I discussed office transformations and workplace trends before being quizzed by Neil Webster and Martin Forbes.

Upcoming activities:

18th April – next gathering of the EG Public Sector Forum

9th May – North West Branch CPD day at Haydock Racecourse

14th May – Welsh Branch meeting in Swansea

16th May – Rural Branch meeting in Coventry

21st to 23rd May – UK REIFF

7th June – IRRV Presidents Dinner

I still need to arrange in person visits to branches potentially as follows:

- North East 9th July
- London branch 19th July
- a return to Scotland for their branch meeting possibly 30th August
- South East
- South West
- and Heart of England on 7th November

Sara Cameron

ACES President

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