



September 2018

Wales

Wales seeks mutual investment partner for Road Scheme



The Welsh government are seeking bids for a £500m contract to design, build, finance and operate (DBFO) the next sections of the A465 Heads of the Valleys duelling scheme. Tenders are being invited to upgrade 17.7 km of the A465 trunk road between Dowlais and Hirwaun from three-lane single carriageway to dual two-lane carriageway,

Sections 5 and 6 of the Heads of the Valleys upgrades includes 17.7 km of carriageway upgrade as well as 2.2km off-line new road construction, six grade-separated junctions (at Hirwaun, Croesbychan, Baverstock, A470, Prince Charles Hospital and Dowlais), 35 widened or newly constructed bridges, 41 culverts and 40 retaining walls. The operation and maintenance part of the contract runs for 30 years and will comprise the new A465 trunk road between Dowlais and Hirwaun.

What is Construction Futures Wales and how can you benefit?

Construction Futures Wales (CFW) is a unique and fully funded initiative by Welsh Government and the CITB offering the Welsh

construction industry the support that it needs to grow.

By pressing the 'Apply now' button you are starting your application process for CFW support. Eligible companies will be given the opportunity to access further support in the form of 1-2-1 guidance from experienced sector consultants. Companies who do not meet the criteria for the programme will be offered general business support and advice from Business Wales.

Aberystwyth Fire Station



Enabling Zero Waste (EZW) is a Constructing Excellence in Wales (CEW) initiative which aims to establish if and how, the construction industry can achieve the zero waste targets established in the Welsh Government's waste strategy document Towards Zero Waste.

Hertfordshire

A builder has been accused of partially destroying five recently built McCarthy & Stone houses worth £4m in Hertfordshire.



Daniel Neagu has been charged with causing criminal damage after the five properties in Buntingford were destroyed on Saturday evening 11 August.



Mr Neagu, who appeared in Hatfield Magistrates' Court on Monday 13th August, is accused of running a digger through the properties, according to the *Hertfordshire Mercury*.

The properties, which are understood to be worth £800,000 each, had recently been completed by builder McCarthy & Stone ahead of residents moving in over the coming weeks. McCarthy & Stone told *Construction News* that Mr Neagu was employed by subcontractor Fenton Construction.

The Queen's House



The most important building in Lyndhurst, New Forest is the Queen's House, which has also in the past been called the King's House, for the name changes according to the gender of the monarch.¹ It is the principal building owned by the Crown in the New Forest, and contains the *Verderers'* Hall, home of the ancient *Verderers'* Court. The Queen's House is

also, the local headquarters of the *Forestry Commission*.

A *manor house* probably existed in Lyndhurst by the 13th century. In the reign of *Edward I* an order was given for "twenty oaks to make *laths* for the use of the queen's manor-house at Lyndhurst." This house was probably superseded by the hunting lodge built at Lyndhurst in the 14th century, which received frequent royal visits, and for which there are many records relating to the repair and enlargement. In 1388 a hall was built within the lodge, known later as the *Verderers'* Hall. Rebuilding took place in the reign of *Henry VIII*, and especially in the 17th century, during the reigns of *Charles I* and *Charles II*, and the current structure largely dates from this time. The last monarch to stay here was *George III* who visited the New Forest in June 1789. *Frances Burney*, who was Second Keeper of the Robes to *Queen Charlotte*, described the house as "a straggling, inconvenient, old house, but delightfully situated, in a village—looking indeed at present like a populous town, from the amazing concourse of people that have crowded into it."

A secret passage was found during major repairs in 1978 which we believe tunnelled out into the forest for escaping from the civil war in Charles 1st Raine, the oak joists were attacked by death watch beetle, and twisted due we think when central heating was installed.

Massive student development underway in one of Swansea's best-known buildings

Work has started on a scheme to transform a *Swansea* building into student housing. Scaffolding has gone up on the Old way Centre opposite the railway station in High Street, as work on a plan to create a 556-bed 13-storey student block begins.

Mike Bishop. FICConstM. Editor 01962 713000

Governor. bishop1ue@btinternet.com