



The IWALC Bulletin

February 2022

Your questions answered, your experiences shared... news and information from across the Island...links and updates...

Your IWALC Matters!!

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the first Bulletin of 2022! It's now February and the days are getting longer, so hopefully Spring is not too far away.

As I write this, two major issues dominate the media. One is inflation and, in particular, the future increases in energy prices. This is budget time for local authorities and the high rate of inflation, together with continued economic uncertainty, have added to the usual problems of setting a budget. However, the good news is that there has been an increase in the tax base this year, enabling some councils to keep their precepts lower than they first thought. In next month's Bulletin we hope to publish data on the planned precepts of each of our 33 local councils.



Meanwhile, the increases in energy charges are already causing concern among our residents. I'm sure I am not the only councillor who has been contacted for help or advice. If you are unable to give them the help they need, please refer them to Citizens Advice (0800-144-8848) or The Footprint Trust (822282).

The other major issue dominating the media is, of course, the Downing Street parties, which raise wider issues about standards of behaviour in public office. It is therefore perhaps appropriate that IWALC recently organised an online meeting on the importance of maintaining high standards of behaviour in local councils. The guest speaker was Jackie Weaver, Chief Officer of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils and famous for her appearance in a video of a meeting of Handforth Parish Council last year. For further details of the session, see the IWALC News section below.

Here on the Island, housing remains a major concern. I would like to thank Councillor Geoff Brodie for his response to the articles on this subject in the last issue of the Bulletin (see below). We would welcome comments from other readers. We were hoping to publish contributions from the two large housing associations (Sovereign and Southern Housing) in this issue, but unfortunately we have yet to receive anything from them. We will pursue the subject of affordable housing further in the next IWALC Topic Meeting on 24 February. The purpose of the meeting will be to explore ways in which our local councils can work with the Isle of Wight Council and housing providers to provide more affordable housing for local people in their communities. It will be a face-to-face meeting with a number of speakers.

Last but not least, IWALC was very sorry to hear of the sudden death of Freshwater Parish Councillor, Jon Young. We would like to express our condolences and best wishes to his family, friends and fellow councillors.

Cllr Diana Conyers (Chair)

Contact - IWALC County Officer, Heather Rowell (heatheriwalc@gmail.com)

Website - www.iwalc.org - Check out our Facebook page too.

The Bulletin - Communications Officer - Jill Webster - jwebster.iwalc@outlook.com

The deadline for the March issue is February 28th - thank you!

The Island's Housing Crisis: What Can We Do?

A comment from Cllr Geoff Brodie

In the last bulletin, Isle of Wight (and Ryde Town) Cllr Ian Stephens asked 'What can we do?' to relieve the Island's housing crisis. He then went on to mention his hopes for 60 new homes from the 'Brownfield Land Release Fund'. The trouble is Ian, with 2,400 households on the housing register and 200 families in urgent need that just isn't going to cut it, is it?

The development of all the available brownfield on the Island - most around Newport - will barely deliver 500 'affordable' homes under the current 'model' for delivery i.e. 35% of private developments.

This is why greenfield just cannot be ignored. Even if we were able to put the shutters up to continuing migration to the Island - which of course isn't going to happen - we still need more homes for Islanders. And 500 on brownfield just would not meet their needs. That is why some of us recognise that greenfield has to be used if housing need is to be met.

In my Newport ward, Pan & Barton, 50 acres of former agricultural land has been built on over the past 12 years to provide an eventual 855 new homes on the Pan Meadows development. Of these 255 are 'affordable' - mainly rented, but some shared ownership - the last serious attempt to provide social housing, with the last initial lettings back in 2015.

At the time of planning permission (December 2009) there was no protest. Existing Pan residents accepted that homes were needed and Newport councillors, Community Council and Isle of Wight were largely silent. I beavered away on the details of the plans, but the principle was fine with me.

We may not like it, but let's not forget there were greenfields where most of us now live. Unless we understand this then housing need will continue to rise, to the detriment of so many families' lives.

*Cllr Geoff Brodie , Chair Newport & Carisbrooke
Community Council (Pan & Barton)*

Press Releases

We've issued a couple of press releases in recent weeks and in case you have missed them, here are the links -



Dedicated Road Policing Unit-

<https://www.countypress.co.uk/news/19882777.isle-wight-councils-call-roads-policing-unit-crashes/>

<https://onthewight.com/calls-for-dedicated-roads-policing-unit-for-the-isle-of-wight/>

Jackie Weaver -

<https://onthewight.com/jackie-weaver-star-of-handforth-parish-council-viral-video-shares-advice-with-isle-of-wight-local-councils/>

IWALC News...

Executive meeting

IWALC's Executive Committee met on 27 January via Zoom. At the meeting, members:

- Agreed to write to the MP Bob Seely, in support of his call for a dedicated Roads Policing Unit on the Island. The letter has been sent, with copies to the Police and Crime Commissioner and the District Commander.
- Approved the budget for the 2022/23 financial year. The precept will be increased by 3%.
- Agreed to increase training fees for non-IWALC participants from £50 to £75 per session for face-to-face courses and from £25 to £50 for those provided online. The increases, which are the first for many years, will come into effect on 1 April.
- Considered a number of amendments to the Constitution. The draft will now be sent to NALC for comment, prior to approval at the AGM in July.
- Renewed the contract of our Communications Officer, Jill Webster, for another two years.

Topic meeting

The next Topic meeting will be at 7pm on Thursday 24 February. The subject will be Affordable Housing. The purpose will be to explore ways in which local councils can work with the Isle of Wight Council to provide appropriate affordable housing for local people in their communities. It will be a face-to-face meeting with a number of speakers. Further details will be provided nearer the time.

