

CIHT West Midlands 2020 Newsletter

Message from CIHT West Midlands Chair



Hello and welcome to the first CIHT West Midlands Newsletter of 2020. I firstly hope that our membership and their families and colleagues are finding this newsletter in good health. The challenges of the Covid pandemic unfortunately are still with us but we must remain hopeful that with the development of a new vaccine that 2021 will bring a greater sense of normality and stability back to us all. A key theme for the first year of my chairmanship is that of resilience and support. The CIHT is here for our members, not only for professional development, knowledge and learning but also for support. We are here for our members and therefore I urge you to get in contact with your local West Midlands committee if there is anything that we can help you with. We carried out the AGM virtually this year. This was a huge success and is a real testament to the significant investment that the CIHT has placed upon the upgrade and development of our e-platforms. Unfortunately, we postponed the annual awards ceremony until 2021.

Further correspondence and publicity of the 2021 awards will be posted shortly. Please keep an eye out for this!

I would like to congratulate Stephen Morgan on being elected as our Young Professionals Chair for this year. I would also like to take this opportunity to offer my thanks to Laura Menendez-Gonzalez who has led the YP committee fantastically well over the last 12 months.

We continue to remain extremely active as a main committee and I am very proud of the wide-ranging skills, experience and contributions being made. I would urge you all to consider getting involved in either the main committee or YP committee. It is extremely rewarding with great networking opportunities. It also benefits us as new ideas and perspectives on key issues being faced by our membership are always very welcomed. Although we are under significant social restrictions, we continue to offer a wide range of CPD and webinar events and will continue to strive for these to be varied and of interest to all. I am sure we will come through this pandemic as a stronger charity and learned society. We are here for you so please do get in touch if you would like more information on how we can help you in the region.

Philip Santos

Chair CIHT West Midlands

Philip.santos@wsp.com

CIHT West Midlands Events & Webinars

Diversity and Inclusion in Construction

In order to support the application of the CIHT Diversity and Inclusion Charter Statement, the CIHT West Midlands Committee now has a dedicated Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) representative. Through this role, The WM CIHT is looking to promote events in the whole breadth of the EDI space, inclusive of gender, race, sexuality and disability issues. We have recently held a discussion on Diversity and Inclusion in Construction as part of LGBT+ History month. It was hosted jointly with Building Equality (BE). This was a hugely popular event which had two excellent speakers giving an insight of their own experience as LGBT+ professionals in the engineering /construction industry and also discussed how CIHT and BE could help drive forward EDI in these sectors.



Post Covid19 considerations
Improve transport infrastructure: new commuting patterns (dispersed urban distribution)

Post Covid19 considerations
Improve active and accessible travel

Barriers to cycling

Barriers

- Improving place
- Supporting people
- Better governance

Accessibility vs Inclusivity

Beyond minimum requirements

Keep your eyes peeled for a forthcoming webinar on the Worcester Southern Link Road Upgrade.....

CIHT Young Professionals Committee – Stephen Morgan



The West Midlands region has a very active **Young Professionals Committee (WMYPC)** and Network who organise a number of events throughout the year. These events include a social get together in Birmingham and the very successful Meet the President event. The WMYPC also meet formally and informally throughout the year, these are currently being held virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Committee comprises a diverse range of Young Professionals within the highways and transportation infrastructure profession. The WMYPC and Network provides a platform for the next generation of influential leaders and decision makers within the West Midlands to come together to share new and exciting ideas, learn from one another, develop professionalism and make new friends!

If you would like to join the WMYPC or meet some of the current YPC members please contact us via: westmidlands@ciht.org.uk

Your CIHT West Midlands – Get Involved!

The CIHT West Midlands committee meets every few months throughout the year. The majority of meetings are held in Birmingham at our Corporate Partners offices (such as WSP and Arcadis), however due to Covid-19 they are currently being held virtually. We are always looking for new committee members to offer a fresh perspective on issues and areas of development.



Please do get in touch if you would like to join the main committee as an observer. You can then see if you feel it is something you would like to get more involved with.

CIHT Committee Member Spotlight



Paul Unwin

Name: Paul Unwin

Company: Highways England

Job Title: Smart Motorways
Programme Regional Sponsor

Quick career synopsis: 34 years
complex infrastructure experience with

Department Environment, MOD, DfT and Highways England leading Procurement, Delivery and Sponsorship

Where are you based: Office in Colmore Square Birmingham and home working in Stratford upon Avon.

Projects currently working on: All Smart Motorway Programme projects in design, construction, maintenance and legacy along the 311.4km (193.5 miles) M1 Corridor and the East of England.

Best aspect of your job: Passionate about leading on explaining the benefits of Smart Motorways in the media and to stakeholders.

Worst aspect of your job: Luddite excel user.. give me words and pictures.

How do you relax: I'm a converted keen 5k runner having taken up Couch to 5k during lockdown.

Something we wouldn't know about you: I'm an MSc Civil Engineering Course Assessor and Visiting Lecturer at Coventry University on Leadership, Project Management and Preparing for the Workplace .

Ambition: To live by my three guiding principles of being Positive, Encouraging and Non-judgmental.

Committee Updates

The West Midlands currently has over 1,000 members. Although the membership fluctuates throughout the year we are seeing annual growth which is very pleasing. As always, please encourage your colleagues and new starters to register for CIHT membership and, where necessary, to promote their grades.

CIHT WM committee meets every few months throughout the year. Majority of meetings are held in Birmingham Corporate Partners offices, however due to Covid-19 they are being held virtually. We have various positions within the committee but we are seeking to fill a couple of vacant committee posts. One is for Events Coordinator role and other for Mentor Programme lead.

The Events Coordinator role will include running CPD events taking into account the geographic spread of members and different professional interests and rotate locations as appropriate to broaden access. In current situation, we are proposing webinars and virtual events. We have an action plan to run a minimum of 1 event monthly. This role will coordinate a series of webinars for the WM Region to enable members across the region to access regional events and information. Events can include technical events, Equality, diversity and inclusivity events, sharing good practice events etc.

The Mentor Coordinator role includes encouraging members to support and volunteer as Mentors for those working towards Professional qualifications. We have a pool of 10 mentors currently. This role also includes promotion of value of professional qualifications to individuals and employers. The coordinator also assists the event coordinator to arrange and run professional development webinars at CEng/IEng and EngTech levels throughout the year, Apprentice Grade focused development webinars, and TPP Qualification event/webinar jointly with TPS. These will be in line with the Professional Development Framework.

For both the advertised roles, the candidate will have full support from the committee members. If you are interested in either of these roles, please contact us at: westmidlands@ciht.org.uk

Committee for 2020/21 Session

Chair: Philip Santos

Vice Chair: Jodie Rowbottom

Honorary Secretary: Farheen Ahmed

Treasurer: Gavin Maciel

Members on Council: Chris Young, Nick Hopcraft, Susan Broadbent

Membership Officer: Matthew Moss

Events Coordinator: TBC

Mentor Coordinator: TBC

EDI Rep: Ramon Agudo Porras

Young Professionals: Stephen Morgan

Contacts:

General Queries: westmidlands@ciht.org.uk

Branch Website: Search *CIHT West Midlands*