

Community Insight

Although we have all had the benefit of enjoying an extended summer this year, the clocks have now gone back and our focus is firmly on our autumn works and preparations for the winter months ahead.



Paul Herbert, Island Roads Service Director

In this issue you can read about how our teams around the company are busy clearing leaf fall and continuing the maintenance

program for the 31km of ditches across the Island, that are Island Roads' responsibility, to help reduce flooding problems. We are also working with the council to help alert landowners to their own responsibilities for clearing ditches if their land/property is close to a river course/stream.

We have recently introduced a new report-it online facility on our website which should also help make it easier for residents to report problems and identify those that we are already dealing with.

At the same time, our staff that work from our Stag Lane depot have been undertaking trial runs around the Island's gritting routes ensuring the vehicles and drivers are ready for whatever the winter season brings. With a stockpile of 1,641 tonnes of salt ready for use and our mix of large gritting vehicles, specialist gritter for smaller roads and standby lorries, we

are confident that we have the means in place to tackle the usual winter challenges ahead.

We have reached the end of another milestone in our contract and you can read some quick facts about the work we have been undertaking around the Island over the past six months.

In other news, we will shortly begin our next geotechnical scheme to help safeguard an important route to the Duver, a local beauty spot and tourist haven. Work to stabilise a road bridge will involve a road closure for a period of up to six weeks later this month, but we have been working closely with local residents and businesses to keep everyone informed and a suitable diversion route is available.

In addition, we have received over 30 applications for the Isle of Wight Foundation which was launched back in July earlier this year. These are now being shortlisted and the winning projects will be confirmed in December.

We hope you find this update useful but do let us know if there are particular aspects of our work that you would like to hear more about by contacting us at info@islandroads.com.

Improved report it online facility

Island Roads has launched a new, improved facility on its website so residents can track the progress of enquiries about highway issues online.

The new facility is an improved version of the 'Report it online' facility. It includes an interactive map, showing existing enquiries by area and enables residents to look at the progress of an enquiry. Residents can also ask, by clicking on the relevant tab, to be kept up to date on a specific enquiry and can also log new enquiries if something they are concerned about has not already been recorded.

The facility allows local residents to report potholes, overhanging hedges/trees, issues with street furniture (benches, bus shelters etc), lighting, dead animals on the road, footway trip hazards, flooding, road markings, uneven surfaces, problems with ditches or more generalised enquiries, complaints and compliments.

Island Roads Gritting Fleet gears up for winter

The Island's gritting fleet is now primed and ready for the winter maintenance period (Nov 1 to March 31).

The six frontline gritting lorries contribute to a salting route covering 369 kilometres of the Island's highway network concentrating on major roads and those serving the Island's main populated areas.

The decision on whether to treat the network is based on the Met Office weather forecasting service. Road temperature readings are also taken from two weather stations on the island at Duxmore and Rowridge, while local knowledge and feedback also contributes on the daily decision on whether to treat the roads or not. The Isle of Wight Council and other partners such as the emergency services are informed of the daily decision on whether gritting is required.

Once called upon to treat the network, all the gritters can be monitored as to where they are on



the network at any given time. Even the rates and spread of the salt and the speed of the vehicle can be checked.

In the event of snow conditions, the gritter can also be fitted with snow ploughs to further enhance the capability of the winter fleet

Dave Wallis, Island Roads operations manager said: "Our winter maintenance programme is a major

part of the PFI contract and a lot of preparation goes into ensuring we are ready to go into action as soon as we are required. The amount of salt we have in the new winter maintenance depot at Stag Lane is enough to see us through an average winter. Last year, for example, which was pretty mild, we salted the network on 21 occasions and used a total of 600 tonnes of salt."

