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Dear all,

It has been a busy summer and start to the autumn, with work to upgrade roads across the Island continuing at pace. Our highways

teams have not only been completing the work programmed for this year – including large and fairly complex schemes such as Fishbourne Lane and Monkton Street – they have also begun work on the St Mary's roundabout project, part of a package of schemes to improve travel in and around the Newport area. This represents a huge programme of work over the next year across what is an extremely busy junction and we are doing our utmost to minimise disruption while ensuring we can deliver the scheme. We have created a dedicated page on our website, which we will keep up to date with traffic maps, information and other details as the scheme progresses.

With many of the major routes having already been upgraded, we have been out across the Island working on some of the more rural and residential roads. As ever, there has been a need to carefully balance the opportunities afforded by fairer weather windows, with the need to accommodate the higher volumes of traffic associated with the summer months, but our teams have made good progress in bringing yet more roads up to the required standard, working overnight where it has been practical to do so.

It's also been a busy period for our Structures team and you'll see a selection of photos included in this newsletter, from just a few of the projects they've been involved in around the Island this summer. Our Network Management



Pictured: The newly resurfaced Yarmouth car park

teams have also been busy installing new Pedestrian User-Friendly Intelligent crossing systems, otherwise known as 'Puffin' crossings, which will make our roads even safer for pedestrians around the Island.

In other news, as the temperatures start to fall, we are busy preparing for the winter service to start. Although this year's gritting routes were initially reduced by the Isle of Wight Council as part of their budget savings, these routes have since been reinstated.

The salt barn is fully stocked and drivers are ready for the season ahead having completed their autumn parade.

Behind the scenes our programme of community and charitable support has

also been continuing and we highlight a couple of stories this month of particular projects where individuals and teams have helped to make a difference in the community. They, like the incredible Dot Perrett - winner of the Isle of Wight Radio Local Heroes Awards, that we were proud to sponsor, deserve our thanks for the lengths they have gone to, to help support our local community.

Stephen Ashman,
Service Director, Island Roads



Newport St Mary's Strategic Junction improvement programme



Work on a major scheme to reduce traffic congestion and improve access for pedestrians and cyclists at one of the Island's busiest junctions is now underway and will last until mid-December 2020.

The initial phase involved the set-up of a site compound/depot, together with work along Forest Road by BT, WightFibre and SSE to accommodate infrastructure including high voltage cabling works, ahead of the road widening work at this junction. Forest Road, as a result, become one-way eastbound

into Newport from its junction with Argyle Road with a diversion in place.

Work has also taken place to introduce an additional lane to the B&Q mini roundabout which will help ease traffic flow.

In the second phase of work, which started on Monday, 4 November and which runs through to 20 December, Forest Road has reverted to two-way traffic, while all other approaches to the St Mary's roundabout have been reduced by one lane while works to remove the central reservations and roundabout take place.

The works will pause over the Christmas and New Year holiday in 2019 beginning again in January 2020.

Residents and stakeholders have received letters about the scheme and its implications and will continue to do so at relevant points throughout the scheme. Maps (latest pictured) showing the traffic arrangements for the first phase of works up to December have also been advertised and are available on both the Island Roads and Isle of Wight Council's websites.

Static and electronic signs are also out on-site advising people of the works and an extensive letter drop, bus information screens, social media, information display boards, stakeholder briefings, website updates, press adverts and information have also been issued. Regular scheme updates and information will be included on both websites as the scheme progresses and will also be relayed via Twitter and the council's Facebook page.

2019 road upgrade continues



Work to upgrade the highway network has been in full swing over the summer and into this autumn even though, according the Met Office, it was the seventh wettest summer on record for the UK as a whole.

Roads were upgraded in Brading, Chale, Ryde, Newport, Totland, Newbridge, Shanklin, Bonchurch, Ventnor, East Cowes, Wootton, Chillerton, Cowes, Sandown, Godshill, Seaview, Rookley, Wroxall, Binstead and Lake. Three of the more significant roads include Monkton Street in Ryde, the Northwood end of Newport Road (pictured) and a further section of Forest Road, Newport.

Our night crews have also been busy working overnight on parts of the network where traffic is particularly busy during the daytime and it's not practical to carry out works during daytime hours. These include sites like Cedar Hill at Carisbrooke, Shanklin Road's approach to Whitely Bank roundabout and West Street in Ryde, as well as Lidl Roundabout at Holyrood Street, the Daish Way Roundabout, and South Street, Newport outside the bus station. A number of car parks have also been resurfaced overnight.

Our programme will continue for as long as possible, but we are obviously keeping a close eye on the weather and once this becomes more disruptive, we will cease resurfacing activity to avoid delays for residents and businesses.

Puffins fit the bill for safer crossings



Work by Island Roads to upgrade pedestrian crossings across the Island is in full swing.

Under the Highways Improvement Partnership, Island Roads will be upgrading 14 crossing sites before the winter. That is on top of ten sites that have been improved already this year and 40 others since 2013.

The work mainly involves upgrading the sites to become 'puffin' crossings – a name taken from 'pedestrian user-friendly intelligence' crossings which are an improvement to 'pelican' crossings as they include infra-red cameras that detect the presence of pedestrians.

This makes the crossing 'intelligent' as it can increase or reduce the time for which the traffic light remains red. This helps pedestrians as they are not required to walk faster, and the crossing remains red until pedestrians are safely across. As such, unlike the pelican crossing, there is no transitional "flashing" phase. In addition, the lights do not turn red if they have been pushed by someone who is not standing waiting to cross. This means motorists are not subjected to unnecessary delays.

