

DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
Date:	To be arranged for
Time:	November 2006
Venue:	Portcullis House

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY BUILDING SERVICE ENGINEERING GROUP HELD AT 2PM ON 4 JULY IN ROOM R, PORTCULLIS HOUSE, LONDON SW1

PRESENT

Claire Curtis-Thomas MP CEng (Chair)
Rt Hon John Spellar MP (Deputy Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE

John Nelson	-	Specialist Engineering Contractors' Group
David Churcher	-	Building Services Research and Information Association
Bob Blake	-	SummitSkills
Anthony Smith	-	SummitSkills
David Thomas	-	Electrical Contractors' Association
Tony Thomas	-	Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association
Rod Pettigrew	-	Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association
Brigitte Faubert	-	Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association
Peter Rumley	-	Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings
Andy Watts	-	Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineers
Gareth Keller	-	Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association
Patrick Ney	-	Researcher to Claire Curtis-Thomas MP

APOLOGIES

Peter Bottomley MP (Vice Chair)
Richard Younger-Ross MP (Treasurer)
Sarah McCarthy-Fry MP (Secretary)

Chris Sneath	-	Chairman, Plumbing and Heating Industry Alliance
Keith Marshall	-	SummitSkills
Andrew Eastwell	-	Building Services Research and Information Association
Clive Dickin	-	Association of Plumbing and Heating Contractors
Roger Webb	-	Society of British Gas Industries

**ACTION DATE
BY**

06/06 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Claire Curtis-Thomas welcomed those present and introduced Gareth Keller from the Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association who would be taking the minutes of the meeting.

07/06 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND MATTERS ARISING **ACTION** **DATE**
BY

The minutes of the preliminary meeting held on 23 May 2006 and inaugural meeting held on 13 June 2006 had been previously circulated. They were agreed without comment. The Officers of the Group had been elected on 13 June and were as follows:

Chair	-	Claire Curtis-Thomas MP CEng
Deputy Chair	-	Rt Hon John Spellar MP
Vice-Chair	-	Peter Bottomley MP
Treasurer	-	Richard Younger-Ross MP
Secretary	-	Sarah McCarthy-Fry MP

Gareth Keller said that a website for the Group was being set up and a luncheon was being arranged in the Churchill Room at the House of Commons on 10 July 2006. Yvette Cooper, Minister for Housing and Local Government and Phil Hope, Parliamentary Under Secretary, Adult Skills had agreed to speak at the luncheon.

08/06 2012 OLYMPIC: THE CATALYST FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BEST PRACTICE

8.1 Construction Act Review

Claire Curtis-Thomas invited John Nelson to introduce this topic. John circulated a summary of EDM 1941 which now had 169 signatures. He said that there was a need to influence MPs and an Early Day Motion (EDM) was one way of doing this. However, there was no requirement for the Executive to respond to it. The aim was to collect over 200 signatures as this would send a very clear message to the Government. John added that the Trade and Industry Select Committee might have a Hearing on construction in the Autumn. Claire Curtis-Thomas confirmed that a Construction Hearing would take place. John Nelson said that the Olympics should be a catalyst for the implementation of best practice. He drew attention to a leaflet produced by the Strategic Forum for Construction 2012 Task Group which set out a number of construction commitments, including fair payment procedures.

Claire Curtis-Thomas asked those present what action was proposed. John Nelson said that civil servants seemed to be moving slowly; the review of the Act had been going on for two years now. He suggested that a meeting should be sought with the Construction Minister Margaret Hodge. Claire Curtis-Thomas said that Margaret had agreed to such a meeting and it should take place in September. She felt that there was a good case to be made and some real benefits would accrue to small businesses. Rod Pettigrew felt that the focus needed to be on the early part of the next Parliamentary session. Changes could be brought about by a Regulatory Reform Order rather than new legislation.

PN **07/06**

<p>John Nelson felt that there was a need to raise the stakes. The issue was important, especially given the Olympics and we had an opportunity to really turn around the British Construction Industry. John Spellar observed that Ministers did not stop work during the Parliamentary recess. There was also a need to provide Margaret Hodge with the opportunity to take an active role as Construction Minister. John Spellar agreed to be present at the meeting with Margaret Hodge in September. He also suggested that Sir Michael Latham be brought into the picture to bring some political consensus to the subject.</p>	<p>ACTION</p> <p>BY</p> <p>PN</p>	<p>DATE</p> <p>07/06</p>
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8.2 2012 Olympics

In introducing this topic, Tony Thomas said that the population of the London Thames Gateway was going to expand, but there were still concerns about the availability of the skills necessary to meet the construction requirements of the Games. Skilled people would be coming from the Thames Gateway, elsewhere in the UK, Europe and outside Europe. The challenge would be to co-ordinate all this activity. In terms of the UK Construction Industry as a whole, the forecast is that almost ½ million workers are needed over the next 5 years. However, although there was no shortage of applicants at craft level and a 10% increase in construction related degree courses, there was a shortage of jobs. There was a need to work with all the relevant agencies, particularly Local Authorities, Regional Development Agencies, and LSCs to deliver a framework which would support a diverse economy within the Thames Gateway and provide opportunities for local people. He pointed to statistics which showed that in Scotland and the North of England where self employment accounted for 30% of the workforce, it was possible to place 6-7 apprentices per 100 workers. In London, where self employment accounted for 70%-80% of the workforce, the comparable figure was just 1 in 100. London was currently a desert for craft apprentices.

Claire Curtis-Thomas said that she had spoken to Phil Hope, the Parliamentary Under Secretary, Adult Skills about what was happening in the London Boroughs. People who were in the domestic sector are now in the commercial sector. It was difficult to focus on structural problems. She asked what practically could be done and suggested a meeting with the five London Boroughs concerned and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Ken Livingstone had offered help with work-based experience. John Spellar said that Robin Wales, Mayor of Newham, was also Chairman of the Local Government Association and could be expected to take an interest. He felt that the LSC seemed to be more interested in carrying out yet another study rather than do anything positive. The role of clients was also crucial. There was a need to include SE London as well.

Tony Thomas said that there were £34 bn worth of new projects planned for the Thames Gateway area between now and 2016. He agreed that there was a need to work closely with the five London Boroughs concerned. John Nelson said that it was crucial to get to the right people. He suggested that David Higgins, the Chief Executive of the Olympics Delivery Authority was a key person to approach. David Churcher commented that BSRIA were involved with a project looking at developing small businesses. Bob Blake said that Groups had been established to make sure that appropriate provision was made but here was a need to ensure that efforts were focused in one direction. John Spellar reminded colleagues that it would also be necessary to look at training provision elsewhere in the country. Claire Curtis-Thomas said that she needed to attend a debate in the House of Commons and asked John Spellar to take over the Chair. She suggested that it might be useful to meet David Higgins in September and this was agreed.

**ACTION DATE
BY**

PN/GK 09/06

Rod Pettigrew drew attention to the need to consider best practice in relation to the Olympic Games Construction Programme. This had been touched on earlier when John Nelson had referred to the leaflet from the Strategic Forum. He said that it was necessary for people to sign up to best practice right across the supply chain. John Spellar suggested that Richard Caborn, the Olympic Minister, needed to be involved in this process. John Nelson said that a meeting with Richard Caborn had been arranged for October and asked whether John Spellar wished to be involved. John said that he would attend the meeting.

JN 10/06

Summing up the discussion, John Spellar said that much of the next action for the Group would be scene setting. The role of public and private sector clients would be crucial to the process.

09/06 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business raised.

10/06 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Group should take place in November. A date will be arranged.

There was no other business and the Deputy Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.15 pm.