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**Dear all,**

Despite the record-breaking heatwave, it has been yet another busy period for Island Roads.

We have completed work on important local schemes such as the Causeway in Freshwater and the access to Langbridge footbridge while work continues on more major schemes such as the improvements to Ryde Transport Interchange, Belgrave Road at Ventnor and the structural work in Queen's Road, Ryde.

The weather has also presented us and residents with other challenges in the form of flash flooding when heavy rain followed the prolonged dry period. In these conditions the rainfall, most notably in Arreton, washed straight from the parched ground onto the highway and, unfortunately, into adjacent properties. At Arreton alone we cleared 24 tonnes of silt from the highway.

The incident highlighted the need for landowners to ensure water from their properties does not cause highway issues. Indeed, it is their legal duty to ensure that is the case. The IW Council does have the power to prosecute landowners who fail to meet their responsibilities in this respect while Island Roads can also recharge landowners for the costs we incur in clearing the highway of water and debris.

We have previously worked well with local bodies including the Isle of Wight Council, Southern Water, the Environment Agency, NFU and the CLA to highlight the responsibilities of landowners



under the Highways Act in this respect and we have again publicised this work recently. It is, after all, in everyone's interest that all appropriate steps are taken to avoid highway flooding in the first place.

Elsewhere, we continue to undertake our maintenance programme to keep the highway up to the standards required. This includes an intensive programme of carriageway repair as well as the ongoing verge maintenance and, in addition, work to renew or install high friction surfacing at various sites across the Island is underway. Road safety, as always, remains at the heart of what we do.

I would also like to draw your attention to the fact we have taken

delivery of nine new electric vehicles and upgraded the charging infrastructure at our Daish Way HQ and winter maintenance depot at Stag Lane.

We realise there is much more to do in order for us to reach our goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050 but this is a welcome step on the road to reducing our carbon footprint.

**Stephen Ashman,**  
Service Director, Island Roads



# Bus station improvements on the way



**Pictured:** Bird's eye view of bus station improvement plans

The work to improve Ryde Interchange is continuing at pace.

Partners including the Isle of Wight Council, Wightlink, Southern Vectis and the railway companies are currently collaborating on a scheme to provide better travel connectivity at the interchange as well as much-improved public space for residents and visitors.

This work includes the creation of more amenity space, improved pedestrian and cycle links through the Esplanade area and new layout to the bus station. There will also be new street furniture and planting throughout the Esplanade.

Work is currently underway to reconfigure Ryde Bus Station. The changes will improve the layout of the terminal so buses can move in and out of site more safely and efficiently. Buses will also be able to travel directly up George Street rather than having to travel along the Esplanade and then double back via the Dover Street roundabout to exit the town.

However, until the Spring it will be necessary for

buses to use temporary stands that will be created nearby.

Ryde Travel Shop will be open as usual. Further information can be found via the following link <https://www.islandbuses.info/Ryde-bus-station-move> and on the map above. We are also embarking on work that will mean some temporary traffic arrangements to accommodate work to improve the pedestrian junction outside the King Lud pub as well as some additional drainage work.

Overall, the wider project remains on schedule to finish in the Spring.



# High Friction Surfacing

A programme of safety work to lay high-friction surfacing at locations across the Island is underway.

Island Roads will be laying new anti-skid surfacing, or replacing worn sections, at various sites in a three-work programme starting on Cowleaze Hill, Shanklin, on Monday September 19.

As the sites are traditionally busy sections of the road network, all the work will be done at night under either a road closure or with temporary traffic lights in operation.

High friction surfacing (HFS) involves the application of a thin-layer of very high-quality aggregate that helps motorists maintain better control in both dry and wet driving conditions. Typically, HFS is applied on the approaches to busy junctions, at pedestrian crossings or at sharp bends on roads with higher speed limits.

The fact HFS is usually coloured also serves as a visual reminder to motorists to take additional care.

