

# **NATIONAL STREET WORKS HIGHWAYS GROUP**

## **Notes of the meeting held on 18 April 2007 at the offices of TfL, Holden Room, Broadway, London.**

The notes are recorded in Agenda order.

### **Present:** Representing the highways group of:-

Peter Goode [Chair]	Chair
Bob Bayley [Vice Chairman]	Transport for London
Graham Eaton [Secretary]	NSWHG
Roger Culpin	North of England HAUC & Inspections Chair
Frank O'Dwyer	Yorkshire HAUC
Les Clarke	East Midlands HAUC
Steve Grant	West Midlands HAUC
Philip Cameron	South West HAUC
Gary Quinn	Dept. for Regional Develop't [NI]
David Baker	Diversionary Chair
Kevin Fuller	Specification Chair
Robert Hudleston	Training, Chap 8, Road Workers Safety Forum
Neil Ainsworth	Policy Sub-Group
Jerry McConkey	Records & FPN Chair
Michael White	North West HAUC
Davy Crockett	Network Rail
Roger Williams	South East HAUC Chair
Steve Barriff	London HAUC
Marc Owen	Welsh HAUC
Neil Besley	CSS Bridges Group
Ellen Duffy	DfT

### **1. Apologies / Non Attendance:**

Chris Tunstall	Highways Joint Chair of HAUC(UK)
Nick Morris	TfL
Martin Hobbs	Highways Agency
Dave Capon	Anglian HAUC & Notices Chair
Bill Barker	Scottish RAUC
Richard Coombes	Inspection Fees Chair
Bill Corlett	Isle of Man

### **2. Notes of Meeting of 31 January 2007.**

**07.28** The notes were approved as a correct record.

### **3. Matters Arising.**

**07.29** 07.02 **BT Specification, s81 and s83.**

Peter Goode reported that it is apparent that the latest version of the Specification being used by Openreach is two versions newer than the one last considered by the group.

Following discussion it was agreed that Marc Owen's paper, modified to read as referring only to generic companies, should go to HAUC(UK) seeking a way forward probably by referring the issues to a working group. Bob Bayley has referred the paper to TfL Legal seeking their views and is awaiting their response.

As there is no current Highway Agency representation the work being done by the HA on agreeing a procedure is unknown.

**ACTION:**

- 1. Peter Goode to take the s81 /83 paper to the next HAUC(UK) meeting to seek an agreed way forward.**
- 2. Bob Bayley to report on TfL Legal's views.**
- 3. Chris Tunstall to seek HA representation on NSWHG.**

**07.30** 07.03 **Traffic Signal Form**

Bob Bayley has circulated a note on the TfL procedure.

**07.31** 07.05 **Review of Chapter 8.**

Robert Hudleston reported. The Chapter 8 project board is to be reconvened in October 2007 to commence the review. Robert thanked members for their comments and requested that any more should be sent to him so that they can be included in the review.

**ACTION:**

- 1. Robert Hudleston to keep the group informed.**
- 2. All to forward any Chapter 8 issues to Robert Hudleston.**

**07.32** 07.06 **ATM Kiosks.**

Peter Goode reported that he had forwarded all related correspondence and reports to the DfT following their recent request in order that they may respond.

**ACTION:**

- 1. DfT to respond.**

**07.33** 07.07 **High Speed Roads.**

Robert Hudleston reported that he was still trying to secure a definition of a High Speed Road. Robert is also the group's representative for the production of

guidance for high speed and low speed safety issues.

**ACTION:**

1. **Robert Hudleston to secure the definition of a High Speed Road.**
2. **Robert Hudleston to keep the group informed on the way forward in producing the guidance.**

**07.34** 07.10

**NSWHG – Post TMA.**

Graham Eaton thanked everyone for their contributions to the funding of the post and reported that outstanding invoices are being followed up by regional representatives.

**ACTION:**

1. **Regional representatives to follow up outstanding payments.**

**07.35** 07.11

**Policy & Research Sub-Group.**

Bob Bayley reported to the group that in view of his workload he was seeking to resign from his role of Chair to the group although he would wish to remain on the group. Neil Ainsworth was asked to organise the next meeting at which the new Chair would be appointed.

**ACTION:**

1. **Neil Ainsworth to reconvene the sub-group.**
2. **Frank O’Dwyer to investigate the formation of a NSWHG website within the Policy & Research sub-group.**

**07.36** 07.12

**Highways Agency Trenchless Technology Project.**

Steve Grant reported that the project is complete and he will let Graham have a copy of the final report for circulation.

**ACTION:**

1. **Steve Grant to let Graham Eaton have a copy of the final report for circulation.**

**07.37** 07.13

**NSG.**

Bob Bayley has investigated why some data capture codes had been changed. The reasons for the changes are unknown and Ellen Duffy agreed to investigate and report.

**ACTION:**

1. **Ellen Duffy to investigate the apparent changes to the data capture codes.**

**07.38** 07.16

**NUAG, Vista & Mapping The Underworld Projects.**

Frank O’Dwyer reported:

- The Mapping The Underworld project is progressing and there was a project seminar held on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

- The Vista project is also progressing.
- The NUAG project is also progressing.

