

I am involved in a number of exciting projects, including managing the West Bromwich 20 mile an hour zone project; Sandwell Cycle Map, and I have an involvement in the West Bromwich Regeneration Project. I arrange meetings in order to identify the areas where speed needs to be reduced, for example, near schools. I am responsible for completing a cost analysis, running financial reports and monitoring the work undertaken by the contractors. I attend monthly meetings with project managers so I can identify and resolve any issues and make amendments to the fund allocation as necessary. I also use a range of specialist computer software to model the build-up of traffic at key junctions and identify traffic black spots. Then I take action to resolve the issue by arranging for the road junction to be updated or altered in some way so traffic can flow more freely. I updated the “Cycling in Sandwell” map; one of the aims of this project is to give people the option of cycling instead of driving to work, therefore reducing traffic congestion on the roads. Taking a lead role in this type of project has allowed me to develop my project management skills.

I graduated from Swansea University with a BSC in Geography in 2007. I then gained a Masters in Environmental Conservation and Management in 2009. Whilst at University I used to work voluntarily every week at an Environmental Centre. I helped manage the onsite shop and showed children around the centre. I also did weekly work experience in the Environment and Planning department of an Estate Agent. My role involved working on Environmental Statements and preparing the surveys for one of the main projects. After finishing university, I then got a part time job as a waitress. It took four months to gain this job, in which time I had two other interviews.

I am doing my NVQ Level 4 Management. I work on this on my study day and during working hours. It will display my competence in the management skills I have and am currently building. Since starting I have been given a lot of responsibility to plan and manage a range of different transportation projects. I have also been involved in data analysis, monitoring financial budgets and putting into place initiatives which address any issues we have faced when developing transport policy and schemes. This experience clearly benefits

Sally – Civil Engineering Graduate – Planning & Development

me, as it demonstrates to future employers that I have the skills, experience and qualifications to help develop their business and make it thrive.

In the short term I plan to gain more experience working within Transportation Planning. As part of my graduate placement I am being seconded to a private consultancy to gain environmental experience, and I am sure the role, challenges and working environment will be different to the Council, which will help to further develop my skills for the future.