



Introducing Karen Notman - our new MHA Plus Manager

As you know, May 10 was my official start date as your new MHA Plus Manager and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who I haven't had the chance to meet or speak to yet.

I feel that my career has been heading naturally towards the MHA Plus Manager role for many years. Through my varied career I have maintained an active role on the MHA's boards and steering groups, as well as several MSIG task groups. I spent a short time working in the West

Midlands and have gained insight into the MHA and its Frameworks from various perspectives over the last few years as a client, consultant and secondee.

I will be working closely with Peter and the MHA+ Team over the next few weeks to ensure a smooth handover of the role: supporting the Executive Board in meeting the many challenges facing members and ensuring a strong future for this unique Alliance. It is an exciting time to be joining the new-look Alliance, as we move forward into our first full year as the MHA Plus and out of the shadow of the corona-virus pandemic.

Karen Notman, MHA+ Manager

Representing our members

The MHA+ team and other members of the Alliance have been involved in several national initiatives and events representing the interests of MHA+ members.

The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) is doing a **study** for HM Treasury about how we better drive growth in towns. At the beginning of May, Ann Carruthers took part in a roundtable on behalf of ADEPT (Association Directors of Env, Economy, Planning and Transport). Ann was involved in a session considering the role of infrastructure and was the only local authority representative there, the rest being from academia, central government etc. Following lots of interesting discussions, Ann reinforced the issues around funding opportunities, highlighting that while there is lots of money coming at the moment, the competitive nature, lack of resource, a lack of joined up governance and clear objectives for what you get from all these different funding streams going to different bodies, needs to be considered at the heart of the issue. The NIC agreed that the message back to Government can't simply be more money, but more serious consideration of how we best use that resource to achieve the outcomes needed. The study will be reporting to Government in September – so watch this space.

Peter Barclay, MHA+ Manager and David Walters, Regulation and Governance Manager, Staffordshire County Council were invited to speak at the Road Network Conference 2021 held on 26 May. The theme this year was ‘Delivering Improvements for the Future’.

Peter and Ian presented a case study on utilising alliances to ensure road network best practice. This included the use of partnerships to procure collaborative frameworks and the development of the Learning Management System to support members using the frameworks.

The MHA+ has also been invited to take part in the **ICE Chairman’s round table event on Net Zero Carbon** being held virtually on 3 June. Donna Worship, Team Manager – Carbon Reduction at Leicestershire County Council will be attending on behalf of the MHA+ visit:

<https://www.ice.org.uk/events/shaping-zero-president-address-eastmids-webinar>

... and the Considerate Constructors Scheme National Winner is...



... the A46 Project Team in the £7.5m to £10m category for the A46 Upgrade and Anstey Lane Widening.

The A46 Project Team is a prime example of the one team approach which was embraced by everyone involved from Leicestershire County Council, Galliford Try and Leicester City right through the supply chain.

As well as maintaining excellent standards in all areas of the Code of Considerate Practice, the site also achieved three approved CCS innovations whilst carrying out road improvements to the A46 and A5630.

This award demonstrates the commitment of the project team to raising standards and is an excellent example of best practice. Our warmest congratulations to all involved.

Find out more about the CCS 2021 awards [here](#) or for more information on this project contact **Gino Salvatore**, Liaison Manager Galliford Try Infrastructure directly.

Collaborative approach continues to be recognised

The teamwork between Leicestershire County Council and Morgan Sindall Infrastructure on an improvement scheme on the M1 J23 and the A512 at Loughborough has earned them one of only four **CIHT collaboration award nominations** nationally.

Even though the winners won't be announced until 29 June 2021 congratulations on your nomination (we'll be keeping our fingers crossed for you).



MSF 3 working groups update

As one working group comes to an end, another one begins! The ECI working group has almost finished a number of new guidance documents which will soon be available to download from the MHA+ website, we will let you know when they have been published.

Meanwhile the brand new BiM working group met for the first time this month. There is still time for member authorities to get on board with this group - contact **Richard Kirkham**, the chair of the new working group for more information.

MHA+ Task Groups update

It has been a busy few months since the last newsletter with 12 task group meetings having taken place. Attendance continues to grow as we welcome representatives from MHA/WMHA authorities who were not previously members of MSIG. The following summary gives a flavour of some of the recent discussion topics, initiatives and presentations.

Highways Structures – Lancashire, Cheshire East, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire and Staffordshire representatives volunteered to support stage 2 of the development of the BridgeCat project in conjunction with Gaist and DfT. You can find out more about Bridge Cat [here](#).

Highways Asset Management – Attended by Matt Eglinton and Louise Clare from DfT who took questions in relation to future highways funding. Presentation from Lancashire and Herefordshire group members on the new sustainability Self Assessment questions, focussing on calculating carbon usage over the lifetime of various surface treatments.

Winter Services – Group members from 13 authorities shared experiences from the 2020-21 winter season which was both busy and longer than usual. Discussions took place around salt supplies, route optimisation and forecasting providers.

Street Lighting – Michala Medcalf from Derby City has been appointed as Vice President for Local Authority at the Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP). Other group members are also active ADEPT members and the group will be focusing on using the MHA Plus network to give a voice to local authorities within the street lighting arena. The groups' energy usage comparison data is also being updated for 2021.

Low Carbon Travel and Transport – Presentations from Modeshift and JoJu Charging

Flood Water Management – Discussions about FRM project management and the development of specific skills required to deliver flood related schemes.

Third Party Claims – Presentation from Gaist on SafetyView highway safety inspection product which offers benefits in terms of inspector time and requirements for traffic management.

A full programme of dates for task group meetings is available on the **MHA Calendar** further information on each task group is available on the **MSIG website**.

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

Skills Community

Register your interest - members are asked to confirm their interest in the following learning event so as to ensure we have enough notional participants:

NEC 4: Project Manager Accreditation to equip delegates with the skills necessary to be able to fulfil the role of a Project Manager using the NEC 4 Engineering and Construction Contract.

Successful completion of this programme will enable a delegate to describe themselves as an accredited NEC4 Project Manager with specific reference to the ECC. The delegate will be able to demonstrate the key processes crucial to the NEC 4 and how to apply them to an ECC Project.

There will be reference to common NEC processes and application, but this training programme is specifically intended to be used on projects. Email mhaskills@leics.gov.uk for more details.

There are three **new case studies for PSP 3** available on the **website**:

- PSP 3 Birchley Island - visual exhibition
- PSP 3 PDS Derbyshire Visit Sleep Cycles Repeat
- PSP 3 PDS Nottinghamshire School Travel Toolkit

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

Make the most of the Learning Management System (LMS) - members can access a range of learning, training and development opportunities via the **LMS**. Information on all MHA Plus events is available on the **MHA calendar**.

Information Sharing Platform (ISP) - the ISP hosts a range of helpful resources, shared reference documents, confidential documents and notes of meetings. There is also the option to post, comment on and download resources. Access to content is based on your personal profile - for more information on how to become an ISP user and access to the ISP visit our **website**.

Farewell to Peter Barclay

As many of you will already be aware, Peter will be heading off into the sunset to enjoy a well-deserved retirement at the end of June.

Naturally, we would have preferred to celebrate Peter's retirement in a more face-to-face manner, but in keeping with current guidelines, we still have an opportunity to wish him farewell via the now familiar virtual route.

To find out more please contact a member of the **MHA team**.

Latest news

The MHA Plus Business Plan for 2021-22 can be viewed **here**.

For enquiries about this bulletin or to suggest any future articles please contact **Alice Russell**.

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