



CIC

TONY BURTON SPEECH TO CIC June 12 2014

Can I firstly thank Jack Pringle on behalf of all members of the CIC for his efforts on our behalf in particular during his two years as Chairman.

I would like to read a couple of lines from an article published today in Building.

“Under Jack Pringles leadership the CIC has become a more visible organisation. Government is working with industry on a huge range of issues. CIC is at the heart of this and increasingly seen as the professions’ main conduit to Government.”

Certainly no small feat and Jack has played a major part in achieving this.

The CIC method of transition from one chairman to another helps with a smooth and seamless progression. So today we have a smooth handover from, as the Building article puts it, “a media savvy and gregarious” Jack Pringle to the “quiet and measured” Tony Burton.

I don’t know if Jack has ever been called gregarious, but quiet is not usually a word applied to me! I think “measured” must be a QS reference.

There are some major challenges ahead for us.

- Skills and resource shortages
- Industry image and our attractiveness to new recruits
- Climate change and impact on our Built Environment
- Diversity and
- The Digital World

All of these are areas where Built Environment Professionals should be taking a lead.

I am very aware that the role of Chairman of CIC is to represent CIC and its members. It is not for the Chairman to set direction, that is a role for members.

I would however like to set some challenges for CIC and for the member bodies.

It has been quite a surprise to me during my period as Deputy Chairman to learn how little (if anything) is known about CIC by individual professionals. My first challenge is for the members of CIC to better communicate the existence and function of CIC to your own members.

This might be as simple as adding something on each of your websites along the lines of

RICS (eg) is a member of the Construction Industry Council which represents the Built Environment Professions.

The article published today by building questions whether CIC can really affect change given the industry's "torrid reputation for being fragmented and unable to speak with a single voice to government".

My second challenge is for members to identify and agree 1 or 2 issues (not more) where CIC can represent the professions to Government with a single, unified and therefore louder voice.

We have heard today about what is happening to promote our industry in schools. Perhaps this is an area where CIC can lead leaving individual members to promote their own discipline.

Or is it Diversity where almost all members have their own initiatives running but could perhaps have a clearer voice if CIC through the Diversity Panel took a lead.

My point here is that we should not just be talking about representing the professions but be seen to be doing so by Government and Society.

My last challenge, which was also referred to by Jack, is for all of us to make sure that the Construction Leadership Council not only survives beyond the next election but thrives after it.

We have been given the opportunity of a sector council and direct engagement with Government. Whilst many may argue that its composition is not perfect, or far from it, it will evolve over time and it deserves our support.

Finally, after listening to Alison Watson's presentation on "Class of Your Own" can I say that I think that all members of CIC should get behind this.

You will have seen from Alison's presentation that major firms in our industry are supporting this and surely our professional bodies should do so.

What better motive can we have than to get the words "Design, Engineer, Construct" into every school in the country.

I am delighted to be appointed as Chairman of CIC. I am ready for the challenges ahead and hope that we all are!