

CELEBRATING #INTERNATIONALWOMENS DAY

In this Q&A, **Kari Burton**, Senior Planning Manager for the South East at Mac Mic Group, shares her career journey, her perspective on International Women's Day, and advice for her younger self.

KARI, TELL US ABOUT YOUR ROLE AT MAC MIC GROUP AND YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THE PLANNING INDUSTRY?

I started at Mac Mic Group last May, and it's been a fulfilling year applying my expertise in strategic planning for the South East region. I manage all aspects of the planning process, from implementing complex planning strategies, to promoting sites through the planning system and securing planning permissions.

On a daily basis, I lead skilled project teams and engage with stakeholders and local authorities to ensure our sites stand out and contribute positively to the communities Mac Mic Group operate in.

I am passionate about making a positive change, rather than being seen as the big bad developer!

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WHAT SPARKED YOUR PASSION FOR PROPERTY?

My interest in property goes back to my childhood. From as early as 7 or 8 years old, I became fascinated by houses and loved looking at them in my local area and exploring houses further afield on Rightmove.

This passion continued to grow at school and university, and I now feel very lucky to be working in a field that allows me to contribute towards shaping the built environment for future generations!

WHY IS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Coming from a supportive environment both on a personal and at professional level, I acknowledge that many women are not as fortunate. International Women's Day serves as a crucial reminder to celebrate achievements and to continue discussions on gender equality.

WHAT IS YOUR PROUDEST CAREER MOMENT TO DATE?

I am really proud to be a dual accredited chartered Senior Planning Manager. After achieving my chartership in town planning, I went on to gain a chartership in surveying, demonstrating my commitment to continuous learning and growth in my field.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF?

Be kind to yourself. Enjoy the journey, embrace the process, and know that with dedication and perseverance, you can achieve your career goals!

HOW DO YOU BALANCE YOUR WORK AND HOME LIFE?

Maintaining a healthy work-life balance requires a supportive network. I'm grateful for my partner who shares the responsibilities, Mac Mic Group for being flexible and understanding, and our wonderful childcare providers (thank you mum and dad!).

Juggling work and being a mum can be challenging, but having a supportive network makes a world of difference.

HAVE YOU EVER FACED CHALLENGES IN THE WORKPLACE DUE TO YOUR GENDER?

There can be a perception that women with children are less interested in career advancement. However, I believe women bring valuable perspectives and contributions to the table, and it's crucial to challenge such stereotypes and promote gender equality in the workplace.

IF YOU COULD HAVE DINNER WITH ONE INSPIRATIONAL WOMAN, DEAD OR ALIVE, WHO WOULD THAT BE AND WHY?

It's got to be Queen Elizabeth II – she was a superwoman in my view. She never let anything get on top of her and always had time for herself, her family, and the country!

