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Please find below a brief snapshot of both the huge range of work being undertaken across the area by Roads and Infrastructure staff this week.

**Roads and Infrastructure**

**Weekly member briefing**

**Edition 131: 12th January 2024**

The updates are designed as a resource for you to be able to answer constituent queries.

You can view all previous weekly member briefings on the [website](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/ris-member-briefing)

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| **Oban, Lorn and the Isles** | **Helensburgh and Lomond** | **Mid-Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands** | **Bute and Cowal** | **All areas** |
| **Roads**  We are carrying out some essential surfacing work along the U22 Achavaich Road.  The ongoing improvement work on the A819, Cladddich bends has recommenced and is operating under traffic managements.  **Ganavan public convenience**  The public convenience at Ganavan is closed until further notice due to frozen pipes. The team continue to with inspections and will look to get these reopened as soon as possible.  **Glengorm Recycling Centre**  Due to issues with the water supply on site staff have to go off-site to access welfare facilities, we are unfortunately having to close the recycling centre each lunchtime between 12 and 1 | **Roads**  Next week we are planning to carry out footway surfacing and kerbing work on Guy Mannering Road, Reguantlet Road and Jeanie Deans Drive. These improvements works are expected to last around three weeks.  Lining contractors were in Helensburgh this week carrying out lining works on surfacing dressing sites and some disabled bays.  We are planning to begin footway improvement works next week but this may be affected by the weather – if the temperatures are too cold material will not properly set.  **Glen Fruin oil spill road closure**  The road is still closed to through traffic however the MOD link road between Glen Fruin and A817 can be used for local access  **Drainage work – Cardross Barrs Road**  We are progressing with a culvert repair on Barrs Road in Cardross which has been causing some flooding issues.  **Tigh Dearg Road**  Temporary repairs were carried out on Tigh Dearg Road last week following some damage over the festive period caused by extreme weather. These repairs were carried out by Argyll and Bute Council teams however contractors are now back on site and progressing with the drainage improvement works  **Culvert works at Farmfoods, Helensburgh**  The culvert running under Farmfoods has been causing problems and we have had what are called confined space clearance works ongoing yesterday and today. Among other things our teams have found shopping trolleys inside the culvert itself. Later in the year we will look to install further upstream screens/grids to protect the culvert from these types of blockages | **Roads**  Capital improvement work has recommenced on the A819 at Electric Cottage.  **Burnside Square**  We will shortly be inviting residents and business to take part in a public consultation and give their views on what finishing touches they would like to see in the town’s newly refurbished Burnside Square.  A number of improvements have been progressed, like a new exit onto Union Street which provides a one-way system for the square when being used as a car park, making it safer and more manageable.  The consultation will be online and we will be hosting an Open Day in the town in late Jan/Early Feb. Once a date is confirmed we will provide a further update.  **Port Askaig**  Two drop in sessions were held this week on Islay and Jura to highlight the combined marine infrastructure works being coordinated on Islay this year.  Both sessions were well attended by members of the public.  Works are due to take place from March to August this year with the new Islay Class vessel taking over the ferry route from Kennacraig around November and will see a marked improvement in safety, capacity, reliability and redundancy in connection services to Islay.  Further sessions are being planned and local engagement will continue. | **Roads**  This week we have been carrying out general maintenance duties including pothole repairs in Lochgoilhead.  We have also been doing ditching work along the same road in and around Strachur.  White lining works have also been ongoing with a focus on junction markings and disabled bays throughout Cowal.  Next week we are hoping to recommence with capital footway schemes in both Bute and Cowal however this will be dependent on the weather conditions.  **Rothesay flooding**  An exceptionally high tide over the festive period caused flooding on Rothesay, which our teams attended to and dealt with both at the time and in the aftermath. This flooding was caused by coastal issues as opposed to rainfall/surface water. | **Public convenience door access control project**  This week we have progressed with inspections of the newly installed door access control systems, and most of them are ready to have the systems activated, although there is still some minor snagging in some places which will need to be rectified. There is a further progress meeting with the contractor on Monday after which we will hopefully be able to confirm timescales for activation.  **Gritting**  There were 236 individual vehicle mobilisations recorded between 22nd December and 1st January with a total of 1,020 tonnes of Salt were recorded as used in all treatments.  Salt replenishment orders for boats to Oban, Mull and Campbeltown were put in place in December for provisional early January delivery.  These have been re-scheduled for mid-late January as uptake was lower than expected and stocks remained high, with limited space in covered stores to receive additional stock.  As part of general routine maintenance all areas will continue to ensure grit bins are replenished ahead of next week’s forecast. |

Please see photos below of the Islay and Jura public consultation held this week regarding the proposals for Port Askaig and Port Ellen.



