

**ENGINEERING BOARD  
STREET LIGHTING GROUP**



10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**NOTES OF MEETING**

In attendance (online):

Keith Tovee	<b>(KT)</b>	East of England	Chair
Dean Wendelborn	<b>(DW)</b>	London	
Ken Pitt	<b>(KP)</b>	South West	
Rob Baines	<b>(RB)</b>	Midlands	
Ron Parker	<b>(RP)</b>	North West	
Stephen Dennis	<b>(SD)</b>	National Highways	
Karl Rourke	<b>(KR)</b>	East Riding/Live Labs2	
Neal Weatherston	<b>(NW)</b>	HEA	
Mike Levack	<b>(ML)</b>	HEA	
Gary Wilson	<b>(GW)</b>	Scots	
Darren Hubbard	<b>(DH)</b>	North East	
Johnathan Hurley	<b>(JH)</b>	Wales	
Richard Newing	<b>(RN)</b>	Leicestershire	
Guy Harding	<b>(GH)</b>	ILP	Secretariat

Item		Action
<b>1</b>	<b><u>Apologies</u></b>  Sue Kinsella (South East), Felicity Lockett (TFL), Trevor Scott (NI), Ian Moore (Yorkshire)	
<b>2</b>	<b><u>Notes and any O/S actions from previous meeting</u></b>  Item 3: Report on Orange Tek luminaire outstanding as <b>RB</b> could not find a lab. He now to approach KIWA. <b>GH</b> to be copied in on results. <b>DW</b> commented he had a failure in Hammersmith due to over-torqued bolts. <b>JH</b> commented about historic issues with bi metallic corrosion on another model from the same manufacturer. <b>ML</b> to research specialist guidance on asbestos handling. Raised at H&S committee. <b>NW</b> Commented that we are looking for info from HEA members and its only briefly mentioned in the training material. Nothing received yet. <b>ML</b> asked for more time. <b>RB</b> said EON have a method statement but cannot share without permission. His contractors treat all potential material as hazardous and bagged as appropriate. <b>ML</b> surprised it does not have a higher profile and training is needed. <b>RP</b> has H&S visiting and samples from board cutouts have been sent to a lab for analysis. <b>ML</b> Review of sector schemes. <b>SD</b> to prepare an update. Still outstanding. <b>ML</b> Looking at safety alert process. In hand.	<b>ML</b>          <b>SD</b> <b>ML</b>
<b>3</b>	<b><u>Health and Safety Issues plus Safety Alerts Distribution</u></b>	

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**KT** – Hertfordshire. Column opened and live cable laid on the ground with cut out terminals shorted with foil.

**SD** Aluminium columns installed without internal coating. **SD** commented that MCHW is outdated and difficult to agree a paint spec. To be explored further.

**KT** Uncirculated incidents. Column failure on a school sports ground in the South East. No structural testing had occurred. Secondly an incident of an operative trapping his hand between a lantern and a MEWP bucket. Investigations ongoing.

Herts: Report of street lighting column falling over which turned out to be a BT pole.

Bedfordshire: Continued vandalism of play areas including columns being made live. Police investigating.

**RB** MEWP bucket stuck in the raised position. Fortunately, it was in the yard and rescue was easy. A second MEWP is stuck in snow in the Peak District.

**NW** A safety bulletin has been issued by the HSE re controls and cut outs in MEWPS, looking to adapt the controls to avoid future issues.

**4**      **Leicestershire County Council 30% dimming trial.**

**RN** – Dimming in place for 12 months. Saved 274 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> and £482,000 of energy costs. Forecasting at end of financial year to save 1.2m kWh , 333 Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> and £530,000. Dimming almost all streetlights to 30% after 8pm. Energy price changed in October, so the project is forecast to save £1.3m compared to 2023/24.

Finance officers are involved and fully aware of savings. Only seven enquiries (not complaints) received (three from councillors and four from the general public). Five say lights are too dim and two commenting about fear of crime. No action taken. One request from the police to switch two luminaires back to full level at one location.

