



HIGHWAY AUTHORITIES & UTILITIES COMMITTEE

**HAUC(UK) – "one voice delivering excellence in road and street works" Newsletter, February 2012 (no.10)**

**Introduction by HAUC(UK) Joint Chairs Jerry McConkey and Mark Ostheimer**

Welcome to the tenth HAUC(UK) Newsletter, and the first of 2012, designed to provide a news update to members.

2012 is set to be a busy year for industry, and as you can see from this newsletter we've already hit the ground running. **The UK Government** has not let us rest one bit, with a number of policy developments within the first month on lane rental and devolvement of approval powers for permits, as well as their Red Tape Challenge consultation response. HAUC(UK) has also been busy organising a national conference and of course there's the 'O' word!...Yes, unless you've been hiding under a rock since 2005, you can't have failed to have noticed that the Olympics are finally upon us. The sector has worked tirelessly through the Clearway 2012 initiative, led by Transport for London, to ensure that road and street works are planned and coordinated to support a successful Games.

In **Wales**, the Welsh Government is developing a Street Works Strategy. The permit scheme regulations are active and should an application be received they will work with the Authority in developing the scheme and possibly formulate a common scheme for consistency. In **Scotland**, as part of the National Road Maintenance Review, the Scottish Government is looking at next steps, following the publication of the Phase 2 Report: <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/strategyandresearch/publications-and-consultations/j203384-00.htm> and is soon to publish the long-awaited Scott-Wilson report on Long-Term Damage.

So with so much still to do, we look forward to your support to ensure that utilities and local authorities continue to work together effectively and with the UK and Devolved Governments on the challenges that lie ahead.

**DfT Update**

Following the DfT's **lane rental** consultation last year, they have now invited local authorities to apply to operate lane rental schemes. Under the arrangements of the trial, up to 3 local authorities can apply, with TfL expected to be the first. TfL hope to run a shadow scheme from 1<sup>st</sup> April and for their scheme to be fully in place by 11<sup>th</sup> June, subject to DfT approval. Transitional arrangements have been developed and will be provided by TfL in due course.

The DfT has also launched its **Consultation on proposals to devolve the approval powers for Permit**

**Schemes to local authorities from the Secretary of State.** HAUC(UK) has written to the Minister and met with him, expressing its united opposition to these proposals. We will therefore be issuing a joint HAUC(UK) response to the consultation along with separate NJUG and JAG(UK) ones, to emphasise unity on the issue. It is vital that authorities and utility companies also respond individually by the DfT's deadline of **25<sup>th</sup> April 2012.**

The Government's response to the DfT Red Tape Challenge has been published. It confirmed that local authorities' statutory **Network Management Duty** will remain in force. It also reiterated the Government's intention to increase **S74 Overstay Charges** and highlighted that it is minded to revoke the **Training and Accreditation** regulations which they intend to consult on. HAUC(UK) is concerned about the implications in particular of losing the 5 year mandatory reassessment of operatives and issued a press statement to this effect. We will of course be responding to the consultation when it is published. **We urge colleagues with concerns about the reassessment process to let us know and we can recommend ways of resolving them, rather than removing the Regulations altogether.**

On other matters the **Safety Code of Practice** is nearing completion, but the Government has confirmed it intends to revoke the **Records Regulations**, preferring to leave it to industry to resolve (see below). Another consultation to be noted is the **'Traffic Orders: Simplifying the Process' consultation** which has a deadline of **23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012.**

Finally, we reluctantly bid farewell to Alanna Barber, who will be moving to new pastures within the DfT in April. On behalf of HAUC(UK) we would like to express our thanks to Alanna for all her hard work and wish her all the best in her new role. She will certainly be missed, but we nevertheless look forward to working with her replacement and continuing our constructive working relationship with the rest of the DfT Street Works team.

**Performance Scorecard**

In the last newsletter we informed you of the launch of the Performance Scorecard, which will be essential in supporting self-regulation and good practice. The measures are simply a summary of statistical information relating to both utility and highway authority works, currently held in local authority EToN software systems. These measures will also be helpful to both Government and HAUC(UK) to ensure that any decisions regarding new legislation or regulations are based on factual information.

