



## September 2024 Newsletter

### MHA+ Annual Event on 17 September - reminder to book your place

The MHA+ annual event in Holywell Park Conference Centre is coming up soon. Featuring an enviable series of face-to-face events with a series of workshops and activities around the themes of skills and digital. **Mark Tuesday 17 September in your calendars now and ensure you and your colleagues are booked in via the [MHA+ Learning Hub annual event page](#).**

A promotional banner for the MHA+ Annual Event. The banner has a teal and white color scheme. On the left, there is a magnifying glass icon over the text 'Skills and Digital'. To the right, there is a network diagram with various icons representing skills, digital, and industry. The MHA+ logo is in the top right corner. Below the main text, the date 'Tuesday 17 September 2024' and the location 'Holywell Park Conference Centre, Loughborough. LE11 3GR' along with the website 'www.mhaplus.org.uk/events' are displayed.

**MHA+ Annual Event**

**Skills and Digital**

**MHA+**  
Midlands Highway Alliance Plus

Tuesday 17 September 2024

Holywell Park Conference Centre, Loughborough. LE11 3GR [www.mhaplus.org.uk/events](http://www.mhaplus.org.uk/events)

The annual event features a wide range of presenters and will focus on how MHA+ members and their supply chains can work collaboratively.

The annual event programme will include presentations, optional breakout sessions, and exhibition features, including intelligent transport, future skills, digital design, virtual world, harnessing data and digital materials.

All our framework suppliers will be hosting a market place, providing event participants with an opportunity to network and meet our MHA+ framework and delivery managers.

This year we are going to recognise and reward some of the great uses of technologies that you are making in your organisations at the Annual Event, with 'best use of technology awards' in 3 categories: Design, Construction and Maintenance.

The winners will be decided by the MHA+ community through a live vote at the event. Come along to the event to vote for your favourite.

If you haven't already, don't forget to [sign up to the annual event](#) on 17 September.

### MHA+ Annual Event - Train to Leicester and transfer service

If you find train travel easier to arrive at **Leicester Station** rather than connect to **Loughborough** we are now providing hospitality at the **Belmont Hotel** (a few minutes from Leicester station) where a courtesy driver will pick up to take delegates to Loughborough at 8.30am, returning from Loughborough at 4.15pm. Please do contact [Kay Smith](#) if you would like to use this transfer service.

### Update on the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road (MMDR)

There's less than 18 months still to go on the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road (MMDR) with flooding issues dealt with and new structures emerging - exciting times ahead with challenges including diverting the River Eye. Check updates from [Galliford Try](#) and [AECOM](#)



And we all like to see a scheme come to life. Bridge and Highways engineers might find this inspiring, too, so check out this drone-packed, [time-lapse and edited video](#) of the bridge lift on the North East Melton Mowbray Distributor Road.

Pure bridge creation entertainment.

## Donnie Mathieson retirement

Donnie Mathieson, MHA+ Framework Director and Director at Waterman Aspen, recently announced his retirement. Donnie joined Waterman Aspen nearly 25 years ago and is a vastly experienced engineer celebrated as a bridge specialist.

Donnie provided such a consistent, informed and balanced perspective on framework performance management and we learned so much from him on about how best both to showcase and collaborate with Waterman Aspen and other suppliers.



In particular, Professional Services Partnership Frameworks (PSP 3) performance management over its five years, supporting the transition of the Term Community SIG and the procurement and mobilisation of PSP 4.

Donnie will be greatly missed by MHA+ and partners alike for his vast knowledge, kindness and respect. Enjoy your retirement!

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## NEC 4 Term Service Contract (TSC) Service Manager Accreditation

This four day – classroom based programme is designed to equip delegates with the skills necessary to be able to fulfil the role of a TSC Service Manager using the NEC4 Term Service Contract (TSC).

Check NEC's [TSC Service Manager accreditation](#) for more information or email [Julia May](#) to register your interest and advise on potential numbers of participants - if you are a MHA+ member organisations.

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## New Service Improvement Group (SIG) – Vegetation Management and Biodiversity Group (VM&B)

There has been a request for registrations of interest in MHA+ members for joining a new SIG. This will be an opportunity to network with peers to encourage effective and efficient delivery of Vegetation Management and Biodiversity across the MHA+ member authorities. The SIG will offer support, guidance, sharing of data and information through to implementation.

Scope of the Vegetation Management and Biodiversity SIG will include

- Section 154 Highway Tree Enforcement Inspections
- Contract Management and Procurement
- In-house Delivery of tree works.
- Management of customer enquiries
- Vegetation management and SuDS features
- Promoting or managing biodiversity on the highway asset.

Read more about our [SIG network](#) which has recently been upgraded with more functionality.



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## MHA+ Learning Gateway content

You can access the latest [content from MHA+ framework suppliers](#) and watch them on our YouTube channel. Latest updates includes:

- Lunch and learn on the [challenges with the asset management of long span bridge](#).

- Roads Bitesize Training Programme on [Healthy Streets](#).
- Amey Lunch & Learn [Blending data sets with Mobile Network Data](#).

We work with the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) and commission accredited events and content, using ICE subject matter expertise, particularly on NEC 4 contracts that underpin both of our framework contracts.

[ICE recorded lectures](#) cover a vast range of civil engineering topics and subjects. Take a look and use the search bar to refine.

Other organisations that have learning content to support continuing professional development including the Chartered Institute of Highways & Transportation (CIHT) provide a range of virtual learning on the [CIHT Learn platform](#) (for members).

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## Carbon Steering Group (CSG)



The CSG continues to provide a focus for all things pertaining to Carbon Reduction & Net Zero for MHA+. A few items of interest are:

### Carbon News Bulletin

The [June issue](#) featured interesting items and links on the carbon agenda at regional, national and beyond. Previous carbon news bulletins can be found on the [MHA+ website](#).

