



Get all the latest highways news on Twitter

You can receive regular updates on our activities across the business via Twitter @IslandRoads.

Dear all,

We have completed another year of intensive work to upgrade and maintain the Island's highways network right across the Island.



At the end of last year, we undertook several high-profile major schemes that had been scheduled to avoid the summer months

when traffic volumes are at their greatest. Nevertheless, we recognise that any work on the network can cause disruption and we are extremely grateful to residents, businesses and community organisations who have worked with us throughout the year to make that possible. This co-operation was highlighted in respect of two recent schemes that, while very different in character, did rely heavily on the understanding of those affected. I am talking about the Military Road and Riverway Road improvement schemes where the support we received was both crucial and very much appreciated.

We will once again be embarking on another busy period of network improvement this year. Now the main resurfacing work has been wound down for the winter period, planning for 2019 is very much underway and we will be telling you more about this programme soon.



We also provide daily updates on our activity on our Twitter feed @IslandRoads so please follow us if you don't already.

As I am sure you know Island Roads is responsible not only for the road improvement but also the maintenance of the network. This includes the winter maintenance functions and our fleet and staff have once again been out on our 'Autumn Parade' to ensure Island Roads is prepared for winter weather.

Away from our core business, I am pleased that our employees remain very active in the community through our volunteering scheme under which they are encouraged to take two days a year paid leave in order to support local good causes. You can read more about this work elsewhere in this newsletter and if you know of any good causes that might benefit from some volunteer work, then please email us at info@islandroads.com with more details.

Similarly, we have devised a talk aimed at primary schools that seeks

to spread safety messages and to also encourage children of a young age to understand our work. If you are interested in this interactive talk then please email us.

Lastly, I would like to point you to the selection of compliments that have been received recently which are listed elsewhere this newsletter. Whilst I will be the first to acknowledge that we don't always get everything right, we do work diligently to provide the Island with a greatly improved network and it is always pleasing to hear when these efforts are bringing benefits to residents and businesses.

I wish you all a happy new year! Many thanks again for your support and I wish you all the best for the year ahead.

Steve Ashman,
Service Director, Island Roads



Major road schemes delivered

At the Military Road, we completed our largest single improvement scheme with the resurfacing and, in some places, reconstruction, of a seven-and-a-half-mile section of the highway between Brook and Brighstone.

Completion of the resurfacing was marked by an opening ceremony and ride-out of 70 vintage vehicles along the improved section.

Like other schemes on roads that are important to tourism, the project was undertaken outside of the summer season. Work was also carried out around the clock to minimise disruption by ensuring the project was delivered as quickly as possible.

Cllr Ian Ward, Isle of Wight Council cabinet member responsible for the Highways Improvement Partnership said: "This project was a huge undertaking and I am delighted it has



been delivered to schedule and with considerable effort given to working with the local community to minimise disruption.

"This follows on from the recent strengthening of the Brighstone Viaduct and is indicative of the massive investment the Island is able to make in its road network thanks to the huge Government grant unlocked by the Highways Improvement Project."



A scheme to resurface Newport's busy Riverway Trading Estate was also completed successfully.

The scheme involved much consultation with Riverway businesses and retailers many of whom, such as the Royal Mail, Adams Morey and Steve Porter, work-around-the-clock.

Island Roads is keen to thank all businesses and residents for their understanding and co-operation in all schemes.

Other recent works completed include the resurfacing at Culver Parade and the Fairway, Sandown, Park Avenue and Steephill Road, Ventnor, Nettlecombe Lane at Whitwell.

Highway improvement work has now been scaled back as we enter the winter period and we are currently planning another busy programme of activity across the network in 2019.

