



## **SIMON BENNETT IEng FIHIE AMICE**

The Institute is very fortunate to continue to have a member on the Board of the Engineering Council. Of the 36 EC institutions, only 12 have a Board seat as of right, the rest are represented by 3 members elected by the remaining 24 bodies.

Congratulations go therefore to Simon Bennett who has just succeeded Peter Dipper as a one of these representatives, Peter having served for an unparalleled 12 years.

Simon is a Group Engineer for Development Control and Section 38s with Wakefield Council. "I manage the HDC and Section 38 group dealing with road closures, giving highway advice on planning applications and ensuring co-ordination between planning approvals and implementation of road networks proposed for adoption and the adoption process. This also involves representing Wakefield at planning appeals and inquiries", said Simon, who previously held posts at Barnsley, Shropshire and Sheffield in the same field. He started off in private industry, moved to West Riding CC as a structural engineer before gaining experience in design and construction, including contract works for highways, drainage and sewerage work schemes, at Castleford, Barnsley, Crewe and Nantwich, and in Cheshire where, he started as a maintenance technician.

Commenting on his election, Simon said "I have always been outspoken in praise of the work and competence of incorporated engineers whom, I believe, are too often under appreciated by employers and our fellow professionals".

As an IHIE Council Member for eight years, Simon has focused on ensuring IEng interests are to the fore. He is involved with the Joint Board of Moderators, whose Audit Panel he chaired last year, and with the EC's Joint Accreditation Board which co-ordinates across all the institutions. This experience, he hopes, will help him to represent all the Institutions to whom he is responsible not just IHIE. He sees his and the EC's priorities for the immediate future as improving recognition of EngTech and IEng as important professional qualifications both in the academic and works areas, along with encouraging people involved in the industry to achieve a professional qualification. He hopes that the options for obtaining a professional qualification for those with many years experience in the industry will be widened and that adequate advice will be available to help engineers through the process.