



Reducing safety risks on highway works sites was discussed at a special seminar last month

Reducing accident risk subject of Sonning seminar

MEASURES TO help reduce the risk of accidents at highway work sites were discussed by a panel of road safety specialists in Berkshire last month.

The event, 'Is Safety on Highway Works Given the Right Priority?' was held by the Thames & Chilterns Branch in the town of Sonning on 6 October.

Ginny Clarke of the Highways

Agency gave a keynote address titled 'Road Safety for All' and looked at how traffic speed can be enforced effectively. Steven St John of the National Term Maintenance Contractors' Safety Forum pointed out that safety on highway sites is the responsibility of everyone involved in a project and not just the contractor.

Kevin Clinton of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents spoke

about how the use of mobile phones by drivers is to become a specific offence on 1 December. He was preceded by Neil Fraser from Zurich International, who discussed insurance claims to do with trees situated beside the carriageway.

Other speakers included Mark Hatfield of the Health & Safety Executive and Paul Foreman of research body TRL.



Eric 'Bill' Bailey

FORMER SOUTH EASTERN Branch Chairman Eric 'Bill' Bailey has died. He was 80.

Mr Bailey was a fellow of the IHT and was elected branch chairman in 1984. His career covered a wide range of engineering disciplines, including sewerage and flood control, town planning, highways and bridges and structural engineering.

Mr Bailey gained a BSc in Civil Engineering at Imperial College London and served as an Officer Cadet in the Royal Engineer Corps between 1944 and 1945.

He joined Mitchell Construction as an agent and site engineer, had a spell with Great Yarmouth Borough Council and became contracts manager for Walter Smith Ltd and Tilbury Construction. He worked for Lewisham Metropolitan Borough Council as a senior assistant engineer and joined the Lee Conservancy Catchment Board of the Mersea and Essex River authority.

In 1966 he moved to Scotland to become County Surveyor to Caithness County Council and Chief Engineer to the North of Scotland Water Board. He returned to Kent in 1970 and took up the post of Director of Technical Services to Tunbridge Wells District Council, where he remained until his retirement in 1986. He then worked as a consultant project manager for several local consultancy firms.

Mr Bailey enjoyed golf and staged several professional snooker matches in Tunbridge Wells, raising money for local charities. He passed away on 25 September and is survived by his wife Joan and two daughters Penny and Rebecca.

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Pioneering procurement seminar

HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT schemes and rail initiatives that are benefiting through partnering and new methods of procurement will be outlined to delegates at a seminar in Manchester next week.

The event, 'Partnering & Procurement for Perfect Performance' has been organised by the North Western Branch and will be held on Tuesday 18

November at the Old Trafford cricket ground.

Speakers are set to include Bill Edwards of Parkman, Stephen Tarr of Balfour Beatty and Jack Paine of the Strategic Rail Authority.

Among the topics likely to be discussed are improvements to the A1 between Peterborough and Blyth, dualling of carriageway on the A30 between Bodmin and Indian Queens and railway

operator franchises.

Event organiser Alistair Haydock from the North Western Branch said: "Delegates are set to gain a complete overview of the options available for outsourcing and procurement of their highways and transport services." IHT members will benefit from a reduced entry fee of £115.

For more information, contact 01244 344627.

Student seeks input to surfacing research

A MATURE STUDENT of highway engineering is looking for input to a post graduate research study into the early life characteristics of road surfacings.

John Bullas, 39, has begun a three year PhD at the University of Southampton and is keen to hear from transport professionals with experiences of the subject to share, either in confidence or otherwise. John is a member of the IHT and has returned to full time education after working for a number of leading research organisations.

He worked for TRL for seven years and then as a research-

er for the AA Foundation for Road Safety Research and CSS – the former County Surveyors' Society – on a jointly funded project reviewing the role of road surfacing and tyre characteristics on safety.

John has also worked for two specialist companies that provide materials for high friction surfacing. "I am keen to talk to people from a local authority background who have observed and or documented the early life surfacing characteristics of any road surfaces.

"The new generation of surfacings are fundamentally

different to what has gone before and the subject is very interesting," said John.

If you would like to assist John with his research, you can contact him on 023 80 593871 or email J.C.Bullas@soton.ac.uk

