

Street Manager

NEWSLETTER



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.

Newsletter 28 – 15/09/2020

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1. Welcome

Hello all, it's a great pleasure everyone to welcome you all to the Back to School edition of this newsletter. Hopefully you'll find it of interest. If there is anything you want to see included here, do let us know.

Perfect is the enemy of good – I was reminded of this phrase at the weekend whilst listening to a podcast and thought that it applied very nicely to this project. We aren't aiming for perfection, we work hard to develop features, get something out of the door, almost always with a laundry list of enhancements up our sleeve before it even gets to users, and then we take feedback and make improvements.

Section 81 is a great example of this. User research told us people wanted to be able to reassign a S.81 to another promoter and to be able to link a S.81 to a permit. We simply couldn't fit in those features before launch without giving up other key aspects of the service, so they missed out. But development will begin on those things in the near future and will be with us this winter. And, whilst we are doing that, we'll also tweak a couple of other things like integrating file upload smoothly into the S.81 journey which again missed out before. And that is Agile Product Development in a nutshell.

2. What's new in Street Manager?

Well, we've recently completed the "Keep Filters" story as we call it. This is the ability to switch on a filter and then keep it through your "hole" session on Street Manager. This is only on the most used pages currently but, in the future, we can add it on others. We just wanted to get it where it was most needed in the first instance to assist users.

What else? We're sneaking in the ability to add forward plans on minor and standard works as part of a batch of HS2 work we are doing, just a little bonus that one. Hopefully we've cracked the changing from

excavation to no excavation issue. After much discussion, we have a solution that involves adding an additional flag to say if you excavated or not in the end. (Only if your original permit proposal involved excavation though.)

Onsite details

Works started	15/09/2020 - 09:00	
Works stopped	15/09/2020 - 12:00	Revert works stop
Was an excavation carried out?	Yes	Change
Final site registered	No	

The other key thing to note is that we have kicked off the backend work for Inspection filtering and, before the end of this month, you should see the front-end part of that if you are a UI user. FPN filtering will follow shortly after that as well as other key list page enhancements like search etc.

As well as this, we soon hope to improve commenting so the “mark as read” function can only be used by the recipient and tweak the TTRO required yes/no box to also incorporate works known about more than 6 months in advance (as discussed in the Talking Points document.)

Lastly, we are working out the fine details of getting an Ideas Board up and running. Hopefully, this will be active in the near future and people will be able to vote for the improvements they think are most needed. The Continuous Improvement never stops guys!

3. Invoicing update

Last week (beginning 31st August), we sent out a letter to all known finance contacts and primary contacts where a finance contact wasn't available. This letter forms the first step in Street Manager's invoicing process. It asks that you confirm some of the details we currently hold for you and supply us with additional details which means that, when the first invoice arrives on your virtual doormat on 1st October, everything will be set up and ready to go ahead with payments. In order to be ready for 1st October, we do need all responses to this letter back by the **15th September or as soon as possible afterwards**.

For those of you who require us (or Kainos as they are sending out invoices on behalf of DfT) to be set up as a supplier on your systems, please let us know when you return the completed letter and someone from our team will contact you to do what is needed.

The letter also lays out our relationship with Kainos in the handling of invoice payments, so please make sure you have read and understood this as it may affect how your payment system sees us.

4. Who's your primary contact?

During our work on the invoicing letter, we noticed that a few of the primary contacts we hold on record are outdated, which resulted in us getting a few bounce-backs. We believe we have now traced a contact to substitute for all the bounce-backs, but we would like to remind you that your primary contact is the individual who is responsible for your organisation in the system and forms a vital part of our incident response plan should anything happen in the system (both good and bad incidents, we're not biased!) This means that it is really important that you keep your primary contact details up to date. If your primary contact leaves, moves, or changes their email address, please raise a ticket through our support desk to let us know.

5. Sandbox environment – password activation required

In the Street Manager newsletter issued on 15th July and in a Street Manager service email issued to all users on 21st August, we announced news about the arrival of the new Sandbox environment. This new environment has been available since 1st September and will replace the existing Sandbox environment which will be decommissioned on 30th September 2020, ie. it will no longer be available from this date. The URLs for the new Sandbox environment is as below and you will have to use these from now on or at least before 30th September:

API URL: <https://api.sandbox.manage-roadworks.service.gov.uk>

UI URL: <https://www.sandbox.manage-roadworks.service.gov.uk>

Although the addresses (URL) to the new Sandbox are changing, your user id for the new Sandbox environment will remain the same. However, in order for you to be able to successfully access the new Sandbox environment you need to set a password. On Monday 24th August, we issued an email to all users with a temporary password. If you haven't already done so, please find this email and click on the link to set your password.

