**Soils & Materials Design & Specification Group meeting 6 March 2018**

The number of members attending was an encouraging increase compared with previous recent meetings.

The forthcoming changes to Specification for Highway Work(SHW) were discussed as were the effects these are likely to have for Local Highway Authorities. The revised SHW is likely to be much less relevant to local authority roads than is the case at the moment.

Production of technical Guidance Notes by SMDS was considered. The next Note will be on the deployment of Hot Rolled Asphalt surface courses. Progress with the production of the next SMDS Newsletter was reviewed with a number of articles offered for inclusion.

An update to the ADEPT Guidance Note *Managing Reclaimed Asphalt* is proposed. Work on this is under way.

Some SMDS members met representatives of the Mineral Products Association Asphalt Group on 19 April. Topics discussed included revision to the SHW clause for Thin Surface Courses, Highways England's approach to proprietary surfacing materials and progress by the UK Pavement Liaison Group, which includes SMDS members, in revising some of the SHW clauses for surfacing materials.

Client and producer experiences of the deployment of Warm Mix asphalts were exchanged. ADEPT's views on the promotion of ‘Plastic Roads’ also formed an element of the discussions.

A joint meeting between SMDS and the Road Surface Treatment Association is planned for the morning of 3 July.

The next SMDS meeting is in the afternoon of 3 July and the ADEPT SMDS/Regional Groups Workshop is on 4 July.

**Steve Betteridge**

**Secretary**