The puffin crossings are also configured so the green man crossing illumination is positioned not on the opposite side of the road as in traditional crossings but instead at the near roadside. This means a pedestrian should be better able to see cars that have failed to stop at the green signal as oncoming traffic remains in the eyeline of people looking for the sign to change. Another benefit of puffin crossings are that having the lights closer to the user assists visually impaired people who could have difficulty viewing the signal from across the carriageway.

Fishbourne Lane works

The final phase of major work to improve Fishbourne Lane has now been completed.

The work by Island Roads has involved the reconstruction of several sections of Fishbourne Lane to address weak foundations and the resurfacing of the entire length between Elenors Grove and the Wightlink Terminal. Work has been carried out in phases and using a combination of manned traffic signals and night-time closures, in order to keep disruption to a minimum.

Fishbourne Lane residents, the parish council and local businesses have all been extremely helpful and patient and we are very grateful for their support to enable us to complete this complex and important scheme.



With this work having been completed, along with work at Well Road in East Cowes and the main route from Wightlink's Yarmouth terminal, it now means that all vehicle gateways to the Island have been upgraded, giving visitors a smart welcome as they arrive on the Island.

For residents too, the work at Fishbourne Lane not only looks and functions better but it will also reduce the noise of traffic travelling across it for residents living along this route.

Preparations for winter underway



Preparations for our winter service are well underway, with the salt barn fully stocked and our vehicles and drivers having completed their autumn parade.

Bespoke weather forecasting for the Island from the MeteoGroup helps Island Roads plan for freezing conditions, along with data provided by weather stations located at Duxmore and Rowridge, which send continuous readings to Island Roads' staff based at Daish Way in Newport.

This information is always supplemented by on-the-ground visual inspections from Island Roads staff.

The gritting routes, which are determined by the Isle of Wight Council, were initially reduced as part of the council's budget savings, however these have all since been reinstated. You can find a map showing these routes on the winter service section of our website.

Improving bridges and other highway structures

Island Roads is continuing a busy programme of work to upgrade and improve the structures that support the Island's road, cycleway and footway network.

A number of schemes to improve bridges, culverts and retaining walls Island-wide have been carried out including strengthening work to Fattening Park Bridge, on the Wootton to Whippingham cycle route and the replacement of Carpenters Road bridge deck, along with the installation of safety barriers and carriageway resurfacing at St Helens. The deck of School Green Road bridge in Freshwater has also been replaced, parapet walls have been built and the carriageway resurfaced. A major project to repaint an estimated 2,100 square metres of Yarmouth Bridge over 23 weeks is also ongoing.

Pictured: (Clockwise from top) Yarmouth Bridge; School Green Road Bridge; Fattening Park Bridge; and Carpenters Road Bridge.



Elbie Braves the Shave for Macmillan



Staff at Island Roads have raised over £1,000 after colleague Elbie Todd decided to Brave the Shave for Macmillan Cancer Support.

There were both tears and cheers as Elbie had her head shaved by colleague Joanna Westwood who also arranged a staff cake sale to boost the money raised.

Elbie said: "The charity is very dear to me and this is my way of saying thank you for the support and amazing work Macmillan is doing for people living with cancer.

"I was not that nervous until I saw the

chair and everyone waiting to see me shaved. Then I knew, wow, this is really happening, there's no turning back!

"Staff were amazing – they really encouraged me all the way and I am just so pleased we have raised a great amount for such a good cause. I am so grateful to my colleagues."

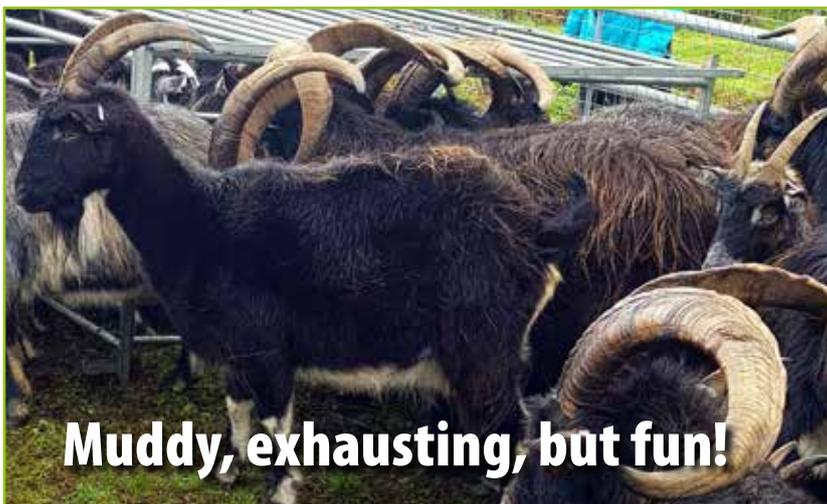
And what does Elbie think of her new look?

"It feels a bit strange but in a good way. I think I will be feeling the cold a bit more for a few weeks," she said.

Making a difference – IW Radio Local Heroes 2019 award winner



Many congratulations to Dot Perrett who won the 'Make a Difference' award, sponsored by Island Roads, at this year's Isle of Wight Radio Local Heroes Awards. Dot has given her time to make a difference for people who are homeless on the Island including volunteering at homeless shelters, knitting hats and scarves for people living on the streets and much more. A true local hero and a very worthy winner of this year's award!



Muddy, exhausting, but fun!

A number of Island Roads staff braved the elements to take part once again in the National Trust's annual goat round up on the Ventnor downs in what turned out to be very challenging wet, windy and muddy conditions!

The exercise allows the National Trust to give the feral goats that roam Ventnor Downs a health check as well as tagging any new kids and they are reliant on the support of volunteers to scramble through the bushes and brambles to form an unbroken line to help herd the goats into the collecting pens.

A total of 48 goats were captured this year! Of these 14 (six billies and eight nannies) were this year's kids and nine of the goats missing from last year's round up were also caught, so the National Trust were delighted.

