



# THE CHARTERED INSTITUTION OF HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

## **Chairman's Report - Southern Branch AGM – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

### **Young Professionals**

The Young Professional Papers competition held in Winchester in May 2013 consisted of excellent presentations on Transport for the Isle of Wight and Hampshire, and Bernard Brincat's winning presentation on the Development of Deterioration Models for the Canal and River Trust's Assets. Bernard represented the Southern Branch at the National Competition held in November 2013 in CIHT London.

The Young People's Committee met in October 2013 and March 2014, and these confirmed that the focus of current needs from younger members from the Institution is for professional development and qualifications. Social events are not regarded as particularly important. The Young People's Committee has decided there is not expected to be a need to meet again in the near future.

### **Events**

A variety of events ranging from site visits of important sustainable transportation schemes, to events repeated by roadshow in different parts of the Branch area were staged as follows:

June 2013	Bordon Eco-town - Presentation, site visit and tour of the Exhibition House
July 2013	Portsmouth - M275 Tipner Park and Ride, Bus Lane and Regeneration Area Site Visit
Aug 2013	Farnham - Alice Holt Park Family Cycle Ride
Sept 2013	Winchester - Corrosion in Bridges, Tunnels and Civil Structures – inspection, testing etc.
Oct 2013	Newbury - Annual Dinner Dance, jointly with Thames and Chilterns Branch
Nov 2013	Farnborough – Adding value through BIM in highways and transportation
Nov 2013	Hindhead – Ramble in Devil's Punchbowl, improved following a major highway project
Dec 2013	Winchester - Flooding and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
Jan 2014	Chichester - Adding value through BIM in highways and transportation (Joint with SE Branch)
Jan 2014	Portsmouth - M275 Tipner Park & Ride and Bus Lane, Horsea Island Regeneration presentation and further site visit
Feb 2014	Guildford – Managed / Smart Motorways (Joint with ICE)
March 2014	Southampton - M25 Widening by Smart Motorways (all lane running construction, delivery and design innovations)

With the exception of the August and September events, all the events organised were well attended with up to 50 members attending site visits and evening meetings.

### **Membership**

A Recruitment Campaign with incentives has been, and is underway nationally. Southern Branch membership has however declined from 977 (April 2013) to 941 (April 2014). The Southern Branch accounts for 7.6% of the Institution's membership.

## **Branch Review**

A review of Branches has been undertaken resulting in a recommendation by the Board of Trustees for restructuring the Branches in line with the devolved nations and boundaries of the English regions.

The review has aimed to take account of new technology now available and the different way members are likely to want to interface with the CIHT in the future.

The recommendation would mean that the Southern Branch would amalgamate with the Thames & Chilterns and the South Eastern Branches to form a new South East Branch covering the whole of the "old" South East England's administrative region.

The Southern Branch committee have suggested that a better solution would be for two Branches in the South East Region of England.

These would be:

1. A South Eastern Branch incorporating all of Kent, East and West Sussex, and the parts of Surrey within the Capital to Coast Local Enterprise Partnership Area.
2. A Central Southern Branch incorporating Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Hampshire and the parts of Surrey within the M3 Local Enterprise Partnership Area (this would also include Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight).

The Trustees are consulting further with Branches before deciding exactly how to reorganise,

### **Achievements in 2013/14.**

- Young Professionals – understanding the needs of younger members.
- The holding of a joint dinner and dance with the Thames and Chilterns Branch. Ian Cross was awarded and presented with the Certificate of Merit. The event, held in Newbury, was oversubscribed and raised over £3000 for Cancer Relief through raffle and charity auction, and was also a source of income to fund branch activities. This was sponsored by industry employers, and the CIHT is very grateful for this.
- Three site visits well attended by members and guests
- Two well attended roadshow events, with the same event repeated in different parts of the Branch area to meet the needs of members

### **Issues for 2014/15**

- To make better use of technology to allow easier remote attendance at events
- To work more closely with higher education to facilitate access to CIHT events through technology, and appropriate speakers
- To support younger members, including encouraging and supporting younger members to achieve both the TPP qualification, and chartered status through CIHT.
- To organise a programme at least 5 evening meetings in 2014 / 5, including roadshow events.
- To address how the Institution can work better to meet the needs of members with a different Branch structure

I would like to express my appreciation to all speakers and committee members who have supported the Institution and its members, resulting in successful events and professional development during the year.

Tim Groves , 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014