



TWf Operations Director report following the National Highways PDWG online meeting on held on Thursday 9 May 2024

At the meeting I introduced myself as the Temporary Works Forum Operations Director (exactly one year in post) and explained that the forum has 250+ members (and growing). TWf members are drawn from a range of disciplines in the UK construction sector, including a significant number of principal contractors.

I then briefly discussed the importance of temporary works in construction, and gave brief updates on the following.

TWf guidance – WG5 Granular Working Platforms, WG32 Low Carbon, WG42 Mesh Fencing

Over recent weeks the above working groups have progressed forthcoming documents/guidance with commendable speed, and we look forward to their publication over the summer months.

The TWf Quarterly Meeting at ICE, London on 12 June will include presentations entitled **How to Reduce Carbon in Excavations** and **Lightweight Temporary Open Mesh Fencing** respectively.

Granular Working Platforms enhanced guidance is now at interim final draft stage. Publication is anticipated in the autumn.

TWf archive and digital library

First steps are being taken towards the creation of a TWf archive and digital library. The intention is to compile a record of aspects of temporary works for information and reference. Individuals who have made significant contributions to the work of the TWf will be recognised.

The development of the archive will be marked by a reception to be held following the TWf AGM and Quarterly Meeting at ICE, London in June 2025. This will be attended by invited guests, and will include speeches. The event is designed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of publication of the Bragg Report.

TWf academic research and scholarship fund

Funding of academic research into temporary works is a core TWf objective, and the organisation sets aside a considerable tranche of funding each year to ensure continuity of research at universities offering construction-related engineering degree courses, with a view to promoting temporary works.

Five applications have been received for funding from the TWf academic research and scholarship fund 2024. Consideration will be given to these applications by the TWf board at their June meeting.

Meetings and events

Amongst the various groups whose meetings I attend there are two new ones which are worthy of note. The **London Health and Safety Group** meets around 10 times a year and provides an excellent opportunity to discuss and promote the importance of temporary works across a broad range of industry representatives.

The other is the **Busy Builder** working group, organised by Martyn Ostcliffe HSE, which is looking to promote the importance of temporary works in the all-important domestic sector.

Appointment of new TWf directors

Following a ballot held in April, two TWf member representatives have been nominated for election as new TWf directors at the AGM in June. The nominees are from TfL and BAM Nuttall Ltd respectively, and we look forward to receiving the benefit of their industry experience and expertise at board level going forward.

Venue for the autumn TWf Quarterly Meeting - Thursday 12 September 2024

TWf Quarterly Meetings are generally held at ICE, London, except for the early December meeting which is normally held at a university. However the autumn 2024 TWf QM will be held at IStructE in London on Thursday 12 September. We very much hope that this will be the first of many TWf meetings which will be held jointly with IStructE.

<https://www.twforum.org.uk/events/calendar>

We already have a full schedule of presentations for the TWf QMs to be held in June 2024 and September 2024, but we are always interested to hear of suggestions for case studies/speakers at future TWf meetings. NB presentations are typically about construction scenarios presenting significant temporary works challenges, and how they were overcome. No sales pitches or marketing presentations please!

Please contact Dee Rowan at admin@twforum.org.uk or myself should you wish to make a suggestion.

Robin James

TWf Operations Director

29 May 2024