

Minutes of the 53rd meeting of the UK Bridges Board (UKBB) held at the CIHT on 15 June 2017

Board members in attendance:

Dana Skelley	TfL (Chairman)
Kevin Dentith	ADEPT/Devon County Council
Richard Fish	BOF
Satbir Gill	TAG/Hounslow Highways
Sharanjit Gill (for Nicola Head)	Transport for London
Graham Cole	ADEPT
Rob Dean	Network Rail
Colin Ferris	Infrastructure Northern Ireland
Jason Hibbert	Welsh Government
Bob Humphreys	CSS Wales, Gwynedd Council
Alexis Tregenza (for Steve Berry)	DfT
Liz Kirkham	ADEPT/Gloucestershire County Council (Deputy Chairman)
Neil Loudon	Highways England
Dr Hazel McDonald (for Wayne Hindshaw)	Transport Scotland
Andrew Strang	SCOTS/Perth and Kinross Council
Justin Ward	CIHT (Secretariat)

In attendance

Kieran Dodds	West Sussex County Council
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1. Welcome

Dana Skelley welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted for Stuart Molyneux, Wayne Hindshaw, Peter Walker, Nick Burgess, Nicola Head, and Steve Berry.

2. Use of drones for bridge inspections

Kieran Dodds from Sussex County Council gave a presentation on a trial that he is undertaking – with Balfour Beatty – on the use of drones for bridge inspections.

Rob Dean said that Network Rail now use drones, but that there was still a need for the industry to understand more clearly how to operate drones and also to manage the data that is produced. Rob said that Network Rail was working with Cambridge University to use a drone to create a 3D model using LIDAR.

Kevin Dentith said that he could see the use of drones as a complement to bridge inspections and useful in particular situations – under arches or when very high access would be required. Dana Skelley said that there was an industry piece of work needed. And that there was a role for clients to play at an early stage in terms of managing expectations.

Justin Ward noted that the World Road Association had a special project on the use of drones/UAV's for managing transport networks.

Action: Include the application of drones as part of the UKRLG innovation work

Action: Justin Ward to draft an article on the trial by West Sussex County Council for inclusion in Transportation Professional

Action: Justin Ward to provide an update on World Road Association work on use of drones/UAV's

3. UK Bridges Board minutes

A minor correction was noted on the minutes.

Action: Justin Ward to amend previous minutes

Neil Loudon noted the ongoing work on bridges strikes and that a lot of this work has been involved with the bridge strike prevention group. Neil said that Network Rail and Highways England was working on planned possessions. Neil said that he was still waiting for the letter of support from the DfT in support for the Bridge Inspector Certification Scheme. Dana said that she had been awaiting a reply on this. Dana said that she would write to the Chair of UKRLG, Graham Pendlebury on a range of issues regarding UKRLG as she was going to stand down soon from the Board.

Action: Dana Skelley to write to Graham Pendlebury on UKRLG matters

4. Chair of UK Bridges Board

Justin Ward said that the call for nominations for the next Chair of the UK Bridges Board had gone out, and was closing on 22nd June.

Action: Justin Ward to send a reminder on the call for nominations for UK Bridges Board Chair

Liz Kirkham, on behalf of the Board, thanked Dana for leading the Board and helping to shake things up and move work forward.

5. UKRLG Business Plan

Dana Skelley said the plan was more focused now and provided an overview of the key elements discussed at the UKRLG strategic planning event that was used as the basis for developing the plan. Dana said that the UKRLG was looking at pump priming some research on the case for investment in the highway sector, noting that this would build on existing sources of work e.g. ALARM survey. It was noted that ADEPT are also considering this and working with businesses to help make the case.

Dana noted the Group would keep a watching bridge on the Lloyds Register Foundation work on global resilience. Neil Loudon said that CIRIA had a lot of work on resilience so there was a need to tie that up. Dana also noted work on considering assets across the Board and that there was a commitment to move that forward. Dana said that she had asked Garry Sterritt to take on the representation for TfL on the Board. Finally Dana mentioned future skills and the need that the Board consolidating what the sector should be asking considering issues such as digital skills competencies.

Action: Rob Dean to provide the work that Network Rail are working on defining future competency requirements

6. BOF

Richard Fish said the next BOF meeting was due to take place on the 18th of July and said that the final work was being undertaken to refine for specific proposals for the Grand Challenges work.

Action: Richard Fish to provide a short summary of the output from the BOF workshop on Grand Challenges

Dana said it was important to ensure the people working together are diverse and, as such, it would be useful to get the perspective from an apprentice.

