



HIGHWAY AUTHORITIES & UTILITIES COMMITTEE

HAUC(UK) – "one voice delivering excellence in road and street works" Newsletter, October 2012 (no.12)

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

Welcome to the twelfth HAUC(UK) Newsletter, and the last of 2012, providing a news update to members.

As we look back on the year, HAUC(UK) can be proud of a number of things we have achieved together. Most recently of course the HAUC(UK) National Conference. For the first time, we delivered a one day conference that was free for delegates to attend. Feedback on the day was extremely positive and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved with organising this event.

However, as with everything, we can always improve. We would therefore appreciate your constructive comments and feedback as to what you think went well and what can perhaps be done better / differently next time. Please send your comments to the joint HAUC(UK) Secretariat: info@njug.org.uk and manager@jaguk.org.uk.

Many thanks in advance.

DfT Update

Permits – The Government has announced that, in the context of roll-out of superfast broadband, it has decided not to devolve approval powers for permits before 2015. There will also be a review of existing schemes to consider how they can be streamlined. However the DfT stressed they remain committed to permits but will be working with HAUC(UK) on future schemes.

Lane rental – The DfT reiterated that they would be trialling a maximum of 3 schemes. The TfL scheme commenced in June 2012 and Kent County Council has recently submitted its application, which if approved is expected to commence shadow operation in February 2013 and come into effect fully in May 2013.

Training and Accreditation – The consultation has now closed and DfT is analysing the results. They are not expecting to make an announcement until February 2013 at the earliest.

EToN 6 – Government is to undertake a further short consultation imminently, and has therefore confirmed that implementation will not now take place in April 2013.

S74 Overstay charges – The increase in charges came into effect from 1st October.

Performance scorecard

49 submissions have been received. Highways who submit details will get own scorecard to show performance of all works promoters in their area.

Safety CoP

Draft completed, subject to ministerial approval for England. CoP expected to be published 1st April 2013 with possible implementation in October 2013.

Avoiding Strikes on Utility Apparatus

David Burgess of the **Utility Strike Avoidance Group** gave a useful presentation to HAUC(UK) on the **USAG Charter**.

The Charter and associated toolkit has been developed to help change the way we all work around utilities' underground apparatus to avoid third party damage, and reduce injuries to workers / the public. The Charter works regardless of the size of the organisation and the toolkit has been designed to give simple tools for all to use.

The charter includes the following principles:

We will:

- 1) Ensure that all work carried out by us or on our behalf is properly planned and that those responsible are aware of their responsibilities and how to carry them out.
- 2) Ensure that all people working on our behalf are assessed to ensure they are competent and capable of carrying out the task given to them and that at least one person in each work team is competent in the use of cable detection equipment to its full potential.
- 3) Ensure that excavations, including those undertaken by anyone excavating on our behalf, are carried out in accordance with safe systems of work, company or USAG procedures.
- 4) Ensure that the equipment provided for the detection and avoidance of services is inspected, calibrated and tested in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements and that records are kept, including a daily check to ensure that the equipment continues to operate as expected.
- 5) Ensure that all those working, including those on our behalf use the correct protective equipment and are trained in its use.
- 6) Ensure that relevant latest utility asset drawings are available to people excavating, that our work is inspected and audited and that failure to achieve the expected standards is recorded.
- 7) Ensure that where damage to utility assets occur, a suitable and sufficient investigation takes place, that learning is shared and that action is taken to reduce the risks to those carrying out the work

The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Further information can be found on the USAG website [here](#) and we urge you all to sign up to the Charter / apply its principles.

Additionally, **UKOPA have produced a DVD on Safety and Strikes around Pipelines** – the DVD can be found

at [here](#) and we ask that you highlight it to colleagues and place it on Regional HAUC websites please.

NSG Update

In March this year GeoPlace circulated a survey seeking input into the initial exploration of how street data may be improved, so that users can make better use and get better value from street datasets in the future. The resulting report has now been published and can be found [here](http://www.thensg.org.uk/iansg/document.htm?targ=1076): <http://www.thensg.org.uk/iansg/document.htm?targ=1076>

The report concludes with a series of proposals and next steps. To continue this explorative stage, **they are inviting you, along with others who have an interest in this area to join a special "Street Data" discussion Group on the Knowledge Hub.**

The purpose of this group is to explore with likeminded individuals the various points raised by the report. A series of questions have been posted for further debate and this whole area is still subject to further discussion and debate, not least from a licencing point of view. Nevertheless we feel it is valuable to continue the discussion and would very much welcome your input.

The Knowledge Hub group can be found here: <https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk/group/streetsdatadiscussiongroup> but you will need to register with the platform if you haven't done so already.

Business Plan Feedback

The HAUC(UK) Strategy Group will be reviewing the HAUC(UK) Business Plan to update and revamp it. **If you have any thoughts about HAUC(UK)'s priorities please email jane@njug.org.uk and manager@jaguk.org.uk by 9th November.**

Best Practice

As always, HAUC(UK) is looking for best practice case studies which can be disseminated more widely within the utility sector and amongst local authorities for all to learn from. We know there are many, many, many examples of great work happening all over the country which can be shared.

A HAUC(UK) case study template has already been circulated within the HAUC(UK) community and an example of a case study can be viewed [here](#). If you have an example of best practice to share (we know you do) please complete this document and send to info@njug.org.uk and manager@jaguk.org.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/>.

Jerry McConkey, Joint Chair of HAUC(UK) has re-launched the Highways side push for sign up to the Code of Conduct by getting his own authority, Sefton Council, to sign up to the code. JAG(UK) will over the coming weeks be promoting sign up through regional and local contacts.

Events

2012

20th November – NJUG Awards (House of Commons)

29th November – NJUG North-West Regional Forum (Manchester).

If you wish to attend either event please email info@njug.org.uk

2013

3 HAUCS Roadshow – 13 June in Harrogate – Please note new venue

West Midlands Roadshow – 10 & 11 September

North Wales Roadshow – date TBA

HAUC(UK) National Conference – date and venue TBA

Personnel Notices

At the last HAUC(UK) meeting, John Gooday (Scottish Road Works Commissioner) insisted it really was his last meeting this time and that he would be retiring at the end of the year. HAUC(UK) would like to express their thanks for his commitment to improving works in Scotland and his invaluable assistance to HAUC(UK) over the years. The next Commissioner certainly has big shoes to fill... and we look forward to working closely with him / her when appointed.

Other personnel changes:

- Paul Castleman has replaced Wayne Scott as the local authority side chair of the Coordination Group.
- Dave Patrick has replaced Ian Darbyshire as utility side NEHAUC Chair.

Jerry and Mark wish to sincerely thank Salma Islam who is leaving NJUG, for her commitment and contribution to HAUC(UK) over the years and wish her well for her travel plans in 2013.

Thanks also to James Foster who leaves NJUG in November.

HAUC(UK) Meeting Dates

2013 - 5th February, 12th June and 1st October

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 and info@njug.org.uk.