

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Annual Report 2017 to Ards and North Down Borough Council



MV Strangford II

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Chairperson and Councillors Ards and North Down Borough Council

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on DfI Roads work in the Ards and North Down Borough Council area.

Southern Division covers the three Council areas shown on page 5 of this report. It is one of four Divisions, each of which manages the road network, commissions new works and is the contact point for road users and public representatives.

This report deals with works completed in the Ards and North Down Borough Council area during the year 2016/2017 and sets out our initial proposals for schemes to be undertaken in the year 2017/2018.

There are pressures on both capital and resource funding going into 2017/18. On the capital side, my staff will continue to develop resurfacing and traffic management schemes to enhance safety, to improve traffic flow and provide measures for pedestrians and cyclists. The Department will also continue to bid for further capital funding for structural maintenance to maintain the integrity of the road network.

On the resource side, we start the year delivering the same level of service that we started with last year. However, if in-year bids are successful, funding will immediately be used to increase the level of service.

As explained in last year's report we will be continuing to concentrate our efforts on delivering the highest priority work on the ground, within our allocated budgets. To maximise staff time on delivering work and schemes we are continuing with our streamlined processes for assessing requests, to ensure optimal use of our physical and financial resources.

I would also draw your attention to the section on page 6, titled, "Dealing with Correspondence". This is relevant to the work you all do as Councillors and will help us to free up technical staff to deliver work on the ground.

I hope you find this report informative and I look forward to meeting the Council to discuss its content.

Simon Richardson
Divisional Manager

Southern Division - Senior Management Structure



Simon Richardson
Divisional Manager

DfI Roads wishes to build upon the good working relationships it has with Council Members and Officers. The Senior Management Team is listed below, however day to day matters should be raised with the relevant Senior Engineers whose details are listed at the start of each section.



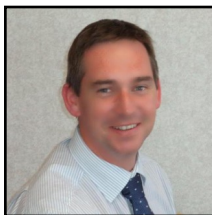
Liam McEvoy
Strategic Road Improvements (SRI) Manager

Major works schemes (>£1.5M)



Arnold Hamilton
Network Maintenance Manager

Maintenance of existing road network



James Kelly
Network Development Manager

Improvements and minor works



Reynold Nicholson
Network Planning Manager

Development Control, Private Streets and Street Lighting

Southern Division

Southern Division is one of four Client Divisions within DfI Roads. It spans the local Council areas of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, Newry Mourne and Down and Ards and North Down Council Areas (see map below).



In Southern Division we are responsible for approximately 8000km of public road together with 1300 bridges, 250 sets of traffic lights, 81,000 streetlights and over 4000 illuminated signs and bollards. We carry out functions under the headings:-

- Strategic Road Improvements – Road Improvement Schemes greater than £1.5Million on the strategic road network
- Network Maintenance – Maintenance of existing network
- Network Development - Improvements to the existing network
- Network Planning - Regulation of proposed additions to the network by developers

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Dealing with Correspondence

As you will be aware DfI lost a significant number of staff through the Voluntary Exit Scheme which was implemented across the whole of the Northern Ireland Civil Service. As a result of this we in Southern Division had to develop new staffing structures across all work areas to try to maintain our level of service.

One area of significant workload is dealing with correspondence. The Department, and in particular DfI Roads, receives a large volume of correspondence from the public and public representatives throughout the year. Indeed, the level of correspondence has been increasing in recent years at a time when staff resources have been reducing.

In a large number of cases the correspondence relates to reports of individual defects on the road, such as potholes, blocked gullies, defective street lights etc. As well as investigating each defect report and completing any necessary work on the ground, our staff have adopted the time consuming practice of drafting a substantive response and then issuing a final response to the correspondent. We no longer have the resources to operate in this way - we need to get the information onto our systems as quickly as possible and free up staff to attend to the necessary work rather than writing letters.

The Department is therefore proposing to deal with correspondence which is only reporting routine defects differently from other general correspondence. So, if a member of the public, or public representative, writes to us, by letter or e-mail, reporting a routine defect we will log this information onto our work systems and an automated response detailing the query reference number will issue to the correspondent, however, a further detailed reply will not issue. Technical staff will then deal with the query received in accordance with our maintenance standards. The reference number will allow the progress of the query to be monitored on-line.

If, however, the initial letter relates to a more general roads issue rather than simply reporting a defect, a substantive reply will issue in the normal way.

In order to reduce the volume of general correspondence reporting routine defects, we are encouraging the reporting of defects through our on-line "Report a Fault" service.

You can report a fault on-line at the NI Direct Website

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets>

SECTION 1

HIGHWAY STRUCTURES

Highway Structures Manager: Liam McEvoy

Liam is supported by the following staff



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1.1 Maintenance and Strengthening of Structures

Highway Structures can include bridges, embankments, retaining walls and sign gantries. All bridges must be capable of carrying 40 tonne vehicles and this requirement has led to the on-going assessment of bridges in the area.

The Structures Section manages the 1,278 bridges and culverts with a span of 1.8m and greater within the Division off which there are 133 of these structures in the Ards & North Down Borough Council Area. Smaller structures are managed by the local TNI Section Offices.

Structures - Strengthening Schemes Completed during 2016/2017

structures strengthened during the period -

Bridge No	Name
50671	Ballygowan Road, Comber - Bridge strengthening and parapet construction
N/A	Glen Road, Comber - embankment stabilization

Structures Strengthening work completed within A&ND,BC in 2016/17 = total cost of £47K



Ballygowan Road, Comber

Structures - Strengthening Schemes Proposed within 2017/2018

Bridge No.	Name
N/A	None identified to date

Structures Strengthening schemes planned within A&ND,BC in 2017/18 will be dependant on available budget.

All other bridges are inspected routinely. This generates an ongoing programme of strengthening/repairs to bridges and other structures.

