

Monthly round-up of news from the Institute of Highway Incorporated Engineers



IHIE

FOCUS

IHIE Scotland

IHIE Scotland has enjoyed a resurgence in recent years. Local professional reviews are now available and branch meetings in the south are well supported.

Holding IHIE's June annual meeting in Edinburgh on 12 June rewards local members' achievements in revitalising the branch.

The Scotland roads law course on that date is a 'must-attend' course for highway, traffic and maintenance engineers and development control specialists.

Delivered by John Watchman and Michael Greig, solicitors from DLA Piper, the course delivers expert briefings on the Roads Scotland Act, constructing, managing and maintaining roads. Delegates can identify the issues they want addressed and, in the afternoon, choose between roads and planning and a session covering maintenance, drainage and obstructions.

There is a free professional review quick briefing, which is an opportunity to learn more about your routes to EngTech, IEng and CEng registration. Individual advice sessions are also available.

The annual general meeting and presentation from Transport Scotland on the Forth Road Bridge replacement crossing follows the law course, with an annual dinner to round off the event. This offers an informal evening's entertainment for £22 including drinks. Rooms are available at the venue for £95.



COUNCIL SNAPSHOTS: GRAHAM MILNE BSc IEng FIHIE

Graham Milne decided early on to be an engineer and has followed a career in construction. He was good at science at school and, as a teenager, got himself a summer job at Balfour Beatty where he enjoyed being a chainboy – 'the assistant who holds the other end of the tape'. So he then went on to take an engineering degree at Glasgow University.

Today, he runs South Lanarkshire Council's East Kilbride depot where he is responsible for an £8M budget, 70 roadworkers, four supervisory staff and four technical staff.

East Kilbride was built over 60 years ago and its roads are all reaching their 'sell-by date'. The whole South Lanarkshire road network has also deteriorated more quickly over the past few years because traffic has doubled since 1983, HGVs are much heavier and there are 6,000 utility openings per year.

So South Lanarkshire Council has launched a roads investment programme that will contribute an additional £126M to the roads maintenance budget over the next eight years, which will bring Milne's resources up to about £12M.

Jim Cannon, South Lanarkshire's roads and transportations head of service, is confident the council will resurface approximately 80% of its total network, ranking it in the top quartile of Scottish authorities for road conditions. Consequently, Milne and his staff will be working flat out for the coming few years delivering the programme.

Milne's responsibilities are now more



managerial, rather than technical, requiring more time in the office. He says he has always 'enjoyed being out and about' on site but it is some compensation that he is now able to devote more time to help people to develop their skills and create good careers for themselves.

South Lanarkshire Council promotes personal development opportunities for its staff and, as well as the graduate training programme, it has a career succession programme that encourages roadworkers to complete the Scottish vocational qualification (SVQ) Level 2 in construction and highway maintenance. Half of Milne's roadworkers have done this.

'The impact of training is of interest to me', he says. 'There are many benefits from developing existing knowledge and skills – job satisfaction for employees, career development, job opportunities, employee retention

and reducing the financial costs associated with external recruitment.'

An example of the success of the council's training programme is Hugh Campbell, now an assistant engineering officer in the East Kilbride area office. He started work as a 'skillseeker' roadworker in 2000 and after nine years was shortlisted for the Association of Public Service Excellence's highway maintenance trainee of the year award in March. He is now set to start his HND in civil engineering in August.

Milne is an advocate of IHIE membership for people in the industry because its focus and interests so closely fit the needs of people with responsibilities such as his, or with career paths leading to them.

He values IHIE's professionally supportive networking opportunities and finds it 'friendly and interested in helping people, which is very important for encouraging younger entrants to the industry to decide to go ahead to registration with the Engineering Council.'

IHIE is a UK-wide body, so Milne is a Scottish representative on its council and is currently busy organising the June AGM in Edinburgh.

Milne reflects that IHIE members up and down the land 'are responsible for maintaining a key component of the nation's infrastructure and, in so doing, can enjoy varied and satisfying careers'. It is a message he and John Nightingale, another IHIE council member, are taking to university engineering departments across the country. As ever, he is turning his beliefs into action.

consultation

The proposed *Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for prosperous economies (PPS4)* is due out for consultation to 28 July.