Compliments

"Thank you for making such a good job of Chilton Lane!" - *Member of public*

"A team of men have been working in Woodnutt Close this week. I am writing to say what a pleasant, considerate and hard working group of men they were. They worked non-stop throughout the days, only stopping when the rain was fairly torrential. They were as quiet as it was possible to be considering the nature of the work they were undertaking

and they went out of their way to keep the inconvenience caused to us residents to the minimum. Their manners and conduct were a credit to themselves and your company." - *Member of public*

"The white line operatives were really courteous and helpful as this lady went by on her horse." - *Member of public re Wyatts Lane*

"Shide Road - A big thank you for hedge cutting completed yesterday. Great job." - *Member of public*

"Thank you so much for getting back to me and explaining the situation very clearly - I really appreciate it." - *Member of public re Street naming/ numbering*

"I reported some dumped rubbish this morning and want to express my thanks for the prompt response and a thorough job done. Well done." - *Member of public*

Putting the view back into viewpoint

The view at Viewpoint car park in Bouldnor has been restored once more thanks to a team of staff volunteers from Island Roads.

The team of six helped clear overgrown vegetation and trees from alongside the car park area in consultation with the A.O.N.B (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) partnership, Shalfleet Parish Council and the Isle of Wight Council's countryside department.

The work also involved the supply and installation of a new bench to enable residents and visitors to enjoy the new views and the completion of work to paint the bridge alongside the car park.

This followed other voluntary work in the area including the installation of a gate at the entrance to the local recreation ground to keep those using the area safe from vehicular traffic.

Tracy Ringer, Island Roads performance manager who



organised the voluntary support said: "Island Roads employees are all given two days a year during their working hours to help volunteer their support for the local community. Whilst it was a lot of physically hard work, it was extremely rewarding to be able to see the difference we had made to the view at this popular local spot."

Sally Woods, Clerk to Shalfleet Parish Council added: "We are grateful for the additional help from Island Roads



staff to complete this work and are delighted that the local community and those visiting the Island will now be able to enjoy this beautiful view."

Island Roads helps with fire damaged building

Island Roads was called out on 16 September by the fire service to help make safe a fire damaged building in Monkton Street, Ryde. Once the fire was put out, barriers were installed to create a safety zone around the building.

Following concerns from the owner about the safety of the building, an inspection of the building took place and it was agreed with IWC Building Control that emergency works had to be done to ensure the safety of all road users.

On 16 October, with the road closed on an emergency basis, Island Roads worked alongside IWC Building Control and the fire brigade to remove loose tiles and debris from the window sills and roof top. After completing the work, this led to the safe removal of x40 signs and barriers from the network.

Matthew Shaw, District Steward managed the incident with the owner of the building and IWC Building Control and has received a compliment from the owner.

"Customer would like to compliment Matthew Shaw on his professionalism. He has attended and inspected following the recent fire and implemented required measures to ensure safety in the area in a timely manner. He is delightful and a gentleman. He deserves a lot of credit for his manner in dealing with the public and is a true credit to Island Roads. Mr Logan would like to ensure not only is Matt praised for his efforts but that his boss is made aware and details stored on Matt's file."

Graduates return to classroom to inspire high school students

On Tuesday 9 September, four graduates working at Island Roads visited Medina High School to help inspire pupils to consider future careers in Science, Civil Engineering and Technology.

The graduates provided a full day of science-based activities to Year 7 students to allow them to learn about drainage, road and bridge building. Activities included working together in teams on various engineering and science-related challenges. Students also had to create flyers promoting careers in civil engineering to demonstrate what they had learnt during the day.

Head of Science, Jackie Clegg who organised the day said: "This was a welcome opportunity for the students to experience and understand more about careers in engineering, science and technology and to hear first-hand from young



people who are working at Island Roads about the opportunities available to them."

Joanne Huett, Graduate Engineer said: "It was great being able to share my experiences with the students and give them some insight into the diverse range of jobs on offer

within the industry. I think it is important to work with students as early as possible to help guide their education and career choices and I hope that the day encouraged this as a potential career option, especially among female pupils."

Flood prevention work underway across the Island

Island Roads is taking a number of steps to help reduce the risk of highway flooding this autumn and winter. Extra gully cleansing has taken place at known-hotspots and additional visits will be made to these sites throughout the winter months.

In addition, a programme of work is underway to clear the 31km of ditches for which Island Roads is responsible. Blocked ditches can be a significant contributory factor towards highways flooding and this programme is being prioritised to

tackle areas that have experienced on-going difficulties.

Dave Wallis, Island Roads operations manager said: "Additional 15-tonne mechanical road-sweepers have been drafted in to give us extra ability to clear the autumn leaf fall. These join our existing fleet of six road-sweeping vehicles."



