

**ADEPT ENGINEERING COMMITTEE**

**NATIONAL BRIDGES GROUP**

**Meeting update**

**Date and Time:** 10:30 on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**1. Guest Presentations –**

- a) **Lee Kelly from CIRIA on research**
- b) **Peter Sparkes (Aecom) SHM and hidden defects.**

**2. Network Rail liaison –** the NR liaison officer attended the meeting and it was hoped this would become normal practise and continue the good work Rob Dean started to improve working relationships between NR and LAs. There was a consensus that NR had cancelled fewer line possession than in recent times and it was hoped this would continue. NR had confirmed that the ability to be compensated for cancelled possessions at short notice had been a one off and there is no mechanism for Local Authorities to recover their losses above £10,000 as previously indicated.

**3. Bridge Strike Prevention Group –** a request for a member of ADEPT Bridges Group will be circulated with the minutes – **however highway engineers are considered more suitable for this Group** as they are responsible for signage both on bridges and the approaches.

**4. Masonry parapet update –** there was some concern that a new guidance document due out next year may recommend more use of steel parapets which are wholly inappropriate for many rural LA bridges and structures.

**5. Bridge Inspector Competency Scheme.** With the poor uptake of the LANTRA Bridge Inspector Certificate Scheme (BICS) alternative schemes have been developed by members from ADEPT, CSS Wales and SCOTS. It is unfortunate that the BICS scheme has not proved acceptable to many LAs due to complexity and cost (fees would have to come from under-pressure revenue budgets). ADEPT Bridges Group members will be asked to consider whether to adopt one of the alternatives.

**6. DMRB Review –** this review is nearing completion and thanks were given to those that had contributed to the review although many had found this difficult due to short timescales for responses.

**7. Canal & River Trust –** the CEO of CRT responded to a letter from the Chair of the Bridges Group indicating willingness to continue to work with ADEPT to resolve the issues around accessing Local Authority bridges for inspection and work. The Chair will now revise the MoU produced by CRT which was unacceptable to ADEPT members. It is hoped the matter can be resolved by the end of the year by working with CRT.



Association of Directors of  
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

- 8. Highways England / Local Authority Boundary Issue** – producing an acceptable guidance document has been going on for over four years and is proving very difficult for both sides to come to an agreement. Further work has been done by the HE and this is now out for ADEPT members to comment. The feedback received will be discussed at ADEPT Engineering Board on October 18<sup>th</sup>.
  
- 9. Safety Critical Fixings** – CIRIA C778 guidance document has recently been published and members have been encouraged to arrange for their inspectors to make a start on recording potential safety critical Fixings on their inspection reports. Highways England are producing an implementation document to adopt safety critical fixings and it is hoped this will be shared with ADEPT Bridges Group and UK Bridge Board.