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Dear all,

Whilst we may have experienced one of the mildest winters, the warmer weather brought with it significant challenges, not least of which

included three named storms in a matter of weeks. As a result, our teams have worked around the clock to keep the network safe – facing a surge in emergency call outs to fallen trees and flooding, thankfully not the same scale as other parts of the country but still relatively severe compared to previous years. Despite the recent relentless bad weather this winter, we have continued our programme of work to upgrade the highway network.

Though the conditions have been far from ideal, we have undertaken this focused programme alongside other network improvement as part of our schedule of work to ensure we meet our next contractual milestone. Our targets are not based on the percentage or number of roads completed rather they are based on a road condition score. Carriageways are surveyed using specialist measuring equipment and scores are calculated for each section.

Over the last seven years Island Roads has been working to bring the Island's roads up to the condition score required in the contract. All milestones to date have been met and the work is on target for the end of the March when the next milestone in the contract will be reached.

While the first seven years have delivered the most intense period of activity, there remains an ongoing requirement to keep the average condition of the network up to the agreed level for the duration of our contract with the Isle of Wight Council.



Pictured: Tree cleared from Alverstone Road, Queen's Bower

That means there will be ongoing highway improvement work throughout the duration of the PFI – a further 18 years. Over the next four years, we will be continuing to make a significant level of investment to ensure we maintain the condition of the network.

We are currently in the process of agreeing this year's programme with the council and hope to publicise more details in the coming weeks. It is likely to include another 200 sections of road improvement work which will focus more on the residential roads where we all live.

At the same time, we will continue to maintain and improve other aspects of the highway network for example: structures, signage and street furniture, as well as continuing our involvement in strategic projects such as the St Mary's junction improvement scheme which is progressing well.

All of this is subject to the impact of Covid-19. As you will recognise, these are unprecedented times and very difficult

to everyone. At the time of going to print, we are undertaking contingency planning with partners and supply chains to identify the most critical services we will need to concentrate on and also to ensure we have the required staff and resources to undertake these functions safely.

We continue to keep a close eye on the advice from the Government and our senior management team is working hard to ensure the appropriate steps are taken at the right time across the organisation. Please visit the dedicated Covid-19 page on the home page of our website for the latest information.

We hope you all keep safe and well.

Stephen Ashman,
Service Director, Island Roads



New website and reporting facility



Our website has recently been refreshed to improve the look and functionality of the site. A key part of this work has been to improve the 'report it online' facility to make it easier for people to log issues with us online. The new system also allows people to sign up for email alerts about defects reported by members of the public in their area and track how these issues are being resolved. Visit the website at www.islandroads.com

Belgrave Road update



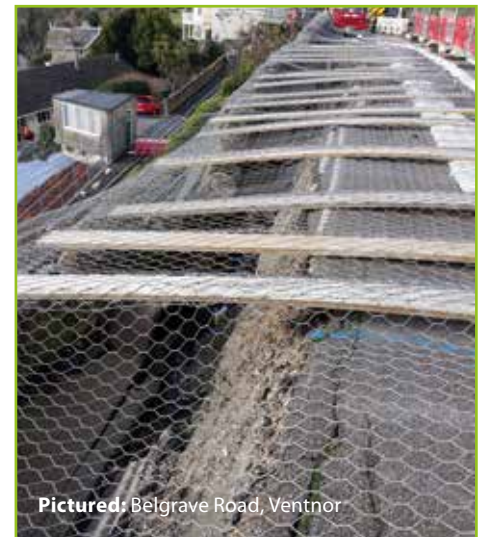
In January, an emergency road closure was put in place along Belgrave Road in Ventnor following the appearance of large cracks in the carriageway and the partial collapse of a wall running alongside. We are closely monitoring the situation and while the wall continues to move, it is essential that the road closure remains in place.

Although we are unable to access the site to undertake detailed investigations at this stage, we have been able to install safety netting over the affected area to capture any debris as it spills from the terrace.

A topographical survey of the area has been undertaken and monitoring equipment installed to help us to assess movement in the area and help

us decide when the area has stabilised sufficiently for us to carry out a more thorough investigation on site.

We understand residents will be keen for this situation to be rectified and the road reopened as soon as possible, but we must wait until we can be satisfied that any work on site will not pose a safety risk either to residents, to our workforce or affect the stability of the area.



Pictured: Belgrave Road, Ventnor



Pictured: Tree cleared from Seldon Avenue, Ryde

Winter service update

So far this winter we have we have experienced fairly mild conditions. While this has meant fewer gritting runs for our winter maintenance crews, we have been extremely busy responding to issues relating to the wet and windy weather which has resulted in surface water flooding, fallen trees and debris on the highway.

With several named storms crossing the Island so far this year, our crews have dealt with dozens of fallen trees and flooding incidents. This has led us to remind landowners of their responsibilities in terms of land drainage and tree maintenance via our Ditch It! And Inspect and Protect Information campaigns.

Our winter gritting teams remain on standby until the end of March, when our winter maintenance season formally draws to a close.