Structures - Maintenance Schemes Completed during 2016/2017

Bridge No	Name
50690	Cannyreagh Road, Donnaghadee - Bridge and surfacing repairs

Structures - Maintenance Schemes Proposed within 2017/2018

No maintenance schemes are currently programmed within the Ards & North Down Borough Council Area due to the unavailability of Structures 'Maintenance' funding for the current 2017-18 financial year.

All bridges are inspected routinely. This generates an ongoing programme of maintenance/repairs to bridges and other structures, as funding becomes available.

SECTION 2

NETWORK MAINTENANCE

Network Maintenance Manager: Arnold Hamilton

Arnold is supported by:-



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Explanation of Maintenance Operations

Resurfacing and Strengthening

Roads generally fail by cracking and rutting. They usually do not fail suddenly, but gradually deteriorate due to the impact of traffic, age and weathering. Wear normally appears as either excessive permanent deformation of the whole or part of the carriageway structure, or is associated with the cracking of the bituminous layers.

Roads are normally designed for an operational life of 20 years. During this period and beyond, there is a need for the highway authority to intervene at times to either treat or replace the top layer of bituminous material known as the "surface course" or to provide additional depth to preserve the underlying structure of the road and extend its life.

Resurfacing is the application of a layer of this mixed material of 40mm minimum thickness. It strengthens the road, seals it against the ingress of water, and improves skidding resistance and riding quality.

Surface course Bitumen Macadam (Bitmac) has an expected life of 7-12 years which can be extended by subsequent surface dressing. Bitmac is a more flexible material than Asphalt and more suitable for the deformation and movement associated with weaker underlying ground conditions.

Asphalt resurfacing is more appropriate to heavily trafficked roads and junctions having a robust road base. It is more expensive and has a longer expected life of 15-20 years.

Resurfacing of existing roads can usually be carried out on top of the existing surface (overlay) but where drainage or kerb levels or bridge heights are restricted the existing surface may need to be removed before the resurfacing takes place.

Explanation of Maintenance Operations (continued)

Surface Dressing

This process involves spraying a bitumen emulsion binder onto the existing road surface, followed by a layer of stone chippings, which is then rolled. This seals the road preventing ingress of water thus extending the life expectancy of the road and also helps to improve the skid resistance on the surface.

Micro Surfacing

This material is a cold applied bituminous material with a relatively fast setting time. It can be laid in two courses up to a total thickness of 20mm to allow limited surface re-shaping. Its main benefits, are that it can be laid quickly with minimal preparatory work thereby reducing traffic disruption. It is suitable for busy urban roads and the new surface can be trafficked within 15 to 20 minutes.

Refurbishment

This is the laying of bituminous materials on roads as one layer over shorter lengths to provide an improved surface.

Drainage Works

The quick and effective drainage of surface water from the carriageway contributes significantly to the safety of the road. Improvement works carried out include the upgrading of the existing drainage facilities to ensure effective dispersal of surface water and prevent as far as possible the occurrence of standing water or flooding of the road. In many cases the provision of new drainage facilities have to be undertaken including the installation of road gullies, pipes and manholes leading to a suitable discharge point.

Explanation of Maintenance Operations (continued)

Grass Cutting

Grass cutting is carried out for road safety reasons rather than for amenity purposes. Previous grass cutting policy allowed for routine cutting of 1 swathe width (approximately 1.2m) twice a year in rural areas and five times a year in urban areas,

However, this year due to financial constraints the policy was amended and only one cut will be carried out across rural and urban areas, with the exception of sightlines which were re-cut as required.

Gully Emptying

In previous years drainage gullies in urban areas were cleaned twice per year and in rural areas once per year. Open outlets were also cleaned once per year. However, this year due to financial constraints routine gully cleaning will only be carried out once in all areas.

Emergency Out of Office Hours Assistance

We have a call centre to deal with calls outside normal office hours.

DfI Roads personnel can be called upon to deal with emergencies such as flooding , obstructions such as fallen trees, and when requested by Emergency Services, in clearing up after road traffic collisions.

Routine roads related matters are not dealt with by this service and should be raised with DfI Roads offices during normal working hours.

The Emergency Out Of Hours telephone number is 028 3752 9500

2.1 Completed Asphalt Resurfacing 2016/2017

Asphalt resurfacing is more appropriate to heavily trafficked roads and junctions. It can have a life expectancy of up to 20 years. During the past year we have carried out a range of complementary improvements to kerbing, drainage, and the like on asphalt schemes to enhance the value and quality of the work.

Across the Council area a total of approximately 113,000 sq metres of asphalt was laid during the 2016-17 financial year, including the following schemes:-

Route No	Road Name / Location	Area(m2)
A0022	Belfast Road, Comber – Including Sidefilling	5770
A0021	Rathgael Road, Roundabout, Bangor	1900
A0021	Ballygowan Road, Comber	11430
A0021	Bridge Street, Comber	2288
A0002	Cloughey Road, Portaferry	12152
A0002	Shore Street, Donaghadee	2024
B0170	Ballymiscaw Road, Holywood	7000
B0020	Ballyrobert Road, Bangor	6300
B0198	High Street, Holywood	2323
C0255	Abbey Road, Millisle	10860
C0252	Upper Gransha Road, Newtownards. (Three Schemes)	10740
C0255	Main Road, Carrowdore	600
C0272	Carrickmannon Road, Ballygowan	7620
C0263	Whinney Hill, Holywood (RRI)	3557
C0251	Crawfordsburn Road, Bangor (RRI)	588
C0263	Holywood Road, Craigantlet (RRI)	444
C0262	Ballymoney Road, Craigantlet (RRI)	198
C0256	Dunover Road, Ballywalter (RRI)	3206

2.1 Completed Asphalt Resurfacing 2016/2017 (cont)

Route No	Road Name / Location	Area(m2)
U0321	Main Street, Killinchy	2310
U9550	Ardview Park, Killinchy	990
U9750	Bailie Park / Bailie Terrace / Bailie Gardens, Donaghadee	2530
U0240	Greengraves Road, Newtownards	5305
U9207	The Parade, Donaghadee	4429
U8001	Morston Park, Bangor	3523
U0817/8	Ward Avenue, Bangor	5152



2.1 Completed Asphalt Resurfacing 2016/2017 (cont)



*Ballyrobert Road,
Crawfordsburn*



*Belfast Road,
Comber*



High Street, Hollywood

2.2 Completed Bitumen Macadam Resurfacing 2016/2017

This is a more flexible material than asphalt and is used on less busy rural roads. It is more suitable for the deformation and movement, which can be expected due to weaker underlying ground conditions. As with asphalt resurfacing, we carried out a range of other improvements to add value to the work.

