

## **PRESS RELEASE**

*18 October 2011*

### Institute of Highway Engineers (IHE) welcomes DfT Signs Review

The IHE has welcomed the announcement last week by Transport Minister, **Norman Baker** MP on the outcomes of the major Policy Review of Traffic Signs ([www.dft.gov.uk/publications/signing-the-way](http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/signing-the-way)).

The IHE Traffic Signs Group was heavily involved in the policy review, both as a “sounding board”, and by active participation in each of the three working groups (Sign information, Enforcement, and Environment) and to the overall Steering Group. In addition to input to these meetings, IHE produced papers at various stages of the process, notably a 19-page report on the signing of on-street parking controls.

Many of the changes announced by the minister can be attributed directly to ideas first raised by IHE members:

- Greater flexibility of wording for parking plates, whilst retaining the overall look and feel.
- Consider the vertical sign to be the primary indication of a restriction, except for 24/7 controls that can be clearly indicated by a road marking.
- Freedom to mark a parking place in any clear manner (using any type of bay marking, coloured surfacing or distinctive pavers, for example)
- Wording on parking bays to be optional.
- T-bars on yellow lines adjoining other restrictions to be optional.

During the review process, the IHE gave a lot of thought to the problems of signing in residential areas where there are frequent vehicle crossovers and other interruptions to the permitted parking, and put forward several innovative solutions that also helped to reduce the number of plates needed.

**Simon Morgan** of Buchanan Computing who chairs the IHE Signs Group commented: “It has been fascinating to see and contribute to this whole process, from the earliest discussions through to these actual policies. Many of the ideas proposed and developed by the IHE have been adopted and several passages in the DfT document quote directly from IHE material. The way in which

diverse organisation have worked to achieve a consensus taking on board both road user perceptions and detailed engineering considerations had been exemplary. I have also been encouraged by the openness of DfT to change, knowing that they are often unfairly blamed for the inflexibility of the present regulations. In all, I think this review will vastly improve the appropriate signing of our streets, both helping to reduce over-provision and ensuring that signs that remain are clear and correct.”

**- END -**

### **Notes to Editor**

The IHE Traffic Signs Group has operated for over 10 years providing central technical advice to support the Institute's responses to DfT / HA consultations and overseeing the technical content and programme for the IHE's twice yearly training courses and its annual Traffic Signs Conference and Exhibition.

The same group also set-up and now moderates and oversees the assessment of the IHE Professional Certificate in Traffic Sign Design, endorsed by DfT, HA and Adept. The IHE provides extensive supporting resources on its website for those involved in traffic signing, including the Sign Structures Guide, now in its 3rd edition, published by IHE in association with the Highways Agency and the definitive reference on this subject.

As a result of these activities and initiatives, the IHE has become the foremost professional body in UK for all aspects of traffic signing, and is seen as a centre of excellence on this subject.

See [www.theihe.org/knowledge-network/traffic-sign-design/](http://www.theihe.org/knowledge-network/traffic-sign-design/) for more details.

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