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Dear all,

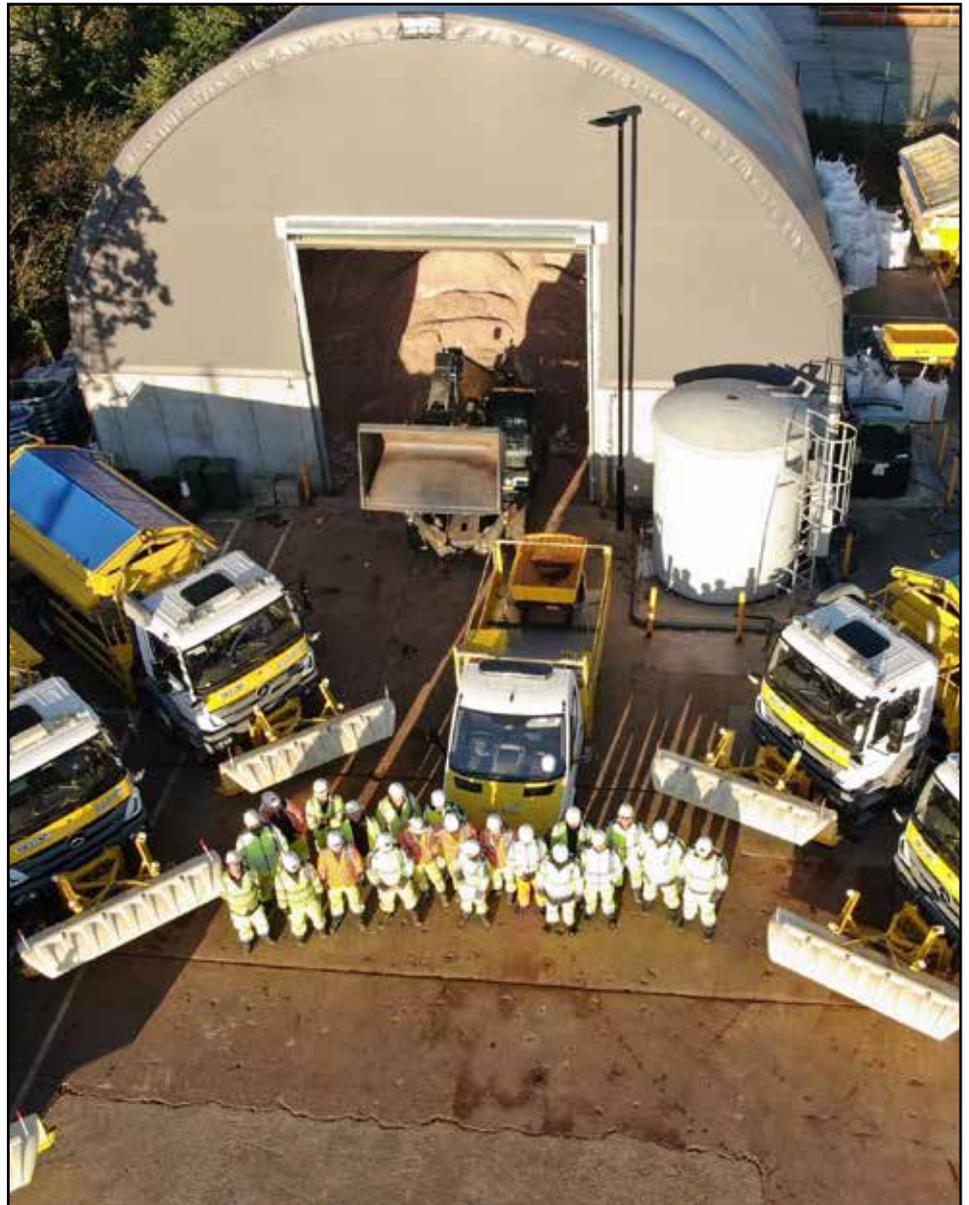
It's been a busy summer period with the continuation of our highway and footway resurfacing programme, plus the completion

of two major highway improvement schemes; the first at York Avenue in East Cowes and the second at St George's Way in Newport. Both schemes have been complex to deliver, and we have been very grateful to the Newport and East Cowes community for their patience and cooperation while we completed the works. Hopefully, drivers, pedestrians and cyclists will all be able to benefit from the changes that have been made.

We are now beginning three further significant schemes; the reinstatement of the wall and carriageway at Belgrave Road in Ventnor, improvements to a 1.2km long footpath in Newport and a much-needed safety improvement scheme at Smallbrook junction. While these are also lengthy schemes, they are vital pieces of work which stand to benefit all those who live, work and travel through those areas.

Besides these key schemes, our year-round programme of highway maintenance continues, and, in this newsletter, you can also find out more about the work we are doing to inspect and strengthen roadside walls, bridges and parapets and how we are preparing for the winter months ahead.

