

Façades and forums

Following on from a well attended Autumn Forum, held at The Principality, Cardiff I would like to thank our member sponsors of the event, BSi, Fentrade and Dales Fabrications. Without their support these events would not be possible writes CAB CEO Nigel Headford



During the afternoon conference delegates enjoyed some excellent presentations on the redevelopment of Cardiff by Rio Architects. This year's business forum was titled *Contemporary Façade Design and Delivery* and alongside presentations from Ffion Lanchbury and Andrew Baker of Rio Architects, Oliver Bridge of Total Façade Solutions offered an in depth talk about façades. The conference culminated in a Q&A panel that included Andrew Lee of Bouygues, Liz Williams, Housing Delivery Specialist and Steve Bramhill of UL Solutions.

The outcome of the presentations and open Q&A session, free for members to attend, offered some clear insights for the industry to follow in light of changing legislation. It is clear the new regulations are going to cause serious delays to design, planning, delivery and execution on site. Programmes are going to have to be seriously adjusted to take these regulator delays into account, which of course impacts cash flow.

Anyone involved in high rise buildings needs to work together to accommodate these anticipated extended contract periods and the recognition that more upfront design work will be needed. Specification and detailing have become more important earlier in the project process, as any deviation during the construction phase, from approved design, means having to go back into a lengthy approval process.

Discussion then moved on to the key issues facing the membership, namely how compliance impacts on delivery. Timing and costs remain a serious issue, as are the costs of due diligence at the point of sale and handover. Here we found an interesting absence of expertise in the legal arena. From a client's perspective trying to be competent, building and managing a professional team together with contracts and delivery, ensuring compliance with aspects of law can be a complex process.

Finally designers and contractors have to ensure what is agreed on paper, compliance wise, is actually delivered on site, in order to satisfy regulators to sign off the build. In turn this enables lenders to finance the build through to occupation and sale.

Feedback from CAB members on the conference was positive. The panel debate was considered to have offered a valuable insight into the challenges ahead. The CAB team agreed that we will ensure that future forums follow this format and that we allocate more time for audience participation.

Dale Pegler will join CAB in January as technical

director. This appointment will strengthen the CAB team and lays a good foundation for CAB to have an additional technical voice and provide a sounding board for all members. He will be looking at expanding our technical notes, providing a library of information that members can utilise and share with customers.

Our mission with this appointment is to move CAB back to the forefront of technical support, legislation, standards and consultations within our industry. Being visible and active across the supply chain supports both the industry to have one point of reference for aluminium in building, whilst better supporting our membership. The technical committee is already looking at some focused working groups to enable specialist sectors of the membership to have their own voice and bring other specific issues to the committee for appraisal.

From my recent discussions with several main contractors, CAB's closed loop recycling scheme has struck a chord. It carries no cost to implement but demonstrates the ability for extrusion grades of aluminium to recycle architectural aluminium back into architectural grade extrusion.

The closed loop recycling scheme is open to members as part of their membership package. While such closed loop recycling of construction materials is currently voluntary, requirements could be placed on embodied carbon content in the future and main contractors are increasingly seeking evidence to demonstrate the sustainability credentials of their supply chain. Aluminium scrap is an important resource and we should maximise the quantity and quality of recovered aluminium in the UK to build the circular economy of the future.

As more main contractors recognise the scheme, more refurbishment projects, where aluminium fenestration is being removed, are now being recycled within the CAB closed loop scheme. Anyone in the aluminium fenestration supply chain can become involved in the scheme. Contact our team at CAB for further information. □

It is my pleasure to welcome our new members Mormet Aluminium Ltd, Midori Aluminium Ltd, Furh, ProGlide Aluminium Ltd, Alubend, Glazpart and Total Façade Solutions into membership of the association. We look forward meeting up with members of their respective companies at our Future events.