Meetings with Isle of Wight Council

IWALC would like to thank Councillor Chris Jarman, Cabinet Member for Finance, for the extensive consultations with parish, town and community councils on the 2022/23 Isle of Wight Council Budget.

At the January Executive meeting, Councillor Paul Fuller, announced that, from next month, members of the Isle of Wight Cabinet will hold regular monthly meetings with IWALC. The meetings will be held online (at least initially) at 12.30 pm on the second Thursday of the month. They will be open to all councillors and staff. The first meeting will be on Thursday 9 March. Further details will be circulated nearer the time.

Training

Our latest training event was an online meeting with Jackie Weaver, Chief Officer of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils. Jackie has become somewhat of a celebrity following her appearance in the video of a meeting of Handforth Parish Council that went viral last year and we were honoured that she agreed to talk to us.



The focus of her talk was the need to maintain high standards of behaviour in local councils. She emphasised the importance of good governance, including standing orders and codes of conduct, and of councillor training, but said there is also a need for stronger sanctions against perpetrators. She gave participants some hints about dealing with difficult situations, such as councils that are riven by rival factions (as was the case in Handforth) and councillors who bully colleagues or staff or use the council as a means of achieving their own personal or political ends.

She also emphasised the need for councils to be representative of their communities and engage with them. She encouraged participants to find out what their residents want and adapt their activities (and if necessary increase their precepts) to meet these needs. And for residents, her advice was: 'If your council doesn't do this, don't complain – get involved'!

The event attracted 35 participants, including councillors and staff, and her initial talk was followed by an hour of lively discussion.

The next event will be the long-postponed face-to-face Introduction to Planning session. This will be held on Wednesday 2 March from 6.00 to 7.30 pm in the Garfield Road Methodist Church in Ryde. The trainer will be Ryde Town Council's Planning Officer, Chris Turvey. Bookings should be made through your clerk.

Future courses will include Code of Conduct and Equality and Diversity. Further details will be available in due course.

Visit to Sandown Pumping Station

Provisional plans have been made with Southern Water for a visit to Sandown Pumping Station on Wednesday 2 March. Further details will be circulated nearer the time. If you would like to attend, please contact Jill.

IWALC website

If you have looked at our website recently, you may notice a difference. This is because it is being redesigned to make it easier to use. Further improvements will be made over the next few months. In the meantime, we would like to thank Councillor John Graney, who set up and managed the original website, and Councillor Dave Hardy, who is heading the redesign.

Report on a meeting of Parish Councillors with Bob Seely MP (12.01.2022)

Bob Seely MP started by briefing on a number of issues.

1) Southern Water. He welcomed the focus by Southern Water on implementing best practice on the Island, but was concerned about the timeline.

2) Housing. He was objecting to the building of houses on a greenfield site at Bembridge.

3) Covid 19. He does not want to see another lockdown on the Island.

4) He welcomed the possibility of a roads policing unit on the Island. He said that the Island has the most dangerous roads in the UK with 200 deaths or serious injuries per year compared with 85 on other roads in the South East.

5) The Biosphere. He agreed with biosphere principles being brought into decision making on the Island. But pointed out that a biosphere is not recognised in National legislation.



Cllr Blezzard wanted to know whether the NALC lobby day would be virtual or at Westminster. He also commented on the Boundary Commission East-West split which he agreed with. Mr Seely was keen that Ventnor should be in West Wight where he thought he would be standing at the next election.

Cllr Redpath was in favour of biosphere planning restrictions ruling out large scale development and helping with marine protections.

Cllr Bacon said that although the biosphere was not recognised in National Legislation it should be used to guide the Local Plan. He was hoping to set up a biosphere steering committee at the IW Council.

Cllr Phillips commented that Island roads were very dangerous and they needed to be restructured.

Cllr Parkes commented on a number of issues concerning transport to and from the Island and the poor state of Island roads.

Cllr Lyons commented on the number of serious road accidents and mentioned three things that could be done to improve safety and reduce traffic: cheap, regular and reliable public transport covering the whole Island and including smaller villages; an increase in the network of cycling and walking paths with suitable improvements and connectivity; a tax or levy on vehicles coming across the Solent to the Island which could provide funding to the IW Council for road safety improvements and traffic reduction.

Cllr M Lyons (19 January 2022)

Zoom Meetings

All Councillors and staff of IWALC Member Councils are invited...and welcome...to join the monthly online meetings with Bob Seely. Subject to confirmation, it is likely that the next one will be on February 16th. The Zoom information will be circulated to Clerks in advance.

In addition, IWALC also takes part in the monthly Heads of Organisations meetings with Bob Seely,

Still on the subject of Zoom invitations/links - if you are expecting to receive one of these for any purpose, please can I remind you to check your Spam/Junk folders.



And still on the subject of Zoom, the commitment and determination of one of our Councillors went way above and beyond the call, when he logged on to listen to Jackie Weaver ... from a rig 120 miles NORTH of the Shetland Isles!!

DISCLAIMER.

The function of the Bulletin is to inform members of issues and happenings that are of concern. All articles are taken in good faith and the opinions expressed in the Bulletin are those of the submitter. Submitted articles do not necessarily reflect our views. We cannot take responsibility for any legal queries resulting from these.

We reserve the right not to print submitted articles.

Obituary

Cllr Jonathan Young, who has died after a short illness at the age of 71, will be missed by his colleagues on Freshwater Parish Council. Known as 'Jon' to his friends, Cllr Young grew up on the Island, obtained a scholarship and then enjoyed a long career as a journalist in Yorkshire.