Road upgrade continues

Thanks to the milder weather this winter, we have been able to continue our resurfacing programme through the winter months. Outside of the main tourist season we have resurfaced 19 car parks in towns and villages across the Island, as well as many key sections of road.

Here are some photographs of some of the car parks we have recently completed, along with a section of highway in Crossfield Avenue, Cowes.



Pictured (top to bottom): Brannon Way Car Park, Brunswick Road Car Park, Lind Place Car Park, Lugley Street Car Park, Crossfield Avenue Cowes

St Mary's junction improvement scheme



Pictured: Work progressing at St Mary's

Work to complete a major junction improvement scheme at St Mary's, Newport is progressing well and on schedule to enter the next phase of construction after the Isle of Wight Festival.

Over the next few weeks, there will be changes to the contraflow that is currently in place and any related traffic management arrangements and these will be in place leading up to the Isle of Wight Festival. There will then be a pause in work while the festival takes place.

A further update on the arrangements that will be in place following the festival will be issued in advance to residents.

New work permit scheme introduced

A new permit scheme designed to give better control over works by utility companies and other contractors on the highway network is to be introduced from 30 March 2020.

The new scheme, like many others already operating across the country, will require utility companies (gas, electricity, water, telecommunications) and other contractors (including ourselves) to apply for a permit in advance of any works.

As part of this process they will need to demonstrate the need for work they are planning to undertake and give more details on what is envisaged including traffic management arrangements.

Companies will also have to demonstrate that there has been



appropriate consultation around schemes that are likely to have a high impact on road users.

The highway authority (Isle of Wight Council) can then approve, reject or request a modification to the permit application and apply working conditions.

You can read more about the new permit scheme on our website.

Primary school pupils get safety talk as St Mary's work continues

We had a really enjoyable afternoon at Hunnyhill Primary School recently speaking to pupils about road safety, and in particular, the need to take additional care near roadworks.

The talk was arranged by Island Roads in conjunction with the IW Council and local member Cllr Andrew Garratt as part of community engagement around the junction improvement work being undertaken at nearby St Mary's Roundabout.

Carol Ward-Reynolds, inclusion manager at Hunnyhill Primary said: "With all the work going on nearby this was a very timely visit and one that we all enjoyed."

"Island Roads has already helped us create our construction zone area which is designed to encourage early years pupils to build on their personal, emotional and social skills so we are very pleased to have an ongoing relationship."



Pictured: Hunnyhill Primary School's inclusion manager Carol Ward-Reynolds with Steve Ambrose and pupils

New safety film produced with Age UK IW



Pictured: Puffin crossing information film

Island Roads has worked with Age UK Isle of Wight to produce a short film showing how to use the new 'Puffin' pedestrian crossings.

While Puffin crossings are commonplace across the UK some people, particularly older people, have reported finding them difficult to use. The new film, with subtitles, shows viewers how to use the new Puffin crossings and points out the features designed to make crossing easier for those with mobility and access issues.

You can view the film on our website www.islandroads.com by searching 'Puffin film'.

Bow Bridge improvements near Godshill



Pictured: Completed strengthening works at Bow Bridge, near Godshill

A major scheme to strengthen a bridge that supports the main road on the approach to Godshill has been completed.

The work to Bow Bridge has ensured that the busy A3020 Newport Road can continue to carry all traffic. Without strengthening, a 7.5 tonne restriction would have been required meaning the road could not be used by vehicles over that weight – essentially, nothing larger than a Transit-sized van.

The project involved digging the road out over the bridge to

reveal the top of the masonry arch, waterproofing the stonework and then backfilling the void with concrete. This provided greater support than the original clay-rich soil. Finally, the highway surface was reinstated.

We would like to thank residents and businesses in Rookley and Godshill for their understanding and patience during the works. We were pleased to be able to complete the works slightly ahead of schedule and re-open the road in time for half term.

Blackrock Bridge reopens

Work to strengthen Blackrock Bridge Alverstone, on the Sandown to Newport cycleway, has now been completed. Although slightly delayed, largely due to the wet weather and because of vandalism and forced entry to the work site, our structures team worked hard to re-open the popular cycling and walking route in time for the February half-term holidays. The project included

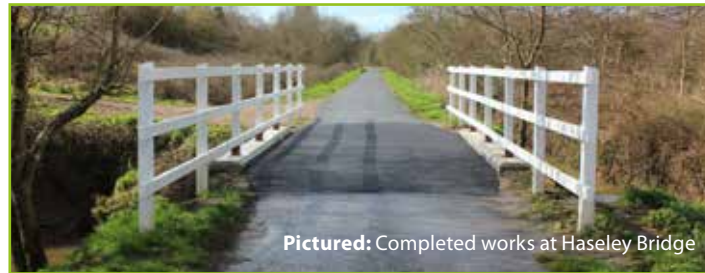
replacing the metal structure of the former railway bridge with a new concrete deck and resurfacing both approach ramps to create a smooth

surface for track users.