Accident number reduced by eight compared to 2023/24 from 32 to 24 between 8pm and midnight. Slight increase in severity plus a couple of incidents with cyclists on roundabouts. Awaiting more recent data. No cause for alarm and no insurance claims received related to lighting. Project is delivering its aim; however Loughborough University has received a grant to investigate lighting vs Loughborough residents perception of safety. An unnamed lighting professional was employed to measure levels.

**DW** Asked if the pre consultation has helped, **RN** agreed. During Covid lockdown the switch off time was adjusted to 11pm from midnight without consultation and numerous complaints were received and the timings were adjusted back.

**KT** – Commented that dimming is not so easily perceived compared to switch off.

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	<p><b>GH</b> - Commented that a member of the ILP Technical Committee had been driving around Loughborough recently and found navigation difficult and it looked dim. <b>RN</b> has been in touch with them directly.</p> <p><b>SD</b> – Is the project close to the safety baseline triggers? <b>RN</b> - Too early to say, and situation being monitored.</p> <p><b>KP</b> – Asked <b>RN</b> for a copy of the Risk assessments. <b>RN</b> to send a copy to all.</p> <p><b>DW</b> – Have any speed reduction changes happened? <b>RN</b> – Not yet, but one speed reduction and de-illumination of signs works package just arrived. Also have adjoining authorities shown interest? <b>RN</b> Has had conversations with Bedford Borough, Norfolk County Council plus Midlands Highways alliance group. It is still classified as a trial, but cabinet scrutiny will occur in June for implementation. <b>DW</b> interested in where future savings will come from?</p> <p><b>KR</b> – <b>RN</b> and <b>KR</b> have discussed and is being closely followed with a trail down to 20% dimming in East Riding being discussed.</p> <p><b>JH</b> – Has had a fatality after a full switch off. Police needed to see risk assessments, but advice is not to switch back to full levels as blame could be implied in court. <b>KR</b> agreed and all crash data needs analysing. <b>KT</b> agreed and decisions to revert to full lighting need to come from police evidence. (District commander level)</p> <p><b>SD</b> – Also agreed that accident stats need fully checking.</p> <p><b>KT</b> – Lighting design is based on traffic flow and <b>RN</b> stated that dimming occurs after 8pm when traffic flow is light.</p>	<p><b>RN</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b><u>Live Labs 2 – East Riding of Yorkshire Council Update</u></b></p> <p><b>KR</b> – Biodiversity monitoring to be place in next few weeks, focussed on bird activity and moths and community engagement inc. hedgehog counts. Will deploy audio monitors and use control sites.</p> <p><b>DW</b> – Westminster are using cameras on ped crossings to switch lighting up from 10% when activated. Also looking at spill lighting from buildings onto roads and adjusting street lighting levels accordingly.</p> <p><b>KR</b> – Pedestrian lighting only area with tactile paving, lighting normally at 20% and will step up to ped crossing standards. Some manufactures are reporting delays in production. Urbis scheme is using a DC power with associated smaller cable sizes. May also be used for traffic signals as cable has a fibre optic included plus UPS and battery backup.</p> <p>Retro reflectivity survey done, data needs analysing. Class 3 on verge, class 2 on chevrons. Trial routes being set in lit areas to determine if sign lighting needed. <b>KR</b> wants to talk to Haydn Yeo.</p> <p>Live Labs 2 Expo is 25.3.2025 at Hilton Liverpool, all seven trails showcasing their activities. Minister for Future Roads and Transport will be speaking. <b>KR</b> will also be</p>	

