

PRESS INFORMATION

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Clutter busting: a new training course

Achieving neater streets that are easier to use and cheaper to maintain.

Sign clutter is again in the news and dealing with it can save money in the long run. Buchanan Computing and Colin Buchanan are pleased to announce an innovative one-day training course that prepares practitioners to assess sign clutter and put in place procedures to reduce it. This will be run first in London on 4 November and is intended for traffic engineers, network managers, urban designers, town centre managers, elected members and anyone who wants to understand the issue and how to tackle it in more detail.

The government has written to every council urging them to get rid of unnecessary signs, railings and advertising hoardings in a bid to make streets tidier and less confusing for motorists and pedestrians. This course explains how sign clutter can be eliminated without compromising safety, road user guidance or the ability to enforce regulatory measures. It also addresses the cost of traffic signs - how long term savings can result, particularly by reducing the number and size of new signs erected and by eliminating sign illumination where this is safe and legal.

This one-day course delivered by Simon Morgan and Geoff Bray (of Colin Buchanan) will examine why and when authorities need to erect signs and the reasons why clutter can accumulate. Most of the day will concentrate on different ways to identify and reduce clutter, but they will also cover the street management practices needed to ensure that clutter doesn't return.

The pressure to reduce clutter is to some extent in conflict with the need to address safety and enforcement. This course will introduce techniques that help balance these issues and arrive at a comfortable compromise. The issues that people raise can often be addressed in more than one way, and the use of innovative mounting methods and hardware can make the signing that must remain acceptable and even an asset to the street scene. The course also covers inventory, assessment and public participation – issues that happily fit together to reduce the costs of data collection.

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Notes to Editors

The press release from the Department for Transport announcing Eric Pickles' and Philip Hammond's desire to tackle sign clutter can be found here:

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/clientmicrosite/Content/Detail.aspx?ClientId=202&NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=415141&SubjectId=36>

(Or use the TinyURL: <http://tinyurl.com/33t6xlq>)

Simon Morgan and Geoff Bray are both recognised as leading specialists in traffic signing and are involved in training, accreditation and policy formation at national level. Geoff played a pivotal design role in the streetscape infrastructure and lighting of the award winning Kensington High Street scheme, cited by ministers and others as a shining example of what can be achieved.

Buchanan Computing is a leading supplier of software and training for traffic professionals, with over 20 years experience in computer mapping, design and data management for the highway. Its range of products for highway and traffic engineers and the police includes SignPlot, ParkMap and AccsMap: the UK's best selling systems for traffic sign design, traffic order management and road collision analysis, respectively.