

ConsultA: February



ACEI Executive Committee in Limerick: Pictured [L-R] Dónal O’ Neill, James Kavanagh, James Barrett, Barry Lowe (Engineers Ireland), Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, Shane Dempsey, President Tim Murnane, Sinéad Twomey, Colm Saul and Ciarán McGovern

Your monthly member newsletter:

Limerick Recap	President’s Address	Political Engagement	Upcoming Events	ACEI Awards 2026 Shortlist
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Limerick Event Recap:

Our regional networking event in Limerick this month proved another success for our Association as we continue the work to bring consulting engineers together with one voice.

All were in good spirits as we were joined by Barry Lowe, Engineers Ireland Thomand Region and Mayor of Limerick, John Moran. Moran had been in the national spotlight already that week following comments he made on the

frustrations he had with removing barriers to the delivery of his Mayoral programme, and it was great to hear his insights on regional development.

Moran is Ireland’s first directly elected mayor and his view on decision-making and delivery of major projects struck a chord with the engineers in the room who have felt similar frustrations in recent decades.

More than 60 ACEI members registered for the event and the Savoy Limerick proved a fitting venue for the occasion.

Ireland is about to embark on a new era of infrastructure delivery and engineers will play our part in that story. Thank you to all who attended and we look forward to seeing you at our events later in the year.



President's Address:

It has been a busy few weeks for the ACEI and there are a few themes I have taken from recent engagements, which all lead back to one of my central presidential messages – the importance of community!

At our regional networking event in Limerick, Mayor John Moran gave an inspiring address. Among many of his interesting points, was that the centre of gravity of Ireland has effectively shifted to Naas in Co Kildare – a relative stone throw from the Irish sea on the east coast! With John Moran being from Limerick and me being from West Cork, the notion that we have ceded all this territory, did not sit comfortably with us!

“If we were talking about hurling, we know the centre of gravity is deep in the heart of Munster!”

And more importantly, for the sustainable and effective development of our great country, this overconcentration of our population in the second smallest county in Ireland does not make sense. So how does this dilemma get addressed? If we were talking about hurling, we know the centre of gravity is deep in the heart of Munster! But John Moran is of the view that the tribal rivalries which make the GAA great, may need to be reflected upon if we are to shift the commercial centre of gravity of our Island to a more central and balanced location.

To do this he strongly advocated for a Waterford – Cork – Limerick – Galway axis to act as a viable alternative to the east coast for foreign direct investment etc. But for this to happen, these cities need to work much more closely together and form a more effective community. They need to be better connected physically, politically and commercially. Dare I say, along the lines of what we are trying to do as a community of Consulting Engineers!

“I am confident, we will be that, and we will do that!”

And on that theme, ACEI delegations had important meetings with the HFA and the Minister for Housing's representatives on consecutive days this week. I like to think we came across as a very strong and united team of representatives for the Consulting Engineering community. And we will need to be, if we are to make meaningful progress with the HFA! We will give direct feedback on our plans in that regard in the coming weeks, but suffice to say, unless we are a fully aligned and united community, we will not make beneficial contractual progress! But I am confident, we will be that, and we will do that!

Our engagement with the Minister for Housing's officials was positive. Our message was simple. You want to solve the housing crisis. We want to play our considerably important part in solving the housing crisis. Please help us, to help you, and by extension the citizens of our country. There is a clear win:win opportunity and I am confident we will work very well together to achieve that for the benefit of all.

“We want to play our considerably important part in solving the housing crisis”



Finally, with the season that is in it and with all the daffodils abloom, the final verse of William Wordsworth's famous poem seems appropriate to capture where we are on a number of ACEI initiatives:

*“For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.”*

Tim Murnane
President of ACEI

Political Affairs Update:

We've been busy this month engaging in meetings;

- 7 Political Engagements including
- 6 Ministers or Ministers of State and
- 1 State-funded body

The Accelerating Infrastructure Report remains the main show in town. When the report was first launched, it received much acclaim across the built environment sector with the only question mark remaining over its deliverability. ProgressIreland has an 'Infrastructure Tracker' monitoring progress across each of the key themes within the report and to-date its tracker notes two strands already 'Overdue' with 19 others 'In Progress'. As things stand none of the key policies are marked 'Complete'. Though still in very early stages, we now need to see those key strands turn 'green' and real progress made. That tracker can be viewed [here](#).

For a full list of political engagements this month and a snapshot of our media activity please read the latest Public Affairs Digest [here](#).



