



GDPR statement: - 'Those who have signed the attendance sheet agree that their details & comments can be used for SEHAUC purposes only'.

6. HAUC (ENGLAND) Update (DL) & REPORT FROM SEHAUC JOINT WORKING GROUPS (IAck/ AH)

HAUC(England) Update - DL updated the group as follows:-

- The last COVID update was sent out in July, and there has been no real change. More winter meetings are set up. The 'long tail' of COVID is playing havoc resulting in material shortages, and ongoing isolating of workforce.
- Lane Rental Guidance is out, and a meeting will be coming out shortly to sign off the Guidance. JE confirmed that this will be a working document, which will adapt & learn. There is a Register of where orgs are in promoting Lane Rental. East Sussex is looking at April 2023, and BHCC & Hants CC have a watching brief, along with some London HA's.
- Street Manager – Recent big push is what the fee structure going forward might look like, along with the funding level. KO updated on the latest Governance Group meeting, where it was confirmed that the outcome is that funding levels will stay the same for the next 3 years, and that the DfT will stay with bands, but there might be a few more bands in the lower reaches of the banding structure.
- Inspections & Co-ordination Working Groups – DL confirmed work is going on around s81, with PL & DL working on a way forward, and have reached a common statement which has been put forward to the DfT to be put out as Policy Statement. This should be potentially linking the s81 response to a 'risk based' approach until the risk is repaired, which makes a good deal more sense. There will be changes to documents as a result of the DfT consultation, and some work will come out for Consultation around scheduled works in the future. Working Groups will be set up by Sally to deal with the results of the Consultation, which DL considers to be positive, in that it will help make DfT decisions more workable. Then there will need to be a training program.
- There has been 1 referral to HAUC (England) for conciliation, with PD & JE being brought in to help.
- Next meeting is 26<sup>th</sup> October, and the HAUC (UK) website to be launched then. This will have a central repository of documents, such as Quarterly reports, and it can host Regional websites also.

Event WG – PD updated the group as follows:-

- AH put out a survey, which received good feedback, with 126 responses, indicating an overwhelming response for physical event. PD asked the meeting if we have a mandate to have the Event? JE supported this, and DL confirmed that the National Event will be in person. SEHAUC agreed that the Event will go ahead. PD asked if anyone can help, along with any ideas for speaker themes. SD asked if any Exhibitors dropped off? PD confirmed that only 1 dropped off, and that he would send round the current list of Exhibitors, and also get Debbie & Nathan along.
- SEHAUC website – PD reported that the WG had got to a point where Angle Studios have been able to upload some content on individual webpages. RB mentioned the need for a discussion re: testing. PD asked for any volunteers to check the website before it goes live, and let RB,

PD, & AH know. RC confirmed he is happy to help with this. PD confirmed that the target for launch is spring, so would need to check this around end of the year. PD mentioned that the website so far looks good, but doesn't want to overlap with the HAUC (UK) Website too much. DL suggested that there is a risk that the same document could be held in several places, which increases the risk of previous versions still being around. DH confirmed that Geoplace are looking at a Central repository so that there is a 'single version of truth'. DL will put Alison & Jay in contact with the HAUC (UK) contact.

DL

#### Flexi Permit trial (Allan Falcon - Openreach)

- Allan Falcon gave the meeting an overview of the Flexi Permits trial.
- There had been a rise in permits from around 300,000 to 600,000, with a challenge on how Openreach deal with this increase, and also to deal with fibre roll out as per DfT policy. The works are low duration activity, so Openreach used a flexi permits trial, grouping areas of Type 3 & 4 streets into 1 permit for a geographical area. Openreach are looking at minimising impact, delay, along with increased visibility of works.
- Trials took place in Sheffield, Nottingham & Bedford, and there are ongoing conversations with other HA's. Trials started off with 3 or 4 streets on 1 Permit, this was tested & any issues ironed out. Openreach are now up to now up to 10-15 streets, and are looking to demonstrate a reduction of workload for all using GIS, which reduces operational friction etc., and demonstrating the benefit of flexi permits to UK PLC.
- Openreach have come up with the core principles & operational framework, so came up with framework that uses One. Network to draw flexi permit polygons, but with a permit for any dig sent via Street Manager.
- Allan confirmed that the trial has gone well, and that there will be flexi permit discussions with DfT on 22/9, which may result in a Working Group being formed to look at the detail. DL confirmed that this is a workshop set up by Sally to pick up on results on consultation.
- Presentation – Allan will check with David Capon regarding circulation. WS asked if there was any scope to open up a trial to other partners, but suggested that polygons over polygons could add to the complexity of co-ordination. PD agrees that this could be complex, but could increase collaboration. DL suggested that it would have to be managed correctly to get protections in place. Allan stated that flexi-permits are not about block booking network, but a discussion on how to work with each other, in a better way to minimise the impact of works. AF asked whether the trial raised any issues with FPN's/s74? Allan confirmed that there was not a single FPN or s74, as they have a 28 day window to use, so there is flexibility here in many ways (such as avoiding parked cars, being able to jump around, so the delivery side has more flexibility). DL asked whether Openreach ramped up liaison to the public? Allan confirmed this was looked at, at the start of the trial, with a steer on this from each HA.

