**ADEPT Soils and Materials Design and Specification Group (SMDS) meeting, 3 July 2019**

Continuing the pattern of recent years, SMDS held its summer meeting in Wolverhampton on 3rd July. This was also the venue for the annual liaison meeting with the Road Surface Treatment Association (RSTA) and the Training Day on 4th July, also organised by SMDS.

The SMDS meeting opened with a presentation on the Road Mole maintenance technique. This was followed by discussion and agreement on the publication of a Technical Guidance Note on *‘Melted Roads’* giving advice of the treatment of surface dressed roads adversely affected by hot weather. Authors were identified to produce articles for the SMDS Technical Newsletter. This occasional publication will appear in the autumn. Other matters discussed included feedback from the recent liaison meeting with the Minerals Products Association, the emerging alternative to HAPAS for product certification, and ADEPT’s contributions to the changes under way to national documentation such as Design Manual for Roads and Bridges and the Manual of Contract Documents for Highway Works.

SMDS meets annually with the Road Surface Treatment Association. This year’s meeting was particularly well attended. The meeting reviewed the ADEPT-endorsed Codes of Practice co-produced by the RSTA and noted the revision to the CoP on Geosynthetics and Steel Meshes, the proposals to simplify the European Standards for Micro-Slurry Surfacings and Surface Dressing, and the request for ADEPT’s support for the development for a British Standard for High Friction Surfacing. It was reported a British Standard for Spray Injection Patching is being written.

The Training Day on 4 July was the best attended to date and was described by many attending as ‘the best so far’. Topics presented included Cornwall’s approach to the application of ’CoP Well Managed Highways’ and the levels of risk available to Highway Authorities in its application; matters to consider to ensure a resilient network; and changes to the Specification for Highway Works, particularly those relating to bituminous bound materials.

The day continued with a review of innovation in the highway industry; the revision of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges covering both the national position from Highway England’s viewpoint and ‘What about Local Roads?’; and presentations on the proposed changes to the Specification for the Reinstatement of Openings in Highways, together with a request for further proposals and in due course comments on such proposals. The day concluded with a presentation on Cumbria’s experiences of ‘Plastic Roads’.

**Steve Betteridge**

**Secretary**