Route No	Road Name / Location	Area(m2)
B0172	Moss Road, Millisle (RRI)	523
C0260	Newcastle Road, Portaferry (RRI)	330
C0273	Thorneyhill Road, Killinchy (RRI)	3947
U0307	Ballygalget Road, Portaferry	2860
U0125	Cunningburn Road, Newtownards	9890
U0140	Manse Road, Rubane	11315
U0140	McKenna Road, Rubane	563
U0135	Dam Road, Donaghadee	8410
U0135	Bailie Road, Donaghadee	7224
U9209	Hunters Lane, Donaghadee	360
U9209	Town Hall Lane, Donaghadee	420

2.3 Completed Rural Roads Initiative 2016 – 2017

Over recent years funding pressures have required the Department to significantly reduce its road maintenance activities. Resources, by necessity, were concentrated on more heavily trafficked urban and rural roads. That meant that more roads did not receive the same level of maintenance that they would have been given in previous years. In June last year the Department announced a Rural Road Initiative to invest £10m in the rural road network. The objective of the initiative was to target short sections of the lower trafficked rural road network in greatest need of repair - sections that would otherwise not have attracted maintenance funding.

Section Engineers developed a programme of highest priority locations and deployed contractors to carry out the work. The list below details the locations in Ards and North Down Borough Council area which benefitted from this initiative:

NEWTOWNARDS – Tullynagardy Road, Loughries Road, Mountain Road.

PORTAFERRY – Ballygarvigan Road, Barhall Road, Ballyrusley Road, Lough Cowey Road, Mountain Road, Marlfield Road, Loughshore Road, Dunevely Road, Quinton Bay Road, Millan Bay Road.

CLOUGHEY – Ballygelagh Road, Tullycross Road, Blackstaff Road, Drumarden Road.

BALLYHALBERT – Back Road

BALLYWALTER – Ganaway Road, Greystones Road, Bairdstown Road, Killyvolgan Road.

MILLISLE – Windmill Road, Drumfad Road.

GREYABBEY – Ballydoonan Road, Spring Lane.

KIRCUBBIN – Upper Ballygelagh Road.

BALLYGOWAN – Springmount Road.

COMBER – Ballyglighorn Road, Ballynichol Road.

KILLINCHY – Upper Ballymorrان Road, Mill Road, Thorneyhill Road.

2.4 Completed Surface Dressing 2016/2017

Surface Dressing is a surface treatment used to seal roads to prevent the ingress of water and restore the surface texture of the carriageway.

Across the area approximately 62,000 sq metres of surface dressing was laid during the 2016-17 financial year. Roads treated were:-

Route No	Road Name / Location	Area(m2)
U0243	Killynether Road, Comber	10210
U0243	Scrabo Road, Comber (part)	1260
U0245	Ballyalton Road, Comber	5600
U0247	Unicarval Road, Comber	4760
U0245	Ballyhenry Road, Comber	9086
U0277	Darragh Road, Comber (part)	2100
U0231	Coach Road, Comber	6354
U0217	Ballyreagh Road, Newtownards	5556
U0144	Ballyhemlin Road, Kircubbin	8764
U0119	Cardy Road, Greyabbey	8568

2.5 Completed Footway Reconstruction 2016/2017

Route No	Road Name / Location
U8001	Morston Park, Bangor
U8001	Morston Avenue, Bangor
U8001	Rosemary Drive, Bangor
U9300	Lawson Park, Portavogie
U9300	Lawson Avenue, Portavogie
U9300	Lawson Gardens, Portavogie
U9300	Springfield Gardens, Portavogie
A0022	Belfast Road, Comber
U0231	Coach Road, Comber
U0140	Manse Road, Rubane
U9750	Bailie Park / Bailie Terrace / Bailie Gardens, Donaghadee
U8111	Craigantlet Cottages, Ballymiscaw Road
B0020	Ballyrobert Road, Crawfordsburn
U0817/8	Ward Avenue, Bangor

2.6 Completed Drainage Maintenance 2016/2017

Drainage maintenance works have been carried out on various roads throughout the year. The drainage system has been improved by roadside piping, gully installation and culvert replacement and has continued throughout the year as deemed necessary and as funding permitted.

Route No	Road Name / Location	Route No	Road Name / Location
U8108	My Lady's Mile, Holywood	U8031	Brandon Grove, Bangor
U8015	Princetown Road, Bangor	U8002	Oakwood Avenue, Bangor
U8001	Hazelbrook Avenue, Bangor	U0102	Ballymenoch Road, Holywood
A0022	Killinchy Road, Comber	U0321	Ardview Road, Killinchy
U0207	Tullynagee Road, Comber	C0367	Moss Road, Ballygowan
U9108	Lower Crescent, Comber	A0020	Rowreagh Road, Kircubbin
U0310	Blackstaff Road, Kircubbin	C0252	Ballyblack Road, Newtownards
C0254	Grangee Road, Carrowdore	B0021	High Bangor Road, Donaghadee
U9201	Sunnydale Avenue, Donaghadee	U9850	Harbour Road, Ballyhalbert
U0307	Ballygalget Road, Portaferry	C0252	Upper Gransha Road, Newtownards
U0240	Greengraves Road, Newtownards	A0020	Cloughey Road, portaferry
U0125	Cunningburn Road, Newtownards	A0022	Belfast Road, Comber
U0321	Main Street, Killinchy	C0255	Abbey Road, Millisle
U0140	Manse Road, Rubane	U0135	Dam Road, Donaghadee
A0021	Bridge Street, Comber	C0272	Carrickmannon Road, Ballygowan
U9209	Hunters Lane, Donaghadee	U9209	Town Hall Lane, Donaghadee

2.7 Routine Maintenance Works 2015/2016

GENERAL

Normal maintenance activities such as patching, grass cutting, weed spraying, gully emptying and winter maintenance have been carried out as appropriate during the year.