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	<p>speaking at ILP Daventry event, plus invite to speak at Intelligent Transport systems world congress in Atlanta in August. Partner testbed designs are finalised to be installed in the spring, inc Oxfordshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire and Aberdeenshire. End of project will be March 2026. Now looking at behavioural change.</p>	
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b><u>Demarcation and responsibility for the Highway network</u></b></p> <p><b>SD – KT</b> gave <b>SD</b> some draft guidance written by ADEPT but it was not being adhered to, especially bridges. Document needs updating. Author has a list of revisions needed. NH are limited as to what guidance can be published. MCHW is a signpost to other documents. Maybe potential for a Chief Highways Engineers memo giving interim guidance but agreement needed from all regions. <b>SD</b> is happy to accept comments and examples from ADEPT members re ownership issues and scenarios. <b>RB</b> – Examples in Derbyshire inc. removal of a DCC feeder pillar supplying NH slip roads, pillar removed, and cable laid to columns, but NH not satisfied. Also, subways under the M1 which are structurally poor yet DCC being asked to maintain. <b>KT</b> asked <b>DW</b> if he has a document demarking WCC and TFL assets? <b>DW</b> – No, been asking for it for 16 years. Trying to sort maintenance access to signs on TFL roads re WCC restrictions without lane rental costs. Also issues with power sources for hire bikes and borders between local authorities.</p>	
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b><u>Regional Updates</u></b></p> <p><b>Wales (JH)</b> Meeting 27.11.2024 with presentation by the police on operation of ANPR. EV charging discussion, with consensus still not to allow it on street lighting columns. Energy price discussion, with prices forecast to be reduced. SALIX funding still available. Biggest issue is response times from National Grid for faults also ownership of underground networks as experienced and knowledgeable engineers have retired. Trying to set up a meeting with National Grid. <b>KT</b> Commented that energy prices in his area are now circa 25p from 35p. <b>JH</b> said Wales entered a 24 month contract for energy so no reductions yet.</p> <p><b>North West (RP)</b> Still issues with old columns and finance. Live Labs site chosen – removal of lighting on a dual carriageway.</p>	

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**Midlands (RB)**

DNO issue. Craig from Doncaster consolidating issues with DNOs now on a national scale. Needs assistance from HEA and ILP. Looking for discrepancies. Example is ex coal board armoured cable. NGED will repair in Derbyshire but not in Nottinghamshire. Overhead lines also included. Looking for clarity and consistency. Northern Power Grid will not accept OPN devices on the network, yet at borders half a road supplied by NGED could have column mounted EV chargers.

New EV guidance on cross pavement published on 24.12.2024. Wants to gauge what others are doing? Especially re electrical safety and cross phase separation.

**DW** suggested to contact Perry Hazell as chair of EV panel.

**ML** Commented that the new EV guidance is basic at best, and the HEA will be offering assistance to improve it.

No one in the meeting is approving cross carriageway gulleys.

Revising his passive safety policy and looking for best practice from others especially 40mph roads.

**RB** has had a developer who has been refused an energy supplier, now asking **RB** if he can supply. **RB** refused as Local Authorities cannot sell energy.

**South West (KP)**

**KP** - Last meeting was in November but no minutes yet. Discussion on energy, majority on 27p but Gloucestershire has a day/night rate of 43/34p, but this is a corporate contract.

EV charging. Most not doing on street charging, but **KP** is possibly doing a trail on front of footway columns only to avoid cross carriageway issues.

Some authorities still on the LED rollout and some with financial challenges.

**London (DW)**

**DW** – Last LoLEG meeting was via Teams in November. Discussion on UKPN on niggly things specifically heritage including supply to wall boxes, so a feeder pillar is needed. Problems with no footway or basement areas so no option but to repair wall boxes. Looking for agreement in writing from UKPN. WCC structural team has written to all basement owners to remind them that they are responsible for them. This leads to complaints every time a trial hole is dug.

Question with UKPN re emergency callouts: when WCC strike a cable as it does not affect households, and it is safe as it has barriers. Most authorities approve EV charging but approved devices do not fit through the column doors.

Energy prices now typically at mid 20 pence but most are corporate contracts. Southwark are investigating remote control of wigwags and WCC are looking at column door monitors with buy in from security and Met police. This avoids scouting. Also, may involve RFID fob for access.

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Investigating reducing column foundation sizes with finance grants.  
Lighting course delivered by Urbis Schreder attracted 25 attendees from Highways and parking teams.  
Next meeting is in Feb sponsored by ASD.

**North East DH**

**DH** - Meeting in January but only five attendees. Discussed solar and wind powered lighting and signs. No negative feedback from the public on solar but wind power raising concerns that bats may fly into them.

15 Solar luminaires planned for Durham innovation site on old City Hall location.

Discussion on column attachments especially 5G as Increasing number of columns with attachments being vandalised.

Discussion on replacing first generation LEDs. Gateshead has a 10 year old LED installation only producing circa 10-20% of expected output.

