

## **Minutes of the 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the UK Bridges Board held at the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation on 12 February 2014**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Mike Winter       | ADEPT/ Dorset County Council (Chairman) |
| Graham Bessant    | Transport for London                    |
| Barry Colford     | Large Bridges Rep/Forth Road Bridge     |
| Robert Dean       | Network Rail                            |
| Graham Cole       | ADEPT                                   |
| Neil Garton-Jones | CSS Wales                               |
| Satbir Gill       | TAG/ Ringway Hounslow Highways Limited  |
| Rod Howe          | Canal and Rivers Trust                  |
| Wayne Hindshaw    | Transport Scotland                      |
| Liz Kirkham       | ADEPT                                   |
| Neil Loudon       | Highways Agency                         |
| Willie Kerr       | Northern Ireland Roads Service          |
| David Mackenzie   | SCOTS, Highland Council                 |
| Stuart Molyneux   | Metropolitan Councils                   |
| Stephen Pottle    | Transport for London (Vice Chairman)    |
| Justin Ward       | CIHT (Secretariat)                      |

### **In attendance for item 1 and 2**

|                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| John Carpenter | Temporary Works Forum |
|----------------|-----------------------|

### ***UK Roads Liaison Group – items for decision or to note***

***The Board noted their concern over the lack of DfT representation at three consecutive meetings and limited progress with a number of issues which are detailed within the minutes.***

#### **1. Welcome, introduction and apologies**

Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular John Carpenter. Apologies were recorded for Jason Hibbert, Richard Fish, Steve Berry and Kevin Dentith.

#### **2. Temporary Works Forum**

John gave a very interesting presentation on the temporary works forum [[www.twforum.org.uk](http://www.twforum.org.uk)] as a forum to encourage open discussion of any matter related to temporary works. John said there is a range of useful information on the website.

#### **3. Note of last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes were approved subject to a minor typo for correction.

#### **4. UK Roads Liaison Group**

The Board noted the minutes of the last meeting. Mike Winter said that he had been interviewed by the National Audit Office (NAO) on matters related to bridge maintenance.

## **5. ADEPT & NR LIAISON**

Stuart said that a meeting was planned to take place with Ian Bucknall on 19 March.

David Mackenzie said that there was regular liaison between SCOTS and Network Rail.

Neil Garton-Jones said that the Welsh Government were the lead on this initiative and that an initial meeting was planned.

The Board agreed that it would be useful to review the minutes of liaison meetings between highway authorities and Network Rail across the UK to ensure that information is shared and that issues are being proactively addressed.

**Action: Liaison leads to copy minutes to Justin for inclusion on subsequent UKBB meeting.**

**Action: Rob to provide a note on the legal issues around track amendments**

## **6. Bridge strike protocol**

The UK Bridges Board said that low headroom signs on bridges are there to inform and protect users of the road network. The Board agreed that the provision of signage was a matter for the Highway Authority, particularly in regards to meeting their duty under the Highways Act. Any further enhancements such as advance warning systems, alarms and so on should be considered on a case by case basis.

The UK Bridges Board, therefore, did not support the proposals from the UK Network Management Board that principally recommended that the installation and maintenance costs for traffic signs on bridge structures should always be met by the bridge owner.

The UK Bridges Board agreed that the UK Roads Liaison Group would have to “arbitrate” and come to a final decision on a way forward in light of the differing views on the Bridge Strike Protocol.

**Action: Justin Ward to inform Keith Ross and the UK Network Management Board of the update from the UKBB [completed]**

**Action: Satbir Gill to raise any particular concerns with BAPA Network Rail Charges on footbridges directly with Network Rail**

## **7. ADEPT and Canal & Rivers Trust liaison**

Rod said a key issue was parapet strikes.

The Board supported David Mackenzie’s proposal that Scottish Canals, through Andrew Stevenson, should be represented on the Board.

**Action: David Mackenzie to provide contact details of Andrew Stevenson to Justin Ward [completed]**

**Action: Justin Ward to add Andrew Stevenson to the UKBB circulation list**

## **8. Bridge Inspector Training Toolkit**

The Board noted from the UKRLG minutes that the tender was to go out in early January and were pleased to hear this given delays with this work.

Neil Loudon and Stephen Pottle confirmed that they had offered to assist to help review any issues and provide feedback to move forward the commission on the work for the toolkit.

## 9. Structures Toolkit

**Action: Justin Ward to write to DfT that the review of the Code of Practice should include ongoing maintenance of the Code and also include the validation of the software needed to support the structures toolkit.**

Liz said that there was no longer support provided for people using the Structures Toolkit to calculate WGA submission data..

