



March 2017

Welcome to the March 2017 BEPE Update from the CIC

Minister for Disabled People endorses BEPE Project and challenges the construction industry to do more

Penny Mordaunt MP, Minister for Disabled People attended an evening reception to celebrate progress with the BEPE project on 9 March. She stressed how vital it is to ensure that our future built environment professionals have the skills to build accessible and inclusive buildings. She recognised that it will take time to get these trained people into a position to influence the industry and although our record on accessibility is not bad, we still have a long way to go to say that we have really achieved a fully accessible environment.

She challenged the construction industry to act, to make accessibility and inclusivity business as usual not be something special, added only to some buildings - every new building, or refurbishment of an older building should be automatically made accessible and inclusive. She also stressed the business case and how vital it is that businesses don't miss out on the not inconsiderable £249 billion of the purple pound because the business was not accessible.

The Minister would like to see the difference the industry can make in a year by:

- signing up and working with the CIC's Essential Principles for Built Environment Professionals (see page 2)
- taking BuildAbility forward, and ensuring that it is a success
- follow CIC's lead and others to become a Disability Confident employer

Read more about the BEPE Reception and BuildAbility at the end of the BEPE Update.

Minister for Disabled People announces call for submissions for the CIC Inclusive Environment Award 2017

The BEPE reception was held at 5 Pancras Square, home to the London Borough of Camden and the winner of last year's CIC Inclusive Environment Award. The Minister for Disabled People presented Nasser Rad, Head of the Building Control

Service at Camden Council, with an award plaque to display in the building. She also announced the call for submissions for the next CIC Inclusive Environment Award. 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. <http://cic.org.uk/news/article.php?s=2017-03-13-cic-inclusive-environment-award-2017-opens-for-entries>.

Essential Principles Guide for Built Environment Professionals

The reception also provided the opportunity to launch the CIC's Essential Principles Guide for Built Environment Professionals for Creating an Accessible and Inclusive Environment. The guide was launched by Tony Burton, Deputy Chair of CIC and Partner of Gardiner and Theobald, sponsors of the guide.

The Essential Principles Guide contains six principles, endorsed by the Minister for Disabled people, to guide, support and motivate all built environment professionals when making decisions for clients, employers and society which affect the achievement of an inclusive environment.

The 6 essential principals are:

1. Contribute to building an inclusive society now and in the future
2. Apply professional and responsible judgement and take a leadership role
3. Apply and integrate the principles of inclusive design from the outset of a project
4. Do more than just comply with legislation and codes
5. Seek multiple views to solve accessibility and inclusivity challenges
6. Acquire the skills, knowledge, understanding and confidence to make inclusion the norm not the exception

15 key built environment professional institutions have already endorsed the guide and are promoting them amongst their members (their logos are on the last page). The aim is that the professional institutions embed the principles into their professional code of practice. This should help built environment professionals make accessibility and inclusivity the norm in all their projects and help create a society where everyone can participate equally. A convenient wallet card (credit card sized) has also been produced with a summary of the Essential Principles on one side and the Principles of Inclusive Design on the other side. You can obtain printed copies of the guide and the wallet card from Liz Drummond (liz.drummond@cic.org.uk) or you can download copies of the guide here <http://cic.org.uk/news/article.php?s=2017-03-10-cic-launches-essential-principles-guide>.

Congratulations to the University of Reading for CIOB Award

The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) Highly Commended the University of Reading for their Breaking down Barriers project in their Innovation in Education and Training Awards for 2016. The Breaking down Barriers project responds to the need to address ethical, legal and moral imperatives to promote an inclusive society through innovation in built environment professional education. It aims to achieve this by going beyond current expectations of best practice in the provision of teaching and learning related to the construction, design and management of an inclusive environment.

The judges noted that

“This innovation in education is a practical, engaging and demonstrable way to bring to life a real social challenge with widespread value and application. The innovation shows a genuine commitment to invest in the UK’s building stock and educate the next generation of professionals to ensure the needs of all users of a facility are firmly met.”

See <http://iandrawards.ciob.org/node/108> and <https://blogs.reading.ac.uk/breaking-down-barriers/>

Judging starts for The Royal Society of Arts Student Design Award

The closing date for students to submit their projects to the RSA student design awards has now passed and next week the judges meet to shortlist the submissions. The winners will be announced on 1 June. This year’s Inclusive Living Award asked students to design and develop a proposal for inclusive living that challenges the current way we design our homes. Sponsored by PRP architects and the Office for Disability Issues, there are two awards this year – a two month paid placement with PRP Architects and a £1000 prize. See the brief here

<http://sda.thersa.org/en/challenge/rsa-student-design-awards-2017/phase/rsa-student-design-awards-2017/track/inclusive-living-en>

Class of Your Own Design Challenge

Complimenting the RSA’s Inclusive Living Award, the 2017 Design Engineer Construct DEC! Challenge is called A Home for Everyone. It was launched on 8 February and is 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 home environment. It is open to all UK primary schools, secondary schools and first year undergraduates and encourages students to use their creativity and ingenuity to create the ideal inclusive house - see <http://designengineerconstruct.com/>.

