

CPA AGM 16 November 2017

CC Outgoing Report

- 1 I have said it before in other addresses I have given as chair of the CPA and in my last address as chair I am going to say it again. These are interesting and busy times in the world of CPO. An ever increasing flow of work for practitioners to deal with, changes in the law, increased political interest in how land can best be assembled for housing and infrastructure projects, the introduction of the RICS professional statement and the need to attract more good young people into our industry to meet the challenges ahead. There has been a lot on the agenda this year and I expect there will be no less for Vicky to deal with next year.
- 2 The amount of work undertaken by the CPA has increased significantly during the period I have been involved with the committee and as Vicky will find, if she doesn't already know it, there is simply no way that the chair can be directly involved with everything that goes on. He/she needs the support of a dedicated and committed committee and I have been very fortunate to have had incredible support from my committee this year. I would like to thank all of them for their help and assistance. They have helped keep me sane and have always been there when I needed them to cover my back and my own shortcomings.
- 3 **Reform –**
During the first part of the year the Neighbourhood Planning Bill dominated the agenda and the committee was involved in consultation with DCLG and lobbying politicians in both the Commons and the Lords. Having previously campaigned in respect of the Localism Act and the Housing and Planning Act we now understand the system better than we did, but this makes it no less frustrating. The fact that we were able to introduce some of the amendments we called for is a testament to efforts of the reform Sub-committee who spent a great deal of time trying to prod the law makers in the right direction. For my part, I had the experience of giving evidence to the Bill Committee, a rather nerve racking event made no more comfortable by the fact that the whole thing was televised.
Also in relation to reform The CPA was instrumental in the drafting of the new standard claim form published by DCLG in September and were consulted by DCLG on amendments to CPO Guidance.
We also took part in some initial discussions in relation to the Housing white paper.
- 4 **Governance & Strategic Development –**
Moving from reform to governance, the CPA was incorporated in August and became a company limited by guarantee. While for most members this won't involve any noticeable change at all (other than paying your subscriptions into a different bank account) it will allow us to register our logo and, importantly, reclaim the circa £10,000 in irrecoverable vat we currently pay.
- 5 **Stakeholder and political engagement -**
In November last year we held a stakeholder event which was attended, amongst others, by representatives from Government, PEBA, RICS and CAAV. At the event we presented a range of fairly radical initiatives aimed at improving the compulsory purchase process. Following a period of consultation and a review of our ideas we were subsequently consulted by DCLG over changes to CPO guidance and we are consulting with the Tribunal

and PEBA in respect of a pre-reference protocol. Work on the protocol is ongoing and following feedback and positive support of the principle from stakeholders we are now working on an updated draft which will be published for further consultation and feedback in the near future.

We are also looking to organise a cross party event for politicians with a known interest in CP in order to initiate debate and with a view to increasing our profile and influence with law makers.

We have also met this year with the RICS, the CLA and the CAAV amongst others.

6 Best Practice –

The CPA remains determined to ensure that good standards of professional advice are maintained within our industry. With the growing workload we are likely to see over coming years this is becoming ever more important.

In April of this year the RICS Professional Statement for surveyors undertaking compulsory purchase and compensation work was published. The CPA welcomes the professional statement and members of the CPA were influential in its creation. We would encourage and expect all CPA members, whether surveyors or from other professions to be familiar with its contents.

- 7 Events –** We held a very successful Annual Dinner this year at the Connaught Rooms with a record 319 people attending. The conference was also a huge success, with 247 delegates attending. Again a record. In the regions, events were held in the Midlands and the SW. A number of events were also organised by YCPA, which continues to be an important and integral part of the CPA.

8 Outreach –

Remaining on the theme of the younger members of the CPA, an important aspect of the work undertaken by the outreach sub-committee this year has been to establish and enhance contact with educational institutions and students. It is very important that we all work to attract bright young people into our industry. There is a lot of competition out there for the best young professionals and to ensure that good quality people are attracted into compulsory purchased and compensation work, we need to do a better job of making sure they know of the opportunities that are available.

We have pushed to increase our student membership this year and as a result now have 31 student members. The student work experience scheme promoted by the outreach sub-committee has also proved a success with around 25 firms confirming a willingness to help students gain valuable experience from work placements.

We have also met with the UCL and University College of Estate Management to discuss education and the possible introduction of distance learning compulsory purchase and compensation modules.

- 9** And that brings both this address and my year as chairman to a close. In handing the baton over to Vicky, our first ever female chair, I would like to wish her all the best for the year. I am sure she will find aspects of her chairmanship challenging and, as I have found, balancing a demanding workload and CPA business is not always easy. However, being chairman of the CPA can also be a very rewarding experience and supported by a very able and committed committee, I am sure she is going to do a great job.

Colin Cottage

16 October 2017