

Working in partnership



27<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear resident/business owner,

### **Belgrave Road/Esplanade Road, Ventnor works update**

We are writing with a further update on the works that took place on site before Christmas and to let you know more about the next stage of ground investigation works taking place early next month.

As you are aware from our previous communications, we have started a staged process of ground investigation work to determine the root cause of the failure of the retaining walls alongside the carriageway on Belgrave Road. This will then help us to identify potential solutions before we commission any work to rebuild the walls and reinstate the carriageway area.

The walls along Belgrave Road and those forming its terraces are over a hundred years old and there are therefore no records about their original construction. For this reason, the first step in our process is to ensure we have a better understanding of their composition and of the robustness and stability of the foundations particularly before we bring in any of the more substantial engineering machinery required.

During the first stage of this investigation, before Christmas, our consultant engineers undertook a process called vertical coring in which a specialist type of lightweight drill was taken through the carriageway surface up to around 4-5 metres deep. These small exploratory holes then enabled us to lower a video camera down the holes to establish the ground conditions beneath the carriageway. Similar horizontal coring was then undertaken through the masonry of the retaining walls so that we could investigate the thickness of the walls and identify the materials that sit behind them.

The ground conditions encountered and recorded through this process, together with historical information on the geology of the surrounding area, have now given us the information we need to be able to progress to the second stage of the ground investigation works. This phase will involve bringing in more substantial mechanical plant to undertake further, deeper coring and the extraction of material samples for lab testing which will help our specialist engineers to determine a geotechnical and structural model. We are currently finalising these arrangements and we anticipate that these works will start in the week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> February and continue for a period of three weeks.

During these works, both Belgrave Road and Esplanade Road will remain shut to both vehicles and pedestrians in the interests of public safety.

We are grateful for your continuing patience while this important work takes place. We are endeavouring to ensure that you have up to date information about what is taking place on site and will continue with our letter drops at each of the key phases.

We are also proposing to issue a weekly email update to any residents that would like to be included in this. If you wish to receive these, please email [info@islandroads.com](mailto:info@islandroads.com) (with the subject heading Belgrave Road Emails) asking to be added to the email group. Your personal email details provided will not be used for any other purpose other than to provide you with updates on the work on site, and neither will these details be shared with any other third party.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact Island Roads on 01983 822440 or email [info@islandroads.com](mailto:info@islandroads.com) who will forward your enquiry to the Project Manager.

Thank you.

Isle of Wight Council and Island Roads