

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



FOCUS

### Members on the move

- Raymond Cook has left MVA Hong Kong, where he was a technical director, to join **Cardno Limited** as traffic and transportation manager in Perth, Australia.
- Huw Keri Evans (F) has moved from the UAE to South Africa, where he is senior highway engineer with **Arcus Gibb**. He is covering how to embed sustainability within a highways asset-management framework.

### GetSET women

Women who work in engineering and construction are invited to join the GetSET web network. Members can showcase their work and promote their company, keep up-to-date with CPD on gender equality, access information about applying for public positions, and link into the mentoring and coaching service.

www.getsetwomen.org



### MEMBER PROFILE: David Roberts IEng FIHE FIHT

David Roberts has worked for Singleton Clamp & Partners, a respected transportation planning and infrastructure design company, since it was founded in 1992.

He specialises in transport assessments and giving evidence as an expert witness to public planning inquiries, having prepared and presented evidence at more than 150 appeals. Recently, for example, he was employed by one local authority which wanted to resist a proposal to extract coal from a spoil heap. The council and local residents were opposed because of the large number of daily 44-tonne lorry movements that would pass through a village, in order to transport the coal. They wanted a now-disused railway track, adjacent to the spoil heap, to be brought back into use. The opposing case was that the lorry movements could be accommodated on the road, and it might not be possible to reuse the railway track.

This kind of finely-balanced judgment is often encountered and Mr Roberts finds the challenge of providing clear, expert opinion to help the inspector form a reasoned judgment 'extraordinarily interesting'. As an expert witness, he has appeared both for the developers and for the opponents of many schemes, and has a high rate of success for his clients.

He makes the point that highways work is very people-orientated, and that '50% of my work is negotiation'. He believes membership of a professional body gives him credibility, and will strengthen anybody's chances of making a success of their career.

Mr Roberts left sixth form and took a job with South Yorkshire CC, working on a bypass near his home.

He was employed because he 'had a qualification in computer studies, and the county council had just acquired a computer, then a novelty, funded by the Department of Transport'. He immediately helped the QS on the project and so embarked on his career 'slightly by accident'.

Mr Roberts has lived in Yorkshire all his life, although from his office in the North West, he undertakes work across the country.

Singleton Clamp & Partners evolved following a management buy-out of Denis Wilson & Partners, then primarily a southern organisation which established a Manchester office which Mr Roberts joined. In 1999, he became a shareholder and direc-

### Changes are on the cards

To simplify the process of applying for CSCS cards for construction managers and professionals, CSCS is implementing two major changes to the scheme shortly.

The platinum card will be withdrawn so that all levels of manager will apply for a black CSCS card.

All competence-assessed members of relevant professional bodies, including IHE, will in future apply for the Professionally Qualified Persons (PQP) card. They will also need to pass the Managerial and Professionals (MAP) health and safety test.

Managers or professionals who have previously obtained a platinum or black occupation card via their professional membership status will be able to renew with a black card.

Otherwise, to gain a CSCS black card, applicants need to achieve S/INVQ Level 4 or 5 in a relevant occupation, and pass the Managerial and Professionals (MAP) health and safety test.

Both cards are valid for five years and may be renewed on re-verification of the relevant criteria.

There is also a new three-year CSCS card specifically for graduates who are new to the construction industry. Students need at least an IEng level degree and to pass the MAP health and safety test.



tor, running the company with fellow director, Bill Booker. He is responsible for all aspects of the business at Singleton Clamp & Partners, including the employment of staff, and he takes the task of bringing people on very seriously. He strives to grow confidence and develop expertise in new staff by discovering and building on their strengths.

Mr Roberts is himself a great exemplar of how a school-leaver with drive and initiative can rise to a leadership role. It is not always necessary to have a degree qualification to make an impact.

### Brand new name in Engineering

Reflecting its growing international reach and influence, the Engineering Council had dropped 'UK' from its name.

