

BRIDGE OWNERS' FORUM

Summary of BOF 37, held on 22 May 2012

The 37th meeting of the Bridge Owners' Forum (BOF) was held on 22nd May 2012 at King's College, Cambridge. Representatives of major bridge owners across the United Kingdom were in attendance and discussed a full agenda of pertinent issues to ensure the safe and effective management of bridges across the countries of the UK.

Key points covered at the meeting are summarised below:

Temporary Bridging

Following on from discussions at previous BOF meetings, concern had been expressed about the quantity and quality of temporary bridging stock in the UK. In the past, Local highway authorities had retained some stock for their own use but this had either been sold off or scrapped. In order to provide reassurance that there was sufficient emergency bridging available as and when needed, presentations were received from Mabey Bridge and Mabey Hire Services which proved that an adequate supply was available at short notice and load histories of individual components were maintained.

Infrastructure UK – Industry Standards Group

Dr Steve Denton (Parsons Brinckerhoff) attended for this item and explained the background to this initiative and the opportunities for bridge owners to influence decisions on standards and specifications which were under review with the objective of improving efficiency in design and analysis.

Relationship between BOF and UK Bridges Board

The Forum received a report from a productive meeting between BOF, UKBB and DfT which should result in improved relationships and more active engagement between the respective bodies.

UK Bridge Research

A number of ongoing projects were reviewed and appraised and it was agreed that the next meeting would seek to identify new research topics which would benefit bridge owners.

For more details and additional information on the above, either contact the BOF Chairman, Professor Cam Middleton at Cambridge University Engineering Department (*Tel:* + 44-1223-332814 or *Email:* crm11@cam.ac.uk) or the BOF Technical Secretary, Richard Fish (*Tel:* + 44-1872-501790 or *Email:* richard.tretona@fsmail.net). The BOF website (www.bridgeforum.org) also contains historic reports, other documentation and records of BOF meetings.

Richard Fish,
BOF Technical Secretary
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