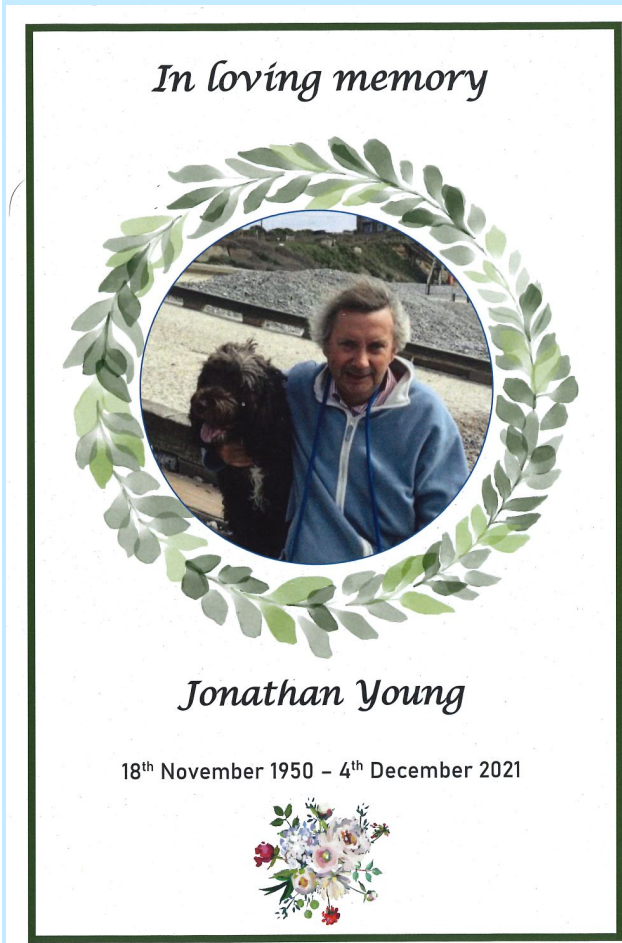
Jon was apparently a campaigner for justice from an early age, as he was said to be the organiser of a choirboy's strike over the issue of payments for rehearsals at his local church.

Parish councillors got to know Jon not so very long ago, when his family returned to live in Freshwater. Jon had a keen interest in town and country planning issues; he served as the chair of our Planning Committee last year until his sudden diagnosis of terminal illness meant he had to step down from the role. In the meantime, Jon had demonstrated his journalist's eye for detail while scrutinising planning applications made in the village, and responding to planning consultations affecting the place he had made his final home.

Jon's daughter Coralie gave a moving tribute to her father during his memorial service at the Isle of Wight Crematorium. The processional music opening the service was Ludwig van Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy', a choice which might have been Jon's last word on politics and life!

Donations to Mountbatten Hospice can be made in Jon's memory at the web page set up by Coralie at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/coralie-young>

Cllr Daniel James
(Chair, Freshwater Parish Council)



News from NALC

IWALC would like to congratulate Bob Blezzard for his re-election to NALC's Management Board and Smaller Councils Committee.



Report from National Assembly (08/12/21) & Management Board (11/01/22)

NEW NATIONAL PRESIDENT AND NATIONAL CHAIR

The new national president, Baroness Roz Scott of Needham Market joined the Assembly meeting, leaving a Lords Select Committee meeting to introduce herself. Roz thanked NALC for appointing her national president and said she would work with the parliamentary vice presidents to champion the local council sector in the Lords. It was also the first meeting for the newly elected national chair, Keith Stevens from East Sussex who replaces the retiring chair, Sue Baxter who stood down having completed her two terms as chair. Sue will however remain involved as a working vice president.

COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

The committee election results were formally announced at the Assembly meeting where I was returned unopposed to the Management Board and the Smaller Councils Committee. It was disappointing that not all seats had been filled. Vacancies will be filled by co-option with a steer being given to address diversity. In the case of the Management Board for example all those of us elected are middle aged or older white males based in the South. The Management Board agreed to advertise the vacancies. Advertisements will be sent to county officers and Assembly members inviting nominations for co-option with nominations from under-represented groups being particularly welcomed. Whilst nominations for the Management Board will be restricted to Assembly members due to the need for accountability that restriction will not apply to vacancies on other committees.

NATIONAL LOBBY DAY 2022

National Lobby Day 2022 was fixed for Wednesday 23rd March. This has become an annual event when local councillors descend on Westminster to lobby their MPs. It did not take place in 2021 due to the pandemic but in 2020 just before the lockdown it was highly successful with well over 100 MPs lobbied. This year we will extend the net to include members of "Their Lordships' House" as this is where proposed legislation tends to be amended. Participation in Lobby Day is open to councillors from IWALC member councils. The arrangements were modified by the Management Board in the light of developments with the Omicron virus and it was agreed that lobby day should be held "primarily" remotely although individual CALCs are at liberty to organise face to face lobby sessions with their MPs. This was perhaps premature given the recent easing of restrictions. I had already booked for a lobby session with Bob Seely in Portcullis House on 23rd March. IWALC will need to decide whether to continue with meeting Bob face to face in Westminster, holding a remote lobby session for IWALC councillors only or cancel given that in any event we have regular online meetings with the MP? *At the January Executive meeting, members decided not to have a special event but to utilise our regular meetings with the MP to raise any issues of concern. Ed.*

NALC CAMPAIGNS: YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

One of NALC's campaigns is aimed at youth engagement and encouraging young people to engage with the democratic process and consider becoming local councillors. The Assembly received two short presentations from Fay Holland of an organisation called Groundwork which has produced a report called "Youth in a

Changing Climate” and from Dan Lawes of Youth Politics UK. Further details can be found online respectively at www.groundwork.org.uk/youth-ina-changing-climate and youthpolitics.org.uk

NALC GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Assembly agreed to set up a task and finish group to examine the effectiveness of NALC’s constitution and electoral processes. I made the point that this is overdue and there should be no “no go” areas. The work should be completed in time for any proposed changes to go to the 2022 AGM.



