**ACDM January Newsletter** 



# **Biggest Stories of the 2010's**

What better way to start the year and the decade than to look back at the biggest construction stories of the last 10 years. Hopefully the coming years are innovative, green and (most importantly to us) safe decade ahead for the construction industry. Listed below are ten of the biggest events to hit the news this past decade

- 1. The Grenfell Tower disaster
- 2. The collapse of Carillion
- 3. Edinburgh school's quality scandal
- 4. Rok enters administration
- 5. Beginning of the BIM revolution
- 6. 2012 Olympics delivered on time and below budget
- 7. Balfour Beatty battles financial strife
- 8. Modern slavery in construction exposed
- 9. Crossrail delayed
- 10. The Shard becomes European Union's tallest building



Some other honourable mentions close to home include the Edinburgh trams fiasco, record investments in the green sector, the completion of the new Queensferry Crossing bridge after faults were discovered in the Forth Road Bridge, and the beginning of the new St James centre development. We look forward to seeing what the biggest stories of the next 10 years will be.

http://www.constructionmanagermagazine.com/news/10-biggest-construction-stories-decade/

# **CIRIA Asbestos Awareness App**

The Construction Industry Research & Information Association (CIRIA) has developed a mobile application to guide construction crews confronted by asbestos hazards on brownfield sites.

In order to help operatives identify asbestos the app contains a photo gallery of the forms asbestos could come in for operatives to cross reference with what they have found on site. Once asbestos has been identified the app will have a step by step guide for operatives to follow in order to properly manage the asbestos that they have found. As the app is designed towards informing, instructing and training it does not replace proper licensed asbestos awareness training but seeks to cement the knowledge for the safety of the operatives.



The service will be provided on an unspecified annual fee but personal licenses can be obtained. The project has been backed by several big names such as Kier, Lucion, Farrow Walsh, Hague, Southern Water, Celtic and Red Rock Geoscience. If widely adopted this application will play a large role in the asbestos identification and removal process.

Full story -https://www.theconstructionindex.co.uk/news/view/ciria-commercialises-asbestos-app

#### Scottish Government Sets Date for Low Carbon Rules

The Scottish Government has officially declared that all new homes built after the year 2024 will have to have renewable or low carbon heating systems. Also from the year 2024 renewables and low carbon heating will be phased in for new non-domestic buildings. These changes will be introduced along with a £30million investment in renewable heat projects.





responded to the climate emergency by setting ambitious goals over and above the minimum that would be required. Scotland aims to reduce emissions by 75% compared to 1990 levels and to have a net zero output by the year 2045, 5 years before the rest of the UK.

It is estimated that 15% of emissions can be directly associated to our homes, this is equal to 6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide released annually. With these new guidelines in place Scotland will have 21 years to replace all existing heating systems with low carbon or renewable systems as well as ensuring all new builds are built to the correct standards. If achieved Scotland will essentially be scrubbing 6million tonnes of emissions from our footprint every year which is a massive step towards limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.

#### Full stories -

https://www.theconstructionindex.co.uk/news/view/scotland-sets-date-for-low-carbon-rules-forhomes https://www.theconstructionindex.co.uk/news/view/scotland-offers-30m-for-heating-innovations https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-50993183

## **Director Sentenced for Non-Compliance**

It's easy to forget for some contractors that health and safety is not just a recommendation to avoid injuries it is law and has been law since 1974. Larger companies tend to foster a culture of safe working so that it becomes second nature to their employees and the sub-contractors they work closely with.

However, as construction is dominated by small to medium sized companies (SME's) it becomes more difficult to foster this culture across the entire industry. This leads to stories like the one linked below. A construction company director was sentenced to 12 weeks in prison and 180 hours of unpaid work after he was issued with 2 prohibition notices and the site was issued with 2 improvement notices. The company was also fined £60,000 and had to pay full costs of £5216.46. The Director himself was ordered to pay full costs of £5060.69.



After the hearing, HSE inspector David King commented:

"This case highlights the need for suitable and sufficient planning, managing and monitoring, using the appropriate work at height equipment and having a competent site manager.

https://press.hse.gov.uk/2019/12/18/construction-company-and-director-sentenced-after-noncompliance-with-hse-notices/

## Brick Made From 90% Recycled Waste Marked World's First

Professor Gabriela Medero (pictured) and Dr Sam Chapman were the lead researchers on the project that began 10 years ago. Currently up to 85% of bricks used in Scotland are currently imported from England or Europe. This may cause issues with the long-term sustainability of the sector with stricter and stricter emission goals being enforced by the Scottish Government. The researchers are calling the brick the K-Briq and it is 90% recycled construction waste. By using recycled construction waste the brick uses less than a tenth of the energy to create and can also be created in any colour a designer may wish.



Professor Medero claims the brick weighs the same as and behaves like a clay brick but also offers better insulation properties. Being made from recycled waste and not being kiln fired also makes the brick extremely sustainable. To make the brick commercially viable as a product for construction companies the researchers have created a spin off company Kenoteq which has an agreement with Hamilton's Waste & Recycling to produce the K-Briq onsite at its recycling site. This set up works perfectly as it also further reduces transfer of materials to a secondary processing site which would add more embodied carbon into the material. Kenoteq has invested in the machinery required to produce the bricks and claim they can produce three million bricks per year which is well timed as the Scottish Government has targets of 50,000 new homes over the next three years.

http://www.constructionmanagermagazine.com/news/brick-made-90-recycled-constructionwaste-launched/ https://www.constructionenquirer.com/2020/01/08/worlds-first-recycled-bricks-go-intoproduction-in-scotland/

## 2020: The Year of Net Zero

Undoubtably 2020 will be a big year for achieving net zero targets as will every year as we come closer to target years we have set for net zero carbon emissions. The multi-disciplinary consultancy Cundall has named 2020 the 'Year of Net Zero'. Cundall will work closely with governing bodies such as the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), the UK Green Building Council and more to help unify the industry and define targets for achieving net zero carbon in both new and existing buildings. Cundall will then lobby to have these changes in legislation so that they can be presented to world leaders at the COP26 conference in Glasgow later this year.



https://ukconstructionweek.inloop.com/en/article/52544?utm\_source=SparkPost-sbukconstructionweek&utm\_medium=newsletter&utm\_campaign=ukconstructionweek-1193-s-en-090120&itd\_did=1193&itd\_uid=479966

#### Aura Towers to Alleviate Air Pollution in Delhi

Last Year Delhi was found to be the most polluted city on earth by an astonishingly high margin with its residents inhaling up to 25 times the World Health Organisation's permissible toxic limit. This has led to a massive influx of residents purchasing air purifiers for their personal homes. But this creates a divide as many feel that it shouldn't just be those wealthy enough to afford a purifier that should be entitled to clean air.

Studio Symbiosis have designed 'Aura Towers' that they describe as "breathing lungs of the city" and are essentially massive air purifiers. The system comes in 2 forms, an 18-metre-high model as well as a larger 60-meter model. Both models work in a similar way by drawing in air from the top and filtering it through a central purification system before expelling the air through air vents at the bottom. Both models would also be covered with green planters that would make up to 70% of their exteriors to further absorb emissions and produce oxygen.



https://ukconstructionweek.inloop.com/en/article/52604?utm\_source=SparkPost-sbukconstructionweek&utm\_medium=newsletter&utm\_campaign=ukconstructionweek-1193-s-en-090120&itd\_did=1193&itd\_uid=479966



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