Street Manager

NEWSLETTER

Department for Transport

Street Manager is a new digital service by the DfT that is transforming the planning, management and communication of street and road works. Using open data and intelligent services, its aim is to minimise disruption – and improve journeys for the public.
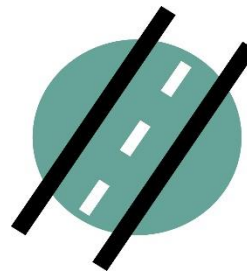
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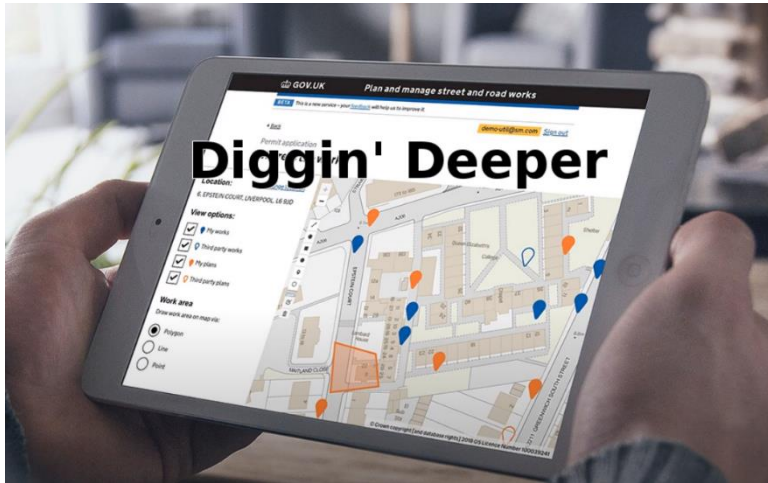
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1. Welcome

"And we give it back to you... the people." The wise words of Batman villain Bane. And also Donald Trump weirdly, a coincidence I am sure.

And I would like to think that is what we have done with Street Manager. We've taken the IT side of Streetworks and put the decision making into the hands of the users. The Governance Group decides in what order we build things. The team in Street Manager Towers work with the SMEs to decide what smaller items get built in what order. I hope those reading this have felt that and agree. We work hard to be as open and clear about what we are doing as possible.

The next step in that is to launch the Ideas Board to enable everyone to vote and add suggestions too. This will introduce a public forum for ideas and the DfT can update you on what we are doing with the suggestions. If something attracts a large number of votes, we can review with the Governance Group and look to move it up the queue. Look out for more info on the board this month.

Hope you enjoy the rest of the newsletter, it's quite a busy one. Could I just get in a shameless plug for our latest YouTube video? This one is on the topic of face and number plate blurring which comes up on a semi-regular basis.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWGNhCSbrz0

2. What's New in Street Manager

- Inspection list filtering
- FPN list filtering
- Only the recipient can mark a comment as read now
- The field that used to say "Is a TTRO required?" now reads "Is a TTRO required or were these works known about more than 6 months in advance?" which brings us into the line with the regulations.

Fixed penalty notice (FPN) list

In addition to this, we really are getting through a number of bugs now. It hasn't always been the case, but we are seeing the number of bugs we have outstanding go down rather than up, which is great news. For instance, a HA can now change the start date on an activity, so if that was something that was "bugging" you, rest assured that is now sorted.

In addition to the above, lots of stuff is being added into the API before v2 becomes "stable" in late November. We would ask that you do bear with us for a while as we work hard on getting as much as we can into the API ahead of that deadline. Whilst this happens, you will see a decrease in new frontend stuff. Also, as we are hard at work on sample inspections, work will be happening on that but you won't see the final result until it gets released. As soon as the API is sorted, we can get to work on doing the front end work on linking a S.81 to a permit, withdrawinng an inspection and all sorts of other great things.

3. Changes to the Governance Group and SME Line Up

We have some changes to let you know about to the Street Manager user governance group and to the SME line up. Chris Davies from Hertfordshire CC and Sam Grilli from Kent CC were SMEs representing HAs. Chris has now left and Sam is about to move shortly to a new role. So Jane James from Shropshire CC has kindly agreed to replace Chris, and Alex O'Brian from TfL will replace Sam in a few weeks.

That leaves Jane's spot on the governance group vacant. Rowan Crease from Hampshire CC has also now had to step down and Marissa Hayes from East Sussex is leaving to take up a new post in Geoplace. We thank them for their contributions and wish them all the best. We had a chat with JAG and Jo Heal from Wiltshire CC, Gary Jordan from Sefton CC and Kevin Ferguson from Durham CC will kindly be stepping in to cover these spots for the next few months.

Spots on the governance group are meant to be for one year. We will be opening up applications for next year's places in January so anyone else who would like to be involved can let us know then, ready for the start of Year 2 in April.

4. The New Open Data Fields

We have an update to tell you about the Open Data API that anyone can access to receive near to real time data from Street Manager. You can sign up to receive this here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/find-and-use-roadworks-data. Since the end of September, you can now also receive more open data relating to the status of permits and, for the first time, data on other activities.

5. The Data Security Framework

Some authorised Street Manager users (local authorities and utility companies) want to give access to Street Manager data to third-party integrators. These integrators will take that user's data, process it through another product and will then provide or serve the data back to that user. We have therefore prepared the framework attached to this newsletter to help authorised users set these up and for what purpose.

