



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Helix Trust announces new Chairman

The Helix Trust has announced the appointment of a new Chairman.

Anne Widdop, who lives in Falkirk, brings a wealth of business knowledge to the £43 million Helix project, which is set to transform 300 hectares of land between Falkirk and Grangemouth into a high quality greenspace centred on creative public art and an extension of the Forth & Clyde Canal.

Speaking of her appointment, Anne said: "I am honoured and excited to be involved with the Helix, the only project in Scotland to have received £25 million in funding from the BIG Lottery Fund as part of its Living Landmarks Programme.

"The project's two major partners, Falkirk Council and British Waterways Scotland, have also committed significant funding while Central Scotland Forest Trust are providing invaluable support. The Helix stands as beacon of what can be achieved when public, local and national organisations mobilise around the right idea. A true example of partnership at work!"

Tremendous opportunities

Reflecting on the ambitious aims of the Helix project, Anne continued: "The planned greenspace, complete with a central park and lagoon, will provide a tremendous and much-needed recreational facility for local people and visitors. Add to that a new canal link and the iconic 30-metre-high Kelpie sculptures, and the Helix will also deliver a key tourism and growth opportunity for the region. There is much to look forward to!"

Anne is a Director of IBM UK Ltd and a former chair of a Scottish Women's Technology Centre. She is also a trustee of an £8million UK government-funded initiative established to address issues around female participation in Science, Engineering and Technology.

Councillor Adrian Mahoney, Convener of Leisure, Tourism and Community at Falkirk Council and a Helix Board member, said of Anne's appointment: "I am delighted that Anne is joining the Helix and look forward to working with her to progress this inspirational project. Anne not only brings key skills to the role, she is also passionate about the Helix. Her strong local links mean she has a real understanding of the opportunity it has created for the local community as well as the wider impact the project will have, both nationally and internationally."

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David Lamont, head of operations for British Waterways Scotland and a fellow Helix Board member, also welcomed the new appointment. “We are absolutely delighted that Anne Widdop has taken up the post of independent chairman for the Helix Trust,” said David. “Her experience of delivering large complex programmes will be invaluable in driving forward public awareness and bringing the private sector in to support this innovative project.”

Construction start

Anne’s appointment comes at a time when the Helix project is preparing to embark on the construction of the site’s key elements. The first significant piece of work to be carried out will be the installation of the main access road into the Helix site. Work is scheduled to start in early 2011.

If you would like to be involved in the Helix, or simply want more information, contact Bill Moore, tel 01324 590717 bill.moore@falkirk.gov.uk

**For more details about the Helix, visit the official Helix website:
www.thehelix.co.uk**

The Helix Trust is a company limited by guarantee and is a charity registered in Scotland, number SC040959.

