

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



FOCUS

### Group's ambitions for 'excellence' in the built environment

An all-party parliamentary group for 'excellence in the built environment' has been announced by the Construction Industry Council (CIC).

Chairman of the new group, Tony Baldry MP – a former Department of the Environment minister responsible for construction – announced that the group's first act would be to establish a 'commission on excellence in the built environment', to 'challenge ideas, thinking and expectation from outside the parliamentary and construction boxes'. For this reason, he indicated

that the first inquiry for the commission would be to look at how, 'on the one hand, we ensure good value for money, for public spending and public procurement of construction, and on the other, seek to achieve excellence in the built environment'

CIC chief executive, Graham Watts, said: 'We communicated with many prospective parliamentary candidates in the run-up to the election in promoting our manifesto for the built environment. It was very evident that none really

understood the extent and interconnectivity of the built environment and industries.

'They talked about housing or landscape or civil engineering as if they were entirely isolated from one another, and that fragmentation was the industry's weakness. The new group is an attempt to engage parliamentarians and other serious commentators in looking at the big strategic issues affecting the built environment which impact on the lives of every constituent.'

☎: www.cic.org.uk

### Totally committed to preparation

- both the phases of the Quarmby report on improving the preparedness for winter have been published. ☎: www.transportwinterresilience.independent.gov
- Total Place is promoted by Durham CC as the best approach to improving resilience to severe weather. The county reviewed its service plan in consultation with the police, fire service, primary care trust and parish councils to generate a 'joined-up' action plan with an injection of £1m from those consulted
- the Audit Commission is carrying out a national study of how authorities can maintain roads during the recession. ☎: www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nationalstudies/localgov/Pages/whatworksin-roadmaintenance.aspx
- the Big Society Vanguard local authorities are also testing out local democracy in decision-making, with some piloting local voting on how to spend their roads' budgets
- Hanson, in partnership with Surrey CC, has launched ERA – energy-reduction asphalt for road patching, and claims a 50% reduction in carbon emissions.

### What's new?

- keep an eye on IHE's drainage page for DEFRA and Environment Agency announcements
- Essex CC is consulting on its consolidated development management policies
- South Yorkshire authorities have a joint residential design guide, also out for consultation
- North East house-builders and utility companies, with HSE backing, have developed a code clarifying site safety duties and commitments for new residential developments
- Checking LinSig, Arcady, Picady and Transyt models – a new JCT course aimed at staff who need to check transport assessment modelling
- Communities and Local Government published a consultation on the consolidation and amendment of the EIA regulations. The amendments will revoke and consolidate four previous Statutory Instruments (Sis). ☎: http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/eiaregs2010consult

### Holborn counts itself lucky with crossing



When visiting IHE, take a look at Holborn's countdown pedestrian crossing

### IHE updates

Revisions have been published on ☎: www.theihe.org to

- the procedures for combining the IHE Professional Certificate in Traffic Signs with the EngTech Professional Review
- the EngTech NVO/SVQ route – simplifying the paperwork
- HNCs from 2010 – credit value dropped to 125 by Edexcel

New is 'What qualifications do I need – to join IHE – for Engineering Council registration?' A handy listing of most qualifications and how they access membership and CEng, Eng and EngTech.

☎: www.theihe.org

### Conference attracts leading figures amid tough economic times

Following a year of changing weather patterns, the most severe winter for 30 years, and the worst economic downturn in a generation the new Government has started to introduce cuts that will affect the whole country, but most importantly, the highways industry.

IHE's conference on 7 October in Nottingham provided views and perspectives on the following:

- the effect of the economic downturn on building resilience into a potentially-deteriorating network. Hear from authorities which are facing some of the real challenges to provide a satisfactory level of service delivery, eg. Worcestershire, and hear from the Department for Transport's expert – Andy Bailey
- methods and techniques for dealing with failures on the network. Atkins will provide an overview of

the challenges faced in identifying and repairing potholes, while Leicestershire CC highlights its plans for adapting maintenance techniques to meet the climate change challenge

- the introduction of the Flood and Water Management Act. Hear from Mouchel on asset management planning through good surface water management planning, and DEFRA explaining the responsibilities imposed under the Flood and Water Management Act

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- dealing with the floods and the aftermath. Hear from Cumbria on the devastating and fatal floods experienced in 2009, and the lessons learned, and also about the practical experiences of West Berkshire in developing a surface water management plan, in line with the 2010 Act.

☎: www.theihe.org/events

### Answers in site for the curious

So what exactly does a highway engineer do?

Do I need one?... and this looks like an interesting field of work – so how do I become one?

In response to these questions which it is regularly asked, Sanderson has sponsored a new website which gives an insight into work within highways and transportation, and seeks to explain, in an easily-understandable manner, some of the technical aspects of our world.

Links are also included for further



reading, where necessary. The site will be of general interest to many in the development industry and may also set young people on the 'first step on your road' to becoming one of us.

### Flood risk and SUDS

DEFRA and the Environment Agency (EA) published a raft of information in August, including:

- report on capacity and skills building
- £2m fund to help with risk assessments
- flood risk management portal promised
- factsheets on internal drainage boards, local authority funding, and local authorities.

Access these – Mayer Brown's research trials on SUDS in Waterloo, and EA web-based training – local authorities only – from IHE's Drainage webpage.

### training & development

#### ● Preparing for your review

14 April 2011, London WC2

Take the opportunity to upgrade your qualifications and prepare for the future. The course will cover CEng, IEng and EngTech and IHE's Professional Certificates

#### ● Transport development control 2011

Six-day foundation course. Date TBC.

Delivered by TMS, the course provides comprehensive foundation training for new consultants and local authority staff. Delegates' knowledge and competence is assessed via subsequent project work. Students gain a grounding in the development-management process, how to deal with a planning application, the role of audits in the design process, road safety, transport assess-

ments, sustainable transport issues, and junction design and assessment. *Manual for streets* and sustainability objectives are embedded in the interactive course. Success can lead to the IHE Professional Certificate in Development Management

### diary dates

#### ● Annual development control conference

Postponed to 26 January 2011, London WC1

#### ● Road maintenance – Scotland

27 April 2011, Glasgow

A conference and exhibition in association with Highways

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