2.8 Proposed Asphalt and Bitumen Macadam (Bitmac) Resurfacing 2017/2018

It is proposed to strengthen the road foundation where necessary and improve the surface with asphalt on selected lengths of the roads listed below:-

ASPHALT

Route No	Road Name / Location	Area(m2)
C0260	Shore Road, Portaferry	4240
U0302	Shore Road, Portaferry	1920
A0023	Belfast Road, Ballygowan	5040
A0023	Moneyrea Road, Ballygowan	480
U0134	Balloo Road, Bangor	5600
C0368	Rathgael Road, Bangor	8200
U8004	Manse Road, Bangor	975
U8016	Primrose Street, Bangor	625
U8016	Primrose Avenue, Bangor	500
U8034	Lisnabreen Crescent/Lisadell Place, Bangor	445
U8034	Skipperstone Road/Clanmorris Avenue, Bangor	950
U8037	Beaumont Court, Bangor	430
U8100	Richdale Drive, Holywood	300
U8107	Edinburgh Avenue, Holywood	465
U8002	Oakwood Avenue, Bangor	1000
U8001	Hazelbrook Avenue, Bangor	750
U8016	Central Avenue, Bangor	1300
U8016	Southwell Road, Bangor	185
U8106	Park Avenue, Holywood	380

Proposed Asphalt and Bitumen Macadam (Bitmac) Resurfacing 2017/2018 (cont)

BITUMEN MACADAM

Route No	Road Name / Location	Area(m2)
U8004	Railwayview Street, Bangor	1000

2.9 Surface Dressing Proposed 2017/2018

Roads which were regulated and resurfaced over the past few years required sealing.

Surface Dressing of the following roads is planned for completion during the summer months of 2017:-

Route No	Road Name / Location	Area(m2)
C0266	Ballyrainey Road, Newtownards	15864
U0244	Ringcreevy Road, Comber	3895
U0244	Islandhill Road, Comber	3150
U2246	Longlands Road, Comber	3240
U0013	Tubber Road, Kircubbin	7456
U0144	Roddans Road, Ballywalter	3801
U0145	Balligan Road, Ballywalter	4914
U0310	Quarter Road, Cloughey	8378
U0310	Links Road, Cloughey	2184
U0307	Ballygalget Road, Portaferry	9910
U0309	Tullymally Road, Portaferry	8120
U0307	Craigarroddan Road, Portaferry	2625
C0260	Newcastle Road, Portaferry	14688
U0005	Kearney Road, Portaferry	2310
U0303	Kearney Road, Portaferry	3597
C0260	Ardminnan Road – Manse Road	13715
U0309	Ardminnan Road, Cloughey (Omit Asphalt Section)	6053
U0308	Drumarden Road, Cloughey	9700

2.10 Proposed Footway Reconstruction 2017/2018

Route No	Road Name / Location
U8023	Brooklyn Park, Bangor
U8004	Railwayview Street, Bangor
U8016	Primrose Street, Bangor
U8016	Primrose Avenue, Bangor
U8100	Richdale Drive, Holywood
U8107	Edinburgh Avenue, Holywood
C0260	Shore Road, Portaferry
U8014	Killaire Avenue, Bangor
U8014	Lowry Hill, Bangor
U8023	Brooklyn Park, Bangor
U8002	Oakwood Avenue, Bangor
U8001	Hazelbrook Avenue, Bangor

2.11 Proposed Drainage Maintenance 2017/2018

Route No	Road Name / Location
U8028	Deanfield, Bangor
U8017	Victoria Road, Holywood
C0303	Demesne Road, Holywood
A0023	Belfast Road, Ballygowan
U0247	Unicarval Road, Comber
U9010	Hickory Avenue, Newtownards
U9018	Lenamore park, Newtownards
U9010	Mountain Park, Newtownards
U9010	Whiteways, Newtownards
U9000	Sunderland Park, Newtownards
U0210	The Burn Road, Ballygowan
C0267	Ballydrain Road, Comber
U9105	Dalton Park, Comber

2.12 Network Maintenance - Winter Service 2016/2017

The aim of winter service is to help, as far as possible, main road traffic to move safely and freely in wintry conditions by spreading salt at the most effective times. It is vital that we cover as much traffic as possible for the available budget and criteria have been devised to identify the roads that would provide the best cost benefits.

Within Southern Division, a fleet of 40 gritting vehicles and over 140 personnel were available to salt approximately 2200 km of main roads. We aim to complete a salting action in just over 3 hours, which is an immense logistical exercise. There were 71 salting actions this year, at a cost of just under £25,000 per action; the first action being late November 2016 and the last in late April 2017. Approximately 10,500 tonnes of salt was used. These figures do not include work carried out on the M1 and the A1 which are maintained by DBFO companies.

Because of the high costs involved, it is essential that our engineers take informed decisions and they are assisted in this task by Met Office staff and the very latest technology. There are currently 21 DfI Roads maintained weather stations across Northern Ireland with an additional 4 stations maintained by the DBFO companies, and with further data provided from 10 sites in Southern Ireland.

Information on our salting activities continues to be relayed electronically to the broadcast media to ensure that the latest news on road conditions is available to motorists across Northern Ireland. Additional information, including our winter service leaflet, can be found on our website along with advice on driving in poor weather conditions.



