

BILLY GOOCH CEng MICE FIHIE

Billy's formal job title – West Area Contract Implementation Manager – for Surrey Highways disguises the range of his responsibilities. There is involvement in implementing schemes to create a successful integrated transport network and responsibility for delivering a high standard of maintenance schemes across the area.

The work is cyclical, with peaks and troughs being driven by seasonal demands and levels of funding. This requires a clear long-term vision to manage workloads and customer expectations whilst trying to obtain best value from the available budgets.

Billy's Team of twelve consists of six implementation engineers, and six street lighting specialists. The work involves delivering maintenance services and improvement schemes in partnership with private sector partners.

Raised on a small farm in Pembrokeshire when the future for these smallholdings was very insecure, Billy identified civil engineering as a career with prospects for someone with a practical turn of mind. Consequently he took a sandwich degree course at Kingston University and spent ten years with Runnymede Borough Council, acquiring expertise in designing and supervising capital works, sewerage contract management and highway maintenance. On moving to Surrey County Council he joined the Contract Performance Management Team at the start of their Highways Partnership Contracts and used this experience as the basis for his Chartered Professional Review.

He put time and energy into getting registered because he saw it as the gateway to career progression and obtaining credibility and respect within the industry. Billy makes the point that it "takes a year out of your life" to achieve but the "small family" that is IHIE is "very approachable and supportive" in this process.

Billy was IHIE Southern Branch Chairman from 2003–2007 and has also mentored several people through the process to achieve IEng status. He is now one of IHIE's CEng Reviewers and he encourages members to come forward and progress their career now that the Institute offers Chartered status.

Billy has put a lot back into the IHIE, and would encourage others to contribute themselves through their Branches, or at national level, not least because the networking opportunities that come from this, as much as for the interest it provides, are both enjoyable and fulfilling.



New name for IEng?

The Engineering Council is reviewing the title of Incorporated Engineer again and has invited IHIE's views.

- Associated Chartered Engineer
- Chartered Certified Engineer
- Engineering Practitioner
- Registered Engineer
- Incorporated Engineer

To vote, go to www.ihie.org.uk/news/ihie-in-action/general/new-item-for-april/

Road Deaths

The Corporate Manslaughter Act makes it easier to convict organisations and individuals and will give added force to the Police road death investigation protocols. Police-led investigations can be demanding of authority and company time and subject procedures and standards to close scrutiny.

The Road Death Investigation Manual has introduced a whole new area of risk to highway authorities and their partners. At the same time a rigorous approach can be used positively to achieve casualty reduction and to target resources.

The partnership approach developed by Kent Highways and Kent Police offers a new model for authorities.

Learn more at the IHIE course on Friday 13 June at the University of Bath.

Encouraging women

- Web developer Netconstruct has launched a new website (www.ukrc4stwomen.org) to encourage more women into employment in the science, engineering and technology (SET) sectors by providing a central source of expertise, data and information on women themselves to further their careers.

Half a million women in the UK are qualified in science, engineering or technology, but less than a third work in the sectors, all of which are suffering severe skills shortages.

- What better way to celebrate your achievements in engineering than being nominated for the 2008 IET **Young Woman Engineer of the Year** Award? Winners benefit from career advancement opportunities, national newspaper, television and radio coverage along with £1,000 prize money.

www.youngwomanengineer.org

Become a FE tutor

A new initiative entitled 'Pass on Your Skills' has been launched by Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK) aimed at encouraging engineers to pass on their experience and expertise to others by becoming a teacher, tutor or trainer in the Further Education (FE) sector.

Spaces on these free courses are limited (tel: 0845 602 6398 web: www.passyourskills.com)

IHIE South Western Branch

In the last year the Branch has successfully organised a number of well supported seminars across the region including '**Road Safety – whose job is it?**' held in February 2008. This seminar was well attended and our thanks go to all the excellent speakers from Devon County Council, Cornwall County Council, Accord MP, Plymouth University and Devon & Cornwall Constabulary who made it all possible and to Chris Hodgson who organised the event.

This year's AGM on 15th May 2008 at the **Somerset College of Art and Technology**, Taunton (SCAT) has an environmental and sustainability theme. After lunch there will be an opportunity to tour the Genesis Centre which showcases sustainable construction showing how sustainable practices and materials can be introduced into the mainstream construction industry. Also, the AGM raffle will again have individual prizes worth over £150.

