

**Minutes of AHAUC Meeting held on 29 January 2010
at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park**

Present :

Andrew	Prigmore	Bedford Borough Council
Keith	Childs	BT/Openreach
Keith	O'Brien (Joint Chair)	Cable and Wireless
Andy	Chatfield	Cambridgeshire County Council
Martin.	Freeman	Central Bedfordshire Council
Dave	Cooper	EDF Energy Networks
Colin	Carruth	Essex County Council
Paul	Castleman	Hertfordshire County Council
Rob	Scott (Chair)	Luton Borough Council
Lilian	Drew (Secretary)	Milton Keynes Council
David	Giles	National Grid Gas
Tony	Norman	Network Rail
Clive	Derry	Norfolk County Council
Peter	Brigham	Peterborough City Council
Diane	Newson	Suffolk County Council
Barry	Rainger	Thames Water
Eddie	Owen	Veolia Water
Anthony	Mcgrath	Virgin Media
Gareth	Hughes	Bedfordshire (Observer)

1. Apologies

S. Widdows	Bucks CC
J. Kirk	Anglian Water

2. Minutes from last meeting (October 2009)

- (a) Minutes taken as an accurate record.
- (b) 4d – A. Prigmore had been volunteered to be the web site administrator. Closed
- 4g – Section 81 information – still outstanding. RS to receive comments and collate them. RS
- AHAUC Roadshow responses – still outstanding. JK/LD
- Vote on 2010 roadshow – to be discussed later. Closed

3. Good Practice Working Group Reports

(a) **AHAUC Website**

AP advised that there had been problems with the administration of the website. AP had now been confirmed as the administrator (mainly by default) and site would be updated as time went along. It was agreed to place the new regional scaffold application form on the site.

(b) **Co-ordination Principles**

DC advised that a meeting had been held to look at feedback from the questionnaire. Bucks/MK were going to trial ELGIN at their next co-ord.

(c) **Durations**

RS had circulated a document on duration times for both highways and utilities. Some organisations would not sign up to the document but most would use it as a draft document that could be added to. It was a good practice document to be used if required.

(Herts, Essex and Thames Water had reservations on the document).

It was stated that the JUG side thought it to be a good idea and they hoped to convene a meeting to discuss further.

(d) **Performance Information**

Group would only meet annually, in May.

(e) **Olympic Co-ordination**

EO advised that a meeting had been held in December.

Essex/Bucks/Herts and Veolia Water all involved. Delegates had been invited to the London Olympic Co-ordination meeting and it was felt that it was useful for the authorities involved to keep up with the London processes.

4. Performance Information

CD had supplied the third quarter's information. It was disappointing that yet again there was virtually no utility information (there had been a slight error in the circulated spreadsheet on this, but this had now been rectified).

It had been agreed that the figures would be published a quarter in arrears on the website. Quarter 2 data would now be placed on the web site. CD had received no comments or amendments to this information.

It was agreed that the graphs supplied were the most meaningful. It was then decided to change the graph on Cat. B&C inspections from a number to a percentage, as this would provide more useful data.

5. County HAUC Feedback

(a) Herts

Attendance fair.

No attendees from Thames Water (now 18 months since they attended).

Performance – all categories poor.

Section 81, Herts considering action against non compliance on S.81.

KPM's – upward trend in Immediate Notices.

- Co-ord/Co-operation – excellent results.

No one supplying forward planning notices.

Early starts – Herts now completed their process.

Presentation on TTRO's (Temp Traffic Regulation Orders).

There appeared to be a problem between Veolia Water & Herts regarding the provision of a drawing showing the closure/diversion route and then supplying a Traffic Management Drawing. Veolia Water thought that the closure/diversion route drawing was for internal use only and that they should not have to supply this. However, this appeared to be a legal requirement not an internal document.

Beds advised that the Highway Authority actually decided the diversion route in Beds, but they needed a closure plan. Cambs and MK required a closure/diversion plan with the application form, and then a TM drawing later.

(LD advised that a TTRO sub-group had been set up in the Anglian region and this may clarify issues).

