

ADEPT

[Association of Directors of Environment, Economy Planning and Transport]
NORTHERN COUNTIES SOILS & MATERIALS GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held at 09:15 on Wednesday 11th September 2019
Gwynedd Council, Nanhoron Arms Hotel, St David's Road, Nefyn North Wales
LL53 6EA

MINUTES OF MEETING

Venue: Nanhoron Arms Hotel, St David's Road, Nefyn	Date of Meeting: 11 th September 2019	Time: 09:15
Those Present:		
Steve Betteridge(SB)	Lincolnshire County Council [Chairman]	
Geoff Lester (GL)	Transport Northern Ireland	
Jackie Hutchinson (JH)	Middlesbrough Council	
Phil Johnson (PJ)	Gwynedd Council	
Keith Field (KF)	Cumbria County Council	
Tony Sewell (TS)	Institute of Asphalt Technology	
Ian Hutchinson [IH]	Transport Northern Ireland	
Chris Neal [CN]	Lincolnshire County Council	
Apologies from:		
Samantha Wells (SW)	Lincolnshire County Council	
Bill Larnar (BL)	Local Government Technical Partnership of Urban Vision [Northern] & Liverpool City Region (Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton, Wirral, Knowsley Halton and Warrington)	
Emma Loach (EL)	Staffordshire County Council	
Pat Hough (PH)	Derbyshire County Council [Retired]	
Steve Isaacs	Derbyshire County Council	
Alan Menezes	Sheffield City Council	

Item		Action
19/12	Welcome	
	Steve Betteridge welcomed everybody to the meeting and Nanhoron Arms Hotel Nefyn. The group thanked Phil Johnson for organising the accommodation and venue for Tuesday and meeting facilities for Wednesday. Each member of the group then introduced themselves with a little of their background.	
	SB informed the group of his intention to retire in 2020 but hopes to continue to attend these meetings during 2020, however the group would need to consider nominating someone to chair the meeting beyond 2020. Sam Wells and Chris Neal will continue to represent Lincolnshire CC in the future.	All

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	<p>Both Phil Johnson and Geoff Lester also announced their intention to retire during 2020. Ian Hutchinson will continue to represent Transport Northern Ireland in the future. Phil hopes to continue attending these meeting during 2020.</p>	
19/13	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting on 20th March 2019 at North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall Northallerton – Accuracy.</p>	
	<p>The minutes of the meeting of the 20th March 2019 were accepted as correct.</p>	
19/14	<p>Reports from Members serving on:-</p>	
	<p>1) Soils and Materials, Design and Specification Group [SMDS] Meeting 31st July 2019 The meeting was held at Transport for London's offices in Blackfriars. SMDS draws its members from a wide range of interest in civil engineering and transport with representative' s from Highway Authorities, Highways England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Consultants.</p>	
	<p>The Chairman Stephen Child [SC] and Secretary Steve Betteridge [SB] both announced their intention to retire from SMDS during 2020 and the group will need to find replacements for these roles. Ian Walsh [IW] also informed the group that he was considering retiring from SMDS during 2020.</p>	
	<p>Date of the next SMDS Meeting – 3rd March 2020 venue unconfirmed but likely to be TfL London</p>	
	<p>1a) <u>ADEPT SMDS Guidance Notes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance notes:- Managing Reclaimed Asphalt:- There was a discussion on Andy Simms article regarding the cost benefits of foam mixing to class B3 and B4; calculations showed B4 came out on top when compared to conventional asphalt or B3 materials. However the B3 had the potential to re-use more of the tar bound materials which is a growing issue. Some of the group reported success with a 'Re-tread' type of shallow in-situ recycling process but found that additional material of 25 to 50mm to get extra depth improved performance where existing pavements are very thin. Caution is needed to avoid a sandwich of unbound material being created between bound layers with the risk of creating an unstable moisture susceptible granular layer resulting in swift deterioration of the pavement. The ADEPT web-site continues to be challenging to use therefore any updated guidance notes will be circulated via the Northern and Southern materials groups and SMDS [Circulated on 19th September – NCSMEG 48/19]. General request for ideas for topics for future guidance notes 	<p>All</p>

