

UK Lighting and Technology Board minutes of meeting held on 29 September (held on Microsoft Teams)

David Denner (Chair)
Peter Harrison
Jonathan Hurley
Keith Tovee
Gary Ross
Dean Wendleborn
Justin Ward

Welsh Government
ILP
Swansea Council, representing CSS Wales
Representing ADEPT
Department for Infrastructure Northern Ireland
Westminster City Council, representing LoTAG
CIHT

In attendance:

Lindsay McGregor
Toby Tucker
Dave Johnson

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

Apologies were recorded for Graham Smith, Bijan Bassiri, Simon Langley, Steve Berry and Matthew Eglington.

2. State of the nation update report – Lindsay McGregor / Toby Tucker

David Denner introduced the item welcoming Lindsay McGregor and Toby Tucker to the meeting. Lindsay McGregor and Toby Tucker presented the findings of the project and this was welcomed by Board members as of value to the lighting industry.

David Denner said that the aim would be to present the work to UKRLG and confirm sign-off through that process. David Denner said that the age of the lighting asset (the columns) would have been valuable but was considered at the outset and considered very difficult to ascertain. The Board agreed that infographics would be useful for presenting the findings and these could be used for a final report published on the UKRLG website but also that can be used in the subsequent publications.

Action: David Denner to set-up meeting with Lindsay McGregor and Toby Tucker to meet with Graham Smith from HEA in advance of UKRLG meeting in November to confirm industry support.

Action: David Denner to work with Dave Johnson to confirm delivery of all the deliverables on the project have been completed

Action: David Denner to take the report to UKRLG for final approval (agreeing final format and publication)

Action: Justin Ward to work with David Denner, Lindsay McGregor and Toby Tucker for an article that can go into Transportation Professional UKRLG pages and into the ILP Journal

Lindsay McGregor noted that the findings from the project were particularly important in the steps to reducing carbon emissions for the UK.

3. Minutes of the last UKLTB Meeting 14 May 2020

The minutes were noted. Dean Wendleborn noted that he had not yet had an update on the State of the City report (based on data from London). Gary Ross said he was not able to share the risk assessment process in Northern Ireland for column replacement work with Jonathan Hurley. Gary said he would check with his DLO and let Jonathan Hurley know if any risk assessment could be shared.

4. Minutes of the last UKRLG Meeting 9 July 2020

The minutes were noted. Justin Ward noted that the UKRLG minutes had been transferred to the CIHT website.

5. COVID-19 – Lighting sector response – All Discussion

Dean Wendleborn said that work was returned to normal but noted office return was limited and also there was a potential for another lockdown. Keith Tovee said that they were working from home. Peter Harrison said that ILP face-to-face meetings have not happened and they are looking to support the wider lighting community under these restrictions. Peter added that there were redundancies in manufacturing and sales and uncertainty going forward. Gary Ross said that work was progressing well in Northern Ireland but the rates of Covid were rising, in particular in the north west. Peter Harrison noted that there was a difficulty with mental health issues.

6. Updates from UKLB member organisations (verbal update) to include an update from each member on how their organisations are managing the current situation.

- a. **ADEPT** – Keith Tovee said that meetings nationally had been taking place. The issue of deterioration of columns was a focus and large replacement programmes were underway. The energy price and procurement were also flagged. The 5G installers were noted and private cable network that is quite an important issue as lots of authorities don't necessarily know where this is.
- b. **CSS Wales** – Jonathan Hurley noted workforce are back and office staff are on rotation for return into offices. Jonathan mentioned that a survey was underway to find out more about the underground cable network to improve the asset information in Wales.
- c. **Department for Infrastructure, NI** – Gary Ross said the Northern Ireland Executive was back in place and that this had helped progress work with funding for street lighting replacement of columns and cables and move to LED in Northern Ireland. Energy procurement was previously undertaken on an annualised basis but due to funding certainty they are moving to a two-year energy procurement programme and savings are envisaged from this.
- d. **ILP** – Peter Harrison said that AGM was held on 9th September with 200 attendees (the largest number). At the AGM they launched their training platform; two are currently available: ATOMS fundamental training – four hour taught content, and the Fundamental Lighting Course. Other training courses are being developed, e.g. on obtrusive light. PLG23 lighting for cycling infrastructure and PG09 visibility for short tunnels were recently published guidance. Furthermore, ILP is running webinars.
- e. **LoLEG - London Lighting Engineers Group** – Dean Wendleborn said that the last meeting was on 12 August and there was a presentation from Power Data Associates (PDA). Dean noted other issues: a recent incident on an EV cable and a recent cyber-

attack on a CMS system in a PFI. Finally, there was a note on issues with embellishment kits and problems associated with these and Keith Tovee and David Denner highlighted they were aware of similar problems.

- f. **Welsh Government** – David Denner said there is a big push for the Climate Change Emergency and a push for active travel in Wales. The push for walking and cycling was accelerated due to Covid. Bus use and train use has reduced considerably.

7. Connections to HA Lighting Apparatus – Telecommunications Act

David Denner passed over to Peter Harrison who noted that he had asked for this to be added to the agenda following the issue being raised at the ADEPT meeting. Dean Wendleborn then took over the issue noting that BT have approached five authorities in London saying that they can attach telecommunications equipment (for 5G) to lighting columns (as long as it is structurally safe to do so – and they will pay for this).

Dean said that WCC& RBKC legal department had gone through the Telecommunications Act and confirmed that BT's application of law was correct but they advised there were parts of the Act that gave councils some cover, including having an independent valuation of their column asset attachment rental, and having a concession framework in place. Dean said that if it is structurally sound then authorities have to consent as it is outside of planning i.e. permitted development. Dean noted that if the columns are part of a public realm improvement there could be exemptions. Another factor that could be a reason for blocking this would be that an authority could say they are using the columns for EV. Dean Wendleborn said that the lighting column is classified as 'land' in legal terms. Dean noted that at the City of Westminster had signed off this guidance:

<https://committees.westminster.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=1211&LLL=0>

Following a discussion, the Board noted wall mounting was another aspect to consider and highlighted that there was a need for guidance for the profession as currently there is a lack of clarity within local authorities. David Denner said that research on attachments to lighting columns guidance could be worth considering as a future UKRLG programme. Gary Ross said that there were three legal challenges last year with attachments to columns in Northern Ireland (banners and advertisements attached to lighting columns).

Action: David Denner to explore through UKRLG the development of guidance for a standard agreement for legal position when telecommunications equipment is attached to lighting column

8. Update on UKRLG – Planning Awareness Session 11/9/20

David Denner said that the Planning session was held recently that undertook a SWOT analysis, where an interim report would be published at the next meeting.

Action: UKL&TB members to provide views on future of the Board and UKRLG

9. AOB

APPG – looking at Dark Skies following a consultation on this – Peter Harrison made the members aware of this. <https://appgdarkskies.co.uk/>.

David Denner thanked everyone for attending.