- (b) **Norfolk**
- Meeting held on 28 January 2010.
 - Non attendance from Virgin and Network Rail.
 - Performance information shared.
 - KPM's circulated.
- (c) **Cambs**
- Meeting held on 7th January (very cold ! and attendance down due to weather).
 - Meeting asked to share good and bad practices. General agreement that if the comms were good, the job went well, if comms were not so good, job went badly.

- (d) **Suffolk**
 - Good attendance.
 - Co-ordination – working well.
 - Trying to encourage 6 month notices.
 - Working with edf to reduce duration times on LV faults.
- (e) **Bucks/
MK**
 - Meeting held in November.
 - Good attendance.
 - Promoting 6 months noticing.
- (f) **Bedford**
 - Meeting cancelled due to weather.
- (g) **Essex**
 - Dispute with one utility regarding shallow trenching – DC to raise at National Level.

6. **AHAUC Roadshow**

Vote held on whether there should be a 2010 roadshow. Voting very close but without a majority sign up, the roadshow could not go ahead. Decision taken not to hold a 2010 roadshow.

Questions were raised regarding a 2011 roadshow. Comments welcome but should consider this quite quickly and set up a committee to run it.

It was suggested that, as so much new legislation was being introduced (SROH, Safety Inspections, etc.), a training/information seminar be held to discuss the implications of the new Codes instead.

It was agreed that a new item 'Seminar' be added to the Agenda for the LD next meeting.

7. **AHAUC Finance Report**

As JK could not attend, there was no report on the finances. RS JK requested an update ASAP to him and KOB as joint chairs.

8. **TMA/Codes of Practice Update**

- (a) **Inspections** – Draft Code with DfT–
Likely implementation date April 2011.
Consultation to be circulated end of February 2010.
- (b) **SROH** – Consultation closed.
 - Likely implementation, April 2010.
- (c) **Training and Accreditation** – Process being agreed to re-assess

all card holders every 5 years.

- (d) **Safety** – Draft to be consulted on February 2010.
- (e) **Notices/Co-ordination** – Group to meet to discuss Section 58.
- (f) **Permits**
 - London & Kent now implemented.
 - Northants with Sec. of State.
 - Anglian region – common scheme being investigated – Proposal for all roads of 40 mph or less and all TS, to be charged for, permits on all roads.
- (g) **Records** – Delayed.
- (h) **Diversionsary Works** – Draft HAUC advice note in February 2010.

9. **Dispute Resolution**

Update – Herts v Veolia Water – High Court hearing scheduled for 8, 9 and 10 February 2010.

10. **Health & Safety**

- (a) KO'B brought up an incident regarding a workman who had a cut on his hand but ended up in hospital with cellulitis. When the helmet was inspected, it was found that his gloves and other PPE equipment were kept in the helmet, which gave an increased risk to the operator.

KC circulated a clipping from a Northant's newspaper, which showed no signing and guarding at a road work's site.

PC circulated a photograph of a gang on the A6, with no protection at all.

11. **HAUC (UK)**

- (a) DfT had issued an action plan after the summit in October. It was thought that Section 74 regulations would be updated shortly. (Consultation required to increase charges, implementation date April 2011).

Section 74A (lane rental) is with the DFT.

- (b) National Street Gazetteer – working group to be set up.
- (c) KOB queried whether AHAUC had sent an update to HAUC (UK)

from the last meeting. RS advised that he had sent it. LD to compile an update and send to the joint chairs before sending to HAUC (UK). LD

- (d) KOB stated that there seemed to be a problem disseminating information to members of AHAUC. RS sends information to AJAG and it was decided that KOB should do the same for AJUG.

12. AOB

- (a) KOB requested an up to date list of contacts for the Highway Authorities. It was agreed that MF would compile a list and send it on to KOB. MF

It was agreed to place this list on the web site.

- (b) KC requested that all Section 81 forms had the postcode or the grid reference placed in the location details. HA's

Next meeting – 12:30 pm on 30th April 2010.