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	Following the death of Chris Summer the Idiots Guide to Highway Maintenance as not been up dated. SC is to make enquires to see if Adept can take the web-site on. ADEPT/BHS update of 'Horses and Highway Surfacing' document – There has been no case put forward to revise this document.	
	TS reported that Bob Noakes presented at the IAT on 'Horsefalt' and the project at Newmarket, the presentation is available on the IAT web-site and TS will circulate the presentation to the group.	TS
1b)	ADEPT Research Projects	
	ADEPT is currently running the 'Live Labs' projects being delivered by:- Buckinghamshire County Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Cumbria County Council, Reading Borough Council, Suffolk County Council, alongside joint entries by Solihull Council and Birmingham City Council and Kent and Staffordshire County Councils.	
	KF reported that; Cumbria County Council's project team is investigating using plastic additives in asphalt materials. Currently the project team are identifying potential schemes and developing robust treatment plans based on experience with using these products.	
	Interest in 'Plastic Roads' as sparked other products to be re-introduced to the market including:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HE trialling asphalt containing crumb rubber • Mastic Latex in asphalt used in Lincolnshire • New to market; JH introduced ReNew – Heavy Wax Residue produced from end-of-life plastic – possible presentation for March 2020 meeting JH to investigate 	JH
1c)	Meeting with Mineral Products Association [MPA]	
	There hasn't been a meeting with the MPA recently. Items required for future meetings.	All
	Topics currently being considered for future Meetings:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipping fuel is changing to low sulphur fuel what is the impact on bitumen quality 	
2)	Engineering Board	
	Meet in 7 th June 2019 – Meeting minutes currently not available.	
	Stephen Child [SC] attends these meetings on behalf of SMDS but was unable to attend the June meeting. Topics discussed included:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Stevens describing the Suffolk Community Self Help approach. Local groups, Parish and Town Councils conducting some highways related work • The DfT intend to simplify funding arrangements. Road Tax for highway use. • Andy Warrington outlined the outcomes of a workshop on Commuted Sums. Including the assertion that not all highway asset should be adopted. 	

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	The board next meets in October 2019	
3)	ADEPT SMDS – Meeting with Road Surface Treatment Association (RSTA) – 2nd October 2019 at RSTA offices Wolverhampton.	
	Preservation Code of Practice – SMDS is now happy to endorse this CoP subject to dates of the CDM Regulations being corrected. ADEPT Guidance Note may be necessary to assist clients.	
	Members are encouraged to submit topics they wish to discuss with the RSTA at the meeting on the 2 nd October 2019.	All
4)	Midlands Highways Alliance – Nothing to report. However Lincolnshire CC was able to use the alliance for new framework contracts.	
19/15	QA Schemes	
1)	<u>HAPAS/BBA</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTS continues to make progress with their Product Assessment Certification process. An advantage is that this scheme discloses the testing process used to evaluate products as part of the scheme. • Recent meetings with HAPAS have not produced outcomes of particular note. 	
2)	<u>Sector Schemes</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a need for more representation across all sector schemes. Typically involves 2 meeting per year and the schemes require representation from all sections of the industry - All 	All
3)	<u>CE Marking</u> Latest editions of BS EN13108 are not compliant for CE certification – CE marking of EN 13108 materials was highlighted. The withdrawal of the 2006 editions of EN 13108 was queried in light of the embargo of applying CE marking to EN 13108 2016 materials. The 2016 version was published and then withdrawn due to issues with CE certification. Use guidance in 2006 version until revision is published	
19/16	Group Tasks:-	
1)	<u>Soils and Materials Newsletter</u> New articles are always welcome for future newsletters	Members

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2)	<p><u>Geotechnical Asset Owners Group Forum [GAOF]</u> No recent meeting notes available. Items discussed at our March meeting included:- GAOF meet earlier in February 2019 main topics for discussion were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS2 data management • Health and Safety • Managing longer linear geotechnical assets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Embankments ○ Flood Assessments • Lightweight Embankments – Risk Management and local knowledge needs to be consider • New AGS data format with link to BGS • Sharing data freely via the BGS and issues with sharing confidential 3rd Party information • GPR services being developed and delivered – quality of service via cost. The need to understand what you are expecting and limitation of equipment. 	
3)	<p><u>UK PLG</u> The working Group met in July 2019. Items discussed include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texture depth requirements and binder selection for Clause 941 Surface Course • Clause 903 revision to accommodate Warm Mix Asphalt 	
4)	<p><u>New DMRB Documents</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design manual updates will be circulated as and when available. • Work on the Specification for Highway Works documents to reflect Highways England’s current outlook will not start until all the new design manuals are published, this may take 5 years or more. This will allow more time for local highway authorities to assess the specification requirements for their networks. Around the group only Lincolnshire have moved to their own version. 	All
5)	<p><u>ADEPT SMDS / Regional Groups / Asset Management Group Training</u> Group attendance:- More people are attending SMDS and Southern groups, however the numbers attending the northern group meetings is still low:- Possibly opening the group to asset management?</p>	All
	<p>SB asked what the members of groups involvement is with asset management:- GL reported that they report survey data etc back to the central team but there is no asset manager role within the organisation. SB/CN reported that they do get involved with asset management and are being drawn more and more into scheme identification for survey data etc.</p>	

