

ASPHALT INDUSTRY ALLIANCE

SUMMER WORKSHOP, 14 July 2009, London Zoo

FEEDBACK

Responding to feedback from previous Summer Workshops, the 2009 event focused entirely on materials.

Delegates from local authorities around the country joined asphalt industry experts for the day-long event at London Zoo in July 2009 to discuss a range of topics including new materials and their use, sustainability, and decision-making.

The key observations were:

- The need for more information to augment highways engineers' knowledge and aid selection of materials
- Authorities requiring different materials depending on speed and volume of traffic
- Concerns regarding the reinstatement of trenches by utility companies; long term problems that may arise are being left to local authorities to fix, causing more stress on already pressured budgets
- Few authorities had targets to increase sustainability
- Request for a carbon footprint calculator
- Desire to use noise-reducing products often proved unfeasible due to lack of funds
- A call for more authorities to work together to meet sustainability targets and to participate in a community recycling effort
- Sustainability is not just about recycling; there is a need to look at whole-life costing too
- A lack of education and poor communication surrounding successful decision-making in the context of material choice and procurement
- Often the wrong people were making the decisions, or were being put into financially or politically tight corners

AIA: ACTIONS and ACTIVITIES

Following the Workshop, all the key points were discussed by the AIA and consideration was given as to how the issues highlighted could or should affect the AIA's communications programme.

It was agreed that effort would continue to provide information on materials via various means including *Asphalt Now*, the AIA website, and industry events and meetings. Also that the AIA would continue its efforts to raise awareness in central and local government of the need for strategic, long-term highways maintenance funding, assistance with asset management plans and a means of reducing impact on budgets of deep trenching.

Political Importance

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Highway Maintenance was formally launched by its Chairman, Christopher Chope MP on 28 October 2009.

The AIA is providing administrative support for the Group along with industry views and statistics to help to inform its members.

The AIA will continue to offer industry support to DfT and seek regular meetings and contact.

Industry policy

Greater emphasis will be placed on encouraging industry standards and guidelines for local authority roads (rather than HA roads).

Carbon Calculator

The Beta version of asPECT, was launched in October 2009 at the AIA Conference.

This new carbon footprint calculator for asphalt materials was developed as part of a TRL research programme funded by the AIA's member organisations, The Mineral Products Association and the Refined Bitumen Association, together with the Highways Agency.