

## Tuesday 23 November 2010. Signfix Passive Safety Signing

Southern Branch were hosted by Messrs. Tim Daly (UK Sales Manager) and Ian Forster (Southern Area Sales Representative) Signfix Limited for an interesting, lively and informative afternoon seminar on the development of Signfix Limited, as a company, and more especially its range of passive sign safety equipment.

Signfix was originally formed in 1972 as a company producing and selling aluminium channel and clip sign fixing products which revolutionised how traffic signs were made and installed; a system still very much in use today. The company also developed a specialised security system following the high level of sign thefts (even then the scrap value of road signs was worth the risk in stealing them). Evidence showed that offenders were forcing the channelling apart thus 'popping' the sign and channel off its post fixing. The device (Signguard) prevents this thus saving considerable expense in sign replacement, site visits and more importantly the loss of a sign at a critical location.



In 1995. Signfix became the UK distributor of the Lattix Brand from Norway thus introducing the first Passively Safe signs to be used on the UK highway network. After a brief trial period, its value was quickly recognised and further installed to the point where one can rarely undertake a car journey without meeting (not literally one hopes) one of their products. The company is rightly proud of the fact that one sign installed at that time remains to this day in its original position without any deterioration of its fabric.

A further notable event occurred in 2006 when Signfix became the exclusive UK distributor for the KAPU Passively Safe lighting column. Effectively a lighting column that does not need a 'crash' barrier to protect vehicle occupants in the event of an impact though protection of the column itself is an option.

Delegates were shown the manufacturing process as the Lattix system has been further developed and now complying with BS EN 12767 achieved as the result of several crash tests, according to the size of the post. We were shown videos of the various crash tests undertaken by the company at considerable expense but seen as an investment both for them and for road safety as a whole.

To round the afternoon off, delegates were introduced to a recent innovation, 'Biker Mate'. Though Lattix signing is a safety option its leaning was towards protecting car occupants. Regrettably the lot of erring motor cyclists had, to a degree, been overlooked. Data showed that between 2003 and 2007, 250 motor cyclists were killed following impact with unforgiving roadside objects (signs, lamp columns, trees etc.) with a further 880 receiving serious injuries. Though some impacts were with lattix posts, the rider/pillion passenger remained extremely vulnerable. Sign Fix worked with other specialists in the field to develop this crash cushion that can be attached to any fixture. Constructed of several layers of energy absorbing materials contained within a polypropylene case, the system has the potential to absorb a high amount of energy on impact. Truly described as a friend to bikers... a friend for life.



An interesting and very informative event and we are grateful to Tim and Ian for giving up their valuable time to benefit the Branch. Further information can be obtained from the Signfix web site [www.signfix.co.uk](http://www.signfix.co.uk) or email to [sales@signfix.co.uk](mailto:sales@signfix.co.uk)