SECTION 3

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

Network Development Manager: James Kelly

The Network Development Section deals with all matters pertaining to;

Minor Works and Micro Schemes

Traffic Management

Collision Remedial

Traffic Calming

Pedestrian Measures

Safer Routes to School

Bus Priority Measures

Cycling Measures

Road and Lane Closures

Legislation

James is supported by:-



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LOCAL TRANSPORT AND SAFETY MEASURES

The Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) identified the importance of Local Transport and Safety Measures (LTSM) and highlighted some of the principal initiatives to be addressed, including:

- local improvements in towns across Northern Ireland to assist pedestrians and cyclists;
- local highway infrastructure measures to improve safety, such as collision remedial schemes and traffic calming schemes; and
- Network Development schemes (minor works).

LTSM expenditure tends to be widely spread and most communities benefit, as an individual scheme is relatively low cost in comparison to the cost of projects on the Strategic Works programme. They are usually very visible measures and provide good value for money in terms of a safer road transport system, which benefits society, the economy, the environment; and actively contributes to everyone's quality of life.

3.1 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES COMPLETED 2016/17

COLLISION REMEDIAL

DfI Roads is concerned about all road traffic collisions and gives a high priority to collision prevention. Collisions can be caused by a wide range of contributory factors, not all of which can be influenced or controlled by the introduction of engineering measures.

The Department receives details of all road traffic collisions resulting in personal injury from the Police Service of Northern Ireland. The programme for Collision Remedial measures is compiled following a review of this collision data.

A21 NEWTOWNARDS ROAD, COMBER on approach to Roundabout

A review of collision data provided by PSNI has identified rear end shunts as a common factor on collisions at this location. The provision of high friction surfacing is the preferred treatment for such incidents to raise driver awareness and improve safety on the approach to the roundabout. High friction surfacing was provided on the approach to the roundabout in 2016



Before the scheme



High Friction Surfacing provided

3.1 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES COMPLETED 2016/17

PEDESTRIAN MEASURES

A new PUFFIN crossing was provided at the following location

- **Belfast Road, Holywood at Sullivan Upper School**



The existing pedestrian crossings at the following locations were upgraded to new PUFFIN crossings;

- **Belfast Road, Ballygowan**
- **Newtownards Road, Comber at Health Centre**



- **Francis Street at Mary Street, Ards - in conjunction with Public Realm works**



3.1 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES COMPLETED 2016/17

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

BALLYCROCHAN ROAD, BANGOR — PEDESTRIAN REFUGE ISLAND

A pedestrian refuge island was provided on Ballycrochan Road near the Deansfield junction in Spring 2017. This island will assist pedestrians to cross the road and also aid traffic calming. A second island close to Knightsbridge was not provided due to objections.



A2 at BALLOO ROAD and A2 at BALLOO AVENUE , BANGOR— SIGNAL UPGRADES

Traffic Signals were upgraded to include a MOVA traffic system to optimise traffic movements at these two junctions. MOVA is a microprocessor optimised vehicle actuation developed to overcome some of the problems associated with traditional vehicle actuated traffic signal control.

When the network is congested MOVA operates in capacity maximising mode. This assesses which approaches are overloaded and how efficiently the green time is being used and seeks to determine a set of signal timings which will maximise the throughput of the junction under the current conditions.

3.1 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES COMPLETED 2016/17

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

HAMILTON ROAD / PARK DRIVE, BANGOR—SIGNAL UPGRADE

Traffic Signals were upgraded to include PUFFIN crossings at this busy junction.



THE SQUARE, COMBER - SIGNAL UPGRADE

Traffic Signals at The Square Comber have been reconfigured. The new sequence has been introduced in order to address road safety concerns at the High St / Killinchy St junction following a significant number of collisions involving personal injury in recent years. The removal of potential turning vehicle conflicts is expected to reduce the number of collisions involving personal injury at this junction. While much safer, the new sequence has unavoidably led to increased journey times particularly during peak periods.

Work is ongoing to reduce journey times with a proposal to introduce of loading restrictions on Bridge Street, where cars parked on the double yellow lines are impeding through traffic. These measures are currently being processed through legislation.

3.1 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES COMPLETED 2016/17

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

CLOUGHEY - CHANGES TO SPEED LIMIT AND CENTRAL ISLAND

The existing 30mph speed limit through Cloughey has been extended to include Kirkistown Primary School. New speed limit signs have been erected and a series of central traffic islands and gateway features have been provided to reinforce the reduced speed limit through the village.



The existing speed limit between Cloughey and Portavogie has been increased from 30mph to 40mph, a more realistic speed limit for the nature of the road.



3.1 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES COMPLETED 2016/17

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT - TRAFFIC ORDERS

Following a speed limit review of the following areas, in line with current policy, and confirmation by the PSNI that they are content with the proposals, speed limits have been provided at the following settlements and locations.

- **A2 Groomsport By Pass** – 50mph speed limit
- **Cloughey Hamlet** - 30mph extension and provision of central Island with enhanced entrance features
- **Cloughey to Portavogie** – 40mph speed limit
- **Loughreys** – amendment to existing 30mph speed limit on all approaches to village.

3.1 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES COMPLETED 2016/17

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT - ROAD MARKINGS

- Killaughey Road, Donaghadee at Ballyvester Primary School – yellow zig – zag, 15m corner restriction markings.
- Masonic Avenue, Millisle – white box marking.
- Court Street, Newtownards at house 31 – T Bar road marking.
- Crawfordsburn Road, Newtownards – centre line and 3no SLOW markings.
- Gransha Road, Bangor - 30mph roundels and red surfacing at 30mph signs
- Rathgael Road, Bangor - 30mph roundels and red surfacing at 30mph signs
- Church Road, Holywood - 30mph roundels and red surfacing at 30mph signs
- Moss Road, Ballygowan— 1no 1.6m SLOW marking near Quarry entrance.
- Ballyblack / Bowtown Road, Loughries— 4no 1.6m SLOW marking
- Hunters Lane, Donaghadee — T Bar road marking at house 26.
- Strand Avenue, Millisle, - T Bar road marking at house 10.
- Glen Road,Comber— 3no 1.6m SLOW markings
- Ballydrain Road,Lisbane — 3no 1.6m SLOW markings
- Movilla Road,Newtownards—5no 1.6m SLOW road markings
- Hillsborough Road,Comber— 2no 1.6m SLOW road markings.
- Church Street,Newtownards - T Bar marking at entrance to Credit Union.
- The Parade,Donaghadee - T Bar marking at Playpark entrance.
- A2 Belfast Rd, Holywood (near Ballygilbert Church @ house 380) - white box entrance marking.
- Ballycrochan Road, Bangor (near house no. 230) - 1 N0. 'SLOW' marking