RURAL SERVICES NETWORK: MARKET TOWN GROUPING

A number of NALC networks have been created to increase engagement between groups with common interests. The Rural Services Network has a market town grouping and discussions have been held to see if this could be opened to wider participation from NALC councils to address market town issues. Further details are available at: <https://www.rsnonline.org.uk/page/rural-market-town-group>

Bob BLEZZARD (January 2022)

Parliamentary Boundary Review

We are now approaching the secondary consultation period for the Parliamentary Boundary Review when the Boundary Commission for England will publish on its website all the representations received.

Once published there is a further statutory six week period during which members of the public and organisations can submit written comments on the representations made during the initial consultation period. This can include supporting or challenging assertions made in those representations.

There is also the opportunity for members of the public or organisations to make representations to assistant commissioners at public hearings. The nearest public hearings are being held at the Portsmouth Marriot Hotel, Southampton Road, Cosham, Portsmouth on Thursday 27th and Friday 28th March.

The “lead” public hearings for the south-east are being held at Crawley Town Football Ground on Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th March. At the “lead” public hearings the main political parties are given 30 minutes each to address the assistant commissioners.

Other public hearings in the south-east are being held at Reading on Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd March and at Ashford (Kent) on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th March.

Any organisation or individual can book a 10 minute slot to set out their case to the assistant commissioners.

Anyone wishing to make a PowerPoint presentation should advise the Boundary Commission in advance. Speaking slots can be booked by telephone or online.

The Boundary Commission contact details are as follows:

Boundary Commission for England
35 Great Smith Street
LONDON
SW1P 3BQ

Telephone: (020) 7276 1102 Email: information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk
Website: boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk

Bob BLEZZARD (January 2022)

News from Member Councils

Arreton Parish Council
Brading Town Council
Brighstone Parish Council
Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council
Cowes Town Council
East Cowes Town Council
Fishbourne Parish Council
Freshwater Parish Council
Godshill Parish Council
Gurnard Parish Council
Havenstreet & Ashey Parish Council
Lake Parish Council
Nettlestone & Seaview Parish Council

Newchurch Parish Council
Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council
Niton & Whitwell Parish Council
Northwood parish Council
Rookley Parish Council
Ryde Town Council
Sandown Town Council
Shalfleet Parish Council
Shorwell Parish Council
St Helen's Parish Council
Wootton Bridge Parish Council
Wroxall Parish Council
Yarmouth Town Council

Shalfleet Parish Council

As a Parish Council, for Shalfleet, we have been involved with Southern Water issues for a considerable time. We welcome the intervention of the MP. We are aware of what is not being promised in terms of deadlines and money allocations and feel all T, P & CCs have a stronger voice when information is shared and voiced through IWALC.



Shalfleet Parish Council

By the time the Bulletin goes out we hope to have co-opted a resident to be a Parish Councillor.

Cllr Helena Hewston.

Brading Town Council

Just a small contribution, which may be expanded upon by St Helens PC or Bembridge PC - all three councils have submitted

a joint application to the IW Council in respect of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

We are aiming to produce a plan to provide better and safer connectivity between Bembridge, St Helens and Brading and will be working together on this project.



Linda Allen (Clerk)

Gurnard Parish Council

The bright new layout of the last IWALC bulletin suggests that Gurnard Parish Council is making the right moves in its bid to meet the Age Friendly and Digital Inclusion pledge which GPC signed up to some time ago; we are on the same page.



The consultation on the (Cowes Peninsula) LCWIP has been carried along at considerable pace. The deadline for completing the plan is very tight; digital platforms collecting community suggestions and three public consultations ran throughout January. Public responses were pleasing with hundreds of comments and suggestions being made. It only takes a single glance along Baring Road near to the end of school time to recognise just how important it is to make walking, cycling or scootering to school safer and more acceptable to parents and children alike. Current levels of congestion are frightening but so too is the speed at which some drivers proceed if the road appears clear, so crossings or a 'lollipop' person are definitely needed as well as other traffic calming.

Following IWALC's report collating concerns expressed by local councils about Southern Water and discharges into the Solent, alongside the 2021 Surfer's Against Sewage report which highlighted Gurnard as the worst place on the Island for discharges, GPC asked Southern Water to come and make a presentation to a council meeting. As there are several groups of cold water swimmers (as well as UKSA and other local sailors) who spend time in or on the waters of Gurnard Bay throughout the year, a good number of the public attended for the presentation. It was very pleasing to welcome these active members of the community as their involvement makes the council's work so much more relevant. The next step we wanted to take was to hold a (longer) Public Meeting with both Southern Water and the Environment Agency in the near future; it is a matter of considerable concern to GPC that, even though Gurnard's water is given an 'excellent' rating by the Environment Agency, much of the data seems to be out of date or is inadequately collected. However, Southern Water has informed us that they will not be able to attend such a meeting until September at the earliest, as they wish to make more progress on their 'pathfinder project' and to be able to show changes they have made which should impact on discharges into Gurnard Bay. We have not yet decided our next step but this is an important matter to our community and it will not be forgotten.

