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**Dear all,**

With winter now well and truly upon us, it remains a very active time for Island Roads.

The winter season brings with it many challenges, and already we have been called into action to deal with the many issues this time of the year presents, including flooding, fallen trees, and the first gritting runs of the year.

Ahead of the cold weather, as you will see below, we invited Isle of Wight Council members to our Stag Lane depot to learn more about our winter service activities. The idea was that this session would help them answer any questions residents may ask on a topic usually of great interest to the public.

It was a successful event, and we will look to hold future engagement sessions with elected members next year.

You can also read below about how, despite the winter weather, we continue to work apace on numerous projects across the Island. It was particularly pleasing to complete the rebuilding of Belgrave Road in Ventnor recently. As you will remember, this section had been closed since early 2020 when a section of retaining wall collapsed following a period of sustained heavy rainfall. It is good to be able to restore this unique section to its former state (as instructed by the Isle of Wight Council) and it was also rewarding, in that we have worked closely with local businesses to deliver the scheme.

We also continue work on the Ryde Transport Interchange on



**Pictured:** Senior Project Manager Jason Boulter (L) and Dave Jones (R) of Stoneham Construction

behalf of the council, and also on footway improvements in Ryde – this is following on from a highway improvement programme in September and October that included several sections of very busy road – notably Fairlee Road in Newport. In the New Year, our programme will include a major, and long-awaited, reconstruction and resurfacing project in Great Preston Road in Ryde, as well as an upgrade of the cycleway between Shide and Merstone.

Other schemes, such as the repair of the 'Spyglass Wall' on Ventnor seafront, and strengthening of the bridge on the main road through Alverstone, are already underway and will continue into 2023.

As busy as it is in terms of maintaining and improving the Island's road network, we have also been active in supporting the local community, including donating heavy duty gloves to volunteers in Sandown, and working on an environmental project with Cowes Primary School. You can read about both below.

May I lastly thank you all for your support during 2022 and wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

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



# Litter picking pupils now in action



**Pictured:** Pupils from Cowes Primary School help with litter picking

A new litter picking team is up and running at Cowes Primary School thanks to a helping hand from Island Roads.

Pupils from the school council, who are also its Eco-team, asked Island Roads for assistance in equipping a group with the kit they need to collect litter.

Their initial focus is a section of overgrown and untidy land adjacent the school which the team is turning into a managed wildlife habitat under ferry company Wightlink's Green Fund for Schools initiative.

But as well as being overgrown, the land is also bordered by a busy public footpath and, as a result,

has become heavily littered.

Following a request from the school, Island Roads was happy to donate child-size hi-vis jackets, litter pickers and plastic bags and special hoops that keep the bags open so litter can be placed in them more easily.

And there was further assistance offered when Island Roads operations and maintenance manager Dave Wallis and environment supervisor Kev Legg attended the school to drop off the equipment.

The pair led the school in an initial litter pick at the site and also agreed to come back and clear away some of the overgrown vegetation to make future litter picking easier.

## Working hand in glove with Sandown Volunteers

Island Roads has been working hand in glove with Sandown Green Town Volunteers to ensure the group can safely continue its work keeping the town neat and tidy.

The group's band of keen volunteers devote their free time to keeping the town litter free and its planters well maintained.

Much of that work requires heavy duty gardening gloves – the cost of which is prohibitive for the group which has around 30 volunteers.

But after hearing about the issue, Cllr Ian Ward, a group member and Isle of Wight Council ward member for Sandown South, appealed to Island Roads to see if they could donate suitable gloves.

Island Roads was happy to help and cleansing supervisor Nigel Smith delivered the gloves while visiting town cleaner Kenny Snudden who handed them over to volunteers.



**Pictured:** Sandown Green Town Volunteers



## Councillors receive winter fleet briefing

Ahead of the winter season, Isle of Wight Council members were shown first-hand the work that goes into keeping the network safe during cold conditions.

Elected members were invited to Island Roads' winter maintenance HQ at Stag Lane to learn more about the work to grit the network in the event of freezing weather. They were also given the chance to accompany a gritter driver on a short practice run.

