

HAUC(England) Update -

- Permit Operational Guidance Document – clarification still ongoing. HAUC (England) will take up more of an operational role than HAUC(UK), so will grow in influence.
- Coring Statutory Guidance – DfT Lawyer time required before this can be released as statutory guidance.

Working Group – Iack confirmed that no recent WG meeting had taken place.

- S81 – Iack confirmed he'd received comments on the draft circulated & main issue is non dangerous apparatus. If for an example a 2 month repair time is agreed and not met, where does the liability lie? Iack says should be incumbent on the Utility to ensure it's inspected & managed, made /kept safe & repaired. Utility needs to be able to confirm whether it's their equipment or not. DC suggested a target date is requested for when repair can take place, so can be maintained to HA satisfaction. Key point is that the ETON accept/ reject functionality is used. GSp confirmed that some urgent s81 are downgraded to non urgent as they don't meet the criteria. Iack stated HA's need to move away from the practice of classifying as dangerous when shouldn't be, & suggested all challenge why its dangerous if it doesn't meet the criteria. Also issue of traffic (lorries) causing dangerous s81's by mounting footway –agreed issue can be looked at, at a later date. Good practice also for photos to be supplied (by ETON /email) for all s81's. Iack needs confidence that s81's will either be repaired our monitored to ensure safe. Iack will update the draft process.

Iack

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

- RC reported outgoings for the SEHAUC Permit Training day at Oakwood, Event insurance, hotel & meal for the event committee, along with event bags, lanyards etc. Income has been received for exhibitor payments, with balance remaining very healthy. Event profit projected at (so far) of just over £300.

8. HIGHWAYS ENGLAND REPORT / ISSUES

- LP mentioned the recent system upgrade to Bentley EXOR, which had the usual IT teething problems. All HE areas now notice to other HA's. A new National Policy Manager (Becky Fuller) has joined Highway England, so HE policies may change in the future.

9. AGENDA ITEMS & ISSUES TABLED FOR DEBATE

- **Sustainability:** No update.
- **Sharing Good Practice:** Water from SU apparatus – Iack has catered for this in the SEHAUC event defect/s81 presentation, where it is highlighted as a joint issue to resolve.
Performance: Southampton Highways/ Portsmouth CC & Hants CC have an unofficial improvement notice on Openreach jointly, where all data & meetings are combined, so less meetings needed! Cat A is mainly the issue, but DC mentioned the meetings are working well. LP mentioned the exemplary work Virgin Media had carried out on the A26 Newhaven. However, issues flagged up with Openreach in response to urgent s81's when closing a lane of a strategic route at peak times, & then leaving site without the dangerous apparatus being repaired straight away. JE mentioned recent issues with WSCC call

centre & Virgin Media works, which ultimately resulted in a letter being sent by influential customers to the Transport Minister. JE updated the minister with programme of performance meetings etc. Iack highlighted the ‘get out clause’ with noticing, where the HA is not actually ‘permitting’ the utility to carry out the works, as opposed to a granted permit.

- **Venues for future meetings:**

- Fri 8th December – Easthampstead House agreed. WS confirmed now booked.
- Fri 16th March 2018 – JR to check if Kent CC can book Oakwood House
- Fri 15th June 2018 – SG to see if Portsmouth City Council offices can be booked
- Fri 14th September 2018 – LP to see if A1+ West Malling offices can be booked.
- Fri 7th December 2018 – WS to see if Westhampstead House can be booked.

JR

SG

LP

WS

- **Surrey CC** – RC expressed thanks on behalf of Matt Jezzard & Surrey County Council to all Undertakers for their support for RideLondon and cooperation on both the moratorium in the week before the event and also on event day itself. EW mentioned the Alton Cycling club event, which ended up being cancelled due to poor planning by the event organiser, as SEW had a planned lane closure. EW to send Iack details of issue.

EW

- **HAUC(UK) backed qualifications** – RC went through Dave Reagan’s presentation & questions for Regional HAUC’s as follows:-

Q1 – Benefits – any standardisation of what constitutes a defect is a good idea, will result in more consistency among HA Inspectors (from Utility point of view). Not clear whether in addition to current NRSWA T&A regime (i.e. additional units), or to replace completely? If so, what will it bring that’s different to the existing T&A NRSWA regime? Some HA’s view was that HA inspector should be the best qualified to make a decision on site. How detailed will the proposed HAUC(UK) backed qualification be? Also, supportive of office staff getting standardized training on for example, how you administer the inspection regime & a NRSWA Admin qualification. Suggest additional units be added as possibly more cost effective.

Q2 – Money – If this replaces NRSWA T&A already in place, cost would be an issue. Also getting legislation to recognise this is required. Potential issue if non mandatory, why should we do it?

Q3A – New Starter – some HA’s would not send a new inspector on any training until some experience Is gained through say’ buddying up’ with another more experienced inspector.

Q3B & C – Should be in line with costing for an additional unit, at, say, 1 day duration. Should be different components/ units, with areas you are expected to be qualified in highlighted.

Q4 – Again, should be added to the existing framework as an extra unit.

