

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SOMETHING TO SAY? *Surveyor* welcomes letters from readers. Our address is 32 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2SS. Fax: 020 7973 6677. E-mail: editorial.surveyor@hgluk.com We reserve the right to edit letters for clarity and brevity.

Less is more for thin surfacing?

The use of porous asphalt (PA) has effectively died a death in the UK despite still being the material of choice for motorways in the Netherlands and others. However, the comments made on winter maintenance in the article ('A gritty challenge', *Surveyor*, 29 January) are probably still valid – though maybe with a different twist.

The 'modern' negatively textured thin surfaces, like PA, also have 'holes' to take up the de-icing salt. However, unlike porous asphalt (which had a legendary

ability to need maybe twice the 'dosage' to de-ice it and less than desirable thermal inertia on frosty mornings), they have 'blind' holes that can potentially hold water closer to the surface in a way far better than the old and unloved porous asphalt. This truly 'drained' and may have only posed a problem of 'freezing solid' in extreme conditions and/or where side drainage was compromised.

Maybe less grit is now needed to treat a different potential problem? Anyone care

to comment? I would personally be interested to learn of local authorities experiences on this and any other issues associated with our new 'thin friends'.

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PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Sam Ralph (pictured right) is the new director of planning and transportation at Norfolk County Council. Ralph, 59, who has held the position of deputy director since 1993, has more than 40 years of experience in highway engineering.



Starting his career in the private sector in Newbury 1961, he trained as a civil engineer with Berkshire County Council, where he was involved in improvement schemes for the A34 including routes for the Newbury bypass.

Ralph then moved to the Devon sub-unit of the South Western Road Construction Unit (RCU), where he was involved in the motorway and trunk road programme, which included the A30 Launceston bypass.

He moved to Norfolk County Council's highways department in 1974 and held various posts, including divisional surveyor and senior assistant county surveyor, before becoming deputy director of planning and transportation in 1993.

Ralph has extensive experience of major highway design, waste management, road safety engineering, construction, maintenance, support services and major change management initiatives. In 1998, he promoted one of the country's first public private sector strategic partnerships for planning and transportation services.

Replacing Ralph as acting deputy director will be **John Joyce**, who has worked for the county on and off since 1971, when he joined as a trainee from Thorpe Grammar School.

Joyce stayed with the council for his graduate training, then worked as a highways engineer in Norfolk and Hampshire, designing, building and maintaining roads. On returning to Norfolk in the mid 1980s, he led the highways DLO for five years.

He later became the department's head of asset and

network management, a post he has held until this secondment as deputy director.

John Lamb has been appointed Essex County Council's group manager for transport and development.

Lamb will be responsible for developing strategic transportation issues and capital works, such as the A120 from Stansted to Braintree and the A130, the first privately financed local authority road scheme in the country, as well as the challenging task of changing people's attitudes to public transport and offering a real alternative to the car.

Before his appointment with Essex, he worked for nearly 10 years with BAA on various aspects of airport planning and operations. Before that, Lamb worked at Hertfordshire County Council and developed the county's Travelwise initiative.

The new head of streetscene at Thanet District Council, Kent, has started work at the authority, which covers the seaside towns of Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate.

Mark Seed joined Thanet from Medway Council, where he took up the post of highway manager when the unitary authority was created in 1998. In the latter half of 2001, Seed spent six months as the assistant director for front line services.

Starting his career in Lancashire as a trainee civil engineer, Seed moved to Cambridge to run a highway design team.

The head of streetscene is a new position at Thanet,



created following a corporate restructure, and brings together key council services, such as highways, parking regulations, community safety and waste and recycling.

SolarGen Solutions, provider of renewable energy products to the traffic and transport sector, has expanded its strategic management team with the appointment of **Warren Hateley** as commercial development manager.

He will be responsible for building closer working relationships with corporate clients in addition to leading the SolarGen's international franchising programme.

Peter Crosland has joined Mott MacDonald to head up its building and infrastructure business in Leeds. He will be responsible for developing the company's business with particular emphasis on large multi-disciplinary building projects throughout northern England. Crosland is a chartered civil engineer with nearly 20 years experience of water, environmental and infrastructure engineering and has worked on a range of projects in the UK and overseas.

Kelvin Reynolds has been appointed as new director of technical services at the British parking Association. He will be responsible for managing the Secured Car Park Scheme, as well as the association's development of technical services to its membership.

From Parking Services Manager at the City of London in the 1980's and 90's, through to Transport and Infrastructure Manager at Bluewater, he brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this new role.

At the same time the BPA is promoting its present general manager, **Jane Hack**, to director with responsibility for the financial, administration, members services and general business affairs of the organisation.

Mark Bramah has been appointed the new assistant chief executive at APSE. Bramah has managed APSE's best value consultancy since 1999 when he moved from Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council where he worked in the corporate development unit on the implementation of best value and corporate policy development.

Please send details of appointments, contracts and other business news to **surveyor**, 32 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2SS. Fax: 020 7973 6677. E-mail: editorial.surveyor@hgluk.com