

# Island Roads - Improving our roads to drive our future



This is the first in a series of six features helping to keep you informed about work to improve the Island's highways network.

## What's the big picture?

In April this year, Island Roads - working in partnership with the Isle of Wight Council, took over the responsibility for managing, upgrading and maintaining the Island's highways network. Over the next seven years, this will result in a comprehensive programme of work to improve roads, pavements and cycle ways as well as replacing street lighting, undertaking street cleansing and winter gritting. We will also be responsible for improving and maintaining bridges, drainage and street furniture (ie litter bins, signage etc), CCTV and car parks, as well as the on-going highways maintenance for 25 years.

## What's been happening since April?

Since April we've undertaken a range of activities including:

- Full structural surveys and inspections of the condition of the highways network to determine the programme of work needed
- A schedule of routine maintenance work, including treating defects (such as pot holes), kerbing, verge and grass cutting, street cleansing and gully cleansing.

- Major maintenance and patching repair of our roads to ensure sections will last until the improvement works take place. Roads will go from the worst in the country to the best
- The conversion of some existing street lighting and installation of new LED energy efficient lighting, where required. LED is more reliable and can be more remotely controlled. It also helps to minimise light pollution and improves visibility for pedestrians and road users.
- Drainage works to improve areas prone to flooding (18 major schemes and 122 minor schemes will be undertaken in the first seven years). We have completed over 10% of this work to date



- Continued assessment of the major geotechnical schemes such as Duver Road, Blackgang and the Military Road
- The recruitment of four apprentices and four graduates to further our commitment to developing the skills of Island young people
- We have been travelling the Island, in each of the six districts, with our mobile visitor centre talking to residents, schools and businesses to help explain the work underway and planned for the future



## What next?

From 3 September, a major resurfacing programme will start across the Island. This will see much of the Island's network of roads and pavements brought up to the required condition over the next seven years. We have programmed this to start after the main tourist period this year to minimise the impact and, where possible, we have also looked to do work on busier roads overnight to ease the disruption to residents and visitors alike.

We will also be increasing more street lighting installation and later in the autumn we will be moving forward with the geotechnical schemes at Bouldnor near Yarmouth and along the Undercliff which will be completed earlier than programmed.

## What will this mean to me?

As the programme rolls out and in the longer term, residents and visitors will begin to experience significantly improved roads, pavements and cycle ways, making journeys easier, safer and more comfortable.

The Island has previously enjoyed a relatively low volume of roadworks and delays, when compared to other mainland areas. There is however no doubt that to achieve the required improvements to Island roads, there will inevitably be disruption because of the scope and scale of work involved. We have worked hard to programme the work sensibly, taking into account the technical requirements that make some roads a priority, overriding factors such as major events, utility works and available diversion routes and other critical considerations.

We will also be working hard to minimise the inconvenience for residents by providing information on works programmes so that you can help plan your journey around the Island.

In surveys undertaken by the Council, residents consistently ranked road improvement as their number one priority, so please do bear with us during this time but let us know if there are things we can do to improve our service.

## How do you decide which road/pavement is treated and when?

A programme of work has been created following detailed inspections and mechanical scanning of the roads to get a full analysis of the condition - not just the visual appearance of any defects e.g. potholes and rutting on the roads but, more importantly, a deep scan which helps to tell us about the underlying stability and condition of the road beneath the surface. This has created a sequencing of works and determined the type of treatment required for different sections of road and pavements to bring the network up to the required standards at an equal pace across the Island.

Not all sections of a road will require the same treatment (there are in fact some 160 different types of treatment) and in some cases existing sections of roads may be of a suitable condition to not warrant immediate treatment. In the short term this may potentially lead to some differences in the appearance in a road but over time this will become less apparent.

On our website you can find out about these planned works in your local area by using a postcode look-up facility which links to maps of the programmed activity. We also write to residents in an area before work starts and put out information signs with specific dates and times of works being undertaken.

Any road closures are also advertised in the County Press and current works by street are listed on our website and provided to the local media.

The works programme is subject to adverse weather conditions which may result in changes to the timescales of work but we will ensure that residents are made aware of any such changes.

## How can I find out more?

Visit our website:  
[www.islandroads.com](http://www.islandroads.com)

Call our help desk: (operating 24/7)  
01983 822440

Listen out for traffic and travel updates on Isle of Wight Radio:  
(FM107 and FM102)

Visit our Visitor Centre:  
Opening hours:\*  
Mon-Fri 10.00am - 4.00pm  
Sat 09.00 - 12.00hrs  
St Christopher House, Daish Way, Newport

Sign up for Twitter feeds:  
[@IslandRoads](https://twitter.com/IslandRoads)

Read more about the programme, the local people working hard to deliver the improvements and much more in our series of features in this paper.

\* Excluding Christmas, Boxing and New Years Day