



December 2016

## Welcome to the December 2016 BEPE Update from the CIC

### CAE developing inclusive design teaching modules

The Centre for Accessible Environments ([www.cae.org.uk](http://www.cae.org.uk)) is working with a number of universities to develop inclusive design teaching modules:

- The Bartlett at University College London to develop an optional module called “Inclusive Places” in their new MSc in Health, Wellbeing and Sustainability.
- The University of Edinburgh to develop course material for their new training course on pedestrian/external environments, based on their recently completed Mood, Mobility and Place research initiative (see <https://sites.eca.ed.ac.uk/mmp/>).
- The University of Portsmouth on their RICS CPD programme providing two half day training courses, one which is specific to accessible housing and the other on broader aspects of inclusive design.

CAE have also been commissioned by the RIBA to provide 14 CPD sessions across the UK. The seminars will combine inclusive design principles with raising awareness of the access needs of people with a range of impairments and health conditions, and how the design of an accessible built environment can support independent access for us all. Participants will be asked to look at the inclusive design and management development journey - from concept, design, planning, regulations throughout construction, to final occupation. The Equality Act will be explored, along with the role of Development Planning and Planning Policy, Building Regulations and best practice standards including the BS 8300 Code of Practice. Updates on recent research and developments will be given, such as progress in designing for people with dementia and people who are neuro diverse, along with how technology can enhance access to buildings and services. The seminars will also compare the new English housing standards with other standards such as Lifetime Homes which are applicable in Wales, and explore how the standards are applied and enforced via planning and building control, alongside important factors every designer should know when applying them.

## **Commons Select Committee Inquiry into the accessibility and inclusivity of the built environment**

Following the oral evidence session of the Women and Equalities Committee Inquiry on the 23rd November the BEPE Project Board stressed the following points to the committee:

- Government as client and commissioner of buildings setting an example by embedding a requirement for an inclusive design process into all government funded development projects - making an inclusive design process explicit in the strategic brief at the outset of a project, in the budget and in the procurement process, when any government department commissions built assets, and progressively as existing government-owned building stock is maintained and improved.
- Continued Ministerial support for BEPE and the Construction Industry Inclusive Environment Action Plan - a fragmented and large industry means it is very hard to reach every part of the construction industry and it will take time for behaviour change to take effect – so government involvement and support over the next few years is critical.
- Government support for a major client / developer summit on the issue – to rally support and help change mind-sets in the industry
- Consideration of how government can ensure better enforcement of existing legislation and itself make better use of existing tools
- Government encouragement and support to assist the Higher Education sector to teach inclusive design more effectively
- Support to identify access professionals who can teach inclusive design effectively - to help ensure that what is being taught is effective, up to date and appropriate.

You can view the session here -

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/women-and-equalities-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/disability-and-the-built-environment-16-17/>.

## **Royal Town Planning Institute Review of Initial Planning Education**

Following their review of the RTPI Policy Statement on [Initial Planning Education](#), the RTPI Board has endorsed its Education and Lifelong Learning Committee's (ELLC) view that the RTPI's Education Policy aims to provide fair access to the planning profession. Responses to the consultation included the consideration of inclusive design/planning as part of degree teaching and the member led working group concluded that this is already reflected in required learning outcomes. The ELLC agreed that inclusive planning will be made clearer within a glossary in new supplementary guidance agreed for Planning Schools on the development of accredited courses.

The RTPI are also currently drafting advice for planners on creating Dementia Friendly places so watch out for this publication in the new year  
<http://www.rtpi.org.uk/>.

### **Class of Your Own Design Challenge**

The BEPE Project Board is supporting the 2017 Design Engineer Construct DEC! Challenge to be launched at the end of January - a great way to encourage school children to engage with how we design engineer and construct the built environment. This new challenge aims to help raise awareness of the need to create an accessible and inclusive environment for all of us. Watch out for the Challenge announcement on their web site <http://designengineerconstruct.com/> .

### **CIC Inclusive Environment Award**

The CIC Inclusive Environment Award will take place again in 2017 – submission dates to be advised. Remember the award is an award of awards – so the entry must be submitted by a CIC member institution and the entry must have already been successful in receiving an award from that institution. Submission criteria will appear on the CIC web site soon.

### **BEPE**

Paul Morrell, the BEPE Board Chairman and Tony Burton, the CIC Council's Inclusive Environment Champion, met with Penny Mordaunt MP, Minister for Disabled People, in November and gave an update on progress with the BEPE project. It was a very upbeat meeting, with the Minister continuing to support the project while stressing the need for the wider engagement of the construction industry in promoting not just improved education and training in inclusive design, but raising awareness amongst construction industry employers of the benefits of employing disabled people and becoming Disability Confident. She also stressed the importance of the construction industry making the most of the extensive range of existing tools available to built environment professionals - including understanding and implementing legislative requirements and regulatory standards, as well as championing best practice to help achieve an accessible and inclusive environment.

The BEPE Project is moving into its final phase at the CIC – the project in its current form ends on 31 March 2017. The next BEPE Update in March will provide more details about how the CIC will continue to support the construction industry to promote more and better inclusive design education and training for built environment professionals.

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