3.1 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES COMPLETED 2016/17

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT - TRAFFIC SIGNS

- Movilla Road, Newtownards – 2no junction warning signs, yellow backing.
- Windmill Road, Donaghadee at Killaughey Road junction – stop sign.
- Glen Road, Comber – replacement of 30mph gateway signage.
- Saintfield Road, Balloo – 2no chevron signs.
- Glastry Road, Ballyhalbert – 2no bend warning signs plus 2no chevron signs.
- Birr House Equestrian Centre, Craigantlet - tourist signage (4no.)
- Gransha Road, Bangor – single chevrons on high visibility borders (2no.)
- Helens Bay - pedestrian warning signs and ‘No Footway’ plates
- Main Road, Ballyhalbert—installed 2no school signs on yellow backing.
- Killinchy Street Comber - 1no school sign on yellow backing
- A20 Portaferry Road - junction left warning sign at Finlays Road junction
- B178 Hillsborough Road Comber - 2no double bend warning signs on yellow backing plus 4no chevron signs on yellow backing.
- Robert Street, Newtownards - Elderly people sign
- A21 Newtownards to Comber Dual Carriageway - 2no crossroads warning sign on grey backing
- The Brae, Ballygowan - 2no school warning signs on yellow backing
- Glen Road, Comber - upgrade to directional signage at Ballystockard Road junction.
- A2 Cloughey Road, Portavogie – 2no Horse warning signs.
- A2 at Ballyhalbert, adjacent to Back Road – 2no Horse warning signs.
- Tullynakill Road, Lisbane – 2no Horse warning signs.
- Whinney Hill, Craigantlet - Horse warning signs – (2no.)
- Drumhirk Road, Comber – 2no Horse warning signs.
- Movilla Road, Newtownards—2no School Patrol signs at Abbey Primary School.

3.1 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES COMPLETED 2016/17

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT - TRAFFIC SIGNS (CONT.)

- A2 Main Street, Millisle - replacement of 4no missing / damaged waiting restriction signs
- Quarter Hamlet, Cloughey - upgrade of 6no existing 30mph signs.
- Belfast Road, Newtownards - replacement of 4no missing 40mph repeater signs.
- Gransha Road, Bangor - new 30mph / derestricted signage on yellow backing.
- Gransha Road at Six Road Ends - 2no bend warning signs plus 1no chevron sign.
- Movilla Road, Newtownards - 2no patrol signs on yellow backing.
- Station Road, Carnalea, Bangor- T bar marking at house Nos. 66 and 68
- All necessary time plates to enable town parking enforcement following the recently completed Bangor Public Realm Scheme

3.1 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES COMPLETED 2016/17

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT - ACCESSIBLE PARKING BAYS

ACCESSIBLE PARKING BAYS PROVIDED

- 23 Cherryvalley Crescent, Comber
- 1 Ruby Street, Bangor
- 73 - 77 High Street, Holywood
- 23 Kilbeg Walk Newtownards

Please Note: - Proposals are subject to public, local authority and PSNI consultations and without objection, enables the respective legislation to be invoked, revoked or amended.

3.1 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES COMPLETED 2016/17

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT - SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

Flashing school signs as part of the Department's Safer Routes To School programme were provided at the following location.

- Model Primary School, **Scrabo Road, Newtownards** – Provision of flashing school signs on approach to school.



3.2 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES PROPOSED 2017/18

MINOR WORKS

A20, DEER PARK ROAD / LOUGHDOO ROAD, ARDKEEN – Junction Improvement

This scheme aims to improve safety and traffic progression by providing improved visibility at the Deer Park Road / Loughdoo Road junction. The delivery of the scheme is subject to the availability of finance and successful land acquisition.



Photographs showing existing junction

If additional funds become available the following scheme will be progressed subject to agreement with landowners.

A48, NEWTOWNARDS ROAD at Cotton, DONAGHADEE – Infill Footway

This scheme aims to improve accessibility and safety for pedestrians by constructing 2 sections of infill footway along the A48 Cotton Road between Bailie Terrace and Avonmore Court. The work will also improve visibility for drivers exiting Bailie Terrace onto the A48.



Photographs showing existing layout between Bailie Terrace and Avonmore Court

3.2 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES PROPOSED 2017/18

COLLISION REMEDIAL

A review of collision data provided by PSNI has identified rear end shunts as a common factor on collisions at these locations. The provision of high friction surfacing is the preferred treatment for such incidents to raise driver awareness and improve safety on the approach to the roundabout.

- **A20 PORTAFERRY ROAD / FINLAYS ROAD, ARDS**
High friction surfacing to be provided on A20 Portaferry Road on northbound lane on approach to Finlays Road.
- **A21 COMBER ROAD / CAMBOURNE ROAD, ARDS**
High fiction surfacing to be provided on A21 Comber Road towards Newtownards on approach to junction with Cambourne Road.
- **CARRICKMANNON ROAD / STATION ROAD / KILCARN ROAD, ARDS**
High friction surfacing to be provided on Station Road and Kilcarn Road on approach to junction with Carrickmannon Road.

3.2 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES PROPOSED 2017/18

TRAFFIC CALMING

PARK DRIVE, BANGOR – Provision of Road Humps

A series of road humps has been identified for provision along Park Drive, in the interests of road safety.