#### Be Bright, Stay Safe – (Nathan Hughes & Debbie Chachulski- UKPN)

- PD mentioned that the Safety Education Team were after a bit of support & feedback, so Nathan & Debbie ran through a 'Be Bright, Stay Safe refresher.
- UKPN need a collaborative effort to extend the safety message, and to

reduce near misses through effective engagement.

- Debbie & Nathan would like to reinforce best practice, and get through the importance of safety message. All information is free, such as a suite of leaflets & stickers to remind operatives of the safety message, and would like to get out to as many staff as possible, and move things forward. Debbie & Nathan have recently struck up dialogue with Thames Water. PD mentioned that the fact they are here today, is due to them not getting enough feedback. DL asked if slide could be made available (RC has circulated the slides). PD suggested all to make contact with the right people in their respective organisations.

All

**Agreed Working Procedures** –

- The changes to SRoH slides that came from Barry Rainger (Thames Water) via HAUC(England) officially, were discussed (and have been already distributed). All found these very useful. DL mentioned that these should be now included on HAUC App.

**7. TREASURER’S REPORT**

No report received, but likely to be no change from last meeting. PD has asked for more KLRS funding for the SEHAUC website.

**8. NATIONAL HIGHWAYS REPORT / ISSUES**

- LP mentioned that they are now called ‘National Highways Limited’ (as of 8/9), and will gradually see Highways England logo’s etc. disappear. A new email addresses will appear in the future.
- National Highways are still not a Permitting Authority.
- National Highways are having the same challenges with Fibre Companies as other HA’s.

**9. AGENDA ITEMS & ISSUES TABLED FOR DEBATE**

**Materials & Sustainability**

- Jon Tanzilli have his apologies. PD mentioned that he will head up the creation of a Materials Group – are there any volunteers?

All

**Good Practice**

- Nothing Specific to report.

**Lane Rental updates**

- Surrey CC – KO updated the group and mentioned that the Scheme is going reasonably well on both sides, and Surrey has ongoing meetings with JUG members to monitor progress. Income figures were published at the last meeting, and May’s figures were fairly small due to transition rules. KO mentioned that with the June draft invoice, there is some difficulty getting agreement with Surrey’s own works promoters, and some Utilities. July’s are waiting to be agreed. Lane Rental charges are being incurred on Start & Stop times, where Surrey are receiving a Work Start at say 9.55, so incurring incurring a large charge for 5 minutes! There is therefore work to be done across the board. If photo evidence is provided to back up Start & Stop times as being outside of Lane rental Charge times, then Surrey will not charge Lane Rental. JE mentioned he is having discussions about Lane Rental charges with his own contractors. KO did the same in Surrey, but they initially didn’t think it would affect them. PD suggested reality doesn’t hit them until

money starts hitting cost centres. DL suggested that they need to consider what they will do to mitigate the effects of scheme, so that Highway's Schemes include mitigation effects on traffic. KO reminded all to ask for a discount if putting in new infrastructure scheme.

- WSCC – JE has got Cabinet Member sign off, so is now readying the application for the DfT. Internal Teams/ Contractors seem to be aware that Lane Rental is coming, and JE has had issues with Environmental Health teams, so working with them. Likely to Go Live in April 22.
- KLRS – DL reported no changes at present, and the Scheme is working ok. DL mentioned that he didn't find a significant spike for working at night to avoid charges, when the Scheme started. DL will find the slide on changes in distribution of working times to share with the group.