It saddened all members of GPC to see two mature oak trees, which stand opposite the Woodvale Pub, savagely topped (more extensive work than pollarding) apparently for safety reasons. As the IWC Tree Officer points out in his reports, it is difficult to accurately age an oak on the Island because their growth is affected by the maritime climate but these trees were mature by any standard. We discussed the idea that perhaps local councils should be expecting to be advised of any tree work planned for mature, native species that are prominent or important to their town, village or parish so that even trees that have no TPO can have an advocate or at least councillors have the information to respond to local residents queries and concerns.

The same needs to be said for hedges, especially mature and ancient hedges however scrappy they may sometimes appear. Time and again, public figures, such as David Attenborough, have shown us that there is a need for change in attitudes to, and treatment of, important natural habitats. Gurnard may not sit within the AONB but the whole Island is within the UNESCO Biosphere and that means we should be making every attempt to live harmoniously with the environment rather than bending it to our will. We need to remember that what may seem an apparently insignificant natural feature now could be a vital part of a bigger ecosystem.

Rant over! I'm not sure quite what I expected from becoming a parish councillor but I did expect to be interested by what comes up. The interest expectation is definitely being met.

Cllr Penny Acton

Fishbourne Parish Council

Fishbourne Parish Council's latest Newsletter has just been published (see link below). The Newsletter is produced quarterly and distributed to all households in the Parish as well as posted online.



This is a particularly interesting issue, in that it includes a summary of the findings from our recent parish survey, a tribute to our outgoing clerk, Maxine, and an introduction to her successor, Lindsey Hood, who has also taken over from Maxine as clerk of Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council. Welcome to Fishbourne and to IWALC, Lindsey!



The photo was taken at Maxine's farewell. The picture we gave her was painted by Sarah Talbot, a local artist and one of our councillors.

<https://www.fishbourneiow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Fishbourne-Parish-Ne58637C.pdf>

Cllr Diana Conyers

Cowes Town Council

The Town Council is delighted to be working in partnership with Gurnard and Northwood Parish Councils to create a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for the Cowes, Gurnard and Northwood area, following a successful bid for match-funding from the IW Council. Public consultation/engagement drop-in sessions were held in each of the areas in addition to on-line submissions.



The LCWIP has a very tight timeline for completion by the end of March 2022 and the outcomes will be considered to shape improved links between the three areas and open up funding opportunities for prioritised schemes.



We are working in partnership with neighbouring Northwood Parish Council following completion of a combined Place Plan for the Cowes and Northwood area. Covid hampered the big launch we had planned, but progress is being made and there are many opportunities raised in the Plan to be looked at further and take forward for positive change, focusing on areas where investment is needed. There are already discussions underway to work in partnership with local organisations to open up a new green area for the public's enjoyment and recreation.

The Projects Committee is continuing to liaise with the IW Council to finalise arrangements for The Cut enhancement project and installation of a community orchard at Northwood Recreation Ground.

The Town Council is considering ways to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee; more details to follow ...

Looking towards Spring, we will be redecorating a number of our benches in areas of high footfall at a number of seafront locations in readiness for the increase in tourist numbers that the season brings.

Kate Gibbs (Asst Town Clerk)

East Cowes Town Council

This month the East Cowes Town Council unanimously voted to elect Cllr Tracy Reardon as their new mayor following the resignation of Michael Paler in December.

Follow her election Cllr Reardon said:

"I'm extremely excited to represent the council and community, to promote our wonderful town."

"I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support and acknowledgement, I will endeavour to represent the council, while always championing East Cowes and its residents."

"I have been involved in various volunteering organisations, in the business and community sector in East Cowes, for a number of years. As a business owner, secretary of the East Cowes Business Association and chairman of the East Cowes Community Partnership, I felt the next step would be to become a local councillor.

"I am looking forward to this new challenge and working with a wider team of like-minded people, to celebrate East Cowes's heritage and future."

All the best, *Cllr Cameron Palin*



The Community Hub and Library, currently being built adjacent to the Town Hall in East Cowes, is coming along well and still on target for June 2022.

The building also encompasses a meeting room, ground floor Clerk's office and two public toilets.

The Community Cinema, run by volunteers, is being launched on 12th February.

Plans to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Blitz and celebrations for the Queens Platinum Jubilee are beginning. *Claire Gale (Asst Clerk)*



Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council

Chillerton and Gatcombe are playing their part in the celebration of the Queen's jubilee, planting trees and installing a stretch of new hedgerow made of native species.

Also, together with the Community Association, we are installing a defibrillator on the outside of the Village that will be accessible 24 hours a day.



At their January meeting Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council bid a fond farewell to their Parish Clerk of 14 years, Maxine Warr.

We have been very lucky to have the services of someone who has been widely regarded as the best Parish Clerk on the Island. We wish her well in her new life on the 'other' island.

Nigel Phillips (Chair)

Other News...

News in Brief from the Isle of Wight Council

The Isle of Wight Council is considering changes to the autumn half term holiday from 2023/24 onwards.

Before making any changes the council is asking schools, parents and island residents to give their views about the school holiday calendar.



The autumn half term holiday in October on the Isle of Wight, as in most other areas of the country, has traditionally been one week. In 2017 the council consulted local people about a change to the school holiday calendar and, as a result, decided to extend the autumn half term from one week to two weeks, and reduce the summer holiday accordingly. From 2018 to 2021 a two-week half term was adopted, with the summer holiday one week shorter. In 2022, following consultation with schools, the half term holiday will revert to being one week long.

