

Housing and Property Committee 27 April 2023

Good News Items

Item 1

Sonia Wayman is a Landscape Architect in the Property Design and Construction team.

Sonia very recently qualified as a Building with Nature Assessor. This provides her with an in-depth understanding of high-quality green infrastructure and the Building with Nature Accreditation process.

Building with Nature (BwN) puts nature at the heart of new development in a way that's good for people and for wildlife. The Building with Nature Standards provide planners and developers with evidence-based, how-to guidance on delivering high-quality green infrastructure.

A BwN Award can provide formal recognition of meeting the BwN Standards, an external verification of quality that can reassure a wide set of stakeholders that you are committed to the design and delivery of high-quality green infrastructure, at both pre- and post-construction stages.

The inclusion of an approved BwN Assessor within the design team not only provides a new level of industry good practice but will also provide in-house support in meeting the requirements of Policy 3 in the recently adopted National Planning Framework 4 and ensuring that development secures positive effects for biodiversity.

BwN Standards are recommended to be used as early in the design process as possible including purchasing or assembling land for development, master-planning, detailed design, implementation, or management and maintenance of green infrastructure.

By adopting a BwN approach either through formal recognition or by informally adopting the standards, we will be able to assist our clients in delivering high-quality places for people and wildlife.

Item 2.

The Highland Council Catering Service has passed the annual inspection and achieved the Soil Association Bronze Food for Life Award for Primary and Nursery Meals.

Congratulations to the team on winning this award for their dedication to the provision of healthy, balanced and delicious meals for our children and young people.

Item 3.

Phase 1 of the Town House Move is now complete due to the excellent work being carried out by our Property Asset Management, NWOW and Facilities Management Teams. This has been completed on time, alongside vacating and sale progression of the HLH Ardross Street Buildings.

Thanks to our teams for their dedication and effort in completing this first initial phase of the HQ Asset Rationalisation Project and thanks also to all staff that have relocated from the Town House to HQ within a very tight timescale.