The password link is only valid for 30 days, so this link will expire on Wednesday 23rd September. Therefore, please ensure you have clicked the password link before this date. Without a set password you won't be able to access to the new Sandbox environment.

For the avoidance of doubt, the URLs, user ids and passwords which you use to access the Street Manager Production environment are all unchanged, so no action.

6. Let's talk about the release calendar

We just wanted to draw your attention to the release calendar:

<https://departmentfortransport.github.io/street-manager-docs/release-calendar/>

We've recently added it to our Github page in an effort to give people more info on releases. Please do note, however, that this is for the User Interface only and does not impact the stable API. We did have one or two organisations expressing alarm at this schedule as it would involve effort at their end testing every two weeks etc. Rest assured the stable V1 of the API remains unchanged and when V2 is stable in late November you will have several months to move over to V2.

7. Performance Reporting, by HAUC Performance Scorecard Working Group

With the introduction of Street Manager, the way the HAUC Performance Scorecards will move forward is changing. Over the next 6 months, the DfT is aiming to redesign and implement a suite of reports guided by the Street Manager governance group and the HAUC UK performance Chairs. This will improve on the current level of details provided in the reports, giving both a more comprehensive national picture of road and street works in the UK, along with more detailed reports specifically targeting the Local Authority and utility sector. They are also completing the link to access the open data from Street Manager which can be used for reporting but will be restricted on content.

In the meantime, however, due to GDPR restrictions unfortunately GeoPlace will not have access to data in Street Manager that allows Scorecards to be created.

With this in mind, we have decided to suspend Scorecard submission for all English Authorities whilst the reporting is set up in Street Manager. New reports will be available from April 2021. Please do continue to send them any final data you have up until 30th June 2020 so that as complete a record is available for the period before Street Manager commenced. Anything after this date will be reported by the new reports in due course.

HAUC(UK) Scorecard working group will be working directly with the Street Manager governance group to ensure the reporting delivered is what is needed by the sectors.

Any Welsh Authorities should continue to submit data as they currently do, and HAUC(UK) and Welsh HAUC will be discussing how to move forward independently of Street Manager.

During the transition period (1st July – 20th march), if you need to carry out your own reporting you do have access to your own data via the street Manager site. If you need assistance you are permitted to provide access to any 3rd party, which may including GeoPlace. This can be set up under your Street Manager profile.

We would like to thank GeoPlace for their support over the past 10 years.

8. FPNs and S.58s

A newsletter or two ago, you may recall we talked about adding fields into Street Manager to assist users in meeting FPN regulation requirements. We've had one or two follow up questions about that so just wanted to note that they were indeed all added and have been available to User Interface users for a month or two. It's worth noting that these fields were added to V2 of the API so aren't currently available to API users who are all (correctly) using V1 of the API.

There is a further enhancement available around pre-populating these fields to save effort on the part of the person giving the FPN, but that is a little way down the queue at the moment.

Just a very quick note to say that all Section 58s should be raised as Activities in Street Manager, not as Permits. I believe all API users are creating them as Activities and one consistent route of recording is better. We do plan to hide "Section 58" as an activity type in the User Interface in the future - we just haven't found the time yet. And, when recording them as an activity, please enter the TM as none/signing only. We've had a few go in as road closures and this could potentially show the road as being closed for 2 or 3 years on an external website.

9. Known issues log

Over the last few weeks, we have been working on improving our Known Issues Log and we are pleased to announce the publication of these improvements. The Known Issues Log now details a summary and brief description of known issues raised and details any known workarounds which can be used to determine if an issue you may be experiencing has already been raised with our Service Desk. The log also highlights any issues which have been fixed in the most recent weeks.

You can find the known issues, any workarounds and most recent known issues fixed here:
<https://streetmanager.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/SPBS/pages/1397489686/Street+Manager+-+Known+Issues>

10. Traffic Regulation Orders & coronavirus

Finally, we just wanted to ask any local authority teams that have also been dealing with making TROs to install measures to deal with coronavirus and, in particular, the emergency procedures that have temporarily been made available until April next year. We have commissioned IPSOS Mori to do an evaluation of the regulations and wondered if any local authority contacts would like to take part in an interview? We are looking for 18 participants. If you are interested, please email streetmanager@dft.gov.uk