

### **Host: Helen Townend – Amey Consulting**

Helen Townend, Head of Inclusion and Social Value at Amey Consulting, has thirty years' experience in the Ground Engineering Sector working on Infrastructure and Mining projects in the UK and internationally. A Chartered Geologist since 1999, Helen has focused her career in the UK Transport Sector, with operational experience in a wide range of infrastructure renewal projects.

Since 2017, Helen has championed Social Value, Inclusion and Inclusive Design, building workplaces where we can all thrive and be able to provide the best impacts for our communities. Helen supports Amey in the delivery of a more inclusive and accessible service provision that adds value for the whole community in a sustainable manner.

### **Panelists Biographies**

#### **Matt Rice – Network Rail**

Matt graduated with a degree in a Management, Economics and History from Aberystwyth University.

He started his rail career by becoming a Maintenance Manager at Network Rail in 2005 and has just shy of 20 years of experience in the UK rail industry.

Matt has subsequently undertaken several high-profile roles at Network Rail, including a two-year role as a Programme Manager for Network Rail Consulting in Dubai, and as Head of Strategic Planning for the London North Eastern and East Midlands Route.

In August 2019 he was appointed as the first ever Route Director for the North and East Route, and for the past four years where he is accountable for rail operations across parts of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and the North East of England. Earlier this year Matt took on accountability for the Sponsorship of the enhancement portfolio for Yorkshire and the North East, including the Transpennine Route Upgrade and Northumberland Line.

#### **Neil Waine- ANDYSMANCLUB**

ANDYSMANCLUB run peer-to-peer support groups for men over 18 going through storms in their lives, every Monday at 7pm excluding bank holidays. Groups are free to attend with no registration required.

The group was founded after the death by suicide of Andy Roberts. Andy gave no indication to his family that he was suicidal, as a result, his brother-in-law, Luke Ambler, and mother, Elaine Roberts, founded ANDYSMANCLUB in the hope that men who struggled to open up had a safe space to do so.

To find out more, email [info@andysmanclub.co.uk](mailto:info@andysmanclub.co.uk) or head to [www.andysmanclub.co.uk](http://www.andysmanclub.co.uk)

#### **Lisa Leighton – Northern**

Lisa joined Northern at the start of this year, having spent the last several years of her career in retail, working with Marks and Spencer and Morrisons.

She describes herself as a purpose led leader, who strives to make a difference to the colleague experience in the businesses she works in by learning and understanding more a

out the lived experience of colleagues and customers in the communities that Northern serves`

**Tom Flannery – AtkinsRéalis**

Tom leads five technical consultancy teams at AtkinsRéalis covering; Rolling Stock Management and Maintenance, Mechanical and Electrical Systems and Human Factors. He is a Chartered Engineer with over 15years experience of leading multi-disciplinary teams to deliver complex projects. He's an original member of the RIA/ Women in Rail EDI Charter Group as well as a committee member of AtkinsRéalis UK ethnic minority network. He has presented at industry events on activities including race equality, social mobility, allyship, pride and rail decarbonisation.

Tom is the proud winner of the YRP Mentor of the Year award, the Women in Rail Inspirational Man of the Year award, and the Everywoman Transport & Logistics Male Agent of Change award.

**Kathryn Oldale – DB Cargo UK**

Kathryn joined DB Cargo UK in 2016, having previously worked as a Commercial Manager at the multinational pharmaceutical giant, Johnson & Johnson.

In her current role as Head of Strategy, Policy and Communications, Kathryn is responsible for managing all the company's domestic, international, governmental and industry stakeholder relationships.

She was responsible for developing and delivering the company's high-profile 'Freight Belongs on Rail' campaign aimed at promoting rail freight over road haulage and encouraging the UK Government to set a target for modal shift.

She is also coordinating the company's drive to achieve Net Zero by 2050.