The idea was that showing elected members all that was involved in providing winter maintenance would help them answer any questions raised with them by residents.

The winter maintenance season runs between November 1 and March 31 although resources are ready to be deployed outside of these months if necessary. Decisions on whether to undertake a gritting run are made based on bespoke, localised, weather information as well as readings from our own weather stations at Duxmore on Arreton Downs Road and Rowridge on the Middle Road at Calbourne.

Island Roads has a gritting stock of 1,600 tonnes at the start of the season – well in excess of what would be needed for even a severe winter.

There are no changes to this year's gritting routes, which will again focus on the Island's main roads and those connecting towns. Around 350 kilometres – some 43 per cent of the network – are treated during gritting runs.

The gritting routes – which are set by the IW Council – and other information on the winter maintenance service can be viewed here <https://islandroads.com/winter-service/>

A short film highlighting some of our winter maintenance activity can be viewed here <https://youtu.be/OMt3WP2Ea0A>



**Pictured:** Senior Project Manager Jason Boulter (L) and Dave Jones (R) of Stoneham Construction

## Belgrave Road scheme completed

The major project to rebuild and reopen Belgrave Road in Ventnor has been completed. The final element of the work, resurfacing of the newly-constructed road, was finished in early December.

Belgrave Road has been closed since early 2020 when, following a period of sustained and heavy rainfall, the walls that retain Belgrave Road failed. Work initially involved making the site safe. There then followed a detailed process during which a stabilisation project was designed and agreed.

The actual construction phase lasted just over a year and was carried out by local construction company Stoneham Construction. Another local business, Corefix, was also involved in installing more than 250 'soil nails' which are designed to stabilise the area. We have worked closely with the Isle of Wight Council's conservation team to ensure the new retaining walls are in keeping with the local surroundings.

The road has been re-instated to its previous layout as instructed by the Isle of Wight Council. We would like to thank the local community for their co-operation and support during this work.



**Pictured:** Isle of Wight Council members receive briefing

## Getting to grips with the Graben

We have undertaken safety work at Newport Road in Ventnor – a section that suffers from ongoing deterioration because it lies within a local area of wider ground movement called The Graben.

Because we are not able to provide a permanent fix for this geological movement, we instead undertake work when needed to ensure the road is safe.

The recent work has made a significant improvement to the road in this area and was scheduled so as not to coincide with other local road improvement work.



**Pictured:** During and after - Newport Road



## Foundation grants awarded

ISLE OF WIGHT  
FOUNDATION

Nine charities and community organisations working on the Island to help tackle social inclusion will receive a share of more than £90,000 from the Isle of Wight Foundation this year.

We are currently in the process of informing the grant recipients and will be announcing more about the projects we will be supporting in the near future.

The foundation is made up of the partners behind Island Roads – Ringway Island Roads, Meridiam, Island Roads Services and Vinci Concessions. Each year it makes available grants of between £3,000 and £16,000, and so far well in excess of £700,000 has been granted to support eligible Island projects.

Applications for next year's funding will be invited from early February next year.

**Pictured:** Isle of Wight Foundation



# Spyglass Wall scheme underway



**Pictured:** Works on Ventnor Seafront

A historic retaining wall on Ventnor Seafront is being strengthened and the parapet replaced by Island Roads in a major project now underway.

The work will strengthen the retaining wall behind the Spyglass Inn that supports the Esplanade as it rises up towards La Falaise Car Park.

As part of the project, that began last month, and is scheduled to last up to six months, the existing stone parapet wall will also be rebuilt to match that opposite. The work location lies within a Conservation Area and the project has been approved by the IW Council's conservation team.

The project has been programmed to take place after the summer season at the request of the Spyglass Inn which will remain open throughout the project.

During work, The Esplanade will be closed between the Spyglass and La Falaise car park – which will remain accessible via Bath Road. Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

## Ryde Footway improvements

Two sections of busy footway in Ryde are being resurfaced by Island Roads.

