

Rethinking Places at the People-Innovation-Place Summit

#PIPbyWiP

"We knew we had an amazing mix of speakers, subjects and social, in a great venue, but even we were blown away by the reception the Summit got - it was a fabulous day, the place was buzzing!" This from Hannah Lloyd who coordinated the Central Scotland team, alongside National colleagues, in the delivery of the first #PIPbyWiP Summit, held on 14th November.

For those who arrived the evening before, South Wales branch Chair Hannah Lewis-Jones organised a drinks reception kindly hosted by her employer, Mott MacDonald, highlighting the national focus and cross-branch collaboration we always hoped to engender at the Summit.

Over 170 of you joined us at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh, where **Karen Anderson, President of the Royal**

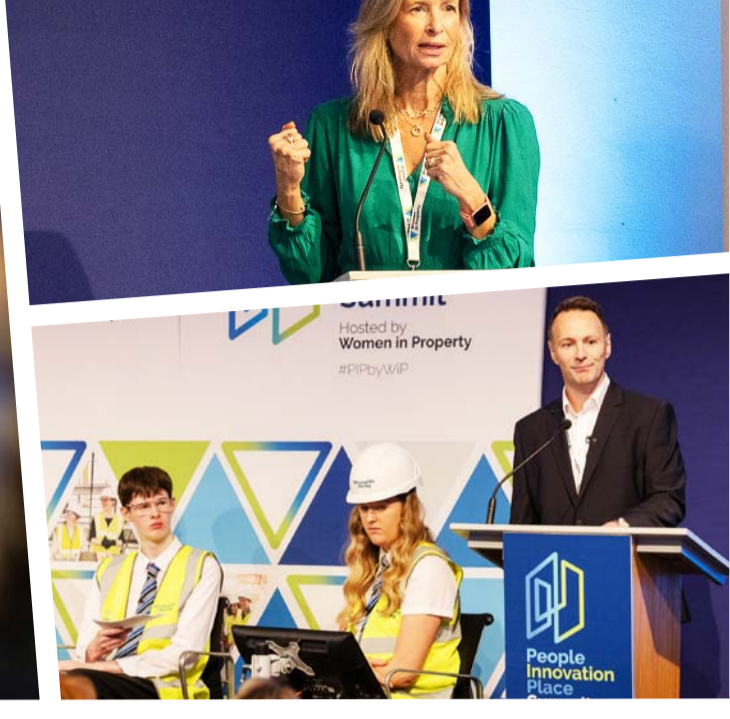
Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, skilfully chaired a day of CPD accredited panel discussions and keynote speeches, interspersed with workshops, a walking tour and site visit.

Opening the event was **Suzannah Nichol OBE, Chief Executive of Build UK**, saying "What we do and how we perform is within our control. You can't change someone else's behaviour, but you can your own". She went on to give an inspirational presentation sharing some of the things she wishes she'd been told earlier in her career. Among them, she urged us to "put your hand out and help pull other women through the door" and "You need people round you to be good at what they do, so you can do what you're good at. Challenge yourself, push yourself outside your

comfort zone - if you don't, you're unlikely to make your mark."

Suzannah was disarmingly practical in her approach, saying "Don't spend time worrying about things over which you have no control. Delivering the impossible is not in your job description. Don't waste your brain space on it."

The first of the panels, **Inspired by Outreach**, was delivered by four students from Douglas Academy - thank you Andy, Rebecca, Thora and Brodie - giving their insight into the property and construction industry, following a School Outreach programme, that ran over a period of several weeks with the Central Scotland branch and Summit headline sponsor



McLaughlin & Harvey. The company's endlessly supportive Pre-Construction Director, Martin Smith, introduced the group, describing his own experience at university, when only one woman studied on his Civil Engineering degree course, leading to his quest for a more balanced, diverse and inclusive built environment.

Next, we were awed and amazed by our expert panel discussing **Why we should care about Space**, facilitated by National Vice Chair Emma Richman, with Will Whitehorn of Seraphim Space Investment Trust, Yvette Hopkins of Craft Prospect and Stuart Fyvie of FireArrow.

Who knew that the UK space industry was worth over £18.9 billion last year, with £5.9 billion in UK exports, and offers mind-boggling opportunity for our own industry, impacting land, food security, energy, climate change and investment?

Will Whitehorn said, "Without one of the oldest GPS systems in space we wouldn't be feeding the planet - it guides where food is in ports, where it needs to get to. The speed of technology will make a huge impact on logistics, insurance, heat signature, disease in crops, the property industry."

"The space sector has been under the radar for ages yet the UK has been

involved for decades. There are space clusters around Harwell, Hatfield, Southampton as well as a major focus in Scotland, which has five declared space ports," said Stuart Fyvie. So what is a space port? "It's like an airport - a very simple structure, it just needs a great location, a place to put your commodities, a mission control centre, good transportation, and you work with your local community."

As for diversity in the sector, Yvette Hopkins stressed that the space industry is "much like construction and property. Women are severely under-represented. It tends to be run by older, male, richer people, but this isn't really a recognised issue yet in the industry. We need to get more women involved in Space." Maybe this could be your next career move!

