



ACES Council Meeting, 24 July 2025

Report from the Branch Liaison Officer

Branch Visits

8 down and 1 to go ! Sorry Scotland, you missed out this year (or should that be sorry, I missed you out).

Once again I must thank Branch Secretaries and Branch Chairs for welcoming me to their meetings. I have commented previously on branch autonomy and how each branch caters for the needs of its members in its own way – all similar but different – which makes my visits all the more enjoyable, as I never quite know what to expect.

Attendance is healthy at branch meetings - around 20, sometimes more, with others joining on-line when the meetings are in hybrid format. With Covid (hopefully) well and truly in the past, most branches are back to holding 2 to 4 meetings per year in-person, with another 1 or 2 on-line via Teams. London and the North West Branch are the exception to the rule, with 5 meetings in person, and in London's case just 1 on-line. 3 branches now hold monthly or six-weekly on-line CPD briefing sessions – just for an hour, either at 9 am or at lunchtime. These prove to be popular with members – and help keep CPD hours on track to meet the RICS annual requirements.

Special mention is made of the North West Branch's annual CPD event at Haydock Park which I believe attracted more than 100 delegates this year – and well done to the North East Branch whose CPD session in Newcastle was attended by 46 members and guests, including me !

I continue to encourage Branches to share CPD presentations where of particular interest. At a recent meeting of the South East Branch, we were let down by a cancellation of a CPD presentation, almost at the last minute. Up stepped the Welsh Branch whose CPD presenter (on Corporate Landlord) at their meeting three weeks earlier gave his permission for me to “borrow” his presentation for the benefit of the South East Branch. As it happened we ran out of time at our meeting and could not use it – but it was good to have it as back-up.

Linkedin

Now that ACES has its own Social Media Manager – Sara Barton – in post we are trying to post summaries of branch meetings or branch events on our ACES Linkedin pages,

with 'photos when available. Time is of the essence in feeding summaries to Sara as the reports look more professional – and “with it”- if posted promptly after a meeting or event. Colleagues' assistance in feedback to Sara will be much appreciated – by Sara and by me.

ACES South East Branch – our “problem” branch

Well – hopefully not quite so problematic now that the Branch has found a Chair(person), Sarah Varley, who attended April's Council meeting in Birmingham, ahead of her formal election by members as Branch Chair at the South East Branch hybrid meeting on 11 June 2025 in Horsham, West Sussex. President Dan Meek, making his Presidential branch visit to the South East Branch, declared the Branch to be out of “Special Measures” now that it had a Chair – but there remains lots to do for Sarah and colleagues to attract much needed new members prepared to support ACES and participate in Branch events and meetings. I am helping Sarah with a recruitment drive, now underway, making use of our new tri-fold publicity pamphlet. Early days yet and complete silence from the 7 County Councils I wrote to recently, enclosing hard copies of our pamphlet – but I can report on one success: at the South West Branch meeting held in Exeter Quays mid-June, a visiting guest from Devon County Council read the pamphlet I presented to her – and promptly decided she should join ACES !! Her application is currently being processed as I write this report.

**Marcus Perry
ACES Branch Liaison Officer
July 2025**