Contact: mark.ralph@trafficsolutions.co.uk

Take action on active travel

IHIE is among 57 leading public health, transport and planning bodies calling for investment in cycling and walking initiatives, to help fight the UK's obesity crisis.

The report 'Take Action on active travel' calls for:

- A 20mph speed limit to be made the norm in residential areas
- A coherent high quality network of routes that link everyday destinations
- Improved driver training and better enforced traffic laws
- Ambitious official targets to be set for increases in walking and cycling

Active Travel, backed by groups including the Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH), Sustrans, and the Royal Institute of British Architects believe significant investment now could help create a population-wide shift away from sedentary travel and have a significant impact on public health.

Street Design

- The University of Westminster has a new **Postgraduate Certificate in Street Design and Management** starting in September. It is part-time – one afternoon or evening per week over 18 months, costing £545 for each of the three modules. The course aims to equip professionals with the broad knowledge and capabilities to improve their practice.

Contact course-enquiries@westminster.ac.uk

- **Civilised Streets** is the latest briefing in CABI's series on improving the quality of the nation's streets. It is a think piece pushing the debate forward as new designs and approaches to encouraging safer streets have piqued interest on the concept of shared surfaces. It is a contested area which deserves critical examination and clarity of thought to take account of the hostility of disabled groups. CABI is running a series of regional masterclasses on street design and placemaking and there will be a campaign to explore how changes in society over the next 10 years could impact on the design of our streets. www.cabi.org.uk/streets,

Members' moves

Two IHIE Fellows are now Traffic Managers for their counties – **Andrew Wyatt** in Wiltshire and **Russell DeVille** in Cambridgeshire.

Josie Healy has moved across to Asset Management with Denbighshire and **Ian Bradfield** had left there for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Stuart Cullen, Clackmannanshire Council, is helping coach the Men's Handball Team for the 2012 Olympics. Read the team's blog: <http://www.scottishhandball.com> or britishhandball.worldhandball.com/DesktopDefault.aspx?menuid=1086

Martin Hemenway, previously with North Yorkshire Police, has joined Buchanan Computing where he will focus on Accsmap, the accident and case processing system.

Surfeit of road signs could be causing accidents, study suggests

Too many road signs could be making driving more dangerous, according to a new study. Psychologists said that the amount of advertising and signage typically present in a city centre could be pushing up the number of accidents.

Oliver Clark, of the University of Hull, investigated the effect of visual distractions on drivers, using a 3D driving simulator.

In the experiment the volunteers had to control a crosshair in the centre of the screen and respond, via a pedal, to road signs asking them to slow down or give way to traffic.

The results showed an increase in reaction time of 100 milliseconds between “no load” and “overload”, equivalent to around an extra metre and a half in stopping distance.

Training and Development

Preparing for your Review

1 July, Sheffield Hallam University

1 October, London, WC1

In depth advice and support in going for CEng at these courses, plus IEng and EngTech

Highway Law

24th June, London WC1

Barristers from 4-5 Gray's Inn Square present a course for highway works and maintenance and development control engineers

Road Death Investigation Manual

13 June 2008, Bath University

Learn how a partnership approach between the local authority, consultants and police can deliver a smooth service and contribute to improving road safety and maintenance targets. Corporate Manslaughter Act will impinge on local authority working: be prepared!

Highway Maintenance

30th April, Northampton

Focusing on innovative processes and techniques to deliver more effective services and meet sustainability objectives.

6th Annual Development Control Conference

14 May, London SW1

Masterplanning, Commuted Sums, Dorset Parking study, Leicester CC MfS – led design guide.
The essential forum for senior highway DC staff.

IHIE Southern Branch

Driving for Safety

15 May, Winchester

Contributions to the engineers' armoury from Surface dressing, signing, road markings, surfacing, lighting, VMS, CDM and safety auditing.

Nia.griffiths@surreycc.gov.uk

IHIE Annual Meeting 2008

Friday 13 June at University of Bath

AGM: 4.45pm

Discussion: Joy Jefferies, BANES, on Traffic in historic towns

Annual dinner and Ceilidh Band: Tickets £25.00