

Warwickshire County Council win prestigious national award



Underpinning the national street infrastructure

Press release

Warwickshire County Council has won a prestigious national award in recognition of the improvements it has made to its Local Street Gazetteer part of a national initiative to improve the coordination of street works across the country. The 2008 Exemplar Award for the National Street Gazetteer (NSG) 'Most improved' recognises Warwickshire's progress in this area. The annual Exemplar Awards for Local Government are presented by the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) and Intelligent Addressing.

This year the NSG category was judged using the following criteria, the number of health check errors removed, which relates simply to data quality. The number of streets added, a simple measure of data completeness and real world activity, for example adding new roads. The number of special designations added i.e. additional data such as traffic sensitivity, engineering difficulty to help inform street works promoters. Finally the number of ESU (Elementary Street Unit) co-ordinates added, this refers to street geometry, which records the start and end point of each street and describes the twists and turns in between. It was decided that the number of health check errors removed should take precedence so the winner was the authority that had shown the greatest relative improvement.

John Hayes, Director at the Improvement and Development Agency, said as he presented the award "It is not easy to understand the intricacies of the NSG but essentially it is about building a dataset that facilitates the planning and coordination street works to improve the highway maintenance and minimise disruption. It is a complex business and vital to our transport infrastructure, so this award quite rightly recognises the continual effort to improve quality and I congratulate Warwickshire County Council for the progress it has made this year."

Graeme Fitton, Head of Transport and Highways at Warwickshire County Council, said "We have worked closely with our supplier to implement an integrated highways management system and this award reflects the hard work and positive outcome of the County Highways and IT staff involved"

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Notes to Editors:

Intelligent Addressing is a specialist private sector consultancy (an SME) employing recognised experts in addressing. It was originally set up to help develop the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) on behalf of local government and now manages the NLPG and NSG central data hubs under the terms of the Mapping Services Agreement (MSA) with local government.

NSG

Required under the New Roads and Street Works Act, the National Street Gazetteer (NSG) is a comprehensive list of over 1 million named and un-named streets, footpaths and thoroughfares, the definitive source for anyone with an interest in streets and their usage. There are over 300 organisations, utilities such as gas, water and electricity, BT, plus cable and communications companies, named as 'Statutory Undertakers' approved by the Department of Transport to download this data, which conforms to the BS7666 Standard. The NSG is a government initiative to create an unambiguous referencing system, using Unique Street Reference Numbers (USRNs) with which to identify any length of highway or road in England and Wales. Set up initially to improve highway maintenance, by the New Roads and Street Works Act, the NSG enables Utility companies and local councils to coordinate and know where and when to dig their holes. Under legislation each highway authority is required to create and maintain its own local street gazetteer (LSG) and additional street data (ASD), which is then compiled into one master index, the NSG, for access by others via the NSG online hub, managed by Intelligent Addressing.

The **Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA)** The IDeA works in partnership with all councils, to enhance the performance of the best, accelerate the speed of improvement of the rest, and develop the sector as a whole. IDeA has brokered the Mapping Services Agreement (MSA) with Intelligent Addressing to develop the NLPG and NSG, through the Local Government Information House (LGIH), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Agency.

Working in partnership with the local government community developing national infrastructure projects that enable councils to deliver local services more effectively, LGIH acts as an intermediary between the public and the private sector enabling it to negotiate with private companies on behalf of local authorities in order to provide key parts of a technical infrastructure for improved service delivery.

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