25th February outside Leinster House before meeting with Dept for Housing [L-R] Senior Policy, Dónal O' Neill, James Barrett (OCSC), Martina Finn, ArkinsRealis, Director General, Shane Dempsey and President, Tim Murnane (PUNCH)



24th February Meeting with Minister of State at the Dept of Transport [L-R] Senior Policy, Dónal O' Neill, Joe Burns (Arup), Minister Sean Canney, Director General, Shane Dempsey and Gemma McCarthy (Mott MacDonald)

Looking Ahead:

Webinars

10 Mar: Innovation and Thermal Bridging in Steel Lintel Design

To sign up, and to review previous webinars please visit www.acei.ie.

Events

27 Mar: Engineering Excellence Awards 2026

21 Apr: ACEI AGM

14 May: Engineering Ireland's Future Conference

To sign up for upcoming events, please visit www.acei.ie.

The Association Grows:

February saw further growth for the organisation; a promising symbol of our industry's ambitions to elevate the consulting engineering sector, and a drive to create real change. As is the case with all membership organisations, the more clout behind the Executive Committee, the stronger our voice is and the more able we are to work with stakeholders and influence decisions. As Ireland moves into an unprecedented time of investment, a unitary voice for consulting engineers is essential.

This month we welcome...

MConsEI:

- In2 Engineering
- DOSA Consulting Engineers



FConsEI

- James Redmond, In2 Engineering
- Barry Flynn, In2 Engineering
- Liam O'Toole – DOSA Consulting Engineers



Engineering Excellence Awards Shortlist announced:



The ACEI Engineering Excellence Awards are fast approaching on Friday 27th March and we are thrilled to reveal our judging panel's 2026 Shortlist! Congratulations to all our nominees in what proved to be one of our most competitive processes to date.

Civil Small

- Fehily Timoney and Company
- Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers
- TOBIN

Civil Medium

- Mott MacDonald
- Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd.
- O'Connor Sutton Cronin

Civil Large

- Clifton Scannell Emerson Associates
- EGIS Engineering & Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Consulting Engineers
- RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd. (Tetra Tech)

Structural Small

- CORA Consulting Engineers
- Cronin & Sutton Consulting
- DBFL Consulting Engineers

Structural Medium

- Arup
- McCrae Consulting Engineers
- PUNCH Consulting Engineers

Structural Large

- Arup
- Barrett Mahony Consulting Engineers
- CORA Consulting Engineers
- O'Connor Sutton Cronin
- RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd. (Tetra Tech)

M&E Small

- Hayes Higgins Partnership
- JV Tierney & Co (2002) Ltd.
- Varming Consulting Engineers

M&E Medium

- Don O'Malley & Partners Ltd.
- Hayes Higgins Partnership
- JV Tierney & Co (2002) Ltd.
- Mott MacDonald Ireland Ltd.

M&E Large

- Arup
- Black & White Engineering (formerly Homan O'Brien)
- JV Tierney & Co (2002) Ltd.

Sustainability Built Small

- DBFL Consulting Engineers
- RPS Consulting Engineers
- TOBIN

Sustainability Built Medium

- Don O'Malley & Partners Ltd.
- O'Connor Sutton Cronin
- Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd.

Sustainability Built Large

- Arup
- CORA Consulting Engineers
- O'Connor Sutton Cronin

Sustainability Natural

- O'Connor Sutton Cronin
- TOBIN

Project Management Small/Medium

- Mott MacDonald Ireland Ltd.
- Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd.
- O'Connor Sutton Cronin

Project Management Large

- O'Connor Sutton Cronin
- RPS Consulting Engineers (Tetra Tech)
- TOBIN

Innovation Small/Medium

- Arup
- Mott MacDonald Ireland Ltd.
- Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers - AECOM JV
- RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd. (Tetra Tech)

Innovation Large

- CORA Consulting Engineers
- TJ O'Connor & Associates and Egis Engineering Ltd., supported by Haskoning Ltd.
- Waterman-Moylan

Overseas

- Arup
- Barrett Mahony Consulting Engineers
- Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers

SME

- McCrae Consulting Engineers
- STEM Consulting Engineers
- Torque Consulting Engineers Ltd.

Have you booked your tickets yet?

We hope to see you all on the night at the Awards Dinner at InterContinental Hotel, Dublin 4.

Tables for 10 and 12 guests are available and can be booked [here](#). A discount of 5% will be applied to bookings of 2 or more tables. The single ticket price is €260. Firms booking less than 10 tickets may be seated with other ACEI members.

Thank you for reading!