



HBF HEALTH AND SAFETY FORUM

1ST OCTOBER 2015 @ 9AM

**LEA MARSTON HOTEL, HAUNCH LANE,
LEA MARSTON, SUTTON COLDFIELD, B76 0BY**

PRESENT

Brain Holcroft	McCarthy & Stone	Gary Kuzmicz	Miller Homes
Ian Viveash	Berkeley Group	David Bolton	Morris
David Ford	Redrow Homes	Greg Johnston	Stewart Milne
Ray Cooke	HSE	Richard Hardy	Davidsons
Sam Holloway	Safety for design/ St Modwen Homes	Vince Coyle (chair)	Barratt
Paul Haxell	Bovis Homes	Steve Foley	Avant
Steve Dudman	Westleigh Partnerships	Ed Woods	Taylor Wimpey
Diana Parums	Story Homes	Nathan Rodinson	Story Homes
Tracey Taylor	Bellway	Chris Epps	NHBC
Steve Morris	Cala	Stuart Hoosegood	Cala
Steve Allix	Fairview		

IN ATTENDANCE

Dave Mitchell HBF

APOLOGIES

Matthew Stubblefield	Croudace	Simon Longbottom	HSE
Garry Rapson	Croudace	David Hickman	Miller
Richard Theaker	Gleeson	Vernon Cunningham	Strata
Joe Yardley	Larkfleet Homes		

MEETING NOTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

VC opened the meeting and welcomed everyone
Apologies were accepted from those listed above. The group were asked to introduce themselves to the group.

2. Notes of previous meeting including Action Log update

Notes from previous meeting were taken as read.

Meeting Action Log reviewed and updated

Ref 1 – Dust in Construction – VC agreed to help group with this item.

Ref 3 – Review extract: equipment with Hire Association Europe – revised date

Ref 4 – Now completed

Ref 5 – Now completed – (may be subject to further revision)

Ref 8 – Now completed for 2015. (need to consider 2016 together with Action Plan moving forward)

Ref 14 – Now completed

3. Feedback from MSC discussions

VC attended the last Major's Sub Committee meeting to discuss Health, Safety and Wellbeing and HBF options for future work.

We have as the forum knows devoted considerable focus on health and safety within our industry and it is with this background that HBF wished to review possible future workstreams moving forward.

The health and safety welfare record of the industry and the working environment is an important factor in shaping the positive aspects of our industry moving forward.

Given the unprecedented level of political and media scrutiny of the house building industry it is more important that we not only maintain but improve the image.

Given all the above discussions took place around how best to move forward with the good work already produced.

HBF accident stats – there have been ongoing discussions for sometime now as to whether to publish these to a wider audience and a conclusion has never been reached. On talking this through there appears to be no reason why an executive type summary of the yearly report should not be produced for wider circulation.

Discussions took place surrounding the differences in the stats of people on site that Health and Safety committee obtain when read against those from the Qualifying the Workforce group. They should be the same.

Work therefore needs to be done in this area.

The intention is to take the latest stats from each group which are currently being compared and looking at how best to move forward.

4. Dust in Construction update

DH not present – notes from 14/09/15 meeting circulated to the group

5. Open Duct Seals – Openreach

Donna Leeding – Openreach attended today's meeting to discuss the problem surrounding duct seals.

When Fibre was introduced to the premise, openreach stipulated that the duct work carrying the fibre should be brought up inside the premise; this enabled the duct to be hidden from the outside. This was called an internal presentation. Duct on the outside of the property is therefore called an external presentation. All ducts coming into the property in an internal presentation should be sealed with a non-toxic resin to ensure that there is no risk of gas or water penetration into the home through the floor.

Openreach changed this policy in December 2014 and moved from an internal presentation to an external presentation and notified industry in January 2015. Sites in progress at this stage may have continued with internal presentation, with the new external presentation policy applying to all new phases of current and future developments.

