



Ellie Gormley IEng, FIHIE, MCIT, MILT

Principal Engineer, Borough of Telford and Wrekin Council

Ellie started at the grass roots: in the drawing office, preparing other peoples' Traffic Schemes. After a short while she thought "I could do this - it's very interesting". She is now one of IHIE's most senior women engineers, working with an "Excellent" rated Council, whose success in Transport locally, regionally and nationally is widely acknowledged. It is the only authority to have received two beacon awards for Transport, and is designated as a centre of excellence.

Ellie "works and plays hard" and has pursued her career with enthusiasm.

First, she persuaded her employer to put her through a day release ONC course in Civil engineering, and followed this up with her HNC and Diploma in Highway and Traffic Engineering, while still holding down her day job.

She recalls that she found the maths a challenge, and observed that one of the big barriers today, to people who might go for Registration, is that maths is seen as too difficult. This is made worse by colleges dropping maths-based courses because of a lack of take-up. This hits design, for example, quite hard. Ellie is passionate about introducing projects that might meet public opposition at first, because of a lack of understanding of what is involved. Despite fierce initial opposition, she implemented the first 20 m.p.h. zone in Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, which achieved a significantly reduced rate of accidents over a 5 year period. The scheme was hailed as a huge success and public understanding was achieved.

During her time with E. Staffs Borough Council she was also part of the Emergency Planning Team and found herself battling a major flood of the River Trent, co-ordinating the localised rescue operations alongside the army and emergency services, which as a team they managed to contain. She recalls this "a scary but an adrenalin pumping experience".

She has varied her local authority career by having a period of employment with consultants JMP in Lichfield, and thereafter briefly freelancing, but is now "thoroughly enjoying my time now at The Borough of Telford and Wrekin".

Ellie has found IHIE to be very helpful, especially in giving her excellent support in getting involved in mentoring IPR & IPD candidates for IEng and EngTech. She is currently mentoring three colleagues at the Borough of Telford & Wrekin. She assesses IPR & IPD submissions and is also a Trainee Reviewer.

Taking a wider view, Ellie thinks that Government should make it a priority "to achieve more joined-up thinking regarding transport, especially once you get out of the larger towns. Ellie admits that "there is no way I can get to the office by public transport in under an hour and a half, but by car the journey takes 45 minutes". She believes such situations as these are widespread in towns like Telford, and could be changed given enough political will at national level. She is a member of the car sharing scheme which currently incorporates a pool of local businesses in Telford, and which has the potential to greatly assist in reducing car journeys around Telford. "It could be as popular as public transport in some areas".

On top of her demanding job, and work with IHIE, Ellie is also a fanatical golfer and currently Lady Captain at St Thomas's Priory Golf Club in Rugeley, Staffordshire. She is not someone who takes her eye off the ball!