Traffic Calming measures are provided to improve driver behaviour and control traffic speeds. They are normally only considered for residential areas where the main objective is to reduce average vehicle speeds to approximately 20mph.

Consultation on Traffic Calming Proposals

Traffic Calming proposals, which include the introduction of vertical measures, such as road humps, are subject to successful completion of the necessary legislative process. As part of this process, a notice of intention is published in local papers, which offers the opportunity for the general public to submit their views on the proposals. Objections, when received, must be fully considered and addressed before any scheme can be taken forward for implementation

3.2 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES PROPOSED 2017/18

PEDESTRIAN MEASURES

On completion of the works associated with the Habintag Housing site on Bridge Street Link a new Puffin Crossing will be provided at the following location:-

- **CASTLE STREET, COMBER** at Post Office
Dropped kerbs and tactile paving have already been provided as part of the recent Public Realm works



Due to a reduced LTSM budget the number of schemes identified for delivery in 2017/18 has been reduced. However, should additional funds become available the following scheme will be progressed.

A2 MILLISLE ROAD @ EGDEWATER, DONAGHADEE – Footway Extension

Provision of a section of footway and repositioning of the existing bus stop for Donaghadee bound passengers to prevent the need to walk along a short section of the A2

3.2 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES PROPOSED 2017/18

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT - TRAFFIC ORDERS

Following a speed limit review of the following areas, in line with current policy, and confirmation by the PSNI that they are content with the proposals, a speed limit has been processed through legislation at the following location.

- A21 Bangor Road, Newtownards – extension to existing 40mph speed limit—To be provided in conjunction with the proposed housing development.

LEGISLATION

Please Note: - Legislative issues are subject to successful completion of the necessary processes. A notice of intention of proposals is published in local papers, which offers the opportunity for the general public to submit their views on the proposals. Objections, when received, must be fully considered and addressed before any scheme can be taken forward for implementation.

3.2 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES PROPOSED 2017/18

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT - ROAD MARKINGS

-
- John Street, Newtownards - edge of carriageway markings
- Mark Street, Newtownards - T Bar marking at entrance to house No. 28a.
- High Street, Ballyhalbert - T Bar marking at house no 60.
- Belfast Road, Newtownards - 3no SLOW road markings.
- Bridge Street Link, Comber - 5no On Street Parking Bay markings in existing bay.
- Ballyvester Road, Donaghadee - 2no SLOW markings.
- Pound Street, Newtownards at house 41 – T Bar road marking.
- Glastry Road, Kircubbin— 150m of centreline, 2no 1.6m SLOW road markings and one give way marking.
- Movilla Road, Newtownards—2no Patrol road markings and red surfacing at Abbey Primary School.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT - TRAFFIC SIGNS

- Belfast Road, Newtownards - double bend warning sign on yellow backing.
- Ballygowan Road at Tullyhubbert crossroads – 2no staggered junction warning signs, yellow backing.
- Woburn Road, Millisle – 2no Horse warning signs.
- Ballyblack Road East / Movilla Road junction— 900 giveaway sign on yellow backing

We hope to continue our programme of replacing internally illuminated bollards with reflective bollards, thus helping to reduce energy costs

3.2 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES PROPOSED 2017/18

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT - ACCESSIBLE PARKING BAYS

ACCESSIBLE PARKING BAYS PROPOSED

- 27 Bow Street, Donaghadee
- 24 Elm Drive, Newtownards
- 17 John Street Lane, Newtownards
- 102 Downshire Road, Holywood
- 31 Blenheim Drive, Newtownards
- 15 Bruce Avenue, Comber
- 84 High Street, Portaferry

ACCESSIBLE PARKING BAYS TO BE REMOVED

- 6 Victoria Drive, Bangor
- 55 Movilla Street, Newtownards
- 12 Anne Street, Portaferry
- 10 Donaghadee Road, Newtownards

Accessible Parking bay applications will be assessed before the completion of the necessary legislative process. Successful applications are required to be notified in local newspapers offering the opportunity for the general public to submit their views.

Any objections must be fully considered before the application can progress to the legislative stage

Because of the processes involved, approved applications are required to be grouped and processed in batches on two or maybe three occasions during the year.

SECTION 4 NETWORK PLANNING & STREETLIGHTING

Network Planning Manager: Reynold Nicholson

Reynold is supported in Ards and North Down by the following staff :-



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4.1 Development Control

Planning Applications

In carrying out their planning functions Councils have a duty to consult a range of statutory bodies. DfI Roads on behalf of the Department for Infrastructure has entered into an agreement with each Council to provide views and advice on roads and transportation related issues.

DfI Roads in its consideration of planning applications, takes into account aspects of development which could prejudice traffic progression and safety in terms of junction capacity, access arrangements, parking standards and provision, road width, radii, gradients, drainage and sight lines. A detailed Transport Assessment may be required for larger developments where potential traffic impact may extend to road junctions some distance from the development site and where infrastructure improvements are deemed necessary as mitigation.

In the case of housing developments, the Private Streets (NI) Order 1980 is applied if a planning application includes streets which are to become public and maintainable by the Department. Development Control/Private Streets Section determines the area to be adopted, arranges for the calculation of the bond amount, supervises construction of the streets and, following satisfactory completion by the developer, completes the process for adoption into the public road network. Should the developer not complete the streets, DfI Roads can take appropriate enforcement action under the Private Streets Order to ensure satisfactory completion of works funded by the bond.

Other associated Development Control work includes participating in pre-application, planning meetings, presentation of evidence at Planning Appeals and the approval of accesses onto the public road under Article 80 of the Roads (NI) Order 1993. The Section also deals with responses to property certificate enquiries.