The developers handbook from 2013 (withdrawn July 2014) states that the developer should ensure that the duct is sealed; however, openreach have identified a couple of cases where this has not happened. Whilst openreach fully expect the vast majority of ducts have been sealed correctly at the time of installation, two cases have arisen which mean they cannot guarantee that all ducts have been sealed.

Unsealed ducts pose a potential health and safety risk as they could result in water or gas penetration into the home. Openreach would like to work with house builders to understand if there are any homes on fibre sites that have not had their internal presentation ducts correctly sealed. The first step is to ensure that Openreach have an accurate record of all the sites that have been built with an internal presentation.

Openreach have now contacted the house builders where this could be a problem and are in the process of finding a suitable checking solution for those properties.

Members expressed concerns that the wrong information could get out to the consumer and that this needs to be handled very carefully and most certainly in agreement with the developers concerned.

6. HSE/HBF review of working at height within homebuilding.

a. Guide to a Scaffold Specification

This needs a final proof reading and is then ready to go.

b. Soft Landing Systems (SLS)

HSE has no problem with PAS 59 but just how this is tested. Only worry is around scientific data supporting this. SLS where correctly installed, used and maintained etc will not receive an enforcement order. Use of zip ties – if meets PAS then no problem.

HSE reiterated the status of SLBs namely if correctly installed, maintained and used, there are no current ground for enforcement action.

7. Statistics update (Reportable Injuries and Dangerous Occurrences/Fire Incidents/Fee for Intervention) including annual report update and update on collection of data

MP talked the group through the end of year report. Second version to be released once AllR industry figure is published.

8. Guidance/Sub Group Updates:

a. Contact list

Any changes to contact details to be sent into HBF. DM to be copied in.

b. Health and Safety Charter

June 2015 version now out. CCS have asked about signing up to plan.

c. Charter Action Plan

Action plan updated – need to review with meeting log

d. Installation of Roof trusses/Work at Height sub-group

Presentation of findings at next meeting.

e. CDM sub-group

Group to prepare simple A4 sheet by end of year. CE to talk to SA with PH involvement.

9. Site Perimeter Protection

Discussions took place around site perimeter protection to ensure everyone was up to speed with current events.

10. Update from CONIAC

PH updated group on CONIAC.

Key points:

CDM 2015: Unlikely that an ACoP will be produced as Industry hasn't yet convinced HSE that an ACoP will provide "value".

Occupational Health: New CONIAC guidance entitled occupational health risk management in construction now published. Available on HSE Construction website. This is the work of the Health risks sub group which HBF are represented on and the guidance seeks to demystify the previous reliance on health surveillance and reinforce good risk management as the key practice.

Occupational Health Leadership Group: Swaned from CONIAC and focused upon managing "health like safety", is establishing a major January summit (21st Jan 2016) on occupational health in Construction, focused on "why", with invites to the CEOs of top construction companies including HBF top tier. Second practitioner sessions on "how" expected to follow in March.

11. GE700 – Homebuilding chapter

SA to action. Please feed into SA on this.

12. HSE – Beam and Block Floors – Review of musculoskeletal disorders

It was relayed to the group that HSE have issues around the manual handling of beam and block floors.

VC to seek further info.

13. 2016 chair

DM talked to the group about the chair of this forum. VC term of office has now come to an end and as such the current vice chair PH would now become chair for a term which is normally 2 years. HBF have asked MP if he would take up the post of vice chair with a view of succeeding MP at the end of his term of office.

14. Meeting dates 2016

- **Thursday 21 January**
- **Thursday 5 May**
- **Thursday 7 July**
- **Thursday 6 October**

15. Any Other Business

IV talked to the forum about a research project being run by Glasgow Caledonian University, School of Engineering and Built Environment

The aim of the project is to improve construction industry H&S through development of a worker engagement maturity model.

Anyone interested in joining the steering group for this project should contact Dr. Billy Hare whose contact details etc will be distributed to the forum.