

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

Welcome to the fourth HAUC(UK) Newsletter, designed to provide a news update to members.

The **2010 HAUC Surveyor Conference** – HSC10 – is now only a matter of weeks away, continuing to maintain its annual position in the road and street works calendar. It represents an essential forum for discussing issues affecting utilities, local authorities, and contractors, being the only UK-wide event that brings together delegates from all levels. It offers a key opportunity to network with stakeholders from across all four nations of the UK, and to share instances of good practice amongst the community, for the benefit of all involved. Such efforts help to publicise the work the industry is undertaking to increase the safety and quality of works. The theme of this year's conference is "Our Changing World" and in addition to a strong focus on **innovation**, the key subjects will be:

Inspections – looking at the changes that have been made to the new inspections code and fees;

Safety – analysing how the new safety code will affect street and now road works;

Finance and Funding – the economic realities facing the industry and potential funding cuts;

Long term damage & reinstatements – analysing the impact of the new reinstatements code; and

Permits – the future direction of permit schemes, using Kent as a case study.

The benefit of the event is tied to the value brought by those attending. As a result, we strongly encourage you to secure your place if you have not done so already.

This edition includes an update on the last HAUC(UK) meeting, and details of personnel changes and upcoming events. The HAUC(UK) newsletters are added to the HAUC(UK) website www.hauc-uk.org.uk for easy access.

Forthcoming events

As detailed above, **HSC10** is taking place in Cardiff on 12 and 13 May. For details / to book, visit: <http://www.surveyorevents.com/hsc10/>

Other 2010 HAUC events include:

- North Wales HAUC, 17 June, Bangor-on-Dee Racecourse, Wrexham
- 3HAUC's road show - YHAUC, NWHAUC and NEHAUC, 8 July 2010, Wetherby Racecourse
- South East HAUC, 14 July 2010, Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey
- West Midlands HAUC, 14 & 15 September Staffordshire Show Ground

Do visit our joint HAUC(UK) stand to pick up the new HAUC(UK) Vision Leaflet and goodies, and hear about our plans for the future.

Utility Connections 2010 will be taking place at the Heritage Motor Centre in Gaydon, Warwickshire on 19th May 2010. This one day seminar focuses on sharing information, ideas and new technology from companies with an interest in utility connections, in order to address cross sector issues relating to the improvement of connection services. Further details can be found at: http://www.sbgj.org.uk/events/utility_connections2010

HAUC(UK) meeting – 21st April 2010

HAUC(UK) met for its second quarterly meeting of 2010 on 21st April, commencing with an informative update delivered by Baz Lokat from **Intelligent Addressing (IA)** on the work of the National Street Gazetteer (NSG). Following an invitation from HAUC(UK), IA have agreed to participate in the **new NSG Working Group** to ensure the group can effectively address the issues of the road and street works community.

Work will soon commence to pull together the requirements for ETON 6 and it was unanimously agreed that lessons needed to be learnt from the ETOn4 switchover. ETON 6 will include amendments to improve the new permit systems, accommodate new inspections regimes, and allow consistent reporting of performance indicators. As a result, **the formation of a new dedicated HAUC(UK) working group was approved to deal with these changes**. The ETOn Developers Group will also be invited to support the group's work and to share their expertise. This will also ensure open communications are maintained with the commercial product developers.

The impact of the **Olympics** both inside and outside London was also a major theme of the meeting, with an informative update delivered by Jane Smith, NJUG's representative on the Clearway 2012 Communications Group. In particular, Jane highlighted the details of the communications strategy being put in place to make consumers aware of the embargo on customer connections in the run-up to and during the Games. If you have any queries specific to the Clearway 2012 project, please contact Jane at jane@njug.org.uk.

