

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



IHIE

FOCUS

## National policy 'actively' promotes sustainable commuting

Many UK employers now recognise the benefits to staff and to the business of encouraging staff to commute in more 'active' ways, and the relaunch of a national policy to help turn these thoughts into action is now on the cards.

The 'Take action on active travel' policy call was originally published in April 2008, signed by 57 organisations from the public health, transport, architecture and social sectors, with IHIE the only engineering institution listed.

The policy calls on decision-makers at all levels to act now to bring about a population-wide shift from sedentary travel to walking and cycling, by:

- Committing 10% of transport budgets to cycling and walking initiatives;
- Making a 20mph speed limit standard in residential areas;
- Establishing a coherent, high-quality network of walking and cycle routes which link everyday destinations;
- Improving driver training and better enforcement of traffic laws;
- Setting ambitious official targets for increases in walking and cycling.

The working group continues to meet regularly to take forward its action plan, and is currently planning a relaunch of



the policy call soon. The organisers hope to reach 100-plus signatories before the relaunch of Take action on active travel.

Anyone who would like to become a signatory should contact the working group secretary. @: julia.ellis@adph.nhs.uk

PricewaterhouseCoopers found a cost-

benefit ratio of up to 34:1 experienced by employers who took a lead on workplace health.

In order to help more take action, Sustrans has produced an active travel workplace toolkit to get companies started. @: www.activetravel.org.uk/toolkit

## COUNCIL SNAPSHOTS: GERALD COLE, FIHIE

Every year, IHIE's award of merit recognises the exceptional contribution individual members have made to the work of the institute. Gerald Cole is the 2009 recipient.

Presenting Gerald with his award certificate at the Southern branch's 2009 Winchester seminar, IHIE president Tony Sharp said: 'Southern branch has every reason to be grateful for the unstinting loyalty Cole has shown to the branch, and for the encouragement he has always given to other members, especially the younger ones, to become active in branch affairs.'

Cole has been employed in local government for more than 40 years as a highway engineer, serving within various councils in the Surrey area. During this time, he has been responsible for all the many disciplines related to the highway infrastructure.

He was also among the founder members of the IHIE in 1965 and has, therefore, been a member through its incarnations as the AHT, then HTTA and later, when it transformed into the IHIE.

Cole became a committee member of the regenerated Southern branch in the 1980s, and has remained a quiet, unassuming member since that time, holding various positions on the committee, including a period of time as branch vice chairman.

Initially, he was the primary events organiser, and used his many contacts within the industry to arrange educational visits and technical presentations.

He has an excellent record in attending IHIE's national annual general meetings, and even managed to travel up to Edinburgh for the 2009 meeting.



**STOP PRESS:** IHIE members voted on 12 June to change its name to the 'Institute of Highway Engineers'. Implementation details to follow..

## Rising numbers seek professional registration

The Engineering Council UK (EC UK) has recently noticed a marked increase in the number of engineering professionals inquiring about registration for Chartered Engineer (CEng), Incorporated Engineer (IEng) and Engineering Technician (EngTech).

Helping improve job security and career prospects, professional registration is open to any competent practising engineer, with different levels and pathways available. The

three categories – EngTech, IEng and CEng – have been developed to provide a progressive registration structure, reflecting the recognition that life-long learning and career development are normal, and will remain so, whatever the short-term economic situation.

IHIE's technician routes have recently been extended to include options for those seeking registration that have experience but no or limited academic qualifications.

The non-standard route guidance for aspiring incorporated and chartered engineers has also been improved.

'IHIE has helped more than 1,000 engineers and technicians gain Engineering Council registration,' said Judith Walker, IHIE chief executive. 'The revised guidance is more user-friendly and worth checking out, if you believe you are competent but lack all the right academic credentials.'

## LGA unveils new planning guidance

The Local Government Association (LGA) has issued revised guidance for councillors and officers dealing with planning matters.

A revised national code of conduct for councillors was introduced in 2007, and each authority is required to adopt a local code of conduct for members. According to the LGA, the latest update 'provides refreshed advice on achieving this balance.

'It also better reflects local authorities' roles as place shapers and the enhanced role for councillors as champions of their local communities,' it adds.

'It recognises councillors' ability to participate in discussions prior to the receipt of a planning application on behalf of their communities, and will assist scrutiny and standards committees dealing with planning matters.'

@: www.lga.gov

## IHIE developments

● It is changeover time on **IHIE's council**. Chris Bowley (FIHIE), health and safety manager for Le Crossing, has returned to council and John Nightingale has been formally elected. We have lost, for at least a year, Tim Edmunds of Norfolk County Council and Martin Cook from Wiltshire County Council, both of whom have served two terms.

● IHIE has agreed to join the **World Road Association** UK national committee. WRA (PIARC) is an international open forum for information exchange. Andrew Black (FIHIE) made the proposal.

● **Aberdeenshire Council's** training scheme for its engineering staff has been approved by IHIE. The scheme adopts an even-handed approach, involving all recognised institutions.

● More than 50 delegates attended a sell-out course on **roads law** in Edinburgh on 12 June.

● The IHIE **South Western branch's** road safety seminar proved useful continuing professional development (CPD) for the road safety auditors and other professionals that attended on 30 June. There were presentations on the RSA guidelines.

### Planning call to arms:

Royal Town Planning Institute development management network members are discussing ways forward with Section 106 agreements in light of the current financial climate.

The next meeting is on 29 July at the Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells, with Kelvin Hinton in the chair, and introductions from Andrew Taylor, development control manager, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, and Nick Ireland, associate director at GL Hearn.

Hear about local authority approaches, consider issues from a private perspective, and discuss ideas.

Contact Rhian Brimble @: development.management@rtpi.org.uk

## Intelligent trial goes live

A six-month trial of intelligent speed adaptation (ISA) technology, which aims to reduce road casualties and help drivers avoid speeding penalties, has been launched in London.

The Transport for London road safety unit is also set to trial the technology in a London bus and in a licensed taxi, alongside 20 TfL vehicles.

The project will be featured in one of the presentations at IHIE's annual traffic signs conference in September.

## A 'decade of action'

Launched at the Houses of Parliament on 16 June, the 'make roads safe' report, endorsed by the world's leading road safety experts, recommends UN governments due to attend the first-ever global conference on road safety in Moscow in November support a 'decade of action for road safety' from 2010-2020. During the 'decade' it is hoped some 5M lives could be saved and 50M serious injuries prevented.

### training & development

#### ● Preparing for your review

6 October, London

4 November Birmingham

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

'Credit crunch' two-for-one rate.

#### ● Highway law

December, London

A course for road design, maintenance and development engineers delivered by expert barristers. Those interested should e-mail IHIE.

#### ● 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, 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. Updates on Chapter 8, DfT streetscape ideas, SS12D training for designers of roadworks, the Transport for London speed limit map and ISA. Supported by DfT, Atkins and Buchanan Computing.

#### ● Highway maintenance

13 October, Northampton

Postponed IHIE/Highways conference and exhibition on innovation and sustainability. Speakers on asset management, drainage, new asphalts and EU driver regulations.