The council is keen to hear views on these changes, and a consultation has been launched, with the possibility of returning to a two-week autumn half term as one of the options. Councillor Debbie Andre said: "The change to a two-week half term was disrupted by the pandemic in 2019 and 2020. There have also, as a result of the pandemic, been changes in parental working patterns and shifts in the work-life balance of many households. We're listening to the views of families and pupils, schools and local communities before we make any changes; and we are actively seeking those views through a new consultation. So I encourage everyone to fill in our short online survey – we really want to hear from Island residents."

Survey link: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/Residents/Schools-and-Learning/Schools/Consultations3>

The survey will be open until 18 March 2022. Paper copies of the survey are available from libraries if you are unable to complete one online.

Island residents have had their say on how the Isle of Wight Council should spend its money next year.

The council asked residents to take part in the consultation to help councillors and council staff understand key priorities for the coming year with the continued reductions in government funding and against a backdrop of rising inflation.

Almost 700 surveys were completed online — compared to 501 last year and 347 the year before — while a series of workshops were organised for stakeholders from town and parish councils, the business sector, unions and voluntary sector – all of whom helped to promote the consultation.

Given the significant financial challenges, the consultation asked residents if they thought the council should increase council tax or make deeper cuts to services. In total, 71% opted for an increase of 1%, 2% or more than 2% — the most popular choice was for a 2% rise (36% of respondents).

To help close some of the funding gap, residents were asked if they would prefer to see an increase in fees and charges — such as in leisure and parking — or reduced levels of service. Of respondents, 73% said they would prefer to see an increase in charges for services - the most popular choice (42%) was for a modest increase.

Asked how important various social care services were to them, 33% ranked aged and disabled as their top priority followed by children's care with 29%.

Finally, the consultation asked residents where the council should spend any remaining funds once it had met all of its statutory obligations. Public health, homelessness and housing came top (32%), closely followed by adult and children's social care with 31%.

During the consultation many respondents spoke about their own financial difficulties over the past two years, particularly from the impact of COVID-19 and the increase costs of living.

The lack of housing affordable to Islanders and the detrimental impact of second homes on the Island, were common themes discussed at all of the workshops.

The Isle of Wight Council is inviting applications from small voluntary and community groups to help support the mental health and wellbeing of people across the Island.

The Public Health Team, in partnership with Mental Health Champion Cllr Michael Lilley and IOW Health-watch have developed a Mental Wellbeing Small Grants Fund to support voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations to deliver innovative local projects to support mental wellbeing on the Island.

The one-off grants for up to £5,000, will acknowledge the link between physical and mental health and focus on people and communities who are most at risk of mental ill health including:

- unpaid carers,
- veterans,
- older people,
- those disproportionately impacted by COVID

These projects will be embedded in communities and will be responsive to local needs.

Following the recent launch of the government-funded Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant on the Isle of Wight, the Additional Restrictions Grant is now open for applications.

Businesses linked to the tourism, hospitality, and leisure sector which do not qualify for the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant are encouraged to apply to the Isle of Wight Council for a share of the government grant funding. Businesses should apply online for the grant at the Isle of Wight Council's website, which has more information and guidance, including information on eligibility.

The Island has been allocated £192,469 by government to support businesses severely impacted by the rise of the omicron variant but who cannot apply to the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant (OHLG). The types of business likely to be eligible for the Additional Restrictions Grant are those in the supply chain or linked to the tourism, hospitality, and leisure sector, but which are not eligible to apply for OHLG. These could for example be operating from business-rated premises, from home, or in a place where they are not the ratepayer, such as shared premises.

All applications need to be submitted to the council online by 23.59 on Monday 14 February 2022. The council will consider all the applications received before deciding how to allocate the limited funding available, with all payments made by Thursday 31 March 2022.

Dedicated support for families affected by Covid-19.

For many, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated hardships that already existed. For others, it pushed them into hardship they never would have expected. Amid the crisis, Barnardo's Isle of Wight Family Centres have continued to provide essential support to those who need it most, making a real difference to people's lives. Now, new funding, secured from the Department for Education's COVID-19 Regional Recovery and Building Back Better Fund by the Isle of Wight Council's children's services team, will bolster that vital aid.

Totalling £160,000, the money is being used to recruit COVID response workers to assist local families affected by the pandemic, helping to prevent their issues or problems from getting worse. Barnardo's are commissioned by the council to provide a wide range of services to families with children aged between 0-19 years, such as information, guidance, signposting and parenting support.

Throughout the pandemic, Family Centre hubs remained opened, enabling invaluable services such as maternity and health visitor appointments to continue to be offered to Island families face to face. The charity's intensive family support workers also continued to assist families throughout lockdown by swapping regular home support visits to offering regular support via phone, Zoom or Whatsapp. Between April 2020 and March 2021, the Family Centre workforce across the Isle of Wight provided:

- 356 families with intensive family support;
- 2,658 sessions of family activities;
- £4,330 in emergency food vouchers for 119 families and 79 Christmas Foodbank Hampers;
- 42 laptops and ten mobile phones to address digital exclusion;
- 26 children's mental health support packs, 250 IKEA wellbeing boxes and 200 Pokémon sets.

Not only that, 99 per cent of adults and 100 per cent of children were satisfied with the service they received.

For further information about the support available, visit the Facebook page (Isle of Wight Family Centres), call (01983) 529208/(01983) 617617, visit: www.isleofwightfamilycentres.org.uk or email: iowfamilycentres@barnardos.org.uk

Help for rough sleepers this winter

People worried about the welfare of rough sleepers on the Island can use an app or website to get them help. The Isle of Wight Council has signed up to the national StreetLink service which allows people to report concerns using an app or the StreetLink website. Reports trigger notifications to a specialist outreach team commissioned by the council to offer support and look at the options available to help people who are sleeping rough. People making reports also get an update on the situation, so they can be reassured that help has been offered. Homeless people can also use the app or website to trigger the help process.

