

### A farewell message from Peter Barclay



“Throughout my 44 year career I have had many opportunities to do something different, including being part of the combined local government/private sector consortium that bid for and won the Highways Agency Area 7 contract in 1998, and contributing to the second phase of the Nottingham Express Transit in 2008. I also had a key role in managing major projects for Nottinghamshire, introducing the NEC form of contracts, Early Contractor Involvement, and integrated site teams.

I joined Leicestershire County Council in 2009 taking up the role of MHA manager. I did so hoping I could make a difference and I believe I have achieved that, with the benefits of merging with the Midlands Service Improvement Group, and the West Midlands Highway Alliance, the frameworks being well used and the number of authorities who are members of MHA+ now around thirty.

I am very proud to have been awarded the ICE EMMA and it will take pride of place on the sideboard, and when I dust it (apparently that is part of my new role) I shall look back with good memories. I’ve enjoyed my career and have been very fortunate to have worked with so many supportive colleagues, particularly during the last 18 months and feel that a lot of credit for this award should go to them.

As we look forward to the new normal as we come out of the pandemic, I thank you all for the exceptional support you have given me and wish you every success in the future.”

Regards

**Peter**

Peter Barclay BSc, CEng, MICE, MCIHT

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### Help shape this year’s annual event

We are asking all members and partners to have their say on this year’s event by taking a few minutes to complete the **MHA+ Annual Event 2021 Survey** before 31 August 2021.

Planning is well underway for the event in October and we want to make sure our event will meet the needs of our members as we move out of the restrictions imposed on us all by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The theme will be Sustainability and Carbon Reduction and we would like contributions from right across the MHA+ showcasing some of the great work being done in this area so please forward your suggestions to **Karen** and the **team**.

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## 2021 East Midlands Merit Awards (EMMAs) success

Congratulations to our MHA+ members on their success at this year's EMMAs.

Peter Barclay was announced as the winner of the **East Midlands ICE William Kemp Award 2021**. Each year it is awarded to someone who has made a sustained and exceptional contribution to civil engineering in the East Midlands over the course of their career. This well-deserved recognition of Peter's contribution to the Industry nationally and in the East Midlands came just before his retirement at the end of June.



The **A46 Anstey Lane project** enjoyed further success, when it was announced as the 2021 Medium Project Award winner - submitted by Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council, Highways England, Galliford Try, Waterman Aspen and Midlands Highway Alliance the project was also commended in the Team Achievement category with its carbon reduction and Stem initiatives given a particular mention.

The 2021 Small project category award winner was the A17/ A153 Rugby Club Junction, Sleaford , submitted by Eurovia UK, Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, for their project which balanced the need to reduce the high accident rate and congestion on a busy junction, while at the same time providing a safer pedestrian crossing. The site was also recognised as a Considerate Constructor site, achieving a certificate of excellence.

Commenting on this year's awards, ICE East and West Midlands Regional Director, Jo Barnett, said: "Our annual awards play an important role in not only demonstrating the importance of our civil engineers, but also in celebrating the positive impact that civil engineering has on our everyday lives. I am delighted that despite a difficult year for everyone, our civil engineers continued to safely deliver inspiring projects in often challenging circumstances."

For more information on the 2021 EMMAs click [here](#).

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## Thank you...



... to everyone who contributed towards Peter's retirement gift. The team managed to meet up with Peter to mark his retirement and presented him with a cheque for £340!

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## International Women in Engineering Day



As part of ICE East and West Midlands' celebrations for International Women in Engineering Day (INWED) on Wednesday, 23 June, Karen was asked to nominate her 'Engineering Hero' to help raise the profile of women in engineering and highlight the career opportunities available to women in the industry.

My #EngineeringHero is Professor Jean Venables who became the 144th President of the Institution of Civil Engineers in November 2008 – the first woman to have been elected to this position.



Karen Notman, BEng CEng MICE  
Midlands Highway Alliance Plus (MHA+)  
Manager  
Leicestershire County Council

**@INWED1919 #INWED21**

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## MHA+ Service Improvement Groups update

This has been a quieter period for the Service Improvement Groups with only three meetings having taken place since the last newsletter was published in May:

**Highways Records & Searches** – Group members have been sharing text from their disclaimers that are used to accompany various search outputs and highways extent plans in order to identify best practice and ensure that information provided is not used for other purposes by third parties.

**Casualty Reduction** – Undertaking a comparative exercise to collect KSI data from across member authorities for 2020-21. The main aim of this work is to identify any emerging trends in terms of the age profile and vehicle type used by those who are involved in serious or fatal collisions.

Having identified areas for concern, several small working groups will be formed, and further investigations carried out.

**Highways Asset Management** – This took place on 13 July with speakers from Gaist and Derby City Council.

Work is currently underway to develop a replacement for the (very) old MSIG website which is due to be 'retired' in October 2021 when the platform that it runs on will no longer be supported. We will ensure that the replacement provides all existing functionality and continues to be easily available to all members.

Dates of all upcoming Service Improvement Group meetings are available on the **MHA+ Calendar** and further information on each service improvement group is available on the **MSIG website**.

Please contact **Alice Russell / Karen Notman** if you would like to access the MSIG website, use the online discussion boards or join any of the service improvement groups.

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## MHA+ Skills and development

**Face to face learning events** – we remain committed to the benefits of collaborative learning – our postponed NEC events are planned to resume in the autumn – in the meantime virtual learning available via the **MHA Learning Management System (LMS)** enables members to maximise their use of our two frameworks.



It is recommended that prior to using the medium schemes framework, members complete

- NEC 4 - Introduction to Engineering Construction Contract (ECC) – NEC accredited

It is recommended that prior to using our Professional Services Partnership contracts, members complete

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- NEC 4 – Introduction to the Professional Services Contract (PSC) and the Professional Services Short Contract PSSC – NEC accredited

N.B. Once you have reached the required ‘pass’ standard - the LMS enables you to print/download a NEC certificate - to evidence your continuing professional development

We would expect participants, who subsequently attend our face to face ‘using the contracts’ events, to have completed these.

**Supplier learning content** - our framework suppliers offer a broad range of learning content that may be useful to building your knowledge base.

We have supplemented the ‘virtual’ technical content on the LMS with a range of softer skills e-learning modules such as decision making; mental health awareness and introduction to listening.

**Make the most of the Learning Management System (LMS)** - members can access a range of learning, training and development opportunities provided by the MHA skills community, sector partners and MHA members through the **LMS**. Detailed information on all MHA+ events is available on the **MHA+ calendar**.

MHA+ skills and development planning is about organising and developing resources to make sure that:

- our frameworks are delivered consistently by members and their supply chain
- that the supply chain is trained to help meet business objectives in the short, medium

Activities include analysis of the current and future skills that are needed. Construction Skills Network (CSN) Industry Insights 2018/22 for East Midlands is available [here](#).

A five year industry outlook for 2021-2025 for this sector is available [here](#).

We use our **MHA+ competencies framework** to maximise our learning and development offer.

**Information Sharing Platform (ISP)** - the ISP hosts a range of helpful resources, shared reference documents, confidential documents, and notes of meetings. Access is tailored to your individual requirements – so make sure you and your colleagues are registered. Details on how to become an ISP user and direct access to the ISP can be accessed from the **MHA+ website**.

Please also look out for training opportunities from our suppliers which are highlighted separately.

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For enquiries about this bulletin or to suggest any future articles please contact [Alice Russell / Karen Notman](#).

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