



Thanks to everyone who attended the Inaugural IIS Council Meeting on Wednesday. Along with many familiar faces we welcomed some of our new team and my thanks to Zoe, Charlotte (Penson), Pauline and Joe for joining us. We also welcomed Victoria who is supporting our team as we continue to reach out to our members and support the central CII.

In the weeks leading up to the AGM we had been **'Forming'**. Alongside welcoming our new colleagues we said goodbye to Alan. The new structure was developed with the aim of giving focus to our key initiatives. In political speak we have devolved responsibility to the three teams and they now each have a financial budget to enable them to create and deliver their plans.

By bringing together the Secretariat functions we can make effective use of everyone's time. The role of President had grown to the point where we were struggling to attract those working to fill the role alongside their 'day job'. When Graham invited me to stand as his Deputy I took on the challenge to make the position work alongside my job (and for future IIS Presidents).

***Storming to Norming, Performing .....and beyond!*** Our Council Meeting was a major step along the way and a demonstration that by using the talents around the table, in particular those of Susan and Nigel, we can streamline the work ahead of the meeting to contain the discussion within 90 minutes. Next Friday the Strategy team will meet and discuss feedback and next steps. It is vital that this team is visible and has representation from all those who sit on Council and belong to teams.

What will the next Council meeting look like? Please let Susan have your feedback but essentially I think we have chosen a good venue, Colin's arrangements with the food were popular, the meeting length about right and the Agenda flowed. This was our first meeting and some of the teams will be getting together for the first time shortly. I'm sure that there will be more to discuss as leaders share their teams' plans and successes. Please remember to send soft copies of your committee meeting minutes and agendas to Susan for our records, if she is not at your meeting.

We represent the whole of Sussex and I asked Diana for ideas that would introduce our focus on West Sussex – The Gavel was a noisy reminder of our East Sussex heritage! More on this soon.

The discussion Paula led on the Annual Dinner took the team forward with a wider remit and budget so we can look forward to something special. Please, if you would like to help Paula and Colin, shout! More hands make less work. Ticketing is a challenge and we do need volunteers to embed continuity into the sales process. We cannot rely on Colin to do this for ever.

I was grateful to Alasdair for his contribution to the discussion around Corporate Governance. Alasdair has a gift for expressing the 'conscience' of the team and I am hoping we might formalise this role.

## My plans for next week

Work with Susan as she prepares the minutes. Team M&S plan to introduce these in a new format capturing key points from discussions, actions, responsibilities and dates. This in turn will assist as we plan for the Council Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

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I'm looking forward to the tour of the Dark Star Brewery on Saturday. John was unable to join us on Wednesday despite best laid plans. He was diverted from the Dartford Crossing that had been closed due to a lorry shedding its load. John arrived in Sussex long after we had left. I bet Saturday can't come soon enough, John! But your meal found a good home!

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I'm hoping to meet up with Victoria in Maidstone during the week to discuss a number of the ideas mentioned at Council. Nigel and Mandi met Victoria before the meeting to tailor the website and plans for Network News.

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I will be on holiday for a fortnight from 19<sup>th</sup> June and Richard will take the reins including the Weekly News. I will look forward to reading as a recipient in my deckchair!

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Have a great weekend!



*This edition should reach you without errors. If it does, I'm pleased. If it doesn't, please tell Susan to whom I submit gracefully. May I just confess I left Christopher Digby's name as 'Richard' Last week. Sorry.*