Up and over brackets on DNO poles. LED conversion on the poles are under conductors and Northern Power Grid wants to shut down the local network to remove them. Discussions ongoing.

**South East (SK)**

**KT** reported in **SK** absence. EV Charging - UKPN have raised concerns re insulation on street lighting and network capacity. Many Local Authorities now writing policies. Discussion about PFI handovers. Hampshire raised the issue of demarcation (discussed previously).

**East of England (KT)**

**KT** – Bedfordshire performing a safety audit prior to commencing part night lighting. Thurrock voted against part night and a dim only strategy was implemented once LEDs deployed. UKPN provided an update on a new safety campaign “Stay safe (Think – Feel – Act)” plus update on EV charging and recent weather events, plus working in the vicinity of high-pressure oil and gas pipelines. Energy rates discussed with typical rates between 22p and 25p down from 35p to 38p. Discussion and belief on the need to review lighting standards now LED rollout complete and how it could be done.

**GH** Commented that Steve Fotios is conducting research with the general public as to what are safe lighting levels. ILP Supporting. **RB** sits on BS5489 Committee and stated 13201 is under review. Meeting on 31.1.2025

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**Scotland (GW)**

**GW** The biggest issues facing the SCOTS Lighting group remain:

DNO liaison/communications have deteriorated over time as both LA service structures and DNO structures change and reduce, largely due to financial impacts. SCOTS have reached out to the biggest DNOs (Scottish Power and Scottish & Southern Hydro) to begin rebuilding regular strategic working that can address issues such as performance, planning, pricing etc.

Recruitment & resourcing. There is an acute feeling of difficulty in recruiting technically competent staff, particularly electrical & inspectorate/testing staff. In the past LA inspectorate staff was largely supplied through progression from tools of experienced staff who were ready to move from tools to more administrative/supervisory roles. However, the shortage of electricians, as well as the younger demographic of these (still young families/mortgages etc.) mean that often a drop in wages (& no OT) is a preventative factor. Equally, the dwindling number of competent contractors in the marketplace is causing difficulties in programming and budget spend as the majority of work goes to the same few contractors, causing backlogs and reducing competition.

Financial impacts on safety standards. Concern that council financial reviews are imposing ever increasing pressures on both reducing resources and reviewing, largely increasing, intervention levels, leading to longer outages, longer inspection periods etc.

Engagement. Due to increasing pressures, often from reduced resources, there seems to be dwindling levels of engagement. While the SCOTS Lighting group is relatively well attended, it is noticeable that volunteers to conduct reviews, development and projects is becoming difficult to manage, with the same few experienced members taking on the lions share of the work. It is also worrying to note that while attendance is high, the membership is increasingly bolstered by “non technical” persons as LAs diversify the responsibilities of teams & line management and, worryingly, don’t backfill when lighting officers retire.

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**National Updates**

**HEA**

**ML** – Reported. HEA refreshed and reenergised both the Safety and Technical Committees. Aim to provide support member communities. Joint event with LoLEG and ILP at the IET Savoy Place 10.4.2025

**LCTF**

**ML** – Reported. Last meeting was 5.12.2024 No minutes yet. Very short meeting but the LCTF is now being properly constituted within the ILP. **NW** Commented that the HSE attend the committee. Concerns were raised re the provision of details of overhead supplies for contracts under CDM.

There is confusion at times (mainly EV charging) as to who is the duty holder under CDM. HEA to provide a guidance note for members. Discussion re G39 and clarification about the need to wear PPE (visor and gauntlets) before the column door is opened. **RB** Commented that the (Very expensive) PPE is worn but we are mitigating against a risk created by the DNO with poor quality cable and lack of maintenance. Also how does it differ from meter readers opening cabinets on domestic properties? **NW** Commented that it is about frequency of the operation (anecdotal evidence) and on a recent NVQ course all five attendees had experienced arc flash. DNO are also less concerned about High Ze etc, but responses vary between local areas. More risk mitigation needed by them.

**JH** Commented that on the course the first thing is to put on PPE but some DNOs don't think it necessary.

**DW** Commented that the occurrence of flashover will become more common as cut out incidents are more common due to EV installation with the multiple visits now occurring.

