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Dear all,

It's been a busy winter period for the teams at Island Roads with three named storms creating a record number of call outs on one day alone during Storm

Eunice as they worked in often dangerous conditions to keep those that needed to travel safe on the road network.

Despite a busy winter period, and the continuing challenges of the pandemic on staff and supply chain resources, the last phase of an Island-wide programme of traffic signal upgrades at Coppins Bridge was also delivered, a challenging feat at what is the Island's busiest junction but one that should hopefully improve traffic flows in the longer term for motorists travelling through the area

We have also been able to complete a major junction safety improvement scheme at Smallbrook Roundabout, Ryde and begin a year-long project to improve the transport hub at Ryde Interchange.

Walking and cycling access in Newport have also benefitted from a project to upgrade and improve an all-weather, shared-use path, around 1.2km long, between the Riverside Centre at Newport Harbour and Mews Lane.

Besides continuing our programme of pavement improvements, we have also been busy introducing more features on the network that will improve accessibility for pedestrians especially those with visual impairments or mobility challenges.

As we launch into Spring, we have also just completed the first phase of our work to tackle weed growth on the highway network. This has attracted some media coverage following the decision to return to using glyphosate, a product licensed for use in the UK to manage weed growth. It was not a decision we took lightly but, after trials of manual weeding and other products that simply did not



work effectively to keep weeds at bay, we were left with limited choices that would allow us to efficiently achieve our contract standards. We will continue to monitor our use of the product and remain ready to trial any new products or methods that become available, and, without doubt, we will always comply with any legislation or licencing requirements relating to the products we use.

You can read more about these and other activities on the next few pages of

our newsletter and you can find out more about accessing our factsheets which cover information about a range of our services.

Stephen Ashman,
Service Director, Island Roads



Smallbrook safety scheme



Major work to improve safety at Smallbrook roundabout by realigning the junction's approaches has been completed. The scheme also involved the introduction of traffic islands, additional streetlighting, a reduced speed limit and anti-skid 'slow down strips.'

The junction now requires approaching traffic to slow down and negotiate the new roundabout rather than 'straight-running' across it.

The six-month project has been complex, accommodating numerous environmental considerations as well as the re-routing of major utility infrastructure. In addition, the project has experienced bad weather (with multiple named storms), the ongoing effects of COVID-19 and some supply chain issues.

The works were substantially finished ahead of the Easter holiday weekend, with only anti-skid work left to be completed and this will be done - under night time road closures - early in June. This could not be done earlier as the road surface has to be worn prior to application.

We would like to thank residents for their patience and understanding while these major works were undertaken.

Upgraded shared path welcomed by users

Work to create an upgraded shared use route between The Riverside Centre and Mews Lane in Newport is also now complete and has been well received by those who regularly use it.

The scheme is part of the Isle of Wight Council's ongoing work to encourage greater use of cycling and walking by creating high quality shared-use paths.



Picture: Artist's impression of how the improved Ryde Transport Interchange will look

Ryde Transport Interchange work begins

Work on Ryde Transport Interchange to provide better travel connectivity as well as a much-improved public space has begun.

The project is primarily funded by a government grant from the Transforming Cities Fund following a successful bid for £55.6 million by the Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council and Hampshire County Council — together as South East Hampshire Rapid Transport.

Around £10 million of this has been awarded for the Ryde Transport Interchange improvements.

The Esplanade transport hub will be reorganised to provide more landscaped pedestrian space reflecting the responses received to the public consultation last year and allowing buses to leave directly to George Street rather than having to turn at the Dover Street roundabout.

There will be a new dedicated cycle route and walkway through the Esplanade along with further sign posted links to and from Ladies Walk to the west and Puckpool to the east along with new street furniture and planting throughout the Esplanade area.

The project will also see a boardwalk built on the tramway pier by Wightlink, scheduled to start later in the spring.

The refurbishment of Esplanade Station will provide a direct connection from the concourse to the boardwalk, accessible public toilets, and expanded retail/cafe units.

To minimise disruption the works will be delivered in several phases over 12 months taking into account the major events including the Isle of Wight Festival, Tour of Britain, Ryde Carnival, and the scooter rally.

Regular updates on scheme progress and significant changes to traffic management will be released throughout the project.



Belgrave Road progress

Works continue at Belgrave Road in Ventnor to reinstate the failed wall and road above and our regular site monitoring has indicated that the area was largely unaffected by the storms.

Local company Stoneham Construction has been working on site to strengthen the walls either side of the collapsed section.

The process for doing this involves drilling soil nails - grouted steel nails - into the natural soil

slopes creating a composite mass similar to a gravity retaining wall, which gives them extra strength during the excavation process.

A crane has also been used on site to remove a large section of the collapsed wall to make the area safer for those working on the dismantling of the remaining sections. This dismantling work is continuing, with sections being removed and disposed of off-site. We are also taking steps to temporarily stabilise the sections of the exposed embankment face with further soil nails and spray concrete as we begin the process of rebuilding the walls.



Coppins Bridge lights upgrade complete

Traffic signals and pedestrian crossings have been successfully upgraded at Coppins Bridge as part of a project to improve traffic flows.

The work which started last November was carried out in phases to reduce disruption at what is the Island's busiest junction.