Structures Update

Three footbridges have been improved by Island Roads as part of continuing efforts to improve pedestrian and cycling access under the Highways PFI.

Shalfleet Mill footbridge has been completely replaced along with the decks at Birchmore Cycletrack Bridge at Blackwater and the Redway Cattle Creep near Godshill. All work was completed on schedule and despite Shalfleet Mill's relatively remote location, which made access to the work team and their equipment difficult; the scheme was completed safely in just seven days. The project has already been praised by residents, one of who said: "We have just arrived on the Island after ten days away. We think the new footbridge is absolutely terrific, and it will soon weather to a warm grey."

The work is part of the Highways PFI improvement programme that will see bridges and retaining walls improved or replaced in the first seven-years of the contract.

To ensure all relevant parties were consulted throughout the programme, Island Roads also hosted an environmental forum which was attended by Natural England, The



Shalfleet footbridge after restoration and (inset) before

Hampshire and IW Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency amongst other representatives.

Victoria Keefe, Structures Manager said: "An important part of the PFI is the improvement of structures across the Island. In many cases the work involved is substantial and often this is carried out in areas that are environmentally sensitive. The forum highlighted some significant other views from stakeholders around the Island which are now being incorporated into Island Roads consultation processes."

Councillor Phil Jordan, Executive member with responsibility for highways PFI, said: "I am glad to see Island Roads working closely with the council and other agencies through the newly created environmental forum to ensure that its work takes into account a range of environmental issues from landscape, biodiversity, trees and flood related issues as well as the historic environment and archaeological information."

Newport-Island harbour shared use path



Work is currently underway to upgrade the riverside path between Seaclose Park and Island Harbour at Binfield which has been closed since the winter 2013/14 landslides. The work includes bridge widening to improve access and drainage and clearing and cutting back overgrown vegetation. In addition, dead or

dying trees will also be removed with 27 new trees being planted in their place. The work is due to be completed by the end of November.

Introduction to the Duver scheme

A major engineering scheme by Island Roads to stabilise Duver Road Bridge in St Helens will begin w/c 24 November. The project with the aim of securing the long term use of the bridge and adjoining carriageway which serves the popular attraction of the Duver as well as several local businesses is part of 18 separate geotechnical schemes under the Highways PFI.

The project is required as, over time, the original piling beneath the bridge has deteriorated and some of the earth underneath it has also been removed by natural processes leaving sections of the bridge structure exposed and consequently less stable.

The works will involve 45 piles being driven eleven metres into the ground at regularly spaced intervals and the current void beneath the road will also be filled.



At the same time, the footpath alongside the road will be rebuilt and a new post and rail timber fence will be installed which will improve both the safety and the overall appearance of the road which sits adjacent to National Trust land.

Due to the nature of the work, the road will need to be closed for up to six weeks and a diversion will be

in place for vehicles through Nodes Point caravan park down to the Duver car park entrance.

In order to assist the local community and prevent a further road closure, surfacing works to other sections of the road have been brought forward and improvements to the drainage will also be completed at the same time.

In the last eighteen months we have:

- Resurfaced 502,103 square metres of carriageway (that's the equivalent of a 7 metre wide carriageway running 1.2 times around the Island)
- Refurbished 46,253 square metres of footway
- Installed 9,400 new LED streetlights
- Completed 18 minor new drainage schemes
- Completed 3 major new drainage schemes
- Put in place 10 new additional drainage schemes
- Completed a major geotechnical scheme at Bouldnor
- Replaced 12 CCTV cameras
- Swept 42,390km of the highway network
- Cleared 1,241 fly tips on the network
- Removed graffiti from 168 locations
- Jet-cleansed 10,328 drainage lines
- Fixed over 21,000 highway defects
- Dealt with 264 highway emergencies
- Supported major events on Island (Festival, Bestival, Cowes Week etc)
- Reviewed 452 planning applications
- Conducted 4,519 highway searches requested
- Visually inspected and logged all 14,399 signs across the network
- Recruited 13 lay assessors
- Established an integrated hub (help desk and control room)
- Tackled the Island's worst ever storms (answering 1000 calls alone in the 48 hours between 22/23 Dec and Christmas Day)
- Supported community projects around the Island
- And much, much more.....