StreetLink itself is not an outreach service or an accommodation provider, nor is it an emergency service. It is the link between someone sleeping rough and the independent local services available.

Councillor Ian Stephens, deputy leader and Cabinet member for housing provision and housing needs, said: "It's unacceptable to many of us that people in the year 2022 find themselves in the position that they have no place to call home. Having a safe and secure home is one of the most fundamental needs that each and every one of us has. For people without a place to call home the level of risks that they face are multiple — risks to their physical health, risks to their mental health, risk to their emotional wellbeing and risk to their physical safety. "Rough Sleeping is the most dangerous form of homelessness and it kills. Shocking figures released by the Office of National Statistics in 2021 show there were an estimated 688 deaths of homeless people in England and Wales. This means that on average two homeless people die each day."

Islanders can send StreetLink an alert about someone sleeping rough via the website: www.streetlink.org.uk, the mobile 'StreetLink' app available from Apple iTunes/Google Play store or by calling 0300 500 0914.

Innovative modular homes to deal with homelessness

In accordance with the Alliance Administration's priority to address housing issues and homelessness on the Island, proposals could see the Isle of Wight Council invest in high-quality relocatable modular homes to help meet the urgent housing needs of the Island.

Boasting maximum energy efficiency and low carbon footprints, there is Cabinet support for the commissioning of 20 two-bed units, offering affordable rents and running costs, using land initially in the Newport area.

Councillor Ian Stephens, deputy leader and Cabinet member for housing provision and housing needs, said: "This approach is an important first step in doing what we can in helping people to have a roof over their heads."

The council has identified around 200 Island families that have an urgent housing need for temporary accommodation and are at risk of homelessness in the short term. There are many more that would love their own home but fall just outside an urgent need. It is hoped the project could become a pilot for future council schemes to deliver affordable homes for Islanders with new opportunities for skills and jobs in Island companies working in this sector.

Fifteen fast and rapid charge points could be installed in nine locations across the Island.

Initially the points would be placed in Newport, Ryde, Sandown, Cowes, Ventnor and Freshwater. The plans will also see more points come online in future years as demand increases. The points would be provided by a third party - which would need no council investment or operational funding – through the Central Southern Region (CSR) framework.

Cabinet lead for transport and infrastructure, Councillor Phil Jordan, said the scheme formed part of the council's wider Mission Zero Strategy which sets out how the Island can be carbon-neutral by 2040 – ten

years before the government target. He said: "Infrastructure has long been a barrier to the uptake of electric vehicles and these plans will start to see the beginnings of a growing network right across the Island."

The council only has direct control over about one per cent of the Island's carbon emissions, but has vowed to make all its assets carbon neutral by 2030, with schools following suit by 2035.

The locations for installation would be:

- Chapel Street, Newport
- Sea Street, Newport
- Seaclose Park, Newport
- Quay Road, Ryde
- St. Thomas Street (upper), Ryde
- St. John's Road, Sandown
- Cross Street, Cowes
- Central Car park, Ventnor
- Moa Place, Freshwater.

Biosphere principles at the heart of council work.

As a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the Isle of Wight is recognised as one of the best places in the world where local communities have found a way to live sustainably within their local ecosystems. Now the principles of the Isle of Wight Biosphere are to sit at the very heart of the Isle of Wight Council, with senior councillors approving plans to embed them within the fabric of the authority's corporate 'DNA'.

In so doing, the Alliance administration underlined its aspiration to support the biosphere by ensuring council policies, strategies and decision-making not only give due regard to UNESCO's internationally recognised 'badge' of sustainability, but look to sustain and enhance it too. The council aims to achieve this, in part, by appointing an independently-chaired Biosphere Steering Group drawn from all sectors of the Island, including environment, business, art and culture and wellbeing. Its role will be to steer and advise the council in the development of decisions and policies, working closely with the new Mission Zero Hub — an Island-wide partnership currently being set up to work towards the Island's net zero emissions targets.

Meanwhile, a new framework will also be created to ensure service managers at the council give due consideration to the biosphere when developing their service plans. Councillor Jonathan Bacon, Cabinet member for environment, heritage and waste, said: "I know Islanders are passionate about protecting and sustaining our environment — the natural beauty we're surrounded by is one of the reasons that many of us love to live here. "Through the work we're doing and will do through our climate and environment strategy, we'll not only be protecting our Island for future generations, but enhancing our biosphere and doing our bit for the rest of the world."

Natasha Dix, strategic manager for contracts, waste and environment, added: "Every decision the council takes will have regard to supporting, sustaining and enhancing our biosphere status as well as our climate and environment change strategy. We will work closely with town, parish and community councils to encourage and support them in helping to achieve our aspirations — and we will challenge the utility companies and our partners to support us in making the Island a sustainable place to live and work."

Updates from Trading Standards

Trading Standards have received reports that scam calls are, once again, coming in using 01983. We always say that if you don't recognise the number don't answer it so this is particularly worrying – please be aware that scammers can purchase UK numbers using any dialling prefix so there is no guarantee that an 01983 will be a genuine caller. Use caution until you are happy that the call is genuine.