Besides Cowleaze, HFS will be laid at the following sites:

- Blackwater Hollow on the bends between Bridleway 41 and Birchmoor Lane
- Calbourne Road, Newport on the approach to Carisbrooke
- Freshwater Road, Shalfleet (Middle Road) at the Calbourne Mill bend
- Merstone Lane, Godshill at the approach to Bohemia Corner
- Pyle Street, Newport, at the approach to Drill Hall Road
- Culver Parade, Sandown at the pedestrian crossing outside Dinosaur Isle
- Ventnor High Street junction with Madeira Lane
- Marlborough Road, Ryde at the junction with Somerset Road
- Berry Shute, Chillerton at the junction with Berry Lane
- Cockleton Lane, Gurnard, at the junction with Hilton Road/Gurnary Pines
- Whitwell Road, Ventnor, outside Ventnor Rugby Club
- Ventnor Road at Apse Heath

In most cases, the work will be completed in between one to three shifts. Some preparation work, such as the removal of the existing work surfacing, may be required at some sites.

Because HFS must be laid in mid, dry conditions, the programme is subject to change depending on the weather.



**Pictured:** HFS being laid in Cowes

## Highway Flooding / Ditch It

We have recently seen some very severe flooding of the highway and adjacent properties at Main Road at Arreton.

Island Roads staff worked extremely hard to clear the highway - removing around 24 tonnes of silt from the carriageway.

The incident highlighted the need for landowners to do all they can to ensure the rainwater does not flow off from their property onto the road network. Highway drains and gullies are designed only to take away rainwater that falls directly on the road network - not water that enters roads and pavements from adjoining land.

Under the Highways Act, it is an offence to allow water from private land or property to go onto the highway as it may pose a danger to other road users.

Historically we have worked really well with organisations such as the CLA and NFU to ensure landowners are aware of their responsibilities in this area. Part of this work has been through the promotion of our Ditch It campaign.

For our part, we carry out routine inspections and cleansing of our highway drainage system, paying additional attention to areas prone to historic flooding.

You can find out more about this work and what landowners must do to reduce the risk of highway flooding by visiting [www.islandroads.com/highway-flooding/](http://www.islandroads.com/highway-flooding/)



**Pictured:** Recent flooding in Arreton



# Belgrave Road

Considerable progress on the project to rebuild and re-open Belgrave Road in Ventnor has been made recently.

We have been continuing our work on the reinforced concrete walls and these are now close to being finished. We have also started the stone masonry cladding on the lower sections of the reinforced concrete wall.

Work to strengthen the walls next to the cabins started in August and these are due to be finished this month.

Southern Water has also confirmed that they will be reinstating their underground water main in mid-October. This will replace the temporary overland main that had been put in place as a precautionary measure following the wall's collapse.



**Pictured:** Works on Belgrave Road

# A new Langbridge

Work on behalf of the IW Council to create a safe pedestrian access serving the new bridge at Langbridge, Newchurch, was completed ahead of schedule.

Despite often searing heat, the project was completed and the road re-opened in late July - well ahead of the scheduled finish date of August 5.

The project went particularly smoothly as there

were no unexpected hiccups on site, staff worked additional hours and residents had also been very supportive by observing the traffic management measures put in place to allow the work to be undertaken safely.

As with our schemes, Island Roads would like to thank the community for their support and co-operation during work.



**Pictured:** New bridge at Langbridge

# Causeway work finds favour



**Pictured:** IR project manager Stuart Faulds with IW Council members Phil Jordan and John Medland

Work to replace new yet traditional barriers at The Causeway in Freshwater has been completed.

The project began earlier this month following lengthy discussions with the IW Council over the most suitable way of providing safe barriers that were also in keeping with the unique rural surroundings.

The work also required other consents given the location's environmental importance - it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a Special Area Conservation, a Special Protection Area and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and also a designated RAMSAR site because it is a renowned waterfowl habitat.

The work itself has installed a new but traditional-looking post and rail system using English oak posts supplied by local company Chessell Woodyard of Calbourne.

The project has already received the thumbs-up from the local community.

Island Roads understands and shares the local frustrations regarding the timescales getting through the agreement stages but we are pleased the work is already getting good feedback. You can read more feedback via the following link: <https://islandroads.com/causeway-work-getting-thumbs-up/>

## New guide to reporting a highways fault online

A new film has been created by Island Roads to encourage and help people report highways issues using the internet.

Reporting issues online via the Fix My Street online service can be the quickest way of informing Island Roads of issues such as defects but it also helps the company to address these more quickly as residents can plot the precise location of the problem on a digital map.

A quick guide to reporting an issue online can be found here: <https://youtu.be/TDx5YIFZ4zE> Although Fix My Street is easy to use, we have created a more detailed instructional film to help residents who are not as familiar with these online facilities.