**It is therefore vital that all local authorities submit the data that was requested (utilities do not need to submit data as it is already contained within highway authority systems).** More information about the data required can be found on the previous newsletter: [http://www.hauc-uk.org.uk/uploads/1111\\_HAUC%20Newsletter%20-%20November%202011.PDF](http://www.hauc-uk.org.uk/uploads/1111_HAUC%20Newsletter%20-%20November%202011.PDF)

**Data should be submitted to [Stephen.Reynolds@df.tgsi.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.Reynolds@df.tgsi.gov.uk)**

If you have any queries please contact the HAUC(UK) Performance Working Group Chairs Phil Cameron ([Philip.Cameron@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Philip.Cameron@gloucestershire.gov.uk)) and Anita Solanki ([anita.solanki@severntrent.co.uk](mailto:anita.solanki@severntrent.co.uk)).

## HAUC(UK) Code of Conduct

### Has your authority / company signed on to the HAUC(UK) Code of Conduct yet?

A number of organisations have already signed up – please check the HAUC(UK) website for a list of who has signed up so far and details about how to sign up if you haven't already done so: <http://www.hauc-uk.org.uk/category/26/pageid/110/>.

## Events 2012

### National Conference

HAUC(UK) is delighted to announce that we will be holding a national conference in autumn which will be **FREE** for delegates to attend. We will in due course be sending out further details, so watch this space.

### Regional events

The dates of this year's regional events are as follows:

- 3 HAUCs Roadshow – 28<sup>th</sup> June
- North Wales HAUC – 10<sup>th</sup> July
- West Midlands HAUC – 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> September
- South East HAUC training day on safety – date tbc

## NUAG

On 1 December 2011, the **National Underground Assets Group** launched the **NUAG National Records Service London Project** as the first stage of its national implementation of the exchange of records. The NRS service will enable, through a single enquiry website, the exchange of underground and above ground records between asset owners, such as utilities and highway authorities. NUAG NRS Ltd.'s first newsletter can be found at:

<http://www.nuag.co.uk/Content/NUAG%20Newsletter%20Jan%202012.pdf>

If you would like to receive future NUAG NRS Ltd newsletters please contact [admin@nuag.co.uk](mailto:admin@nuag.co.uk)

## Olympics / Paralympics

Further updates have been made available of the Olympic Road Network and Sensitive Roads in London on which works will be embargoed in the run up to and during the Games. The information is also now available on the National Street Gazetteer (NSG).

A comprehensive communications plan targeting a wide range of potential customers who might want utility connections, has taken place, with work ongoing. For further information contact Clearway 2012 Project Manager, TfL's Marian Coombs at [marian.coombs@tfl.gov.uk](mailto:marian.coombs@tfl.gov.uk).

## NSG Update

The NSG Data Entry Conventions are currently being revised to look at ASD; Interest records, boundary data, Reinstatements and Public Rights of Way (PROW). This will result in the release of a new Data Transfer Format (DTF). The new NSG DTF is due for implementation in October 2012. More detail will be made available shortly.

## South West HAUC Reinstatement Best Practice

Having completed the reinstatement best practice DVD which is available via the South West HAUC website ([www.swhauc.org.uk](http://www.swhauc.org.uk)), the South West Best Practice group are in the final stages of completing a range of standard presentations which can be used to support the roll out of the DVD. On completion, these will also be made available to the wider street works community via the SWHAUC and HAUC(UK) websites in early March.

## HAUC(UK) Communications

At HAUC(UK) we are continually striving to improve our communication with industry – if you have any suggestions please inform the HAUC(UK) Secretariat. **However a reminder also that we do need your assistance in ensuring we're able to communicate as widely as possible, therefore please do circulate this newsletter to other colleagues within your organisations and industry more widely.**

## Personnel Notices

We're sad to inform you that Steve Hennah, formerly utility-side HAUC(UK) Inspections Working Group and Welsh HAUC Chair, is currently recovering from a heart attack. We are however told that he is on the mend, and expect he'll be back on the golf course soon. On behalf of HAUC(UK) we wish him a speedy recovery.

Recent personnel changes include:

- Ann Griffiths has taken over as Yorkshire HAUC utility-side Chair from Barry Spencer.
- Paul Evans has taken over from Stephen Gibbons as Yorkshire HAUC highway-side Chair.
- Samantha Brothwell has replaced Chris Nesbitt as utility-side Chair of East Midlands HAUC.
- Tim Holland has replaced Christopher Plumb as the Highway Agency's representative.

## HAUC(UK) Meeting Dates

**30th May 2012** Venue tbc  
**17th October 2012** LGA

## Contact HAUC(UK)

To contact HAUC(UK), give feedback on this newsletter, publicise a related event or personnel change, or to table an item for the agenda of the next meeting, please email the Joint Secretariat at [manager@jaguk.org](mailto:manager@jaguk.org) and [info@njug.org.uk](mailto:info@njug.org.uk).