Kevin Fuller reported that his highway maintenance contractor was requiring a higher level of plant enquiries than previously - an estimated 10-fold increase. There was discussion on producing a means of identifying apparatus owners in the short term rather than waiting until the revised Records Code is implemented. Peter Goode has been considering a solution using ELGIN. Bob Bayley suggested using a modified ASD Type 23 record for placing an interest in a street by a utility. Bob to produce a note to accompany a note from Kevin Fuller and the matter to be raised at HAUC(UK) meeting.

**ACTION:**

1. **Frank O'Dwyer to keep the group informed.**
2. **Bob Bayley and Kevin Fuller to produce a note for the HAUC(UK) meeting.**

**07.39 07.18 S81 Proposals by Openreach.**

There was a need for a standard s81 protocol in order to move forward in advance of the Records code being revised – see also 07.29. The approach of Openreach was thought to be a good starter if others would adopt it but this was thought unlikely. A paper is to be produced to go to the next HAUC(UK) meeting.

**ACTION:**

1. **Marc Owen and Peter Goode to produce paper for HAUC(UK) meeting.**
2. **All to forward local agreements/procedures to Marc Owen.**

**07.40 07.19 S50 and Drain Connections.**

Peter Goode advised the group that he has produced a paper to obtain independent legal via the Highway Agency, unfortunately Martin Hobbs has now moved on and currently there is no HA representative. Chris Tunstall is to speak to Derek Turner to try to resolve the matter. Peter will respond to Drainology on the basis that each authority is likely to use differing methods of dealing with the matter because of their legal advice.

**ACTION:**

1. **Chris Tunstall to speak to Highway Agency regarding their representation on the group.**
2. **Peter Goode to respond to Drainology.**

**4.  
07.41**

**S50 and Fulcrum Connections.**

It was agreed that S50 had not been written with utility deregulation in mind. It was also reported that Fulcrum has applied to the DTI for a Gas Transporter Licence and agreed that this was a matter for the relevant government department to resolve. In the meantime, authorities are likely to continue to apply S50. It was agreed that the matter is to be left in abeyance.

5.  
07.42

**HAUC(UK) Working Group Reports:**

- **Training and Accreditation** – Robert Hudleston spoke to his report regarding CSCS affiliation; the difficulties regarding being able to have separate modules for setting out S, L and G and the progress on re-registration.
- **Diversions Works** – David Baker reported that the working group was still effectively in limbo awaiting a response from the DfT.
- **Specification** – Kevin Fuller reported and spoke to his report. There are a number of items that are still being considered by the working group where no agreements had yet been reached. These include:
  - ARMs – simplifying the approval process.
  - CSS Compliance testing report is being looked at to see how its recommendations may be incorporated.
  - Maintenance standards in very high amenity areas involving tighter tolerances.
  - Guarantee period.
  - Encouraging the use of sustainable materials and processes.
  - Compaction using single drum roller – considering a move to end performance specification on narrow trenches.
  - Incorporating cut back.
  - SMA – incorporating the previous guidance notes.

6.  
07.43

**HAUC(UK) Priorities.**

Graham Eaton reported. HAUC(UK) were required to examine their priority list in conjunction with the DfT. Following input from both the highway-side and NJUG Graham produced a compromise list. A revised Safety code is the number one new start followed by revising the Records code. Both are safety related in line with HAUC(UK) previous statements as to their priority. The list is to go to the next HAUC(UK) meeting for endorsement and then to be passed to the DfT for their comments. The revised list was accepted.

7.  
07.44

**Traffic Management Act.**

Ellen Duffy reported.

- NMD – intervention criteria now implemented from March 2007.
- Due to slippage in the timetable for implementation, this is now being revised and agreement from ministers being sought.
- New consultant appointed – Halcrow.
- Good Practice Guide will be available to delegates at conference.
- Notices – progressing but detail proving difficult to finalise. Now looking to publish in May/June 2007.
- New s74 procedure will require a short consultation.
- Permits – aiming to lay before the summer recess for parliament.
- Inspections code – looking to consult in late 2007. Roger Culpin reported

that the likely changes include inspection units based on duration and an increase in the number of types of inspection. The inspection Fees working group are looking for an additional member. Any volunteers to be advised to Graham Eaton and Richard Coombes. Roger requested information of authorities that use contractors/agents to undertake inspections. The DfT are to consider using Halcrow to collect data to be used in producing the new fees.

- KPIs – the production is progressing and volunteer authorities to test the KPIs are being sought.

**ACTION:**

1. All to consider an additional member of the Fees working group.
2. All to advise Roger Culpin if contractors/agents are used to undertake inspections.
3. DfT to consider using Halcrow for data collection for new fees.
4. KPIs – volunteer authorities are sought.

8.  
07.45

**East Sussex CC/ EDF Partnership.**

Roger Williams spoke to his report. East Sussex is looking to put in place an incentive system aimed at encouraging EDF to improve their performance. It was agreed that the objective was laudable but there are some concerns over the actual process.

**ACTION:**

1. Roger Williams to keep the group advised.

9.  
07.46

**Local Initiative Reports:**

**Wales** – no report.

**Scotland** – report noted.

**Northern Ireland** – report noted.

10.  
07.47

**NSWHG Ltd.**

Graham Eaton reported on the level of finances.

11.  
07.48

**AOB.**

**Diversionary works** – Neil Besley asked about who is responsible for claims under the code. Members provided an answer.

12.  
07.49

**Date of Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> June at Durham – details to follow.**