

ADEPT Bridges Working Group – update May 2020

- A 2-hour virtual meeting was held using MS Teams and it seemed to be very well received; many appreciated the lack of travelling required (members attend from all corners of the UK)
- A presentation on ‘The Effects of Debris on Scour at Bridges’ was given by Dr Diego Panici of Devon County Council – this is based on an internationally published paper which was the result of collaboration between Exeter University and Devon County Council engineers
- Keith Harwood of Herts gave a presentation on the revised Structures Toolkit – named SAVI
- An update was given on a variety of ongoing consultations with third parties including:
 - Canal & Rivers Trust – a Guidance Document is being produced to reduce the charges Local Authorities are being expected to pay for carrying out their statutory duty when inspecting or maintaining highway bridges. A meeting between the ADEPT Chairman and the CEO of Canal & Rivers Trust appeared to pave the way for agreement but charges remain excessive and further discussions are ongoing
 - The Access Planning Group – a UK Bridges Board initiative – is chaired by an ADEPT Bridges Group member and it was reported that Network Rail are engaging at a much higher level and progress now looks possible in certain areas including the cost of cancelled line possessions which LAs currently have to bear through no fault of theirs.
 - Highways England v Local Authority Boundary Responsibilities – a new Guidance Document has been agreed between ADEPT and HE and the document is currently with the HE for completion and circulation
- A member asked how LAs were dealing with BIM as there had been a deadline of 2016 for all LAs to be Level 2 compliant. The consensus was no one was actively progressing this; the Chairman advised there was no known deadline for complying with this requirement - he was part of the steering group that developed a Guidance document for Infrastructure Bodies – now entitled Better Information Management <http://www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/en/utilities/document-summary.cfm?docid=77C08CC9-ED04-42EB-B957540CD6ED1D1F>
- The title of the Area Bridge Conferences (ABCs) had been discussed as it was felt this did not reflect the purpose of the regional meetings; options put forward as alternatives were Area Bridge Group and Bridge Engineering Group – a vote took place and the decision was to change to Area Bridge Group