Finally, **performance measures** were once again the topic of much discussion, and the progress which is required to establish a set of agreed indicators. This follows on from the HAUC(UK) Advice note on Performance Management Process published last year. Five key areas have been identified:

- Occupation
- Co-ordination
- Quality

- Safety
- Information

General Election 2010 – Manifestos

On the 12th, 13th and 14th April, the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrats all published their manifestos respectively. These can be found via the below links:

<http://www2.labour.org.uk/manifesto-splash>
<http://www.conservatives.com/Policy/Manifesto.aspx>
http://www.libdems.org.uk/our_manifesto.aspx

Road and street works were referenced in both the Labour and Conservative manifestos, with the former stating that tackling road congestion was a “*key Labour priority*”. In addition, Labour state that their “*focus for the stimulus is strategic investment, putting in place the new digital, transport and energy infrastructures that will support the return to sustainable growth.*” Within the Tory manifesto, David Cameron’s party commit to giving Councils “*more powers to get traffic flowing more*”.

HAUC(UK) Advice Notes

HAUC(UK) are currently consulting on a new **Diversions Works** Advice Note. To view the draft and to submit comments, please contact Dave Capon at manager@jaguk.org. The deadline for responses back to Dave is 7th May 2010.

HAUC(UK) are also consulting on a draft Advice Note on **s58** of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991. To view the draft and to submit comments, please contact Tom Coales at thomas@njug.org.uk. The deadline for responses back to Tom is 21st May 2010.

In regard to other forthcoming Advice Notes, topics currently being scoped include **slot cutting** and **foam concrete**.

Government Consultations

The Department for Transport currently has three consultations out for comment, on increasing **s74 overrun charges**, and the revised **safety** and **inspections** codes of practice. Further information on these can be found at:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/2010-15/>
<http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/2010-013/>
<http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/2010-12/>

Other updates

Jacobs has launched a new version of its **road works information website**. The new design aims to be simpler, easier to use and more accessible.
www.elgin.gov.uk

HAUC(UK) is always looking for new **volunteers**, willing to share their road and street works expertise and get involved in working groups. If you are interested in being considered for any future vacancies on working groups, please contact the joint secretariat at manager@jaguk.org and info@njug.org.uk.

The HAUC(UK) **Good Practice Working Group** is continuing to develop and move its work forward. A strategy has been devised and the Group will be holding its first meeting shortly. If you have any examples of good practice you would like to put forward to the Group for consideration and publicising / sharing, please contact the Joint Chairs Barry Spencer (barry.spencer@yorkshirewater.co.uk) and Michael White (Michael.White@lancashire.gov.uk). In addition, the HAUC(UK) website will shortly be updated to include a dedicated page on good practice, to help spread knowledge of the many efforts already underway around the UK.

A series of **training sessions focussing on Noticing administration and improving coordination** are underway throughout the South East of England. They are covering issues such as who should be doing what, when and why, as well as tackling issues around compliance with the Code of Practice. The target audience are those staff involved in processing Notices and planning works on the highway. The events are open to anyone and next available dates are 20th May (Maidstone), 1st June (possibly Surrey) and 23rd June (confirmed Surrey). If you would like further information, please contact the Joint Chairs of SEHAUC, Robert Hudleston (robert.hudleston@surreycc.gov.uk) and Bob Beaney (robert.beaney@openreach.co.uk).

Personnel Notices

HAUC(UK) is sorry to be losing a number of influential members. This includes **Kevin Fuller**, who will shortly be retiring from Hampshire County Council and to whom the Committee wishes a well deserved rest following his efforts towards delivering the recently published new SROH Code of Practice.

We also would like to wish **John Clark** well in his new position at Scottish and Southern Energy. John will be missed for his instrumental efforts on the Records Working Group and will be sincerely missed by the street works community. And finally we wish **Robert Harrison** well in his new venture at the Highways Agency, and welcome his replacement on HAUC(UK), **Russell Thomson**.

We also welcome new representatives from Transport for London **Mark Beasley** and **Gerrard O’Toole**, and are pleased to understand that progress is now well underway to appoint two new road / street works representatives for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Dr Gary Curran of Northern Ireland Water has taken over from **Ray Cummins** as the utility joint chair of NIRAUC. We welcome Gary to HAUC(UK) whilst thanking Ray for his positive contribution over the last few years.

Contact HAUC(UK)

To contact HAUC(UK) or publicise a related event or personnel changes, please email the Joint Secretariat at manager@jaguk.org and info@njug.org.uk.

For Advice Notes / newsletters etc, please visit www.hauc-uk.org.uk.