### Carbon Literacy Training (CLT)

Putting in place a Highways focussed CLT package for members has been identified as a key issue. The CSG/MHA+ are liaising with the Live Labs 2 Centre of Excellence Team, CIHT, ICE & Devon County Council amongst others to identify potential CLT opportunities. More to follow in the next few months.

### The National Highways & Transport Network (NHT)

'Value for Carbon' Tool report had been made available to all their CQC members. MHA+ CSG are working with NHT & liaising with the Term Community Service Improvement Group, to look to the potential to focus in on a small number of LA members who are performing well in this area and sharing good practice on their approach with MHA+ members.

**Carbon Reduction Supplier events** – The CSG is working with the LL2 Centre of Excellence & suppliers to organise a series of suppliers events (up to 4 each year),

providing the opportunity for members to see in detail a variety of carbon reduction products presented by experts. See separate article for more detail.

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## Social Value Working Group (SVWG)



The SVWG works collaboratively with MHA+ stakeholders to lever the opportunities and resources available through our highway services provision to the benefit of MHA+ member authorities, local and regional communities. Recent Activity includes:

### **Social Value Framework development**

A significant amount of work in the reporting year set in motion by the SVWG and ongoing is around the development of a broad Social Value Framework, included in this is a full review of SV Metrics. The Framework is being tailored to meet the needs of MHA+ members and link effectively into the MHA+ Frameworks and other key activities. It is hoped that the new Best Practice Framework will be launched in Autumn of 2024.

### **Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS)**

A working group has been initiated with the CCS Team and key members of the SVWG/MHA+ Team to review the SV elements of the CCS framework and how this interlinks with the working and delivery of the two MHA+ Frameworks.

### **Calendar of Events**

Work is ongoing by the SVWG to create a calendar of all Social Value events to increase collaboration with events and for it to become a useful tool for social value planners.

As ever during the reporting year a key activity of the SVWG activity has been sharing best practice and discussion of key issues in Social Value and solutions therein.

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## Digital Working Group (DWG)

The DWG looks to assist member authorities, contractors & professional services providers, their supply chains, partners and people to increase the digitalisation of their activities through mutual cooperation. Recent activity and looking ahead:

A one day event '**Digital Value throughout the Highways Lifecycle**' has been a focus of much of the groups activity during the early stages of 2024, which took place in May at the NEC in Birmingham as a 'Live streamed' Event – Topics covered include Digitalisation in Design, 3D concrete printing in Highways infrastructure & handover, but to name a few.

Each meeting sees a variety of topics on Digitalisation and issues and solutions covered to address these. It has been agreed to focus on the development of a 'Solutions Database' in 2024 looking to share even more broadly Digital solutions and good practice/case studies with members, alongside the Annual Event 24 activities in relation to Digital innovation.

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### Reminder over MHA+ annual invoices

Please be advised that MHA+ members annual sponsorship invoices are being sent out this September. This is a polite reminder to be prompt in supplying Purchase Orders if your authority requires this to pay invoices.

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### National Underground Asset Register (NUAR) in action

Has your highway authority taken full advantage of the National Underground Asset Register (NUAR)? NUAR is an interactive digital map of underground pipes and cables, that will revolutionise the way we install, maintain, operate, and repair our buried infrastructure, by improving the way data is shared and accessed

To find out more, there is a [presentation on what NUAR is](#) and what the programme is all about.

As one of the delivery partners for NUAR, GeoPlace is running an exclusive Highway Authority webinar at 2pm on 10 September. Read more and [sign up here](#) to hear about other Highways Authorities' experience of using and submitting data to NUAR.

If you are part of a Municipal Authority GeoPlace has a [second webinar](#), which takes place at 2pm on 24 September.

These sessions can answer your questions and hear the latest updates from the Geospatial Commission.

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## PSP4 Framework Community Board - call to action

We are really keen to hear from for topics you want to see at the PSP4 Framework Community Board. The next event is on 26 September. What are the pressing areas MHA+ Authorities want to hear about? Share your thoughts and ideas with the MHA+ Framework Manager, [Lucy Cox](#).

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## Looking forward

There are a number of upcoming events MHA+ is hosting or attending, and definitely worthy of a note in your calendar.

17 September, **MHA+ Annual Event**, Loughborough - book now!

26 September - The **PSP4 Framework Community Board** meeting

30 September, **East Midlands Infrastructure Steering Group** meeting in Nottingham

1 - 3 October, **LCRIG Strictly Highways** event in Blackpool

8 October, presentation at the **NACF Conference** in London

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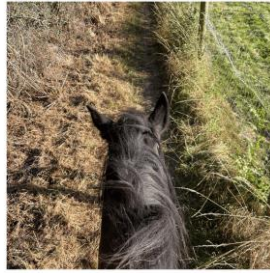
## National Fitness Day on Wednesday 18 September

As part of our health and wellbeing policy here at the MHA+ we encourage our team, and all our member authorities to keep active, whether that's through running, cycling or just taking the dogs out for a walk.

We'll be celebrating National Fitness Day on Wednesday 18 September and showcasing how the MHA+ team members get out and about!

If you would like to join us, make sure to use the hashtag #MHAnationalfitnessday on LinkedIn so we can share and inspire others to get active this September.





Here's some inspiration from our Framework Manager, Lucy.

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For enquiries about this bulletin or to suggest any future articles, please contact us. If you have any colleagues who may not have received this email, please share it with them, so that they can contact us directly to confirm they wish to receive our bulletin. Alternatively, if you wish to unsubscribe from this bulletin, email the [Midlands Highway Alliance Plus](#).

