

IHE is launched

A reception in Chenevates at Westminster Abbey saw the formal launch of the Institute of Highway Engineers on 10 December. Members of the IHE Council and Past Presidents were joined by many guests, including representatives from the Engineering Council, CIC, CIBSE, DfT, Buchanan Computing, WSP, Colin Buchanan and IHT.



Lord Howie presented Tony Sharp, IHE President, with the certificate changing IHIE's name to IHE and said a few words of welcome. Six Past Presidents were presented with new certificates and Council members then signed up to a new Vision and Mission Statement for the Institute

After the reception, members and guests celebrated Evensong from the Choir Stalls in Westminster Abbey: a magical occasion which we all truly enjoyed.

Tony Sharp's speech launching IHE reviewed the profession's history and future

"The decision to re-launch as the Institute Highway Engineers has been one driven, as always, by our members and the dropping of incorporated from our title in no way indicates the demise of the qualification, far from it!"

At the core of the Institute will always be the professional, experienced, knowledgeable highway practitioners operating in a range of specialist fields such as development control, highway design, maintenance, traffic management and traffic signal control.

It is they who are responsible for much of the day-to-day operation of this country's highway network from design, construction to maintenance.

Rather the removal of "incorporated" from the title recognises that our membership is now broader than it has ever been with Engineering Technicians, Incorporated Engineers and Chartered Engineers all able to be assessed and registered with the Engineering Council through IHE.

The change will also mean one less stumbling block in our engagement with politicians, policy makers, and most importantly the public.

The newly named institute will continue IHIE's desire to encourage and accept into membership not only those who are just entering our profession but also the longer serving engineers. This includes those who, whilst working in highways, may not always have the full educational base to progress immediately to registration but can, as members, be encouraged to develop their skills, engage within the profession and progress via the individual routes.

The construction and highways industry faces a number of significant challenges in the coming years. In particular the prospect of reduced funding, the issues of climate change, a drive significant to reduce those killed or seriously injured on our roads, and a shortage of trained professional staff.

Construction, and highways, in particular, will always be an "easy" target for central and local government cut backs. Whilst there has been significant investment in major infrastructure projects and some increase in maintenance works, the poor state of the existing network is evident. The public's view, expressed in a recent poll by the National Highways Transport Network, is that the condition of their roads is more important than congestion and public transport. This means that a continued increase, (at best), or at worst a standstill in investment in maintenance must be pursued if the national asset that is our road infrastructure is not to decline beyond the perilous state it already finds itself in. IHE is committed to playing its full part in sustaining the network."



Artwork celebrating 50 years of the M1 from Margaret Calvert, co-designer with Jock Kinneir of the UK's iconic road signs.

Training and Development

Preparing for your Review

14 April, London, WC1

20 May, Taunton

In depth advice and support in going for CEng, IEng and EngTech

Introduction to Development Control

15 April, Leeds

Start here for newcomers to DC: An overview of planning law and policy and the role of highway development control staff.

Traffic Signal Control

26-28 April 2010 (Residential)

University of Nottingham

IHE's annual course for signal engineers on implementation and maintenance.

Invoices can be dated pre or post April 2010.

Improve your skills in Traffic Signs

11 May, London

The course to maintain your expertise in direction and warning signing.

Supported by DfT

DIARY DATES

Annual Development Control Conference

18 May, London

Traffic Signs Conference and Exhibition

September, Loughborough

Transport Development Control

6 Day Foundation Course

14-16th Sep 2010 / 7-9th December 2010