

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



IHIE in action

- IHIE is back in Scotland with a course on Scottish law covering road construction and maintenance and development issues, delivered by Central Law Training (Scotland) on Friday 12 June, at Jury's Inn Hotel, Edinburgh.
- The AGM follows with a special meeting to consider a motion to change the name of IHIE to 'IHE'. A full explanation is on www.ihie.org.uk.
- The new banners were on display at IHIE stands at the road safety-timebank, passive revolution and speed management conferences in March.
- The web forum is now open on www.ihie.org.uk. Current topics cover Section 106 agreements, the Department for Transport's signs review and *Manual for streets*. You can also leave comments, ideas and suggestions on individual pages on the website.
- The 'technical gateway' on the website leads into a wealth of material and links on maintenance, traffic, signals, development control, public realm and road safety. Use the resources and tell us of anything new.



council snapshots

SARA PEGRAM GradIHIE

Sara Pegram is a contract implementation engineer for East Surrey, working in the highway partnership between Surrey County Council and Carillion. She ensures that schemes are efficiently prepared, and then delivered successfully. She is out of the office and on-site most days – a rewarding part of her job, as Pegram 'relishes the outdoors', and once planned to be a National Parks ranger.

Facing massive competition for ranger jobs, she became a 'temporary business support officer for Surrey for two weeks', seven years ago.

She subsequently moved into highways and found the work involved environmental issues, and that she was engaged with

projects which affected people's quality of life.

Surrey sponsored Sara on a day-release five-year civil engineering BSc, which she has just completed. 'It's been hard work, but I got a lot of support from my employer and colleagues, and it will be worth it in the end!'

Sara enjoys variety, appreciating that 'most days turn out differently from planned'. Her ultimate aim is to achieve CEng status.

Happy to serve on her branch committee and as a graduate representative on the IHIE council, Sara would like to see its profile raised in universities and colleges.

Sara is also a scout leader, and has just returned from a fund-raising dog-sledging holiday in the Arctic.



Edinburgh in June

Sounds ideal. Members are invited to the 2009 annual meeting, this year at Jury's Inn Hotel, Edinburgh – only five minutes from Waverley station.

IHIE Scotland is lining up a fine welcome, with sponsorship, to ensure a very convivial annual dinner on Friday 12 June. Dinner tickets

are £22 each, and double rooms at Jury's, a four-star hotel, are at the special rate of £95 a night.

The AGM precedes the dinner at 4.45pm, and before that, there is a course on Scottish law.

Announcing the events, Graham Milne, coun-

cil member for Scotland, said: 'IHIE Scotland has seen a real resurgence north of the border in institute membership and activities. We therefore very much welcome council's decision to bring the annual meeting to Edinburgh, and hope our members will support the course and the evening entertainments.'

IHIE launches register of road safety auditors

IHIE is establishing an independent register of road safety auditors who meet Highways Agency standards of training and experience.

Launching the register Tony Sharp, IHIE president, said: 'Institute members can now demonstrate their road safety audit experience by joining the new register, which is not confined to IHIE members. We welcome profes-

sionals from the full range of institutions, and will require them to keep their existing affiliation to be bound by a professional code. It is individual engineers' experience and continuing competence that matters and the IHIE register aims for independent assessment.

www.ihie.org.uk/gateway/road-safety/

industry news

● Inquiry into fatalities

An inquiry into the underlying causes of construction fatalities is to be launched amid concerns that the UK is not making significant progress in tackling the number of people who have died as a result of their work.

The inquiry, headed by work and pensions secretary, James Purnell, is to include a review of existing work to consolidate the understanding of fatal injuries in the industry, with specific reference to vulnerability, and a deeper analysis of underlying causes, including factors outside the health and safety system.

● Learning from Mother Nature

A website, asknature.org, has been launched which claims to be the world's first 'biomimicry' database, featuring biology-inspired design strategies.

For instance, someone trying to solve the challenge of how to glue to surfaces in moist environments would find information about barnacles, geckos and other organisms which have solved this problem in the ecosystem in which they live.

● RIBA celebrates Palladio

The RIBA British architectural library is celebrating the 500th birthday of Andre Palladio by launching a major online resource, 'Palladio and Britain', at

www.architecture.com/palladio. This web-hub enables users to explore the RIBA's unparalleled collection of Palladio's books and drawings – more than 80% of those in existence.

