



September 2016

Welcome to the second BEPE Update from the CIC

National Paralympic Day Launch of the Global Disability Innovation Hub

Another inspirational Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio this summer and the fantastic media coverage by Channel 4 helped to further transform attitudes to disabled people and perceptions of disability. The Paralympic Games were celebrated at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on National Paralympic Day with the launch by the Mayor of London of the first Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI).

The new GDI Hub is a collaboration between partners who are closely connected to Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, and the communities and experts who delivered the London 2012 Paralympic Games. The aim is to make a positive difference to the lives of disabled people through co-design, collaboration and innovation. The Hub will bring together the world's best academics, disability experts, designers, and communities to improve the lives of disabled people across the world through technology, co-design and innovation. The BEPE Project is included as a GDI Hub live project further information can be found [here](#).

BEPE supports Royal Society of Arts (RSA) Inclusive Living Student Design Award

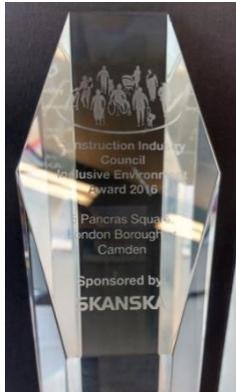
The BEPE project is helping the RSA to promote inclusive design through the support of another Student Design Award. This year the RSA's 'Inclusive Living' Award requires students to design and develop a proposal for inclusive living that responds to changing social structures, challenges the current way we design our homes and fosters positive inter-generational connections. There are two awards - the Office for Disability Issues award of £1,000 and a paid placement at PRP Architects, for further information click [here](#).

CIC Inclusive Environment Award

Congratulations to the London Borough of Camden for their development at 5 Pancras Square in Kings Cross - the winner of the first CIC Inclusive Environment Award announced at the Construction Industry Summit dinner on Tuesday 20th September. 5 Pancras Square incorporates a leisure centre, featuring two swimming pools, a fitness suite, studio space and associated changing facilities as well as an access centre and library. The video illustrates how the project went that extra mile in providing an accessible experience for disabled visitors and employees.



Congratulations also go to the Vale of Glamorgan Council for the Penarth Learning Centre in Wales - commended for their project which brought together the diverse learning environments for children with special education needs, alongside mainstream secondary school learning, to create a high quality, contemporary educational environment. Both projects were submitted by the LABC (Local Authority Building Control) who introduce a new category of Inclusive Design in 2015 into their Regional and National Building Excellence Awards.



The CIC Inclusive Environment award seeks to help raise the standard of inclusivity achieved across the industry by inspiring professionals in practice to go beyond meeting minimum standards or legislative requirements for accessibility.

Both the CIC award and the RSA award are inspiring change to ensure the equal participation of disabled people in society and both are a great help in inspiring students, educators and professionals to put inclusive design at the heart of their projects.

Fit for An inclusive Future

A breakout session at the [Construction Industry Summit](#) highlighted the need to improve built environment professional education and training. The session discussed what more the construction industry can do to increase the accessibility and inclusivity of our buildings, places and spaces. Six innovative initiatives, including the BEPE Project, were showcased: inspiring current and future built environment professionals to improve their inclusive design knowledge and skills; developing training resources for professionals; working with industry and end users; an innovative and collaborative approach to university curriculum design; embedding inclusive design throughout the procurement process; and how employers can become disability confident. A timely discussion given the Commons Select Committee inquiry into the accessibility of our homes, buildings and public spaces.

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

The Women and Equalities Commons Select Committee has launched an inquiry into Disability and the Built Environment. The committee is asking for written evidence that focuses on a number of issues including the role of designers, architects and built environment specialists in ensuring accessibility and inclusivity and in particular on how well inclusive design is built into training for built environment specialists such as planners, designers, architects and building inspectors – so very pertinent to the BEPE Project. The CIC will be sending in a written response. You may of course like to also submit a response directly to the select committee, the closing date for [submissions](#) is 12th October..

Royal Town Planning Institute Review of Initial Planning Education

The RTPI are reviewing their Policy Statement on [Initial Planning Education](#) providing an opportunity to further embed inclusive design into the initial education of town planners. A response has been submitted to the RTPI recommending that:

- The definition of Inclusive Planning is expanded to make accessibility explicit: 'Planning that considers, accommodates and integrates the diverse needs of the whole community, with particular emphasis on planning to achieve an environment that is accessible and inclusive for disabled and older people. An inclusive environment is one that can be used safely, easily and with dignity by everyone regardless of age, dis/ability, gender or background.'
- A specific learning outcome on inclusive planning should sit as a separate outcome, rather than being incorporated into diversity and equality, health or design outcomes. It will then gain the attention it needs to affect the systematic change in education that the BEPE project is seeking. The RTPi could use the same wording as that used by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) in their draft Subject Benchmark Statement for Land, Construction, Property and Real Estate - it uses the following phrase for it's threshold, typical and excellent standards throughout: *'the principles and processes that deliver an inclusive environment, recognising the diversity of user needs and the requirement to put people (of all ages and abilities) at the heart of the planning process'*
- Practical experience can really help understanding particularly when disabled people are directly involved in the teaching. The University of Reading's Breaking down Barriers project is a good example of where practical work and the involvement of disabled people from both within the university and the local community is having a positive impact on the students' understanding of the issues. This approach also helps to up skill the teachers.
- The Effective Planning School criteria should include a specific separate criterion for inclusive planning such as 'The planning school can demonstrate that it has integrated inclusive planning into its programmes.'
- Partnership Boards / Accreditation Boards - inclusive planning should be included as a specific indicator used by the Partnership / Accreditation Boards and explicitly considered by the Board. The Boards should look at how inclusive planning skills are taught, how students are assessed on their inclusive planning knowledge and understanding, and how the teaching has been made an integral part of the course. This will help to up skill the accreditation board members in the issues, as well as improving teaching excellence across all accredited schools.

Designing Environments as if People Matter

BEPE will feature at The Schumacher Institute for Sustainable Systems conference 'Designing Environments as if People Matter', to be held on 15 November 2016 at London's Coin Street Conference Centre. The theme of the day is Investing in the Future & Avoiding the Mistakes of the Past. Click [here](#) for more details.

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