Signals and crossing points at seven locations were upgraded with

'intelligent' signals which can better respond to changing traffic flows. The new equipment also uses less power which means they are safer and more energy efficient.

The Coppins Bridge project is the last element of an Island-wide programme, under the Highways PFI, to upgrade all traffic signals and pedestrian crossings.

Accessibility works



Work by the Isle of Wight Council and Island Roads to make pavements more accessible to all pedestrians is being ramped up once more.

In the coming weeks, we will be installing tactile dropped kerb crossing points at 16 locations throughout the Island. On completion of the programme, we will then look to install at least another ten crossing points as part of our Highways PFI work to upgrade footways in this coming year.

This year's work is in addition to more than 70 new crossing points delivered recently both through the PFI programme and using additional money prioritised by the council to fund accessibility schemes.

The programme has been welcomed by Jan Brookes, CEO of Isle Access who said: "We are really pleased to see the IW Council and Island Roads continuing their commitment to improving access for many people on the Island. The dropped kerbs will make it easier for people to get around their communities and are a factor in preventing loneliness and isolation."

The sites being upgraded in the next tranche of dropped kerb crossing points are:

- Bannock Road, Whitwell - near Kemming Road;
- Melville Street, Sandown - near Broadway;
- Cornwall Road, Ventnor - near Newport Road;
- Nicholson Street, Newport - junction with Horsebridge Hill;
- Milligan Road, Ryde - near West Street;
- West Street, Ventnor - near High Street;
- Winchester Park Road, Sandown - near Broadway (both eastern and western sides);
- Royal Crescent, Sandown - near Beachfield Road and near Melville Street;
- Three Gates Road, Cowes - near Place Road.



An update on weeding

Our weeding programme started in April and, this year, there has been a lot of media coverage around the return to using an herbicide that contains a heavily diluted amount of the product glyphosate – a product that is also found in many of the most widely used domestic weedkillers and is also used by the agricultural industry.

Island Roads have a contracted responsibility to keep the highway network safe and in a good condition as part of the Isle of Wight Highway PFI. The growth of weeds on our pavements/footways can pose a trip or slip hazard, particularly for our more vulnerable users.

Allowing weed growth to continue uncontrolled also results in damage to the highway network when seedlings disperse, and root systems become more established which creates safety issues and becomes a costly challenge to resolve.

In conjunction with the Isle of Wight Council, we conducted a substantial trial of manual removal across the entire network during 2021. The findings of our trials, which align closely with the outcomes from other local authorities across the UK, is that these alternative approaches are simply not effective in keeping highway weed growth under control and a return to using a weedkiller is the only effective course of sustainable action.

Glyphosate remains a licenced, safe, effective, and cost-effective solution for managing weed growth on the highway network. The product is used in accordance with the dilution and application methods that form part of its licence for use in the UK and is sprayed by hand in a targeted way. We also work closely with our contractors to agree the correct way to use the product.

We will continue to monitor our use of the product and remain ready to trial any new products or methods that become available, and we will always comply with any legislation or licencing requirements for its use.

You can read more about this on our frequently asked questions factsheet on our website.

Winter season complete



Island Road's official winter maintenance season came to an end at the end of April, with the team completing 28 gritting runs in which over 500

tonnes of salt were deposited on the network to keep it ice-free in freezing and near-freezing temperatures.

This is approximately half

the amount of runs and salt used over the same winter period in 2020/21.

However, this season did see some intensive storm-related activity including the three named storms and record-breaking winds that ravaged the Island over the weekend of February 18-20.

Between the Friday and Monday morning alone, there were 224 reported storm-related issues affecting the highway – among the busiest periods of activity experienced by Island Roads since it began maintaining the network in 2013.





Island Roads work wins Chamber of Commerce Award

Island Roads was delighted to be received the Business in the Community Award at the recent IW Chamber of Commerce Business Awards 2022.

The accolade was in respect of the work of the IW Foundation and support given to local good causes through our ongoing volunteering programme.

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 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

Community support – focus on WightSAR

Charities and community groups continue to be supported through the Isle of Wight Foundation which has donated more than £600,000 to good causes on the Island since it was established in 2014.

This year, search and rescue organisation WightSAR received a welcome gift on its tenth anniversary – a £16,000 cheque from the Isle of Wight Foundation.

The money will help the organisation buy and adapt a much-needed new command vehicle to replace the existing one that is 13 years old and increasingly unreliable and expensive to maintain.

The grant was the first of 11 totalling over £85,000 announced this year by the Isle of Wight Foundation which comprises the partners behind Highway PFI company Island Roads: Ringway Island



Roads, Meridiam, Island Roads Services and Vinci Concessions.

WightSAR founder and chairman Dean Terrett said he was thrilled to receive the £16,000 from the Foundation – particularly as it coincided with the group's tenth anniversary.

"Over the past ten years, our members – none of whom are paid – have provided over 26,000 volunteering hours at all times of the day or night and often in extreme weather conditions," he said.

"Quite simply, these extraordinary members give up their time with their

own families to save the lives of someone else's loved one. We owe a huge debt to their families for their patience, understanding and support.

"But we are also extremely thankful for the ongoing support we receive from local businesses, the public, and charitable bodies such as the IW Foundation. Without this support, we simply would not exist."

Applications for this year's Isle of Wight Foundation grants close in May, with successful projects announced at the end of the year.