Q5 – Suggest 5 years, in line with current T&A regime (or as legislation prescribes).

Q6 – Depends on nature of changes –could be either ‘E’ refresher or as per current T&A regime.

- **Future of Lane Rental** – JE has responded not supporting the idea of LR merging into a Permit Scheme, as it needs to be restricted. JE also mentioned that there are no quality reports to pin point whether LR

effective or not. If a fault etc occurs, customer's power needs to be restored without large punitive costs, and powers exist already under NRSWA & Permit schemes to direct works. In London, SGN are using innovative ideas such as CISBOT, but are still getting charged for Lane Rental (although not the case in Kent, where charges are generally waived). Thames Water also has issues where collaborative works have taken place, but full Lane Rental imposed. Funds should be ploughed back into developing innovative technology. JP worried about lack of response to the consultations in the South West. JE concluded that any Lane Rental will need to be controlled & standardised.

- **Bracknell Forest & Surrey CC Proposed Fee Increases** – RC read out the following SEJUG stance statement on behalf of SEJUG members working in the area, regarding the proposal to increase fees recouping historic deficits:- *As per the recent SEJUG (& separate Utility) consultation responses to Surrey CC, and Utility responses to Bracknell Forest CC, under the 'Consultation on Proposed Changes to Permit Fees', SEJUG would like confirmation from both Authorities that that any increase in Permit fees will only relate to ensuring prescribed costs are recovered, and will NOT result in any recovering of historic deficits, as this is in contravention with current legislation. As flagged up in the above consultation responses, it was highlighted to both Authorities that any proposal to increase permit fees to recover historic deficits, retrospective recouping of losses (made in part due to errors made in the initial cost benefit analysis) is in breach with both the Traffic Management Act (2004) & Regulation 29 of the Permit Scheme Regulations (2007). SEJUG accepts that Bracknell Forest DC & Surrey CC are entitled to increase its fees to ensure it is not running the Scheme at a deficit, but strongly objects to any proposal to increase fees to recover any deficit that has been incurred in preceding years.*

WS left the meeting early so could not respond, so RC will email both parties. JE confirmed that both Bracknell Forest & Surrey need to be clear on exactly why the fees are being raised, but that this will be with JUG members to manage, rather than SEHAUC. Utilities affected to raise with appropriate legal teams. (Note: Since the SEHAUC meeting SEJUG Chair has spoken with Surrey and they (Surrey) are proposing a way forward on this matter, with SEJUG to review and respond before any changes to permit fees take place.

- **Invoices without a PO Number** – Iack mentioned issues with invoices being sent back to HA's by Utility finance dept if no PO is on the invoice. If this happens, agreed should be sent to Utility SEHAUC point of contact.
- **FPNs** – JP mentioned FPN received from WSCC for working without a permit (Immediate Permit submitted within correct timescale) due to it being refused over issues with the correct house name. RC receiving FPNs for where a reinstatement has been registered inaccurately & 91 days have passed, and offence date stated as when inspector visits site. RC asked whether offence from when s70 notice sent, or when inspector visited site? View was that offence was committed date the registration notice was sent, so FPN's invalid. RC still has an FPN in conciliation where 4 FPNs received for 1 notice (3 have been paid). JE has initially looked into this. JE will look to performance meetings with each Utility, where issues can be discussed & sorted. EW mentioned that information received from latest performance meeting was useful & gang jobs were re-prioritised as a result.

RC –Done

JUG
members

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- DH – SGN are using a credit card to pay TTRO's. JE confirmed that WSCC accept, and are trying to move away from PO's as there will be a cost saving on the invoicing side.
- PD confirmed that the SEHAUC Event went well & thanked the speakers & all who helped out. Working group will be looking at SEHAUC website, which needs a revamp, and arbitration /conciliation needs looking at how it will be managed on the website.
- GSp informed all that Amey will be leaving Affinity Water with around 90 staff being insourced if selected.
- DC mentioned an FPN raised for an issue with 2 notices that were raised in tandem, one with 6 phases, and the second one closed & not registered, but later registered as subsumed (not within correct timescale). JP believes this should be registered as 'combined with another site' as no 3rd party where involved to subsume. JE suggested it would be reasonable to ask for some improvement on the highway also.
- EW reported some FPN issues. WSCC are calling through every refusal (although SEW are happy to received IAV/PMR's via ETON comments). ESH are sending through FPN for breach of timing conditions, but with no photographic evidence. EW will not be paying these unless evidence is provided. EW also reported this was her last SEHAUC & reiterated it was a great experience to be part of SEHAUC.
- AF mentioned that there will be a new VM representative for the South East, and AF will be 2nd point of contact.
- JE reported that there was no real update from DfT regarding the Streetmanager project and suggested we start asking questions of the DfT regarding updates & what streetmanger will look like. JP mentioned that that ETON system group has been wound up, and that they had offered their services to Kainos.

WG

11. SUBMISSION DATE FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda items to be submitted to the Secretary by Fri 24th November 2017 and Agenda circulated by the Secretary prior to meeting.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10am, Fri 8th December – Easthampstead House, Wokingham