This is the second structures project to be completed along this stretch of cycleway recently, with Haseley Bridge

upgraded last year.

Although there was some inconvenience to residents during these schemes, we hope users will be pleased with the upgraded bridges which will serve the community for years to come.



Picture: Completed works at Haseley Bridge

Charity begins at home



Picture: Mandy Fuller and Kellie Lawrence from Daisy Chains IW (centre) with Island Roads fundraising committee members Joanna Westwood (left) and Elbie Todd (right)

Staff at Island Roads have presented £1,902.15 to the local charity Home-Start IOW.

The money was raised from a variety of events during 2019 when Home-Start IOW, a Newport-based voluntary organisation offering support to parents and carers facing difficulty, was the chosen charity of Island Roads staff.

Fundraising activities included two quiz nights when the winning teams handed back their prize money, a Wimbledon sweepstake, bake and sell events, dress down days and a Christmas raffle. Staff member Ben Meakin also agreed to a body wax by colleagues.

Island Roads employs around 200 Island people who are all very keen to do their bit to support good causes in the local community and this year staff have chosen Daisy Chains IW as its charity for 2020.

Employees will focus this year's fundraising activities on helping the charity which supports Island children with a disability, long-term health need or life-limiting condition.

Founded in 2012 by a group of parents, it also provides grants for much needed equipment and helps families with the cost of travelling to mainland hospital appointments.

Thank you for your feedback!



The annual Island Roads customer survey took place last month, with residents encouraged to provide feedback on the range of services we provide, as part of our work to improve the highway network on the Island.

We received a great response, with more than 700 people completing the survey this year and we are now going through all the feedback.

The survey forms part of a range of measures we use to review the services we provide, and it helps us to determine how we can improve our performance year-on-year.

Thank you to all those who took the time to complete our survey.



Picture: Alison Griffiths (centre) receiving a cheque from Island Roads staff fundraising committee members Joe Robinson and Maria Escandell

Grant funding open to community groups



Pictured: The Wave Project using equipment provided by the IW Foundation

Local groups working to tackle social exclusion on the Isle of Wight have been invited yet again to apply for grants of up to £16,000 from the Isle of Wight Foundation as part of its 2020-21 grant funding.

The foundation, which is funded by the organisations which form the partnership behind Island Roads, has given almost half a million pounds to local good causes since it was formed in 2014.

Scores of groups have benefited from the foundation's support so far, with many using the funding to purchase new equipment, fund training courses, buy minibuses, improve facilities or make them more accessible to those with disabilities.

Eligible projects must support the foundation's aims of improving access to employment and building better communities.

As well as grant funding, projects are also supported by Island Roads employees who are given the opportunity to be project sponsors and give their time to share their specialist skills with grant recipients to help them deliver their projects.

Funding applications can be made from until midday on Monday 4 May 2020.

Full eligibility criteria and details of the application process can be found in the Isle of Wight Foundation section of the Island Roads website www.islandroads.com

Bugs, birds and bats!



Pictured: Samantha O'Rourke (back centre) with representatives from Wightlink, Men in Sheds at Aspire and Care in the Garden

Island Roads is supporting a new project to create a host of ecologically friendly features in and around Wightlink's Fishbourne terminal

These features include bird and bat boxes and insect hotels as well as a planting programme to introduce shrubs with ecological benefit to provide Isle of Wight wildlife with food and habitats.

The Biodiversity Project will involve other Island businesses, organisations and schools in a sustainable community initiative.

The bird and bat boxes and insect hotels have been built and supplied by Men in Sheds, part of the Aspire charity in Ryde. The plants, all approved by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, have come from the Wootton-based Care in The Garden Community Interest Company. Environmental consultants Artecology, based in Sandown, have also been involved in planning the enhancements.

In addition, Island Roads will present Fishbourne Lane residents with bird and bat boxes to thank them for their co-operation during a complex project to reconstruct and resurface Fishbourne Lane.

Volunteers face a battering!

A team of Island Roads volunteers armed with paintbrushes headed to the Needles Old Battery to help the National Trust with their annual winter maintenance programme.

The Needles Old Battery was built in 1862 to defend the western Solent from feared invasion by the French. This never materialised and the battery became known as one of 'Palmerston's



Pictured: Volunteers at the Needles Old Battery

Follies', a reference to Lord Palmerston, the then Prime Minister, who ordered a major expansion of naval defences. The battery was however active during both World Wars before acquisition by the National Trust in 1975.

The team painted the Cartridge Store, Shell Store entrance, Royal Engineers Room and Northern Position Finding Cell. They also tackled the narrow underground tunnel leading to a searchlight room

overlooking the Needles and as far away as Dorset on a clear day.

David Metcalfe, Property Operations Manager for the National Trust, said: "We have a long list of jobs to do to preserve the fort's history and keep it open to the public, so the support we receive from Island Roads is really welcome."

As part of the Island Roads volunteering scheme, the company encourages employees to take two paid days off each year to support local good causes.

