

# JAG(UK) NEWS

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## WELCOME

Welcome to the first in a series of JAG(UK) Newsletters. As an organisation representing you all as highway and road authorities across the UK, we have a whole host of work streams currently active and it's important that everyone is aware of what's going on. Effective communication is vital to ensure both an understanding of what's happening in the industry and also for the sharing of experiences and good practice. There are details in this newsletter of how you can contact JAG(UK) so please let us know if you have any issues you need help with or if you have any comments or contributions to make.

Roger Culpin, Chair JAG(UK)

## DUDLEY SCOOPS AWARD

Mike Bosworth and Laura Stevenson attended the NJUG Awards ceremony held at the Houses of Parliament on 20<sup>th</sup> November and Dudley MBC scooped the award for Partnership

Since April 2011, Dudley MBC, South Staffs Water, National Grid Gas and Western Power Distribution have worked together in partnership to carry out a coordinated, 18 month program of combined utility works covering more than 40 streets in Dudley town centre.

During the quarterly NRSWA coordination meetings various utilities indicated that they were planning to undertake work within the town centre and a few of the

streets mentioned were also on the program for resurfacing and/or maintenance.

Dudley MBC recognised the potential for a large, joint working scheme and several meetings took place where the idea of a joint working initiative was discussed at length. The meetings were well attended by both utility and council representatives.

A combined program of works was discussed at every progress meeting and this was the main planning tool used to send street works notices and formed the basis for all information. Each utility company provided information on their individual works program. This included a map of the area, a list of all streets affected, description of works in each street, an estimated duration for each street, and traffic management requirements.

Along with the utility information, Dudley MBC compiled a list of:

- All streets that required resurfacing / maintenance
- All the major re-developments due to take place over the coming 18-24 months
- All known events due to take place

The information was used to develop a combined program of works for approximately 40 streets within the town centre. It was a live document and was sent out by the respective PR and Communications teams.

It's always a pleasure when good work is rewarded and an authority wins an NJUG award. Further details can be found by visiting the JAG(UK) website (details below)

This approach can be an inspiration to us all. Are you planning such works in your authority? Can you take a similar approach? If you are, we would like to hear about it.

## JAG(UK) to meet the Secretary of State for Transport

Following recent frank exchange of views with Government and NJUG, the Secretary of State has invited JAG(UK) and NJUG to a meeting to discuss the issues the letters raised and how we can move forward collectively as an industry. We'll keep you informed of the outcomes.

In addition, Jerry McConkey, our HAUC(UK) chair, has received a letter from Norman Baker asking HAUC(UK) to look at developing efficient approval processes for Portable Traffic Signals that are proportionate, consistent and minimise the administrative burden. This is in light of DfT updating their guidance on Portable Traffic Signals. We'll be working on this and will keep you informed of progress. It should tie in well with ETon 6.

## PERMIT SCHEMES

DfT held a workshop on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2012 to look at ways of stimulating interest in Permits and meeting the aims of Ministers in terms of operational value etc. Following that workshop, JAG(UK) has issued a statement setting the latest position on Permit Schemes. The meeting was very positive and DfT is looking to improve guidance, cost benefit advice and how a reduction in

Highway Authority costs, in terms of scheme design and CBA work which are not recoverable through the scheme, may be achievable

The statement is as follows:

“You will have all no doubt read recent communication regarding Permit Schemes (Norman Baker’s letter to all Chief Executives dated 24 September) which stated the Government’s plan to revisit guidance for those proposing schemes. The view that Permits are a key part of network management policy has not changed but over the next few weeks the Government expects to issue new guidance on principles for the preparation of future schemes also on the construction of the cost benefit analysis.

In view of the above members are advised to perhaps hold off from completing scheme design and in particular the cost benefit analysis until the work mentioned above has been concluded. The changes are likely to be significant enough to affect design and implementation plans, but in an extremely positive way “

## JAG(UK)/BT OPENREACH

You will have seen by now the BT Openreach letter which JAG(UK) circulated recently; this is a significant landmark for JAG(UK). BT Openreach has acknowledged publicly for the first time of the problems that exist in terms of their performance and finance and has communicated a strategy for change. JAG(UK), through the JAG(UK) Manager, will continue to have fortnightly telephone conversations with BT Openreach’s higher management and report back to members on a regular basis, not only on progress with the BT Openreach plan, but also issues which members raise in terms of performance etc. Key to this improvement process will be at regional meetings, which BT has agreed to attend, so we need to get dates of these in the 2013 diary.

## CONSULTATIONS

1. JAG(UK) S74 Draft guidance note out for consultation: responses needed by 21<sup>st</sup> December 2012
2. JAG(UK) FPN Draft Guidance note out for consultation: responses needed by 21<sup>st</sup> December 2012.
3. Government - Extending Permitted Development Rights Consultation. Closing date 24<sup>th</sup> December 2012. JAG(UK) will be issuing advice on the Broadband/Highway element of this consultation in the next few weeks.

## WEBSITE

The JAG(UK) website is hosted by OneRoadNetwork. Please visit the site at [www.oneroadnetwork.org](http://www.oneroadnetwork.org) for the latest news on JAG(UK) and also issues concerning the whole street works industry. You can quickly and easily sign up for email alerts and also join a confidential forum which is only open to highway and road authority representatives so you can share information and discuss issues with like minded colleagues without any concerns that any opinion you may have will be seen by the others outside JAG(UK).

JAG(UK) has been asked to join in a process with TfL to improve the OneRoadNetwork.org web site. If members have any views on improving the site please contact your regional representatives or JAG(UK) Manager. Please also visit [www.hauc-uk.org.uk](http://www.hauc-uk.org.uk) for all HAUC(UK) related materials.

## VOLUNTEERS

As and when issues arise on certain topics, resolution can require the setting up of a task and finish working group. If anyone would like to put their name forward for any future initiatives, please contact JAG(UK). It’s great if we can have a resource pool to call on.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

Jerry McConkey, JAG(UK)’s joint chair of HAUC(UK), recently wrote to everyone to encourage sign up to the National Code of Conduct. Details are available on the HAUC(UK) website and if you have any questions about the Code, or the sign up procedure, please contact JAG(UK)

## 2013 EVENTS

- **3HAUCs’ Roadshow – 13<sup>th</sup> June – Pavilions of Harrogate (Great Yorkshire Showground)**
- **North Wales HAUC – 16<sup>th</sup> July - Glyndwr University, Mold**
- **West Midlands HAUC Roadshow – 10<sup>th</sup> / 11<sup>th</sup> September – Dunstall Park Racecourse, Wolverhampton**

**Attendance at these excellent events is free for delegates and provides a great opportunity for furthering your knowledge of Street and Road Works. For further details and registration see:**

<http://www.aldercross.com/index.php>

## HOW TO CONTACT JAG(UK)

If you have any issues or comments please contact:

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