Action: Sharanjit Gill to provide details of an apprentice for the BOF workshop to Richard Fish

7. Security

Following the recent terrorist incidents in London, Dana noted to the Board the hostile vehicle mitigation measures that were installed across a number of bridges in London. The Board noted the importance of blending physical measures for security into the public realm.

Action: Sharanjit Gill to provide an update to Board members on measures to blend security measures on bridges

8. Personal safety incidents

Kevin Dentith raised the issue and the Board shared insight into measures that can address the challenge of personal safety incidents, Dana concluded noting that it was about the total system of interventions required.

9. Code of Practice on Boundary issues

Neil Loudon said that work had been slightly delayed due to some internal staff pressures. Neil thanked TfL for their legal perspective and said that the work on the Boundary issue was with the legal team at the DfT.

10. WGA

Liz Kirkham said that Scotland had undertaken its own rates review but that DfT had suggested that these rates should be used nationally. Objections were raised to this, as they would not be appropriate nationally due to different costs in different regions of the UK. The DfT response to this was to move away entirely from the idea of a central rates review, and that it would be down to individual authorities or regional groups to establish their own rates. Liz said that ADEPT was supporting the next step of the review with some regional focus to establish rates across the UK.

11. DMRB review

Neil provided an update on the review. Dana suggested the need to engage with TAG and TfL on the review. Satbir asked if academia would be consulted – this, Neil said, was unlikely. The Board raised concerns about local roads and the possible need for a standard for the design of local roads. The Board reiterated the importance of UKRLG writing – through the Chair, Graham Pendlebury – on this issue to Mike Wilson at Highways England.

Dana said that there was a need to collaborate as an industry to secure the best outcome from the review and a number of Board members volunteered to assist with the review.

12. Canal & River Trust

Kevin Dentith said that ADEPT had rejected the proposed memorandum of understanding proposed by the Canal & River Trust, as it seemed very one sided and the costs proposed by C&RT did not seem to be justified, or have any breakdown associated with them. Kevin suggested referring to the Code of Practice 'Well-managed Highway Infrastructure' – see

paragraph 4.4.12 – if no agreement is reached – was used. Liz Kirkham added that the possession planning group, in ADEPT’s view, required a clearer focus.

13. Current research

Neil said that the latest draft of the work on safety critical fixings was currently being reviewed. Neil added that CIRIA document on hidden components was due to be published shortly. Rob Dean said that he had been asked by CIRIA to chair a steering group on deterioration modelling.

14. Any other business

- **Structural health monitoring** – Neil Loudon raised this and said that CIRIA was looking to undertake work on this. The Board agreed a wider update from CIRIA would be helpful.

Action: Rob Dean to provide contact details for the Chief Executive of CIRIA to Justin Ward for an invitation to attend the next UKBB meeting

- **Collision protection beams** – Liz raised this noting the need for Network Rail to work with highway authorities so that signing could be reviewed in advance of installation of the beams by Network Rail.

Action: Liz Kirkham to flag this to the Bridge Strike Prevention Group

- **RAIB report** – Rob Dean said that the Froxfield report included a recommendation relevant to highway authorities
- **Grove lane bridge collapse** – Rob Dean noted the importance of having better access to utility data.

Action: Liz Kirkham to provide contact details for Rob Dean to raise the issue of the Grove Lane bridge collapse to HAUC

- **Documentary film on bridges** – Kevin Dentith noted that some initial interviews had been conducted.
- **Temporary bridges call-off contract** – Neil Loudon raised this and said he was working with DfT to explore the option of a UK-wide national contract
- **Transportation Professional** – Dana Skelley noted that she would be drafting a piece for TP reflecting back on her work with the UKRLG and welcomed any input to this.

Action: UK Bridges Board members to suggest material to Dana Skelley for Transportation Professional on the UKRLG.

Annex 1 - Structures Over or Adjacent to Canals or Navigable Waterways

C.4.4.12. Inspections or maintenance work on structures over or adjacent to canals or navigable waterways should be carried out in such a way as to ensure the safety of waterway users and the integrity of the waterway. The Canal & River Trust, Scottish Canals or the relevant navigation authority may require the Bridge Manager of the Highway Authority to adhere to their procedures. These procedures may be covered in the agreement for the construction of the structure, but in the absence of an agreement or if the agreement is silent, Highway Authorities can use their powers under Sections 289 and 291 of the

Highways Act 1980 to gain entry with compensation being determined in accordance with Section 292. As the work being undertaken is primarily for the benefit of highway users and not canal users, Section 118 of the Transport Act 1968 does not apply. Documents, such as the [Canal & River Trust Code of Practice](#) and [Scottish Canals Code of Practice](#) are not mandatory, although certain sections need to be adhered to in order to ensure the safety of canal users.