The Board highlighted concerns that there was no validation scheme in place for software incorporating the bridge asset management toolkit.

**Action: DfT to provide an update on Whole of Government Accounts submissions.**

## 10. Boundary issue

Neil Loudon provided an update on the boundary issue saying that the feedback comments had been reviewed alongside the arrangements in place for Scotland.

Neil said that the Highways Agency have been discussing the issues with the DfT who are currently seeking legal advice on the issues. Neil said that the proposal for a workshop is currently being considered and this could take place in March/April.

## 11. Vehicle restraint systems

Graham Cole provided a brief overview of the Oxshott incident (2010) where a lorry fell from the Warren Lane (A244) road bridge onto the railway at Oxshott, Surrey, and struck the roof of a passing train. The lorry had collided with the bridge's parapet and partly demolished it. Road users who witnessed the accident responded by contacting the emergency services and assisting the injured lorry driver who was trapped in the lorry's cab.

The RAIB has made two recommendations to the Department for Transport concerning issuing guidance for local highway authorities, two recommendations to Surrey County Council concerning highway safety inspections and safety measures at the bridge where the accident occurred, and one recommendation to Network Rail to enhance existing structural examinations at bridges carrying roads over railways.

The recommendations for the DfT that are still to be completed were:

*The Department for Transport should issue guidance to highway authorities on highlighting the unprotected ends of parapets (for example by reflective markers, white paint, etc.) of bridges over railways where the end of the parapet presents a possible hazard to road users, the consequences of which could export risk to the railway*

*The Department for Transport, with highway authorities, should prepare guidance for highway authorities on identifying local safety hazards at bridges over railways which could be mitigated by measures such as signage, hazard marking, white lining or safety barriers, and include consideration of previous accident history and the causes of those accidents. This should include guidance on when the assessment should be undertaken and when such measures should be applied*

**Action: Graham Cole to incorporate comments from Willie Kerr into the vehicle restraint systems document for Justin Ward to circulate to DfT to complete the recommendations from the RAIB report on guidance for local highway authorities**

## 12. Bridge Owners Forum (BOF)

Graham Cole provided a core issue from BOF on the role of self-certification and Stephen Pottle asked Board members to provide examples to help inform the issue.

**Action: UKBB to send examples to Richard Fish of where self-certification has, and has not, worked effectively**

### **13. Research**

Mike Winter highlighted that the CIRIA research on defects in hidden components had previously received strong support from the UK Roads Liaison Group, particularly from Derek Turner of HA.

The Board were urged to complete the survey if they had not done so already: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/73LTJVQ> as this would help refine the scope of the project.

**Action: UK Bridges Board to email Richard Fish any concerns over prioritisation of research items**

**Action: DfT to confirm their position in regards to assisting funding of UKRLG research issues**

**Action: Wayne Hindshaw to pass to Justin Ward for circulation a copy of Scottish Roads Research Board minutes**

### **14. Code of Practice updates**

The Board noted their concern that the contract had now ended for updates to the Codes of Practice. Stephen Pottle suggested that the Board should still keep track of changes which affect the bridge sector and would otherwise be included in the Code so that they can be incorporated into the rewrite of the code.

### **15. Revision of Code of Practice**

Mike Winter said that he had reviewed a specification for project to review and revise the Codes of Practice and that he had written to DfT requesting that issues of risk and resilience should be specifically included.

### **16. Local Transport Climate Adaptation Steering Group**

Justin Ward provided a brief update on the last meeting of the Steering Group.

### **17. LGA Knowledge Hub**

Liz highlighted the ADEPT Bridges Group knowledge hub that is available to anyone to join. Liz said there were already over 50 members on this group.

[<https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk/web/adeptnbggroup/welcome>]

### **18. Building Information Modelling**

The Board agreed to defer this till the next meeting.

### **19. Extreme weather events**

Discussion item delayed.

### **20. UKBB Business Plan**

Mike said that further work was required to update the plan.

**Action: Justin Ward and Mike Winter to update UKBB Business Plan**

## **21. Conferences & Courses**

26 March 2014 - Surveyor Bridges Conferences in Birmingham

## **22. Any other business**

Mike Winter highlighted Eurocodes and the Board agreed that a standing item on Peter Clapham's reports on the implementation of Eurocodes would be useful.

**Action: Justin Ward and Mike Winter to include a standing item on Eurocodes**

**Action: Justin Ward to invite Alastair Soane to present on SCOSS at the next UKBB meeting**

Neil Loudon said that the Highways Agency was working with Network Rail towards a common specification on steelworks.

Rod Howe highlighted concern from the Canal & Rivers Trust on a consultation that could lead to larger agricultural vehicles on the road network.

## **23. Date of next meeting**

26 June 2014