Structures upgrade continues apace

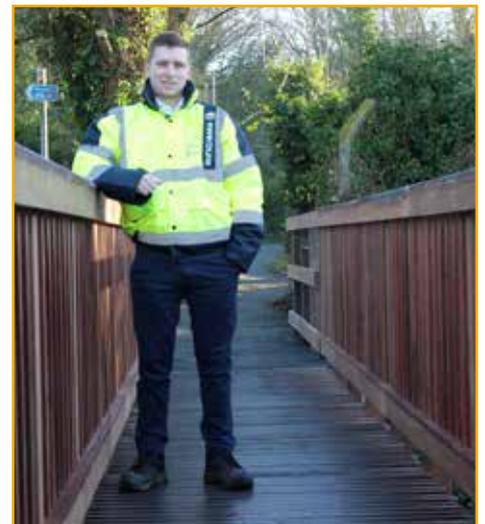
An intensive programme of work to upgrade structures on the road and rights of way network is ongoing.

Recent projects include the replacement of popular footbridges at St Helens Duver, Shide and Morton Brook at Brading. In all cases, existing structures were replaced with more durable solutions that will reduce the need for ongoing maintenance.

Work is also ongoing to create a new Causeway at Horringford replacing a previous wooden structure with a new footway/cycle track based on a stone and gabion basket foundation – which is again designed to lessen the need for ongoing maintenance.

There was another innovation used at the Duver where, given the remote and environmentally-sensitive nature of the location and difficulties of vehicular access, a system of rails was successfully deployed to bring in the replacement decks.

As well as these recent footbridge schemes, the structures team have also completed a new bridge deck at Lower Calbourne Mill and carried out repairs to the arch bridge at Brocks Copse between Whippingham and Wootton. Work has also been carried out to strengthen the central arch of Wroxall Bridge.



Meanwhile at The Folly, a previous footbridge that was prone to erosion as it was set into the riverbank has been replaced with a new boardwalk that rests on much deeper piles. The new boardwalk was opened by Cllr Ian Ward who is responsible for the Highways PFI. This project was delivered by the network management design team.

The structures programme is a year-round one and a new schedule of upgrade works is being planned to start in January. This programme will include the repainting of Yarmouth Bridge and the upgrade of Quay Bridge in Newport.

Gritters prepare for winter season ahead



The winter maintenance fleet is once again prepared to maintain a safe network during the cold months ahead.

Staff and the fleet of gritters responsible for treating the Island's roads this winter have undergone their annual 'autumn parade'. This is a day of activity by Island Roads' winter maintenance fleet to ensure the specialist vehicles and their drivers are fully prepared for the colder months ahead.

Last winter was the busiest on record

for Island Roads, with the big freeze leading to gritters being sent out on 53 gritting runs, spreading 1,456 tonnes of salt on the network. Island Roads is ready for another winter season with 1,600 tonnes of salt at its Stag Lane depot – with supplies topped up throughout the season as required.

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 staff at Island Roads' base at Daish Way in Newport.

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

The gritting routes, which link the Island's main towns and villages, will be the same as previous years and are available to view via the homepage of our website www.islandroads.com

New feature to help this year's winter maintenance programme

A bespoke sandbag store has been installed in East Cowes by Island Roads.

The store at Well Road has been created from re-used wood and will provide a permanent location from which sandbags can be collected when there is a flooding risk.

Along with St Mary's car park in Cowes and Simeon Recreation Ground in Ryde, Well Road is one of three locations at which Island Roads is contracted to leave sandbags during weather warnings.

Previously sandbags have been left on a pallet for collection by residents, but East Cowes Town Council and local IW Council member councillor Karl Love asked Island Roads if a store that was in keeping with the local surroundings could be provided.



Island Roads agreed and asked storeman Nick Raynor, who has already created bespoke litter bins at sensitive locations around the Island, to turn his hand to making a sandbag store.

Island Roads will ensure the store will be stocked and unlocked whenever there is a relevant weather or flood warning.



Island Roads renews appeal to landowners to help keep roads safe this autumn

Two campaigns that urge landowners to play their part in keeping the network safe this winter have been renewed.

The 'Ditch It!' campaign reminds landowners of the need to prevent highway flooding by keeping watercourses and ditches on their land clear of debris, while the 'Inspect and Protect' campaign advises what they need to do to reduce the risk of trees or branches falling on to the highway.