During the reporting period from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 within the Ards and North Down Borough Council Area, the Development Control Team dealt with:

Planning Applications	697
Pre-Planning Enquiries	28
Planning Applications involving Private Streets Order	25
Planning Appeals	1

Examples of major applications being dealt with include:

- Housing development on zoned land on Movilla Road, Newtownards
- Housing development on zoned lands between Bangor Road and Donaghadee Road, Newtownards
- Housing development on zoned lands between Cannyreagh Road and Newtownards Road, Donaghadee
- Housing development on zoned land at Rathgael Road, Bangor
- Social Housing developments in Holywood
- Social Housing Faulkner Road Bangor
- Housing developments North Road Newtownards
- Housing development Ardnally Comber
- Housing development Whiterock
- Housing development Newtownards Road Comber
- Riverhill housing Bangor Road Newtownards

Article 80

Article 80 applies to new vehicular accesses on to unclassified roads or agricultural accesses on to classified and unclassified roads. It covers proposals such as new driveway entrances and dropped kerbs and is used where planning permission is not required.

During the reporting period Dfl Roads dealt with 55 Article 80 applications.

Adoptions

During the reporting period Dfl Roads has adopted a total of 2,292m of carriageway and 356m of footway into the publicly maintained network. These stretches fall within the following developments and excludes adoptions associated with enforcements.

- Sanctuary Cove, Kircubbin
- East Street, Newtownards
- Tern Park, Portaferry Road, Newtownards
- The Straits, Lisbane
- Riverhill, Newtownards
- Portview Heights, Portavogie
- Cotswold Gardens, Bangor
- Green Road, Conlig
- Beechvale Avenue, Bangor
- Rathmore Road, Bangor
- West Link, Abbey Ring, Holywood
- Clifton Manor, Bangor

4.2 Private Streets

Enforcement

Private Streets Section endeavours to work with developers to ensure that streets are brought up to an adoptable standard without delay. If the developer does not complete the street works or ceases trading and house building and occupancy is sufficiently advanced, then DfI Roads will take enforcement action and appoint its own contractor, recovering the costs of works from the road bond under Article 13 and 15 of the Private Streets (NI) Order 1980. The Section also takes action against developers who fail in their responsibility to take out a bond.

During the reporting period DfI Roads completed and adopted street works within the following developments through such enforcement under the provisions of the Private Streets (NI) Order 1980:

- Lakeview, Newtownards
- Ardnalvalley Park, Newtownards
- Orchard Drive, Killinchy
- Cranfield Grange, Kircubbin
- Castlemeadows Cloughey
- Drumfad Bay, Millisle

It is anticipated that in the next 12 months enforcement action will be initiated in respect of:

- Orchard Drive Whiterocks
- The Stables Carrowdore
- Warren Villas, Donaghadee
- Ballybarnes Meadow, Newtownards
- Lakeview Manor, Newtownards

Property Certificates

Private Streets Section coordinates the DfI Roads response to Property Certificate Enquiries. A total of 8984 Property Certificate Enquiries were processed during the reporting period in Southern Division

4.3 Strangford Ferry

General Level of Service

In general the ferry service has operated smoothly during the year 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. Of a total of 22,176 scheduled sailings, 95 were cancelled because of weather and tide conditions. A further 34 sailings were cancelled due to mechanical breakdowns. This represents an overall reliability of 99.42%.

New Ferry Project

The new ferry, MV Strangford II went into service on 2 February 2017. The MV Portaferry II was then taken out of service for its annual refit and returned for the Easter weekend. It is intended to rotate the two ferries in service on a fortnightly basis.

General Information

The disposal of the MV Strangford and MV Rachlyn (passenger only vessel) is being managed by the MoD Disposal Services Authority (DSA) who are in communication with bidders for both vessels.

It is anticipated that the increased volume of ferry traffic experienced following the reopening of Exploris in 2016 will continue through Spring and Summer 2017.

Investigations into extending working hours to enable the provision of an additional early morning sailing from Portaferry are ongoing.



4.4 Street Lighting

The total number of lights in Southern Division is approximately 82,000 of which approximately 26,000 (26%) are within the Ards and North Down Borough Council area.

Street Lighting Maintenance

Since April 2015, DfI Roads only repairs those defective street lights reported by the public or their representatives. In order to facilitate this process, reports of defective lights can now be made directly on line via the NIDirect website at the web address:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/report-street-light-fault>

Reports made via this web page automatically generate a works order to the appropriate contractor to have the defect repaired.

Reports can also be made by telephone at 0300 200 7899.

Priority is given to emergency defects i.e. those defects posing a direct structural or electrical hazard, then to groups of lights out, groups of lights burning continuously and finally to individual lights out.

Minor Works/Upgrading Schemes

Work has been completed or is nearing completion on the following schemes

Location	Town/Townland	No of Lights
Beverley Heights	Newtownards	30
Albany area	Bangor	32
Albany Road	Bangor	19
Deanfield	Bangor	20
Jubilee Road	Newtownards	32
Ballycrochan Road	Bangor	42

Street Lighting Maintenance

Budget constraints have meant that the Department has faced periods of significant street lighting resource pressures over the last two years. While budget pressures still exist this year, our initial allocation for street lighting maintenance allows us to continue using our external contractors to carry out street lighting repairs at this time. However, the continuation of this service for the full year will depend on the outcome of monitoring rounds

Since April 2015, TransportNI only repairs those defective street lights reported by citizens or their representatives. In order to facilitate this process, reports of defective lights can now be made directly on line via the NIDirect website at the web address:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/report-street-light-fault>. Reports made via this web page automatically generate a works order to the appropriate contractor to have the defect repaired.

Reports can also be made by telephone at 0300 200 7899 .

Priority is given to emergency defects ie those defects posing a direct structural or electrical hazard, then to groups of lights out, groups of lights burning continuously and finally to individual lights out.

Proposed Upgrading Schemes 2017/18

Location	Town/Townland	Type of Scheme
Shore Road	Portaferry	Relighting
Robinson Road	Bangor	Relighting
A2 from Ballyrobert Road— Springhill Intersection	Bangor	Relighting
Springhill Intersection	Bangor	Relighting