

Island group co-ordination meeting

Orkney, Shetland & Western Isles

Meeting held on Teams 5 September 2024 at 10.30am

Item		Action
1	Present Donald Wilson (Orkney) Neil Robertson (Shetland) D.A. Macleay (Western Isles) David Spencer (Shetland) Murdo Macritchie (Western Isles) Duncan Johnston (Shetland) John Duncan (Shetland)	
2	Apologies Kenny Roy (Orkney) Angus Macdonald (Western Isles) Matthew Wylie (Orkney) Barrie Scobie (Shetland) Grant Anderson (Shetland) John Johnston (Shetland)	
3	Appointment of chairman No change.	
4	Local Authority program works Orkney – Resurfacing works towards end of year. Streetlight works to program for 2024. Surface dressing program for 2024-25 year start end June 2024. Traffic order for road closure in place for SD works. All works are notified on the radio and social media. Works noticed on the register. Shetland – Surfacing program for 2024-25 resurfacing and scarifying. Bitmacing in Unist, problems with ferries. Surface Dressing program for 2024-25 started 29 May 2024. General maintenance works carried out, drainage and streetlight. Active travel footpath works. Road master works on mainland, Yell and Unist. Works noticed on the register. Western Isles – Some surfacing works for this year to be identified. Small bitmac repairs made with hot box and Road Mender machine. Surface dressing program for 2024-27 started 7 May 2024, 2 weeks in Uist programmed for 3 June 2024. 17 th June start again in Harris. Surface Dressing in Barra next year. Agg would need to come in by Barge approx. 2000 tonne. Small civils works undertaken on a framework contract inc white lining. Cattle grid repairs new Hopkins grid to be installed at various locations. Ditching works as required.	

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	<p>Bridge works, Loch an Obb, Barra – new culverts with associated Utility works still in progress. Works noticed on the register.</p>	
5	<p>Utility works issues</p> <p><u>Orkney</u></p> <p>BT/Openreach - R100 – (Orkney + Shetland) These works are still caused some issues in the quality of the works in which the L.A. are requiring to be more involved in getting remedials done. Historic mole ploughing causing problems due to insufficient depth especially in verges. When local authority is making offlets they come across the ducting at shallow depths. Also ducting causing problems in the roadside drainage. There is an issue regarding the placing and construction of the verge manholes. Photo`s were taken and shown regarding an example. Concern has been forwarded to BT Openreach, there has also been a request for a detail drawing of the manhole construction which BT Openreach is not forwarding. This issue will be raised at NRAUC next meeting.</p> <p>Reinstatement issues, type 1 on verge instead of soil, narrow crossings not getting the required compaction.</p> <p>Local contractors are being used to do some of the works. Works at present are in the outlying islands, Westry.</p> <p>Scottish Water – Some issues with ironworks being done. Some watermains being laid.</p> <p>Scottish Southern Energy – No major issues. New interconnector from Caithness to Finstone be undertaken. This will entail road works. Small works also undertaken</p> <p><u>Shetland</u></p> <p>BT/Openreach - R100 – (Orkney + Shetland) These works has caused some issues in the quality of the works improvements are seen to be happening, but the odd fail is still there. BT ironworks being an issue. Working in Yell and other outlying islands. There have been incidences where ducts are found going through ditches and culverts. Works on the register are quite slow. Local contractors also being used.</p> <p>Scottish Water – Small main replacements undertaken with no major issues. Ironworks being undertaken by LA.</p> <p>Scottish Southern Energy – No major issues, works from the wind turbine site has been affecting roads but no major issues. Overheads and sub-stations being built. Works in the carriageway to be requested to be half carriageway bitmac. Works in hard verges to be done to specification.</p> <p><u>Western Isles</u></p> <p>BT/Openrech – R100 – this has not started yet possible 2026 awaiting confirmation. Survey works looks to be undertaken at present.</p>	

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	<p>BAU works are still slow this year, some manhole covers to be undertaken. No major issue.</p> <p>Scottish Water –Some major works on the Westside of Lewis and Benbecula with good communication with contractors and designers before and during works. A major foul sewer works to be undertaken which will take approx. a year to complete awaiting start date. This involves road closures in housing estates. It is repairs to existing lines and manholes.</p> <p>Scottish Southern Energy – Some major works on overhead lines only access points affecting roads. Meetings have been undertaken with contractors.</p> <p>Scotland Gas Networks – Only is Stornoway no issues.</p>	
6	<p>Utility Inspection issues</p> <p>Orkney –Sample inspections undertaken. Cat A inspection has issues in catching Utilities on site due to short duration of the works. Travel required to distant work sites not viable for just 1 site. A combination of other inspections or LA works inspection undertaken to justify travel . Inspections undertaken under Cat B and C ongoing. Only RTN done when a failure is noticed.</p> <p>Shetland – Cat A inspection being on track as big works are in progress. Inspections undertaken under Cat B and C ongoing.</p> <p>Western Isles –Cat A inspections for BT Openreach did not hit target for 2023-24 year, BT Openreach works seem to be on the increase for 2024. Other Utilities are ok for Cat A inspections. Inspections undertaken under Cat B and C ongoing.</p> <p>Problems with Cat A was a common theme with all 3 Local Authorities.</p>	
7	<p>R Q P (Reinstatement Quality Plan)</p> <p>All three authorities have looked at the requirements of the plan Western Isles have started to put together the R.Q.P. document.</p>	
8	<p>Commissioner office/Transport Scotland</p> <p>The 2-hour start/ stop. Shetland are implementing with the supervisors having access to the register using the mobile phones using the app, some problems have occurred. The promoters app will help in recording works start stop. Orkney still to roll out the app. Western Isles have used the app for Works promoter and Inspections, the internet system is still used by all.</p> <p>Compliance officers are on site doing a drive by using Dash Cam and checking against the Red Book if compliant. There are webinars on the rolls of the compliance officers who are going round the Local Authorities first then the Utilities. At the 22 May webinar 20 number local authorities have been checked. The results are quite poor.</p>	

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	The Red book is in the process of getting updated. VAULT is now a legal requirement to be submitted Bi-monthly.	
9	A.O.C.B. Western Isles are looking at purchasing new Surface Dressing equipment, a sprayer and a chipping machine. A new road mender trailer also to be requester this one to be diesel instead of gas.	
10	Dates of next meeting The 2024 dates: 5 September 2024 Meeting closed at 12.05	