

Institution of Civil Engineers; Republic of Ireland Branch
AGM, 23rd October 2017, Engineers Ireland

The Institution of Civil Engineers, Republic of Ireland Branch, held their 2017 AGM at the offices of Engineers Ireland, Ballsbridge on Monday 23rd October 2017 with the principal item of business the election of new officers for the 2017/18 term.

Chairman for the past two years, Kevin Sheridan opened the meeting with a welcome to those in attendance, a recording of the apologies of those absent and proceeded to present a report on the activities of the Branch during his term in office. One of the features of this period has been the closer working relationship that has evolved with the Civil Division of Engineers Ireland which has resulted in shared hosting of evening lectures and a joint meeting of the two committees in each of the last two years. Additionally, it has seen a closer co-operation in the hosting of the ICE Presidential visit to Ireland from Sir John Armit in 2016 and Professor Tim Broyd earlier this year. Both visits had particular relevance for Irish-based engineers as infrastructure investment and digital engineering, which are the “headline interests” of these two Presidents, are critically important here as well. Kevin was also able to report on a growing contribution from the ICE to a number of key issues for the Irish construction and building sector over the past two years, most significantly BC(A)R and CIRI.

Long-standing Treasurer, John Higgins presented his report on the financial status of the Branch and, as ever, was able to report on a healthy state of our finances. Financial management of our accounts is an interactive exercise with London and John has been very diligent over the years in ensuring that we have what we need to run our business on this side of “the pond”.

Both Kevin and John had indicated their desire to stand down from their respective offices at this AGM and their contribution to the Branch and the Irish-based members of the ICE was acknowledged by the meeting. Cormac Ross who has been Vice Chairman for the past year and was very involved in the hosting of the last two Presidential visits had also indicated that he wished to step down from the VC role and would not be going forward as Chairman. Colin Wilson came on board after the last AGM after the elected Secretary, Katherine Grant, relocated to Scandinavia for work reasons and has done a sterling job in keeping the minutes of the meetings this year. Finally, due thanks were recorded to Engineers Ireland for the use of their premises, to Don McEntee, as Country Rep, and Cormac Bradley as the Engineers Ireland facilitator for their support of the Chairman over the past two years.

The Graduate & Student Network (GSN) is a very important part of the RoI family because like any professional organisation, membership must also be sustained by new members coming through from academia. In recent years we have seen a huge downturn in civil engineering student numbers so we need to ensure that as much support as possible is given to the graduate fraternity and in this regard Eoghan Kilroy has offered to act as the liaison between the GSN and the main committee. In this respect he will be supported by Cormac Ross who confirmed his commitment to the GSN in the AGM.

The new officers of the ICE Republic of Ireland Branch are as follows;
Chairman: Cormac Bradley, RPS Group
Vice Chairman: TBC, with a deadline of the November committee meeting.
Secretary: Colin Wilson, O'Connor Sutton Cronin
Treasurer: Oliver Russell, ORA Consulting
Country Rep: Don McEntee
GSN Liaison: Eoghan Kilroy, Arups
GSN Support: Cormac Ross, Meath County Council
Immediate Past Chairman: Kevin Sheridan



Photo: Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), Republic of Ireland Branch Office Bearers 2017/18. (L – R) Oliver Russell (Treasurer), Colin Wilson (Secretary), Cormac Bradley (Chairman), Kevin Sheridan (Immediate Past Chairman).



Photo: The chain of office is passed on!
New ICE ROI Chairman, Cormac Bradley accepts the Chain of Office from his predecessor, Kevin Sheridan.

In his opening comments as Chairman, Cormac Bradley acknowledged the contribution of those who had relinquished their offices and noted the extended term of office that John Higgins had completed as Treasurer, over many years.

A first action for the Chairman and Secretary will be establishing the availability of those members who had recorded apologies for the AGM for the forthcoming year. We were also able to welcome a new member to the committee, Keith Elliott of PM Group.

2018 is an important year for the ICE worldwide as it celebrates its 200th birthday and in Ireland this will be (coincidentally) marked by a three-day Presidential visit in February where a number of events are already on the drawing board for the entertainment of our visitor. Given the 200th birthday theme, the interaction with Engineers Ireland and the significance of past engineering projects in Ireland will be prominent aspects of the proposed visit.