In both cases we are working with the Country Landowners' Association and the National Farmers' Union to help spread these important messages.

You can view the campaign literature on our website.

Island Roads in the Community



Once again staff have been busy on a programme of work in support of our annual charity – Ability Dogs 4 Young People.

A number of events have been held over the year including World Cup Sweepstakes, a 24-hour Bikeathon, Easter egg competition, dress down days and a quiz night at Newclose cricket ground.

The most recent fundraiser was a day of festive activities that raised money for Save

the Children as well as Ability Dogs 4 Young People.

Over £2,000 has been raised which is enough to buy a new puppy. The money will be presented to the charity early this year.

Staff have already chosen the charity for this year's fundraising. This is Home-start Isle of Wight which is a local charity which supports families on the Island who are experiencing difficulties.

Providing many helping hands

Once again, staff have been quick to help a wide variety of community projects through the volunteering scheme.

Around a dozen employees once again became goat wranglers for a day assisting the National Trust in their annual round up so they can give a health check to the goats who live on Ventnor Downs. This is easier said than done and the staff endured some tough terrain and no shortage of bumps, cuts and bruises while completing their mission.

Another volunteer group also worked with the National Trust to undertake the annual painting and general maintenance work at the Needles Battery.

Operations and Maintenance teams have also been busy volunteering. They undertook some ground maintenance at the HQ of the First Newport Scouts (The Old Guard) and they also repainted playground markings at Brighstone Primary School.

Other staff also helped deliver collection boxes for this year's IW Radio Christmas Toy Appeal and also helped staff at IW Radio wrap-up donated gifts ready for distribution.





Island Roads go back to school for two projects

The first in what is hoped will be a series of talks in local schools has been delivered to Brighstone Primary School by Island Roads staff.

The talk has been designed to promote safety at work and around roadwork sites in particular and to also encourage youngsters to consider a career in engineering. It also aims to highlight in an engaging

way the work undertaken by Island Roads.

The interactive talk – that includes a section where pupils race against the clock to dress up a teacher in full PPE – was very well received by the Brighstone Primary children and headteacher Teresa Fox who said: “We were delighted to welcome Island Roads to talk to pupils about their work.

“Along with reinforcing

key safety messages, it really helped the children to understand that there is so much more to their role other than roadworks.

“The presentation was fun, engaging and interactive, I would definitely recommend that other schools take up the opportunity.”

Structures team project manager Joanne Saunders who delivered the talk added:

“We had great fun speaking to pupils at Brighstone School who were very interested in our work and enjoyed taking part in the activities we arranged for them. As well as spreading important safety messages and explaining more about what we do at Island Roads, I hope we inspired some of the children to consider a future career in engineering or construction.”

If you know of a school that would like to host this talk then please contact Samantha O’Rourke.

Cllr Paul Brading, Isle of Wight Council cabinet member for Children’s Services, Education and Skills, said: “Safety is one of life’s most important lessons and we are really impressed that Island Roads is working with our school children to get across this message. “Hopefully these talks will not only lead to a safer Island but also inspire the next generation of highway workers and engineers.”

Jordan returns to help out old school

Island Roads electrician Jordan Power was delighted to return to his old school as part of an Island Roads volunteering team.

Jordan and four colleagues answered a request from Nine Acres Primary for help in repainting the school’s hall. Using colours chosen by pupils - a vibrant mix of orange, green and blue – the Island Roads team helped transform the hall in a day’s work.

For Jordan it was also a labour of love. Not only does he have fond memories of his time as a Nine Acres pupil, his twin brothers Archie and Riley (5) and his sister Millie (10) are all pupils there while his mother Samantha also previously worked in the pre-school and after school clubs.

“I have really good memories of Nine Acres and it was great to go back after all these years to give something back to the school,” said Jordan.



“To be honest, the school had not changed that much - the hall was pretty much how I remembered it, although it looks a lot brighter now.”

Jordan was joined by colleagues Ryan Murphey, Dan Pearson, Joe Robinson and Nick Bhatnagar.

