**Bridges Group meeting 13 February 2018**

The main items covered were:

* **DMRB Review Presentation,** Steve Davy Highways England – cancelled (disappointingly no show)
* **BIM Guidance for Infrastructure Bodies** – very few LAs working towards BIM L2 – recommend guidance document is relaunched
* **Changes to authorised weight regulations** – Liz Kirkham to feedback to DfT that the move to 3.5 tonne limit encompasses wider issues such as the assessment standards, signing, asset management, road safety and TSRGD
* **RAC FOI** – Bridges Group Chair and Secretary will work with the RAC to ensure questions are relevant in future surveys
* **Canal & Rivers Trust fees** – smallworking party formed by two Bridges Group members to revise the MoU provided by the C&RT which was not acceptable to ADEPT
* **Safety Shares** – Network Rail will provide their safety shares for circulation to Bridges Group members
* **Abnormal Loads** – Liaison member to check – SH needs to identify what his remit is as liaison for the Bridges Group but will consider:

1. Any stats on ABLOAD movements?

2. Number of non-notifications

3. Block bookings for movements

4. Deviation for planned routes (could be due accidents/diversions)

* **Masonry Parapets** – PC has received some examples of accident damage to masonry parapets showing that they are functional and do what they were intended to
* **Mobility Scooters** – Following a recent death of a person driving an invalid buggy through a pedestrian guard rail the Coroner asked what measures are in place to ensure adequate designs / standards are in place to safeguard these types of situations. LK will take this to Engineering Board to review what measures, if any, are required of LAs
* **Frequency of General Inspections** – a member asked for a ‘straw poll’ of members to show how many adhere to the two-yearly return period of GIs as recommended in the CoP. All attendees adhere to the recommended 2-year return period except CSS Wales who are using safety inspections to supplement GIs
  + 1. It is proposed to have a few members give short presentations on their inspection procedures at the June meeting.
* **Prevention of Suicides at Bridges** – KD advised that he considered installing ‘steeple’ copings on top of standard height metal parapets to make climbing more difficult. The cost would be in the region of £100/lin.m and for the two viaducts causing most concern this would come to £200k. When discussed with the multi-agency working party they surprisingly said not to spend that amount and the work we had done so far by installing railings at the ends of bridges to stop access to the external ledge has had a significant impact in reducing incidents.
* **Responsibility for maintenance at HE/LA boundary** – Significant feedback had been provided by ADEPT members mostly rejecting the HE’s Code of Practice. LK to respond to the HE

**Kevin Dentith**

Secretary