Visitors to the site will be able to feast their eyes on Palladio's own design drawings for woodcuts in his seminal work – *Quattro Libri dell'Architettura* – and drawings and reconstructions of Roman buildings, and they can explore British Palladian villas, interiors and houses through the outstanding collection of photographs held in the RIBA photographs collection.

● The Structural Engineer of 17 March 2009 contains useful guidance for local authorities in dealing with reported dangerous structures

Any structure, private or publicly-owned which the authority deems dangerous can be dealt with under the Building Act, including embankments and trees.

● DfT guidance for reporting NI168 and NI169 in 2009

In 2009, local highway authorities in England are required to use SCANNER-accredited surveys and a UKPMS accredited pavement-management system to produce their NI168 and NI169 reports. The guidance urges authorities to check that the survey data has been produced from a survey machine which

was accredited at the time of the survey, and that the calculations of the NI168 and NI169 values were carried out using a properly accredited version of the pavement-management system.

Ideally, local authorities should plan to have SCANNER surveys carried out at approximately the same time each year to minimise variations due to seasonal effects and the impact of the annual maintenance works programme.

● IAN 106/08: Guidance note for traffic consultants working on HA schemes

As traffic flows on the HA and surrounding network increase, there is generally more congestion, and the traffic modelling required is becoming more complex. In addition, the current Department for Transport and Highways Agency guidance on transport modelling is currently spread among a number of sources – DfT's WebTAG, DMRB, CHE Memos and Interim Advice Notes (IANs).

IAN 106/08 is, in effect, a checklist to aid in ensuring that all the relevant guidelines are followed, and will be of interest to HA staff and their consultants who are, or will be, involved in producing traffic and economic appraisals for major highway schemes, particularly those over £5M in HA's major programme of schemes.

Call for new motorways

Entirely-new inter-urban roads are needed to cope with traffic growth because the Government's plans for an expansion of motorway hard shoulder running are inadequate, according to a report from the RAC Foundation.

Report author, David Bayliss, highlights a number of new roads which are needed, including a south-east orbital motorway route outside the M25 and a new east coast route running from Newcastle upon Tyne via Hull, Peterborough and Cambridge to connect with the M11.

The report argues that a policy of promoting further hard shoulder running and widening existing motorways, will lead to greater concentrations of long-distance traffic on existing routes, higher levels of congestion, and pressure on junctions and feeder roads that were designed for lower levels of traffic.

www.racfoundation.org

endorsed by IHIE

● XCES: Exhibition for construction and engineering surveying 22-23 April at York Racecourse, showcasing data collection, CCTV surveying equipment, mapping, imagery, positioning products and services for the construction industry. www.ices.org.uk/xces.php

● The *Passive revolution guidelines* for specifying and using passively-safe street furniture on rural and urban roads, not part of the trunk road system, has been launched in draft. The IHIE president contributed a forward alongside Institution of Highways & Transportation, and IHIE exhibited at the March launch conference. Comments are welcome. Go to www.thepassiverevolution.co.uk Warwickshire County Council is one authority preparing its own local policy drawing on the guide.

● Institute of Asphalt Technology national asphalt conference on Thursday, 14 May in Durham focuses on skid resistance. www.instofasphalt.org

sustainable effort

The Engineering Council has new guidance for engineers on achieving sustainable development. IHIE has built on this to draft a policy statement for members. If you would like to contribute to the drafting, e-mail, secretary@ihie.org.uk

training & development

● Traffic signal control: Implementing the design

6-9 April, Nottingham

IHIE's annual course for signal engineers on implementation and maintenance. £895 fully residential.

● Introduction to development control

28 April, Bristol

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

● Improve your skills in traffic signs

7 May, London

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

● Bottoms up to the Highway Engineer

13 May, Winchester

IHIE southern seminar.

The latest in road construction, from excavation to surfacing, £70

www.ihie-southern.org.uk

● Preparing for your review

*Credit crunch rate of two-for-one.

19 May, Taunton*

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

2 July, Sheffield

A must-attend course for technical report route applicants for CEng and IEng.

● Annual highway maintenance conference and exhibition

20 May 2009, Northampton

The IHIE/Highways annual conference: Innovation and sustainability.

Speakers on asset management, drainage, new asphalts, EU driver regulations.

● Annual development control conference

3 June 2009

New venue: *Austin Court, Birmingham*

● Scottish law (new)

12 June, Edinburgh

A course for roads maintenance and development course delivered by barristers.

● Durable surfaces (new dates)

10 July, London

8 October, Leeds

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