The aim of this framework is to outline the controls that the DfT expects authorised Street Manager users either to have already or to put in place with any of the third-party integrators who they want to give access to Street Manager for the purpose of providing services to them. This framework is aimed at ensuring compliance with both GDPR and Street Manager's own terms and conditions to which all authorised users will have agreed when they signed up to use the service.

6. Changes to Release Dates and Timings

From w/c 2nd November we will be making a change to our regular release schedule. Currently we release to Production fortnightly on Thursdays, one week after the release to Sandbox. From the 2nd November, we will be moving the Production release forward to the Monday after the fortnightly release to Sandbox. This will result in the release being made available on Production three days earlier. Please note, should the Sandbox or Production release fall on a Bank Holiday, it will be released on the first available working day thereafter.

As usual, we will be sending the standard release notifications two working days prior to the Production release, and the email will continue to provide information on what is improved or changed on Street Manager.

The release calendar has been updated to reflect these changes, and can be found here: https://departmentfortransport.github.io/street-manager-docs/release-calendar/

And talking of the release calendar, we have already updated it for Xmas - yes, impressively in before the John Lewis Christmas Advert - we simply will not be doing what would have been a release on the 28th December, we will miss that out entirely and go straight to the planned 11th January release.

The Street Manager team are happy to announce (very happy actually if it means we see less of him....) that Product Owner, Paul Chandler is available to attend your virtual regional JAG, Streetworks UK and HAUC meetings. Just get a Chair to send him an invite and, providing he can make the date, he will be delighted to pop along to part of your meeting to listen to your Street Manager feedback and update on the latest news from Street Manager Towers.

8. Updating Geographical Views, by Marisa

Hands up who has updated their Geographical Areas since it went live? Anyone? OK, one or two hands but not many. We'd like to welcome guest writer Marisa Hayes to fly the flag for updating your areas. Marisa, take it away:

As a reminder, access to the works screen in Street Manager can be filtered to a specific geographic area if required. This allows a co-ordinator to view just the works in their own area from the home screen. These areas can be as complex as you wish. For example, there are 4 areas in East Sussex; Kent has 12; smaller authorities may just have one or two.

It's not a bad thing to update the Geographical View every 3-4 months – really depending on the number of new streets created in your authority area. Anything longer than this and this may lead to a significant number of unassigned USRNs.

Access to update the GeoViews is via the Admin screen:

Street Manager accepts a simple upload of a csv file – one for each Area – containing just the USRNs, so you need to create a separate .csv file for each. Before changing anything, it's worth just doing a quick sense check that the total number of USRNs in each Area is broadly the same or more.

9. It's the Final Reinstatement

For the avoidance of confusion, please note that a reinstatement should be considered partial until the "Final Registration" box is ticked. This topic has been raised with the DfT a couple of times recently. Feel free to get in touch if you wish to discuss.

10. APIs Can't Read Emails

It's been pointed out to the DfT that users are sending emails to unmonitored email addresses that they are finding via the Street Manager user interface. Obviously as these are not monitored, you will not receive a reply and the organisation you are trying to contact has no way of accessing the emails. You can spot these because they may contain the words API or have an address that does not belong to the org you are trying to contact. Best avoided.

11. Traffic Order Survey

We need to hear from as many **Local Authorities** as possible

At present, the Department for Transport (DfT) have limited information about Local Authorities' use of Traffic Orders. Following the introduction of Statutory Instrument no.536, The Traffic Orders Procedure (Coronavirus Amendment) Regulations 2020, the DfT wants to evaluate the Traffic Orders procedure.

As part of the evaluation, the DfT is surveying Local Authorities. The aim of the survey is to help the DfT understand the impact of introducing Statutory Instrument no.536, in terms of its use, costs and benefits across all Local Authorities and establish the suitability of the Coronavirus Amendment measures as a permanent legislative framework.

What does the survey cover?
The Survey will cover the following topic areas:

- Use of Temporary and Permanent Traffic Orders
- The Network management duty guidance
- Speed of temporary traffic order application
- Use of digital communication methods
- Key stakeholder response to Traffic Orders
- Cost of Traffic Orders

Why Take Part?

It matters – Your answers will help the DfT better understand how Traffic Orders are used in local authorities. Help improve the process – your input will be invaluable to help the DfT ensure that policies and legislation around Traffic Orders work in the interest of Local Authorities like yours in the future.

Make your voice heard – this is an important survey and the DfT need Local Authorities to take part to ensure that the results are a fair reflection of Local Authorities' views across England.

It's easy to take part - The survey should take between 15 and 20 minutes to complete.

Simply click on the link below to get started:

https://surveys.ipsosinteractive.com/mrIWeb/mrIWeb.dll?I.Project=S2021219

Thanks in advance for your participation.

12. A Final Note

And finally, we have to (sadly for us) let you know about a change to the team in Street Manager towers. Toby is leaving us to go and do a PHD in Cyber Risk Analysis and Threat Assessments from Open Data Sets at Kingston University. We wish him all the best and thank him for all his work on Street Manager. We will have a new recruit joining us in the next month or 6 weeks and will introduce her in the next newsletter.