



## **BILLY GOOCH CEng MICE FIHIE**

Billy's formal job title – West Area Contract Implementation Manager – for Surrey Highways disguises the range of his responsibilities. There is involvement in implementing schemes to create a successful integrated transport network and responsibility for delivering a high standard of maintenance schemes across the area.

The work is cyclical, with peaks and troughs being driven by seasonal demands and levels of funding. This requires a clear long-term vision to manage workloads and customer expectations whilst trying to obtain best value from the available budgets. Billy's Team of twelve consists of six implementation engineers, and six street lighting specialists. The work involves delivering maintenance services and improvement schemes in partnership with private sector partners.

Raised on a small farm in Pembrokeshire when the future for these smallholdings was very insecure, Billy identified civil engineering as a career with prospects for someone with a practical turn of mind. Consequently he took a sandwich degree course at Kingston University and spent ten years with Runnymede Borough Council, acquiring expertise in designing and supervising capital works, sewerage contract management and highway maintenance. On moving to Surrey County Council he joined the Contract Performance Management Team at the start of their Highways Partnership Contracts and used this experience as the basis for his Chartered Professional Review.

He put time and energy into getting registered because he saw it as the gateway to career progression and obtaining credibility and respect within the industry. Billy makes the point that it "takes a year out of your life" to achieve but the "small family" that is IHIE is "very approachable and supportive" in this process.

Billy was IHIE Southern Branch Chairman from 2003–2007 and has also mentored several people through the process to achieve IEng status. He is now one of IHIE's CEng Reviewers and he encourages members to come forward and progress their career now that the Institute offers Chartered status.

Billy has put a lot back into the IHIE, and would encourage others to contribute themselves through their Branches, or at national level, not least because the networking opportunities that come from this, as much as for the interest it provides, are both enjoyable and fulfilling.