You can also find out more about our gold award for the steps we take to reduce our carbon footprint and even how we recycle leaves collected from the



roads across the Island.

Plus, news on one of the latest community projects to benefit from our Isle of Wight Foundation charitable grant scheme and the work we are doing with Age UK Isle of Wight to support the Age Friendly Island initiative.

There are also some handy reminders of how you can find out more about roadworks in your area and how you can report a problem that you encounter.

Stephen Ashman,
Service Director, Island Roads





Major schemes completed

Over the last few months, we have completed two further major highway improvement schemes, York Avenue in East Cowes, and St George's Way (pictured) in Newport.

Both schemes were complex in different ways; York Avenue as one of the main gateways to the Island, with limited diversion opportunities and with ferry traffic arriving and departing throughout the day during the deep excavation and reconstruction of 3,000 square metres of carriageway. While St George's Way was complex in terms of the utility diversions required to accommodate the additional lanes and safety features installed.

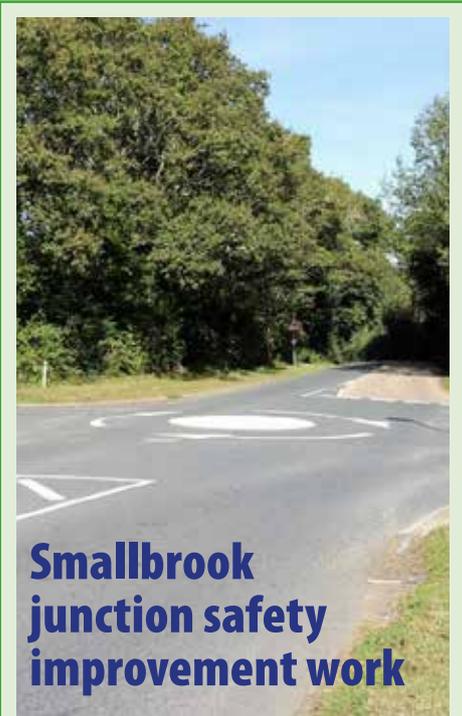
Belgrave Road progress

Work at Belgrave Road in Ventnor has begun following the appointment of local company Stoneham Construction.

The works, which will see the collapsed wall dismantled and the area behind it stabilised, before a new wall is built, and the road and footway reconstructed, is expected to last just over a year, completing in Autumn 2022.

A natural stone finish will be used to replace the wall so that it is in keeping with others in the surrounding area. The new parapet wall will also be higher to conform with the latest safety requirements for both pedestrians and vehicles.

Meetings have been held with residents and the town council to keep them informed of the works underway and the site will continue to be inspected and ground monitoring equipment checked regularly throughout the works.



Smallbrook junction safety improvement work

On the outskirts of Ryde, a significant programme of work has begun to improve safety at the busy Smallbrook roundabout.

The project will introduce several safety features at Smallbrook which over the last decade has amassed the worst accident rate of any Island junction with 22 injury collisions recorded. Visibility improvements will be made for those approaching the junction, the speed limit will be reduced to 30mph and anti-skid 'slow down strips' will be laid at the approaches to the new, realigned and relocated roundabout.

During work, the junction will be controlled by temporary traffic lights and Smallbrook Lane will be restricted to one-way eastbound (towards Ryde). The non-residential end of Carters Road will also be one-way eastbound from the last property, towards its Ashey Road junction. If progress with the scheme permits the one-way restriction will be removed for the festive and new year period.

The whole programme will take an estimated six months to complete, including two months of utility diversions, and with a particular focus on minimising the impact on the environment and associated wildlife.



Ryde Interchange update

Isle of Wight Council plans to improve travel connectivity and enhance sustainable transport at Ryde gateway by enhancing facilities for pedestrians, cyclists, and public transport users, were the subject of a public consultation earlier in the summer.

The multi-million-pound project to improve Ryde Transport Interchange, funded by the Government's Transforming Cities Fund is part of a wider, co-ordinated initiative to enhance sustainable transport infrastructure and connectivity in and around Portsmouth City Region.

The council gave the scheme the go ahead at a recent Cabinet meeting with work due to begin in the new year with planned completion in Spring 2023.



Newport footpath improvement work



Work has begun to upgrade a Newport footpath to encourage greater use of cycling and walking. Under the scheme, the former railway line between Mews Lane and the Riverside Centre will be improved with a smooth, all-weather, shared-use path around 1.2km long, creating a safer route for cyclists and walkers away from the busy main road. There will also be new dropped kerb access points and new gullies installed to help reduce flooding.

The project is being carried out thanks to funding the Isle of Wight Council has been awarded through the government's Active Travel 2 and Local Transport Plan programmes.

To reduce disruption and to keep as much of the existing route open for as long as possible, the work is being undertaken over four phases and it is anticipated the work will be completed by February 2022.