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	<p>JH meets with the asset management on a monthly bases. KF reported that the asset management team in Cumbria control the survey data etc but KF advises as and when required and may soon be in the asset management team after a current senior management review within the county council.</p>	
6)	<p><u>Training Day</u> Training day to be held at the Creative Centre – University of Wolverhampton on 3rd October 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft agenda attached* 	
7)	<p><u>HAUC</u> Please see below an e-mail from EL dated 3rd September 2019 with an update:- <i>“I went to a working group meeting on the 12th of August. There is still a lot of ongoing discussion about several areas of the new spec that have generated a lot of comments. There is a meeting with the joint chairs on the 10th of September and a further group meeting on the 24th of September, which unfortunately I can’t go to. We are also working on reviewing amendments as they are written by email as there is so much to cover and both sides of the group don’t agree on some of the points raised. It has been confirmed that the decision about extending the guarantee period will be made by the DFT not the working group. The date for the final document to be handed over to DFT is the end of October, with publishing almost immediately afterwards. There is still no final decision on the handover period which is expected to be 3 – 6 months”.</i> It was reported that the final document will potential sent to the DfT by the end of October 2019 and published soon after this date.</p> <p>CN reported that Lincolnshire CC are been challenged by a particular utility company regarding their use of standard methods of storing and drying out core samples. KF said that Cumbria had similar challenges about 10 years ago. Cumbria’s solution was to instruct their testing labs to air dry to a constant mass by individually standing the core samples in the labs controlled environment. Core samples still fell apart using this method but the utilities accepted the process and move on to the next challenge.</p> <p>TS said it would be useful to the industry if there was a specification for reinstating core holes. & There was also general agreement that the specification for taking core sample could be more robust.</p>	
	<p>IH noted that although Highway Authorities employ great effort and resources into dealing with asphalt arisings containing tar the utilities don’t. It was reported that the Environment Agency are trying to address this with Regulatory Position Statement [RPS] 211 – Excavated Waste from Utilities Installation and Repair but it’s implementation has been delayed; please see 19/22 (1) below.</p>	

Item		Action
19/17		BSI/CEN Committees:
	a)	A list is to be made of members on BSI and other committees – SB to send an e-mail round.
	b)	SB – Issued a general request for volunteers to join a number of BSI committees. B507/BS 7533 Northern group to provide a volunteer to join this BSI committee:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend meetings in London – up to 3 per year depending on workload of the committee
	c)	BS510/1 – Asphalt Products PD6691 is due to be revised to cover:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warm Asphalts Mastic Asphalts RAP in surface courses Hot Mastic around Iron works PD6691 will be circulated for comment soon.
19/18		Northern Representative for next Southern Group Meeting – 23rd October 2019 in London
		SB volunteered to attend the next meeting
19/19		Date and Venue of next Northern Group Meeting – Evening meeting presentation. 3rd and 4th March 2020
		Date and venue of next Northern Group Meeting Wednesday 4 th March 2020 TS as very kindly agreed to host the next Northern Soils & Materials group meeting in Manchester at National Graphene Institute [The University of Manchester]. With an evening out in Manchester on the 3 rd March
		Possible presentation from Renew ELP – JH to investigate
		SB asked for volunteers to be found to attend the next NSMG meeting
19/20		Information Exchange
	a)	TS informed the group that PTS are helping Highways England [HE] in researching the use of Graphene in asphalt material via the innovations hub at the National Graphene Institute [The University of Manchester]. The innovations hub is open to anybody and ideas are welcome for research into using graphene to enhance bituminous products in particular however it is already used in a wide range of products across many industries.
	b)	KF reported that there seems to be an hardening of attitude from both the Environment Agency and Natural England when permitting geotechnical remedial works in Cumbria in some cases rejecting any ‘hard’ engineering solutions even when ‘soft’ engineering solution have been demonstrated to be not a suitable option.3 different projects have recently been delayed despite up to 2 years early engagement with both regulatory bodies.
19/21		Minutes of the last Northern Group Meeting on 20th March 2019 – Matters Arising (ADEPT NCSMEG 31/19)
		None
19/22		Any Other Business

Item		Action
1)	<p>The EA's Regulatory Position Statement [RPS] 211 – Excavated Waste from Utilities Installation and Repair was due to be withdrawn on the 31st January 2019 as been delayed for 12 months to allow the industry to develop methods etc. [19/11 Item 6 from last meeting]</p> <p>KF has done some work via Northwest HAUC to highlight this issue but the utilities seem to be waiting for guidance from HAUC UK.</p>	
2)	<p>NARC – Nottingham Asphalt Research Consortium</p> <p>The consortium has been retitled as The National Asphalt Consortium. Members have been asked to submit ideas for research topics. A poll will be held to prioritise these.[19/11 Item 7 from last meeting]</p> <p>CN reported that there hadn't been any feedback from NARC regarding the ideas for the research topics submitted. CN/SB will make enquiries.</p>	CN/SB
3)	<p>Laboratory Operators Group .[19/11 Item 2 from last meeting]</p> <p>It was agreed at July's SMDS meeting that a forum for Local Authority Highways Laboratories to "discuss matters of mutual interest was a good idea". EL agreed to investigate interest in establishing such a forum.</p>	
4)	<p>TS reported that PTS had just acquired a SCANNER; however in order meet with current standards the system needs to be 'turned down'. This echoed a similar report Andy Stevenson made to SMDS who was keen to restart the user group. The standard for SCANNER as not kept pace with the changes in technology. There is also an increasing gap of client understanding and interpretation of SCANNER and other network survey equipment.</p> <p>SB said he would take this to SMDS.</p>	SB
5)	<p>GL reported that NI have funding to look at improving analysing condition survey data to inform their highways asset management.</p>	