



## IHIE Council

### Caron Ballantyne reports on the March Council

"It was with great surprise that, on arrival at the March Council meeting, I realised it would be the fourth and final one of my first year on Council. It was apparent that there were still people who I had never seen before, let alone met or spoken to!

Part way through the meeting I understood why everyone had turned up – it was when the nominations and elections take place for the coming year!

As always the meeting sped along with the usual business and joviality that makes it a pleasure to serve the Institute and its members. I was most surprised though when one of the nominations was decided on the toss of a coin!

The accounts for last year were presented, followed by the business plan for the coming year. Whilst it appears that it may be hard to reach the targets that have been set, it would be nice to once again meet our aims as this means that we are continuing to move forward. The budget for the year may be slightly harder to achieve given the difficult times that everyone is facing, but I am sure that the special offers that are to be made available to our members by way of discounts for course fees will help to achieve our goals.

Debate followed on the proposed name change for the Institute. I know that this will better reflect the whole range of professional membership grades available, but as with everything that you have grown up with, it is sometimes difficult to accept the changes.

As I sat on the train on the way home writing this and thinking about all that has happened and been discussed in the day – what will never stop amazing me is the amount of work that is carried out by the Officers, various committees and the office staff everyday on behalf of the Institute and its members, especially the number of events and meetings that are undertaken in order to continue to raise the profile and awareness of who we are and why we exist."

## Edinburgh in June

Members are invited to the 2009 annual meeting, this year at Jury's Inn Hotel, Edinburgh – only five minutes from Waverley Station.

IHIE Scotland are lining up a fine welcome with sponsorship to ensure a very convivial annual dinner on Friday 12 June. Tickets are £22.00 each and double rooms at Jury's, a four star hotel, are available at the special rate of £95.00 a night via the Institute.

The AGM precedes the dinner at 4.45pm where you'll get a chance to vote for IHIE's

name change and next year's fees, and to hear a talk on the new Forth Crossing.

Announcing the events, Graham Milne, Council Member for Scotland, said "IHIE Scotland has seen a real resurgence north of the border in Institute membership and activities. We therefore very much welcome Council's decision to bring the annual meeting to Edinburgh and hope our members will support the course, the AGM and the evening entertainments".

The day starts with a comprehensive course on road law and a free briefing on the IHIE routes to registration.

[www.ihie.org.uk/events/](http://www.ihie.org.uk/events/)

## Highway Maintenance

New speakers have been added to the programme for The Annual IHIE / Highways conference and exhibition on 20 May.

Paul Hardy, well known consultant on HAMPs, will deliver the keynote speech. He will use the occasion to explain the SCOTS development work on asset management competences and a ground breaking training initiative.

Staff management features strongly in the event. Derbyshire CC will review how local authorities can cope with the EU standards on driver training whilst the HTMA will consider the

implications of the driver hours regulations. Eddie Fellows will explain how Birmingham has linked payments under its pioneering Considerate Contractor Streetworks scheme to public satisfaction

Drainage and water management issues reflecting the effects on climate change will now be addressed by Alastair Mosely, CIWEM President, and by the MET Office with Stuart Smith, West Sussex CC making the link between asset management and local flood prevention.

[www.ihie.org.uk/events/conferences/](http://www.ihie.org.uk/events/conferences/)

There's a new Northampton venue – the Hilton is just off the M1 junction 15.

## IHIE to IHE?

Tony Sharp answers your FAQ's about the proposal to change "IHIE" to the Institute of Highway Engineers to be decided at the 2009 AGM.

Isn't the 'Incorporated' title being downgraded?

"IHIE is changing. Our name needs to reflect the more inclusive institute we've become. We have chartered members and more open access to the Membership and Fellow grades for those with experience and responsibility. The Institute will always have promotion of IEng at its heart, unless a lot more changes, most Council Members will be IEngs."

Why spend money unnecessarily?

"We anticipate few additional costs. The change will be fully implemented from January 2010 allowing time for paper and flyer stocks to run down. The logo will only change marginally and can easily be introduced on the web etc."

"Highways" is not all we do

"I grant that IHIE members include a wide range of traffic and transport professionals but it's been difficult to identify any title with these disciplines that does not encroach in IHT, hence Council's proposal."

## IHIE launches a Register of Road Safety Auditors

IHIE is establishing an independent Register of Road Safety Auditors who meet Highways Agency standards of training and experience.

Launching the Register Tony Sharp, IHIE President, said "Institute members can now demonstrate their road safety audit experience by joining the new Register, which is not confined to IHIE members. We welcome professionals from the full range of institutions and will require them to keep their existing affiliation to be bound by a professional code. It is individual engineers' experience and continuing competence that matters and the IHIE Register aims for independent assessment."

[www.ihie.org.uk/gateway/road-safety/](http://www.ihie.org.uk/gateway/road-safety/)

## Reorganised? Tell IHIE

Calling Members in Cheshire and Bedfordshire in particular. If you have moved jobs or changed employers – please tell IHIE your new email and work address.

[information2@ihie.org.uk](mailto:information2@ihie.org.uk)