

## **Bradford Property Forum – 19 May 2010 – Meeting Report**

### **Making Sustainability Work**

More than 70 business men and women gathered for Bradford Property Forum's breakfast meeting on Wednesday 19 May at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel in Bingley. 'Sustainability' was on the agenda, with presentations by Mark Fletcher, Arup Director and Royal Academy of Engineering Visiting Professor to Bradford and Joanne Pollard, Chief Executive of CO2 Sense Yorkshire.

Arup is an independent consultancy of designers, planners and engineers who aspire to make a positive difference through the work they do. Mark introduced the three '**Rs**' of sustainable development. **Renew** – how to make the most of our assets; **Reveal** – how to remove buildings to showcase what we have; **Reconnect** – how to make social and environmental connections, as well as link to our past.

Joanne's approach was altogether more holistic. CO2 Sense is a relatively young, not for profit company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Yorkshire Forward. They are helping businesses across the region to cut waste, cut emissions and drive growth. They provide advice and support on all matters of sustainability, from how to overcome barriers and put your ideas into practice, to guidance on design and site management.

Yorkshire, and in particular the River Aire, was highlighted in the lecture as being a European 'red spot', an area heavily polluted by our industrial past. We have been relatively successful in the clean up, but this needs to continue. The overriding view from both speakers was that we all have a part to play to encourage sustainability, and that there are means and methods by which to do so.

A more pressing question for Bradford perhaps, is what to do with our listed buildings. Mark took a dim view on saving buildings for the sake of it, while Joanne recognised that the end use was likely to be the deciding factor.

So how do we select which historic buildings to save when we have so many? For if the River Aire does indeed become a hot spot for salmon, as reports suggest it may, Bradford will need to have all of its assets ready and running. Bradford Property Forum is currently engaging with Bradford Council's planning and heritage teams to consider which of the 6,000 listed buildings should take priority for conservation and development. The Forum has already called for commercial and city centre properties to be given preferred status.

Thanks to BPF Steering Group member Catherine Robinson for the submission of this article.

[Click here](#) to view the photo gallery for our last meeting.