



JOSIE HEALY FIHE

**Transportation Management Engineer: Denbighshire
County Council (DCC).**

Josie is currently engaged in helping to make a success of the major new asset management initiative within DCC. It is a co-operative piece of work with Conwy Borough Council, under a Joint Head of Service. Where joint working makes good sense, it is undertaken, and the first project is for DCC's Highways & Infrastructure Department, to adopt the proven successful IT approach to asset management developed by Conwy.

The two authorities will use the same server and software which means uploading the entire asset database in a way compatible with the demands of this system. Data has to be thoroughly cleaned, and content standardised beginning with street works, which are already in a standard format, and will go on through everything else. "Not quite a job for life, but a very large challenge". A challenge that Josie believes will deliver a very cost-effective outcome, however.

Josie finds the challenge "exciting, as it is part of a move towards partnership working that will benefit everybody, both financially and by increasing efficiency". She believes IHE must work hard to keep necessary spending on roads and safety up so that everyone can benefit from such improvements.

Josie started work in a drawing office, and she found she needed more traffic data when producing feasibility study drawings. This led to her interest in data collection and interpretation, "and", she says, "in effect my career chose me." Local Government reorganisation in 1996 split Clwyd, her employer, into four and she became the specialist in traffic accident studies for DCC.

An increase in Motorcycle accidents across North Wales led her to carry out a large scale exercise to find its root causes. When it emerged that the accidents mainly involved local people, not – as expected – tourists, she worked to create of a free *Bike Safe Course* for all North Wales residents. This, with an added First Aid Day, has been of "great value in reducing

injuries and improving the skills of the motorcycling community". It is a contribution Josie is "most proud of".

She thinks membership of IHE "recognises your professionalism, and gives you a network of knowledgeable, friendly people. This is important in furthering your career and marketing your skills."

Also, as she says, "We will always need roads – it's a good career choice".