Island Roads have partnered with Age UK Isle of Wight to create a step-by-step film explaining how residents can report a problem via its website using a smart phone, tablet or personal computer.

As part of Island Roads' commitment to the Age Friendly Charter, feedback on the film was sought from Age UK IW's Older Person's Steering Group.

The more detailed step-by-step guide to reporting a problem online can be seen here: [https://youtu.be/3R\\_zZEeiYOM](https://youtu.be/3R_zZEeiYOM)

To report a problem with the highway go to: [www.islandroads.com](http://www.islandroads.com) and click on 'Report It Online' at the top of the page, or go directly to <https://fms.islandroads.com>





## Resurfacing this Autumn

A major programme of highway improvement to some of the Island's busiest roads is being undertaken over the Autumn.

Fairlee Road in Newport, Brading Road in Ryde and Newport Road, Niton are among sites in line for improvement in the programme which is due to begin later this month and last until mid-October.

The improvements require full road closures so the busiest sections will be completed at night to minimise inconvenience to road users. The work has also been programmed to take place outside of the main holiday season when the road network is less busy.

While, as you know, the majority of the highway improvement work was completed in the first seven years of the Highways PFI, ongoing annual maintenance is required to ensure the Island's road network remains at the required standard throughout the lifetime of the contract.

That means significant work is required annually. This year, movement caused by the exceptionally hot and dry summer has put additional strain on the network.

The forthcoming work will target the sections of the roads in poorest condition, and see around 18,000 square metres of highway improved - the equivalent of nearly four-and-a-half acres.



**Pictured:** Highway Maintenance vehicle

The roads included in the programme are:

- Fairlee Road and the Racecourse (five nights)
- Brading Road (three nights)
- Newport Road, Niton (five days)
- Bowcombe Road, Newport (three days)
- Little Whitehouse Road, Calbourne (three days)

## Twitter - your help appreciated

Don't forget you can find out more about our activity including a daily update of our work programme via our Twitter feed. Please follow us @IslandRoads.



# Nine new electric cars drive Island Roads' green ambition



**Pictured:** One of our new electric vehicles along the Military Road

Island Roads has taken charge of nine new electric vehicles.

The continued switch by the company to electric vehicles wherever possible is part of its strategy to achieve a 40 percent carbon reduction within seven years and ultimately, by 2050, become completely carbon neutral.

The purchase of the nine latest electric vehicles - six Renault Kangoos and three Nissan E-NV200s - will be complemented by plans to introduce up to further ten electric vehicles next financial year.

Island Roads, which has been using electric vehicles since 2013, is initially looking to replace vans that are used within the business to make a high number of short local journeys such as vehicles used by highway inspectors.

The charging infrastructure at Island Roads' HQ at St Christopher House, Dodnor, and also the winter maintenance depot at Stag Lane has recently been upgraded ready for the new arrivals.

Steve Ashman, Island Roads service director said:

"These new vehicles are a further positive step towards our aims of reducing our carbon footprint but we are under no illusions, there is much more to do if we are to achieve these ambitions targets.

"In a multi-faceted business like ours there are many things to be considered so change cannot be achieved overnight. But we are determined to achieve our carbon reduction goals in the coming years and the ongoing introduction of electric vehicles as and when technology allows will continue to be a big part of that."

Island Roads has also introduced environmentally-conscious measures elsewhere in the business which were recognised last year when it was awarded a gold award from Green Impact, a United Nations award-winning environmental programme backed locally by the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce.

You can see more about Island Roads' sustainability by watching a short film here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yj7nByhYkN8>

## COMPLIMENTS...COMPLIMENTS...COMPLIMENTS...COMPLIMENTS ...COMPLIMENTS

Thanks for your feedback! Here is just a small selection of the many compliments you gave our teams this year. For more visit our website [www.islandroads.com](http://www.islandroads.com)