Structures upgrade programme

A programme of works to inspect and upgrade hundreds of retaining walls, bridges, and parapets on the highway network across the Island is underway.

Under the programme, over 250 walls and a number of parapets and bridges will be inspected and from these surveys, a course of action will be decided to ensure each is maintained to the standards required by the highways PFI contract.

The comprehensive programme, which will last until April 2023, is initially focused on 90 structures (57 of which are in Ventnor) which are deemed to be the highest priority. In each of these cases, the walls will be subject to an agreed strategy involving an inspection and then agreement over any required strengthening works needed.

Some of the work may well be fairly major in scope and involve specialist engineers and equipment but it is hoped investment in the structures will help ensure they continue to support the highway network for years to come.



Preparing for winter

It is around this time of year that we also start to prepare for our winter service and ensuring our vehicles, equipment and our staff are geared up and ready to keep the highway safe during the winter months.

Among this our work includes inspecting and replacing cats' eyes (road studs), clearing leaf fall, cleansing highway gullies and drains, checking, and clearing roadside ditches and preparing our salt supplies and gritting lorries.

Towards the end of October, we also take our vehicles out on trial runs across the Island gritting routes. You can find out more about our winter service on our factsheets and information films pages or by visiting islandroads.com/winter-service



Recycling leaves

Yes, you read that right! We do recycle the leaves we collect. Over a ten-week period during the autumn additional mechanical sweepers and extra shifts will be used to remove tonnes of leaves from the network ahead of winter. Not only can leaves become slippery to cars and pedestrians if left uncollected, heavy leaf-fall can also obscure road markings and compromise the highway drainage system.

Upon collection, the leaves

are taken to Island Roads depot at Stag Lane. The leaf pile is then drained and released water captured and filtered before being discharged back into the sewer system.

The leaf litter is then sorted so material such as sand and grit can be reused as building materials. The leaf pile itself is then used for compost and soil.

Around 95 percent of material gathered during the leaf sweeping and collection is recycled in some form.

Gold environment award



Our environmental good practice has been recognised with a gold award from Green Impact, a United Nations award-winning environmental programme

backed locally by the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce.

The award recognises the positive steps we have taken to reduce our carbon

footprint and make our workplaces more sustainable.

Steps taken to date include the introduction of grey water systems to reduce water usage, use of renewable energy and green tariffs, electric vehicles and charging points, office recycling points and greener stationery choices and motion sensor lighting in our buildings. We have also worked with staff to encourage greener travel to work and our employees are actively engaged in green initiatives via the Sustainability Forum.

As well as activities to reduce our carbon footprint, we also undertake work to encourage biodiversity, for example installing bee tubes in retaining walls for solitary bees, artificial 'caves' for Ventnor's wall lizards and we have also made changes to our verge cutting regime to support the growth of wildflowers to encourage pollinators.



Pavements for People

As part of our commitment to Age Friendly Island, we have been working with Age UK IW on a new project Pavements for People which explores common access issues for older people.

Working with members of the Age UK IW Older Persons' Steering Group and the Age Friendly Island team we have helped put together a handy guide. The resource covers topics such as parking on pavements, overhanging hedges and various trip or slip hazards and explains which organisations are responsible for access issues and how to report matters of concern.

The 'Pavements are for People' resource can be found on Age UK IW's website, at www.ageuk.org.uk/isleofwight/our-services/information-and-advice/pavements-for-people and printed copies are available from Age UK IW.

Community support

A brand-new community minibus is now operating in the Bembridge area providing vital links for numerous local groups thanks in part to a grant from our charitable foundation, The Isle of Wight Foundation.

The modified vehicle has been purchased by Bembridge Friendship Circle, following years of fundraising and our recent Foundation grant.

The bus is driven by volunteers and used by various community groups to ensure access to social events. It is also used by Bembridge Primary School and the local scouts and football club so people young and old will benefit from the new bus.

As well as being more reliable, the new bus is also fitted with equipment to ensure it can be used by those with mobility issues.

The IW Foundation is jointly funded by partners Island Roads, Meridiam, Island Roads Services and VINCI Concessions. Since 2013, the foundation has donated well over half a million pounds to scores of local charitable organisations working to tackle social exclusion.

Successful applicants for the latest round of IW Foundation grants will find out towards the end of this year whether they have been successful.

You can find out more about the Isle of Wight Foundation, its work, and the grants we have awarded to date by visiting www.islandroads.com/iw-foundation



Get the facts



We have been busy producing a series of factsheets about different aspects of our highway service, from our road and footway resurfacing, to exploring how we keep the Island clean and tidy, look after the environment and work to help reduce highway flooding.

You can find all these and more on the factsheets page on our website under the News menu tab <https://islandroads.com/factsheets/>

We have also produced a series of information films, typically around two minutes long, which explain some of our services in more detail. You can find these under the News menu tab islandroads.com/news/information-films