Thank you to Will, Yvette and Stuart for shedding some intergalactic light on this fascinating 'new industrial revolution'.

Our Rethinking Places theme continued with our next panel of experts exploring **Resilient Neighbourhoods**. Facilitator, WiP National Chair, Jennifer Winyard, herself a dual qualified planner and surveyor, was joined by Daisy Narayanan MBE, Director of Public Realm at the Crown Estate, Stephen O'Malley, CEO and Founding Director of CIVIC Engineers and Iain

Tinsdale, Senior Associate at Bennetts Associates.

"We are human beings, we have that connection to each other and to the planet, that is quite primal," said Daisy, with Stephen adding "Using nature-based solutions, synchronising with seasons, and weather cycles, this all has to be more resilient and lead to resilient lifestyles and neighbourhoods."

"More and more communities are going to get interested in the sustainability of their neighbourhoods, the carbon cost in buildings," said Iain. "There is more awareness about how much better you need to be, to deliver a scheme."

Stephen added, "We need to see the landscape as a 'motherboard', the urban circuitry of what's involved is critical. Bring in the different landowners, stakeholders, statutory bodies - development needs to be done at a district scale, to see how it plugs into a broader strategy."

"This is about the integrity of the vision. Collaboration has to be messy, otherwise it's not true collaboration," said Daisy.

Thank you to Daisy, Stephen, Iain and Jennifer for taking part in a powerful, passionate discussion, which could easily have continued into the afternoon, had time allowed.

Lunchtime gave everyone the opportunity to come together, to catch up with old friends make new contacts and continue the conversations arising from the morning's panels. After lunch, delegates joined pre-booked sessions, which offered either two different workshops, a walking tour or a site visit. Thanks to all our amazing workshop hosts, and all our site visit leaders.

- ◆ Biodiversity Net Gain led by Emma Morrison, Principal Ecologist at AtkinsRéalis

- ◆ The new National Planning Policy Framework led by Maria Francké, Director of Maria Francké Planning and Immediate Past President of the SPF

- ◆ Building Confidence in business development led by Nicola Barclay, Athena Coaching and Consulting

- ◆ Leadership Skills led by Yvonne Webb

- ◆ Be more confident at work - mastering assertiveness and boundary setting, led by Mind & Mission

- ◆ Old Town Walking Tour, led by Cobble Tours

- ◆ Site Visit - the University of Edinburgh's Futures Institute led by Bennetts Associates

The closing keynote was delivered by **Dr Marie Macklin CBE, Executive Chair of HALO Urban Regeneration Company** who wowed us, both with her personal story and the energy behind her presentation.

"Our developments came out of a major collision" stated Marie, who negotiated with Diageo when it closed its site in Kilmarnock. The ambition was to create up to 1,500 new jobs, focusing on enterprise entrepreneurship, and opportunities for young people. She

lined up the Scottish Government, the local Council and Scottish Power, who used the scheme as a green tech test bed site.

"Private investment is a must," said Marie. "I know how difficult it can be to unlock private finance. It took sixteen years to drive forward the regeneration of the site" but, ultimately, HALO enterprise innovation centre was born. As Marie said, "energy, with the power of the people, creates opportunity."

There are two other core issues dear to Marie's heart and supported through HALO, namely education and health. Education through the Rock Me brand, to help create skill bases to prevent children being left behind, describing young people as "the gatekeepers and protectors of tomorrow's world". And, again through bitter personal experience, the creation of ENDO1000, a £1 million research fund, into endometriosis, run through the University of Edinburgh.



When asked what advice she would give to her younger self, she said, "Face up to facts and challenge yourself. Never be afraid to ask for help."

In wrapping up the Summit, Jennifer Winyard, Emma Richman and Karen Anderson reminded us of some more golden quotes, in particular Suzannah's "be the candle to light another candle". The day came to a close with a Reception in the Rainforest and Iceberg rooms, which have got to be the most unusual spaces in Edinburgh to enjoy a drink!

Thank you to all our wonderful sponsors: **McLaughlin & Harvey, Baker Hicks, SLR Consulting, Bennetts Associates, CIVIC Engineers, LUC** and

Buro Happold. Your support made this happen.

The Summit wasn't quite over though. The following day, the Central Scotland branch organised a series of CPD accredited Fringe Events, available to delegates and non-delegates alike, and a great way to round off the week. Our thanks go to all those who hosted and guided tours of St James Quarter, King's Theatre, Port of St James Dillery and Northfield Grove Regeneration, all of which received enthusiastic reviews.

A huge thank you to all those who were involved in producing this event. We set out to deliver a Summit that mixed learning, challenge and debate,

with plenty of the social, in a friendly, inclusive environment. #PIPbyWiP Team Scotland, you did brilliantly!

#PIPbyWiP News!

We are delighted to confirm that the next #PIPbyWiP Summit will be hosted by the North West branch at The Lowry in Salford, on **Thursday 23rd April 2026**. Look out for details in the coming months.