One of the key factors in the decision is that the professional qualifications awarded by the Engineering Council – Chartered Engineer, Incorporated Engineer and Engineering Technician – are fast-becoming



internationally-recognised standards of competence.

In an increasingly globalised economy, this recognition is vitally important to employers.



### Engineering first

The Engineering and Technology Board has rebranded to EngineeringUK.

Chief executive, Paul Jackson, said the change in emphasis reflected the desire to simplify what the organisation did and how it got its message to the public, the media and politicians.

EngineeringUK will now focus its efforts and activity around just three major themes:

- The Big Bang Fair – a week-long celebration of engineering, science and technology designed to engage school-children and switch them on to potential careers in engineering (11-13 March 2010)
- Tomorrow's Engineers programme – a joint initiative with the Royal Academy of Engineering, designed to work with existing engineering programmes for pupils but targeting hard-to-reach schools across the country
- The Communications Hub – making the case for engineering in the media, business and politics, with four expert advisory panels covering business and industry, education and skills, careers and the profession.

'A key element of the change in strategy is that we are focusing on larger activities which have an impact at the national level. We are now not looking to do expensive small projects', said Mr Jackson.

He highlighted the findings in EngineeringUK's 2009 report into the state of UK engineering, which found that since last year, the number of members of the public who would recommend engineering as a career had risen 10% to 85%.

The research also found that 78% of the public said engineering was a 'well respected profession', with 86% believing it made a 'good contribution' to society. Salaries in engineering, it added, had also continued to rise by 2.2%, despite the recession.

### Artist signals a return to road signs



An exciting new art project involving Margaret Calvert, celebrated as the co-designer of our iconic system of road signs, has been allowed by Buchanan Computing using SignPlot software.

Ms Calvert has teamed up with the illustrator, Marion Deuchars, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the M1 motorway with a dissection of one of its signs.

Ms Calvert and Ms Deuchars have based their work on one of the original cardboard and gouache 'maquettes' produced for the Worboys committee on traffic signs in 1963.

This has been recreated in SignPlot – with a few minor adjustments for historical authenticity – and manufactured using materials appropriate to 1959 by Route Signs.

Ms Calvert worked with the late Jock



Kinneir for the committee to produce the modern system of traffic signing introduced in the UK in 1964. This system has been copied throughout the world and received much acclaim, being described as the 'corporate identity of Britain'.

Pictured are the team at Route Signs: (left to right) Margaret Calvert, Simon Morgan, Mike Hope, and Marion Deuchars, together with some of their famous artworks.

### Reducing air pollution with planning

DEFRA and the CSS want local authority highway departments to enter into dialogue with planners to implement the *Low Emissions Strategies Guidance*, just issued.

DEFRA advises authorities to require developer contributions to a central, low-emission fund, separate from any community infrastructure levy, to assist the implementation of air quality action plans and local transport plans. It quotes the

Greenwich formulae, which seeks contributions from all schemes with 10 or more dwellings, and from mixed use and commercial schemes above 500 square metres.

Contributions could be set to enable full investigation or off-setting of the residual transport, derived by estimating the emission damage costs.

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/airquality/local/guidance/index.htm

### training & development

#### ● Preparing for your review

14 April, London, WC1

20 May, Taunton

In-depth advice and support in going for CEng, IEng and EngTech.

#### ● Introduction to development control

15 April, Leeds

Start here for newcomers to DC: An overview of planning law and policy, and the role of highway development control staff.

#### ● Traffic signal control

26-28 April 2010 (residential)

University of Nottingham

IHE's annual course for signal engineers on implementation and maintenance. £895 if booked before 30 January 2010. Invoices can be dated pre or post-April 2010.

#### ● Improve your skills in traffic signs

11 May, London

The course to maintain your expertise in direction and warning signing. Supported by the DfT.

### diary dates

#### ● Annual development control conference

18 May, London.

#### ● Traffic signals conference and exhibition

September, Loughborough.

#### ● Transport development control

Six-day foundation course  
14-16 September 2010/7-9 December 2010.