**ML** – If the risk has been created by the DNO, would you (**RB**) consider reporting it to the HSE? **RB** Under RIDDOR it would be reportable and reporting it could be considered, especially if a flashover occurred.

**ML** – Also reported more and more issues of procuring authorities not recognising the HERS scheme and asking for NICEIC qualifications. HERS needs promoting. **RB** stated that the procurement team are not street lighting people and unaware on HERS and have a general lack of understanding.

**ILP**

**GH** – Technical Committee met 8.1.2025 and also working group meetings including TR12 Pedestrian crossings. Aiming to have the document substantially complete by the Summit in Glasgow. Upcoming Lighting Live Local Authority at Daventry 6.2.2025. Free for local authority attendees with a theme on PFI expiry



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plus a paper on understanding the new DRMB and MCHW regs presented by Allan Howard and Chris Bolt. Also, a panel discussion on the new Procurement Act. Spring season of ELD Diploma commencing with spaces on all courses.

**National Highways**

**SD** – MCHW will be released late summer. Plus DMRB update. All design requirements now in TD documents. Also changes to TA and TM series. **SD** will not attend Daventry, and he has a surprise family event. Replacement to be advised. Five year funding cycle was normally 2025 to 2030 but Government has advised a one year settlement for now. Lighting has a good uplift but not enough considering life expired assets and an increase in safety issues.

Safety alerts. M6 Flange plate columns (discussed in previous meeting) plus a flange plate column on a bridge plinth corroding through. (Safety alert not issued) although it was previously part of a batch test, but location difficulties prevented a full inspection. Also, a holding down bolt corrosion issue which **SD** has highlighted as an issue.

Aluminium Lighting columns. Issue raised by designers about Energy Networks Association Guidance 12 document and insulated foundations and the need to provide earthing provision at each column. Big implications if adopted compared to current practice. Under discussion at present. LED upgrade continuing (circa 50% complete) Target is 70% by 2027.

**UMSUG**

**KT** – Reported. December meeting cancelled due to lack of issues.

**BSI**

**RB** – All discussed earlier in the meeting.

**9**      **Membership and Representation**

<https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/membership>

Regional members to check ADEPT website is up to date.

**KT** commented that his email signature now reflects that he is Chair ADEPT National and East of England Street Lighting Group and Vice Chair UK Lighting and Technology Board. This is to promote the existence of ADEPT and lack of attendance by lighting staff even though they are paid members. Also, the regional chair list and areas

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	covered will be posted on the website. Members are encouraged to put their local group chair details on their email signatures.	
<b>10</b>	<b><u>ADEPT Corporate Update / Information</u></b>  Lunch and Learn seminars continue. Info on ADEPT website.	
<b>11</b>	<b>AOB</b>  <b>DW</b> – Commented that he had correspondence from a South Coast Local Authority whose contract is about to expire and that they want to streamline their tendering and want to tap into a framework. <b>DW</b> told them not to join LoLEG for geographical reasons, can this be passed to <b>SK</b> and <b>KT</b> ? <b>KT</b> agreed and <b>DW</b> will forward email.	
<b>12</b>	<b><u>Next proposed Lighting Group Meeting</u></b>  Next meeting planned for 28.3.2025 but this is close to year end. No one had any objections to this date.	
<b>13</b>	<b><u>Other meeting dates:</u></b> UMSUG – 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2025, 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2025, 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2025 UKLTB – Unknown  ADEPT Engineering Board – 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2025, 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2025, 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2025 and 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2025.	
<b>14</b>	<b><u>ADEPT Engineering Board</u></b> <a href="https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/groups/engineering">https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/groups/engineering</a>	
<b>15</b>	<b><u>UK Lighting and Technology Board</u></b> <a href="http://www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/en/UKRLG-and-boards/uk-lighting-technology-board/uk-lighting-board-minutes.cfm">http://www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/en/UKRLG-and-boards/uk-lighting-technology-board/uk-lighting-board-minutes.cfm</a>	

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16	<b>Unmetered Supplies User Group (UMSUG)</b> <a href="https://www.elexon.co.uk/group/unmetered-supplies-user-group-umsug">https://www.elexon.co.uk/group/unmetered-supplies-user-group-umsug</a>	
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