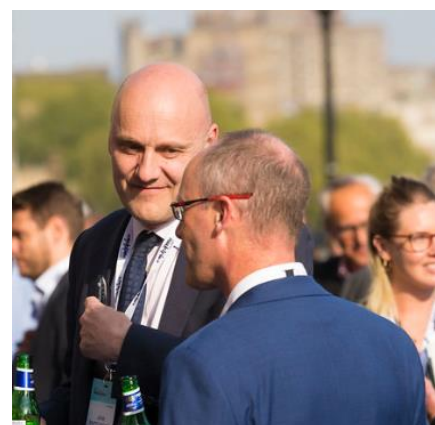


30 April 2019

Completely Retail Market Place, London



CRMP is changing as the market changes, and if some said that the event was less well attended than 2018, then they were the first to admit that it was still well attended.

CRMP attracts occupiers who want to expand. Those who are not stayed away, but the stands were busy, and this time there was a dedicated leisure area on the mezzanine floor. Joint sponsor The Gym Group stayed on the ground floor and were one of many gym operators on the look-out for former retail units at affordable rents. If the casual dining market operators were thin on the ground, then that should be of no surprise, but fast food and drive-through sites are still in demand.

The furniture and carpet sector have been feeling the effects of the downturn, but still have requirements, and a year on from the Carpetright's CVA, there is still talk of Tapi taking them on.

It was not surprising that the overall mood was less positive than a year ago, but deals are still being done, albeit in a different way. Further CVAs continue to be a topic of conversation, in particular Debenhams (which was passed on 9 May), with recognition that the genie is out of the bottle. A toothless Government is not going to help Landlords with CVA reform to make their position more in balance with creditors, nor with Tenants on Business Rates. All in all a good day to meet people in the market who wanted to do deals on Colchester, Stane Retail Park, and to catch up with old friends.