



ICE Wales Cymru Chair's report

To: ICE Wales Cymru AGM- Tuesday 22nd February 2022

Date: 6th February 2022

When I took over the Chair of ICE Wales Cymru from Yvonne Murphy in February 2021, I was confident by the summer of 2021 everything would be back to normal, how wrong I was.

Supporting me in my role for the early part of the year as Chair Apprentice was Jess Dunn. Having been offered an exciting new job in London, Jess had to resign but was replaced by Rhiannon Humm who has been shadowing me on a number of teams meetings. I hope as restrictions lift, she will be able to gain broader experience of the role.

The one advantage of virtual meetings is that I had the time to attend several branch and subgroup meetings through the past year, and without increasing my own carbon footprint. During these meetings I was pleased to see full programmes of interesting webinars being planned as well as some good debates between committee members on current issues we have in Wales. Indeed, in 2021 we held 82 webinars attracting 6,696 attendees from across the world.

One of my chosen themes for the year, focusses on campaigning for improving the road condition of the local road network in Wales. With Welsh Government pausing major road building and diverting funds into the local road network, my theme could not be timelier, and I want to ensure that ICE Wales Cymru plays a pivotal role in ensuring that funds are appropriately used in this area.

Along with Keith, Rhiannon and members of the Welsh Infrastructure Alliance Group I met with Dr David Clubb, the recently appointed Chair of the National Infrastructure for Wales. A number of topics were discussed, including a brief overview of his objectives in line with climate change issues such as the risk of flooding, communicating with the communities at risk and addressing renewable energy in Wales. We intend to have regular dialogue with him going forward.

We have continued to raise the profile of ICE Wales Cymru via the media and social media. During the year, I along with Keith and Rhiannon had a number of meetings with Members of the Senedd. Our discussions centred around the ICE Wales Cymru Manifesto, and I am sure this will lead to further engagement. We have offered our support in providing impartial advice on Civil Engineering matters in Wales

The ICE Presidential visit took place virtually with Rachel Skinner giving her address regarding net zero consequences, specifically for ICE and the infrastructure sector. We were able to showcase some of the wonderful infrastructure schemes which have been carried out in Wales.

On a personal basis, I have continued to promote the Zero Carbon agenda in Wales via my social media platforms and one of my recent posts relating to my personal use of public transport to reduce my own carbon footprint attracted over 9,000 views.

It was a pleasure to welcome Ed McCann as ICE's 157th President and to hear his address which focussed on examining the issue of improving infrastructure productivity within the context of delivering the United Nation's Sustainable Development goals, and achieving net zero carbon by 2050.

The ICE Wales Cymru Awards were held online with a record number of high calibre entries. We saw a variety of project nominations showcasing Welsh infrastructure projects. One of the highlights of my year was the announcement that the National Botanic Garden of Wales had won the international ICE People's Choice award. This was especially significant as it was the ICE Wales Cymru entry. It really is a fantastic showcase for Civil Engineering schemes in Wales.

There is much planned in the year ahead and I look forward to attending the webinars and events over the coming months which have been organised by groups across Wales, including a North to South Wales Cycle Ride, watch this space.

I would like to thank Keith and his team for all the work they continue to do on behalf of ICE Wales Cymru members, especially during such challenging times. I would like to wish Felicity White a long and happy retirement; she has been such a great asset and a pleasure to work with. I would like to welcome Eleanor Kelman who is her replacement within the ICE Wales regional office.

Finally, I would like to thank all ICE Wales Cymru Members for the support and welcome you have extended me.

Ken Evans
Chair, ICE Wales Cymru