Global Disability Innovation Hub Summit

The first Disability Innovation Summit to be held at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on 13th and 14th July, will present papers, projects, ideas, experiences and innovations, from disabled people, innovators, young people and collaborative groups and looks to be a must go to event this summer.

The Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI Hub) is a dedicated research, teaching and practice centre and online community, born out of the legacy of the London 2012 Paralympic Games and the world-leading disability expertise of the institutions connected to Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The Hub brings together world-leading disability expertise of the London Mayors Regeneration Agency (LLDC), University College London (UCL), Sadlers Wells, V&A, Leonard Cheshire Disability Centre, Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design at the Royal College of Art and Loughborough University London. The GDI Hub believes that by collaborating with disabled people, practitioners, organisations, academics, local communities and emerging partnerships from around the world, they can make transformative change. Read more here <https://www.disabilityinnovation.com/content/about-us>

Disability Confident

The Disability Confident scheme aims to help employers make the most of the opportunities provided by employing disabled people. It is voluntary and has been developed by a mix of employers and disabled people and their representatives. It has 3 levels that have been designed to support organisations and employers on their journey to be Disability Confident.

The Government is committed to halving the disability employment gap and construction industry employers have a crucial role to play in this. Becoming Disability Confident can help to achieve this. The CIC has signed up and has written to all their Members to encourage them to sign up to and promote Disability Confident.

Start your Disability Confident Journey Now by Signing Up here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/disability-confident-how-to-sign-up-to-the-employer-scheme>.

Progress with BEPE and Next Steps

At the BEPE Reception on 9 March Paul Morrell, chair of the BEPE Project Board, celebrated progress with the BEPE project since its inception 3 years ago and thanked members of the Board, who met for the last time last week, for the many ways they have helped to change mind-sets. 20 institutions have now signed up to support the objectives of the BEPE programme, 12 of which accredit courses, and 7 of those shared a meaningful route map setting out how and when they will make changes to embed inclusive and accessible design into their courses. Further details of progress will shortly be published by the CIC.

There is however, still much to do. Paul Morrell stressed the need for continued government support adding three asks of government:

- that government sets an example in its own procurement practice and requires an inclusive design process is adopted in government contracts
- if the construction industry joins together initiatives across the industry, can government help the industry join together initiatives in government and ensure that all departments attract priority to this subject

- that government keeps the industry's attention and that the industry keeps the government's attention by meeting periodically (every 6 months or every year) to see if we're keeping our promises to each other and delivering real change.

He went on to ask:

'What would an industry that we can be proud of look like. How would it behave? What regard would it have for those it works for and those who work for it? And just one answer to that question is always have in mind the whole idea of accessibility, of welcoming the greatest possible number of people in all the many guises that we come in, into our buildings and our businesses and designing into both whatever accommodations may be necessary to make us feel at home. To do that, all we have to do is first to care, then to know what to do, and then, just do it. These are challenges of attitude, of academics and of action, and rising to all of those challenges will be to achieve real BuildAbility'.

John Nolan ended the evening by setting out some ambitions for taking the work forward. The aim is to develop and link initiatives that go beyond education and embrace environment and employment issues across the construction industry. CIC is currently considering whether and how to establish an Inclusive Environment Group that could:

- take BEPE forward by continuing to promote changes to education and training
- promote more inclusive design awards across the industry and
 - manage the CIC Inclusive Environment Award
 - support the Royal Society of Arts Inclusive Cities Student Design Awards
 - support Class of Your Own in their inclusive DEC! Challenges
- promote the take up of Disability Confident amongst construction employers
- work with a consortium of construction and built environment organisations, including the Design Council to achieve greater engagement in the wider inclusive environment agenda
- build an Inclusive Environment Campaign with clients, developers, commissioners of buildings and building owners.

Paul Morrell and Tony Burton discussed these ideas at a meeting on March 13th with the Minister for Disabled People, who confirmed her continued support for the BEPE Project and is considering ways to further engage government departments more actively in the inclusive environment agenda.

For more information about the BEPE Project please contact:

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