It brings together all the key planning policies relating to the economy in one place, combining planning policy guidance notes PPG4, PPG5, PPG6 and PPG7. The government hopes the integrated approach of this new PPS4 will provide greater certainty to businesses looking to submit planning applications and help local authorities take speedier decisions on them.

Key policies in the new PPS4 include:

- From draft PPS4 – consider planning applications for economic growth favourably unless there is good reason to believe the costs outweigh the benefits. Developing plans that take account of long-term economic benefits, including for the wider regional and national economy such as job creation, and promoting opportunities to regenerate deprived areas and support business diversification in rural areas.



- From PPG5 – encourage local authorities to make full use of the planning tools available to them to simplify and speed up the planning zones.

- From PPS6 – promote the vitality of town centres, consumer choice and retail diversity.

- Remove the 'needs test', which requires developers to show there is a need for their proposal. Retain the sequential test, which requires developers to seek the most central

sites first, and a tougher 'impact test' which assesses proposals against economic, social and environmental criteria so that councils can assess its impact on the town centre in reaching their decision.

- From PPS7 – provide for sustainable economic growth in keeping with the need to protect the countryside. This responds to a key recommendation from Matthew Taylor MP's review of rural housing and economy.

skills and training

- **Wanted:** Edexcel is looking for examiners and moderators to join its examining teams for the 14-19 Diploma in construction and the built environment.

The Diploma is the newest qualification for students aged between 14 and 19. It was designed by universities and employers to ensure learners are equipped with the skills, knowledge and experience they need to succeed either at college, university or at work.

Teaching or industry professionals with a high level of commitment and dedication are invited to apply. Comprehensive training is provided, along with support throughout the assessment process.

Details ☎: www.edexcel.com/i-am-a/aa/aa-ecruitment/vacancies/Pages/home.aspx

- **CPD:** The 2009 IHIE members' directory will identify recipients of the IHIE silver and gold continuing professional development (CPD) certificates since 2006. If you would like a certificate and to be identified as a CPD achiever, fill in the 'B' forms available online at ☎: www.ihie.org.uk/training/continuing-professional-develo/ or send your own records to @: information2@ihie.org.uk. Please be sure to show a planned approach – more than an attendance list.

nominations sought

Nominate your firm for the **IHIE employer of the year** award by 30 June.

The accolade is sponsored by EnterpriseMouchel and is part of the annual excellence awards. Nominations are open to private and public sector employees and recognises the highest commitment to training and developing professional staff, from

technician to chartered level.

Atkins won the inaugural award in 2008 for its development framework.

To suggest a worthy company or request a self-nomination form, @: secretary@ihie.org.uk ☎: www.ihie.org.uk/training/training-for-ieng-and-engtech

training & development

● Preparing for your review

2 July, Sheffield

A course for technical report route applicants for CEng and IEng.

6 October, London

In depth advice and support in going for IEng and EngTech with a focus on CEng.

'Credit crunch' 2-for-1 rate.

● Scottish road law

12 June, Edinburgh

A course for road design, maintenance and development engineers delivered by solicitors.

● Professional review briefings – quick briefings

12 June, Edinburgh

18 June, Cwmbran

A chance to identify your route to EC registration and learn about the IHIE review. Free. Book via @: secretary@ihie.org.uk.

● Road safety – making a difference

30 June, Longleat

IHIE South Western seminar on the IHT road safety audit guidelines, integrated approaches to road safety, new targeting and evaluation methods.

Fee £125 or £150

● Annual development control conference

1 July, Birmingham

New date and venue for workshops that allow delegates to discuss funding, MfS and local design guides.

● Durable surfaces

10 July, London

8 October, Leeds

Jeff Farrington's course on how to get more durable surfaces.

● Improve your skills in traffic signs

16 September, Loughborough

The course to maintain expertise in direction and warning signing. Supported by the Department for Transport.

● Traffic signs 2009

17 September, Loughborough

Annual conference and exhibition with Department for Transport-led discussion on ideas for the review of traffic signing.