Work to improve a 685-metre section of pavement at Marlborough Road is underway and is due to run until just before Christmas while a 565-metre section of the footway at Binstead Road is due to begin early in the New Year once Southern Water work in nearby Queens Road has been completed.

The work at Marlborough Road will resurface the footway between Appley Road and Salisbury Road while at Binstead Road, the stretch between Gwydyr Close and Ringwood Road will be improved.

In both cases, temporary traffic lights will be installed to ensure work can progress as swiftly and safely as possible. These signals will be manually controlled during peak hours and removed each night whenever possible.

## Twitter - your help appreciated

We use our Twitter feed to provide the latest highway information and to share news of our activity across the business. If you don't already, please do follow us @IslandRoads



## 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)

- Horstone Drive, Nettlestone - Customer wrote "Very big thank you to the crew working overnight to clear the tree debris last night. I travelled the same route this morning and it was all clear. Credit given where credit is due."
- Clatterford Road, Newport - Customer wrote "I reported a streetlight out earlier this evening but am pleased to say it has now been fixed. Engineers battling high winds and rain have prevented a possible fall. Much appreciated and many thanks."
- The Strand, Ryde - Customer wrote "I just wanted to say thanks for how quickly you have dealt with two separate fly tipping incidents in the last few weeks. You have always arranged very quick removal of the rubbish, usually the day after it being logged on your map. At a time when most people send emails to criticise, I thought it was nice to pass on my thanks."
- Bullen Road, Nettlestone - Customer wrote "Thank you so much for coming this morning, to clean out the gully, opposite our house."
- Isle of Wight - Customer wrote "Firstly I would like to thank your hub staff and crews for all their hard work over the last few days working to manage the flooding impacts across the Island. Also thank you to the hub staff whom I engaged with to arrange the additional sandbag drops and the crews who actioned these. All the staff I spoke to were extremely helpful, professional and a credit to your team."
- Marlborough Road, Ryde - Customer rang to say what a good job the gang are doing on Marlborough Road, Ryde. They said they worked hard through rain and shine and deserve a mention."
- Somerset Road, Nettlestone - Customer wrote "I just wanted to say thank for the recent clearing of moss on the pavements and the clearing of leaves from the road. It looks lovely!"
- Ningwood Hill, Shalfleet - Customer wrote "Thank you to Derek and Paul Gibb Narey especially. The fix that has been instigated in this case seems to have worked a treat. Well done, thank you for listening to us."
- Esplanade, Ventnor - Customer wrote "I am writing on behalf of Ventnor Town Council and local residents/businesses to thank Island Roads for the swift action in changing the directional signage."
- High Street, Sandown - Customer wrote "Just a brief note to thank Kenny for all his work ensuring the Sandown War Memorial was sand free for Remembrance Day and Armistice Day service. Kenny goes the extra mile and is greatly valued and appreciated in the Town. He made a real difference Sunday and hundreds of residents at the Service commented."
- Redhill Lane, Wroxall - Customer called to say "Well done on the road in Redhill Lane and Appuldurcombe Road."
- Isle of Wight - Customer wrote "Abby, Ian and Stuart, just wanted to say a huge Thank you for all your help with organising the work for our dropped kerb to be done in conjunction with the new pavement! You have all been so kind and helpful and we appreciate it so much! Also to all the lads who completed the works on the pavement and our kerb, they have done a lovely job it looks great! They were all so kind and helpful with seeing us on and off the drive and crossing myself and the kids and dog safely when we went out for walks!"
- St Georges Way, Newport - Customer wrote "Yesterday our daughter was walking our puppy on a lead when a motorcycle spooked him and he bolted with his lead still attached to his collar. Thankfully one of your employees, Matthew and his colleague saw him running around in the road on St George's Way in amongst busy traffic. They safely stopped the traffic to catch him and put him in their van with them whilst they telephoned me on the number on his collar tag. Our son collected our puppy from Matthew thankfully unharmed but shaken. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Matthew and his colleague for the professional and empathetic way that he safely dealt with a very stressful situation. He's a hero in our house."



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

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



Or you can visit us at our visitor centre:

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

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)**



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**@IslandRoads**