DL

## Permit Scheme updates

- Hampshire CC – NM mentioned the small adjustments to the Scheme Document as per below.
- Medway – PW has had 3 responses only to his consultation, and the results are with Medway's Legal Team.
- DL has published Kent's latest Permit Scheme report, which indicates a continuation of what was before. However, he may have to look at putting in for increasing the fees at some point in the future, as they have not increased since the start of the Permit Scheme.
- PD mentioned the need to get Permit Scheme Reports into the Public Domain, & onto the SEHAUC website.

## Current Consultations

- RC mentioned Hants CC Consultation, which ends on 30<sup>th</sup> September. NM mentioned that the Scheme will continue to operate as is, and is more of a mix up of wording.
- DL mentioned a Mayoral Powers for managing traffic consultation, from DCMS who look after Local Government administration.
- PD mentioned a current Kent Active Travel Consultation, although Utilities are not invited to respond.

## Streetmanager Transition

- Excavation Change - PW mentioned that he had put forward an email to Street Manager, as he has been granting permits 100% on excavation type on data variations. The Email has been recorded, but is not top of the Street Manager priority list. NM mentioned that there was also an issue in Hants, but got round using Street Manager directly to rectify. Other Authorities have ditched their old EToN system interfaced into Street Manager, and working fine without an API. However, the reporting in Street Manager is not good. PD asked whether the issue can go through the API WG?

## Performance

- JE mentioned the Improvement Notice's in ESCC, for Openreach & City Fibre. RB mentioned that the Openreach one is now withdrawn as performance is going in the right direction.
- KO mentioned that Surrey CC are at the end of performance monitoring with Virgin Media, with Improvement Notices now withdrawn. They are continuing with SSE & Cadent. Both are for Cat A Non Compliances (with Cadent as Reinstatement as well).
- PW mentioned that he had been monitoring Openreach for 6 months.

PW also mentioned the lack of ‘Burden of proof’ from Utilities for immediate works, when asked to provide. Medway will also be looking at charging £10K under the Highways Act for any illegal road closure that takes place.

- CP mentioned that she had an Improvement plan in place for City Fibre, for Reinstatements. CP mentioned that City Fibre are difficult to get hold of. PD/RC to make contact with the SEJUG representatives.
- JD has performance issues with Kelly’s, so will escalate up to RB.

RC

**Venues for future meetings:**

- N/A at present

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- KO – LR Charge codes will be changing slightly, so will see some different codes coming in on permits.
- KO – asked whether all Co-ordination meetings are still remote, and are there any plans for face to face meetings in the future? WS mentioned that the Bracknell building is being done up to be a ‘collaboration hub’, and should be completed by Xmas, & will then be open to the public, so he can then start having face to face meetings, but will be dependent on how COVID progresses through the winter.
- KO – Street Manager on April 1<sup>st</sup> will see the introduction of s58, & s74 duration challenge non acceptance. Charging details should be received in the next few weeks. Any changes to Street Manager as a result of new DfT Legislation will be at cost to the DfT, and not the user. A Sub group will be looking at Auto Grants, as currently doesn’t allow the user to go back to change a permit if it’s incorrect, so there may be some future changes.
- Lane Rental Meetings – KO mentioned that GTC approached Surrey about LR training sessions. GTC mentioned that TfL offered bespoke Lane Rental training, but Surrey & Kent don’t. SD confirmed that JP raised this issue at the Surrey Lane Rental meeting over Permitting from GTC, but Surrey may see another Utility (such as SSEN) carrying out the works on behalf of GTC, as SSEN is working as a Contractor for GTC, which runs the risk of working without a permit, as it’s not quite so obvious who is actually doing the work. PD mentioned that there is Lane Rental documentation available from Surrey & Kent (such as operational guidance etc.). JE mentioned that bespoke training has been talked about at the Lane Rental forum, so this will be addressed. DL mentioned if there was a future specific need in Kent, he can always arrange something.
- Joint Site Safety surveys – PD mentioned these have drifted off, and is there an appetite to revamp? KO would like to reinstate, but is down to circumstances (COVID). WS mentioned he has not done these before, so would like to tag along to see how these are done, so he can take forward. KO will mention internally. DL mentioned that the SEHAUC site safety form is on the SEHAUC website.

**11. SUBMISSION DATE FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

Submission Date for Agenda Items – Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Fri 10<sup>th</sup> December via MS Teams/ call