- The Causeway, Freshwater – Customer wrote “I am writing to you on behalf of the Parish Council to thank you for the restoration work that has been done on the Causeway at Freshwater. It looks magnificent.”
- Medina Way, Newport – Customer wrote “Just a quick note to say thank you and well done to all the crew who worked on the B & Q roundabout. These changes certainly made the traffic flow much better and the traffic light arrangement has improved. I know all the lads working on road repairs... should be congratulated on a job well done.”
- Isle of Wight – Customer wrote “Hi we have just returned from a few days on the IOW and...we were amazed at the condition of the roads, the signage and street furniture. I am a highways engineer for a county council but you put us to shame. We drove around 80% of the island and I couldn't help notice that every sign was up, on a straight post, all gleaming. Every plastic bollard was in place all straight and clean. We never encountered a pothole. You're even laying antiskid surfacing, something we haven't used for years! Well done keep up the good work!”
- Car Park The Grove, Ventnor - Customer wrote “Please thank your colleague who was responsible for the cleaning The Grove Car Park this morning.. Best ever.”
- Kemming Road, Niton – Customer wrote: “I just wanted to send a quick email to say how helpful the staff working in Whitwell - on the road works by the church - were today. There's currently three way traffic lights. As I came out of Bannock Road on my horse one of the workers ran over to the light controls, without me asking, and set them all to red briefly so I could get through and onto the bridleway without any issues. Other workers also paused the loud machinery as we passed. They were all very helpful and it was really appreciated.
- Smallbrook Lane, Ryde – Customer wrote “I just wanted to say what a fantastic job you have on the Smallbrook roundabout. It was always such a difficult junction, and now it's great.”
- The Causeway, Freshwater – Customer wrote “Thank you for the work you have done at Freshwater Causeway. You have restored my favourite view on the Island in a very sensitive way. A pleasure to walk there again.”
- High Street, Ryde – Customer wrote “Please could you thank the road sweeper who sweeps the pavements/roads in and off Ryde High Street. I noticed that the passageway between Ryde High St and Warwick Place needed weeding and needed cleaning, so, when I was walking to work I spotted the sweeper and mentioned that the passageway needed attending to, therefore, I was very surprised and pleased that this job had been undertaken that very day! Praise goes to that man for a job well done.”
- Long Lane, Newport – Customer wrote “I'm writing to say thank you to 3 of your workers for helping me out today when my car broke down on long lane out of Newport. I was on my own with my two boys ages 4 and 1 when one of your workers pulled up behind me to see if me and my boys were okay. He helped direct traffic away from my vehicle and children. Two more of your employees then came and helped with the flow of traffic while making sure me and my boys were okay. I wanted to make sure their fantastic work and generosity was acknowledged. They are absolutely amazing group of men and I am very grateful to them.”
- Brighstone Footpath 25, Brighstone – Customer wrote “I'd like to thank you for responding so quickly and to the steward who was very understanding and helpful. Most of all, his first question was to ask about my mother. I really appreciate that.”
- Brook Road, Shanklin – Customer wrote: “I would like to thank Island Roads for their ongoing maintenance of the brook and drains in the road. In the past, rainfall of yesterday's level would have flooded the road and the two properties here. I am pleased to say that the drains dealt with the deluge with ease, so thank you to everyone involved with the maintenance in this area.”



## COMPLIMENTS...COMPLIMENTS...COMPLIMENTS...COMPLIMENTS ...COMPLIMENTS

- **Arreton Street, Arreton – Customer wrote:**  
“Early this evening we suffered a cloudburst which resulted in flash flooding of Main Road, Arreton, with significant amounts of mud being washed from fields into the road. Our front parking area was affected by water, mud and debris - some washed in by inconsiderate drivers who hit the flooded road too fast. As the waters receded, a large amount of mud remained. However, I am very pleased to say that Island Roads were pretty quick to react with road cleaning vehicles. Well done and many thanks!
- **Quay Road, Ryde – Ambulance crew member wrote:** “Just a quick email in hope that you can pass on a huge thank you to your road crews marshalling at the scooter ride out yesterday 28/8/22 being part of an emergency ambulance crew we were tasked to a serious medical emergency within the Hovertravel area minutes before the ride out started. As you can imagine, access was practically impossible had it not been for the quick thinking and control response of your crew at the scene which enabled us to reach the patient in good time and treat as needed. Once again, a big, big thank you.”



For a range of information, news and updates about our works, visit our website:

[www.islandroads.com](http://www.islandroads.com)

You can make an enquiry, monitor its progress and track other enquiries online using our interactive report it online facility (click on the top right hand corner of our homepage, or go direct via:

[fms.islandroads.com](http://fms.islandroads.com)



Or you can visit us at our visitor centre:

**St Christopher House,  
Daish Way, Newport**



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