A useful tool to share with you is the introduction of the number 159, a pilot scheme launched by Stop Scams UK and the Global Cyber Alliance which offers a practical way to check if a call you receive purporting to be from the bank is genuine. 159 will never call you but you can call 159 if:

- Someone contacts you saying they're from your bank – even if they are not suspicious.
- You receive a call asking you to transfer money or make a payment – even if it seems genuine.
- You receive a call about a financial matter and it seems suspicious.

Not all banks have signed up yet so when you call you will be taken through a list of the participating banks and you can press the relevant number on your keypad, you will then be put through to your bank. Please remember to use another phone or wait 30 minutes as scammers have the technology to stay on the line, intercept your call and pretend to be your bank.

Look out for repeated emails purporting to be from McAfee around digital security, its easy to forget who you're provider is and when its due for renewal. These emails have been coming from random email addresses so always check the senders email to see if its genuine.

If you receive an email allegedly from someone you know asking for money or help its likely that their email account has been hacked and it will be a scammer trying to get money. Always check with the sender using another form of communication.

The Covid scams are still coming, one is a text saying that you have to apply for covid pass – click on the link – if you don't you will be fined! The other is an invitation for you to get a Travel Certificate which will allow you to travel through Europe with no need to test or quarantine – DON'T click on the links.

Somebody reported a call from the Postcode Lottery saying she had won – fortunately she decided to check this out and contacted the lottery who confirmed it was a scam.

Be careful on Facebook with messages from supermarkets trying to help us in difficult times – the latest is Iceland offering a box of essential groceries worth £40 to anyone who shares or comments on the post. This is a scam and by sharing and commenting you are providing the scammers with valuable information about yourself which will be used to carry out further attempts to scam you and those you've shared it with. Remember if something seems too good to be true – it is!

Lastly there have been a few reports about personal alarms this week, one resident received a call from a company in Devon offering (for free) a personal alarm that could be worn around the waist – any call out of the blue is indicative of a scam and no genuine company would offer this for free. If you think you might need a personal alarm then make your own investigations into the best company for you. The second was a resident who received a call about her "red button" device and they were trying to get her to upgrade her wifi and asking for payment over the phone, luckily the resident contacted Wightcare who confirmed it was a scam. If you or anyone you care for has a personal alarm please warn them about these scams and not to agree to anything in a random phone call.



Sally Ash (Fair Trading Officer)





Isle of Wight NHS Trust Ambulance Service seeks views

Have you recently been conveyed by the Isle of Wight NHS Trust Ambulance Service? If so, Louise Walker, Ambulance Education, Training & Engagement Lead would like to know about your experience.

What was good? What could be improved?

*'Our Patient Engagement Strategy has been built on the foundation of our NHS Trust's values; **Compassionate, Accountable, Respect and Everyone counts.** Our aim is to improve care for people on the Isle of Wight, ensuring they get the right help, at the right time in the right place.*

We want to work with our patients to help improve our services, therefore we would really value your feedback and would like to hear about your experience.'

The Ambulance Service has just one question they'd like to ask patients, but would welcome more information/feedback if given.

Please give us your feedback-

We would like to ask you for your feedback on your experience of our service.

Date of Visit-

Thinking about our recent visit, overall, how was your experience of our service?

Very Good	Good	Neither Good nor Bad	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know
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Please spare a few minutes and use the online form to answer-

[Isle of Wight NHS Trust - Ambulance Service Feedback \(iow.nhs.uk\)](https://www.iow.nhs.uk/Trust-Ambulance-Service-Feedback)

...or ring Louise Walker on 534155 or 07920 087733 – Thank you.

Monthly Report from MP Bob Seely (28.01.22)

Roads Policing Unit

I have written a joint letter with Leader of the Isle of Wight Council Lora Peacey-Wilcox to Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney and Police & Crime Commissioner Donna Jones, asking them to reinstate a dedicated Roads Policing Unit (RPU) on the Island.

We feel that dangerous driving is increasingly becoming a problem and we know that many of you have been in touch to echo these concerns.

Our RPU is currently rolled in with the Island's armed response team, which spends much of its time supporting serious operations. While we are grateful that teams come over from the mainland to support us, it is not the same as our own unit on the Island.

I will keep you updated on progress with this.



Sewage

Earlier this month Southern Water pledged to me a commitment to significantly reduce sewage and storm overflows into the seas around the Island.

The Island will become one of a small number of national 'pathfinder' sites, which will act as an example of best practice by Southern Water.

This is great news for cleaning up our rivers and beaches and I am grateful to everyone who campaigned in this national campaign including Surfers Against Sewage, Islanders and mainland MPs who persuaded Government to act.

I want us always to be the first in the queue for investment and improvements - and that means getting us included in pilot projects and getting the Isle of Wight to lead the way.

The next steps will be to continue ongoing dialogue with Southern Water to ensure improvements are delivered as quickly as possible and to ensure that all of the Island is covered.

Housing Plans for Greenfield Sites

I have objected to plans to build 57 houses on the outskirts of Bembridge. This site should never be considered as a serious location for development. The result will be endless urban sprawl to the benefit of the developers and no one else. It would harm the character of the village, put pressure on infrastructure and existing services and do nothing to contribute to the housing needs of Islanders.

I have also objected to new plans to build 13 houses on greenfield land in Landscape Lane, Newport. There is no need for houses on greenfield land when regeneration is needed in the town centre. We need empty properties brought back into use.

We need more suitable - and genuinely affordable - accommodation to meet the needs of Islanders, preferably on brownfield sites, and this is where our efforts need to be focussed. We must not allow developers to distract us from putting Islanders first. *Bob Seely MP*

Citizens Advice IW

The charity has remained busy throughout December and particularly January. Over 10,000 letters were sent out by IWC to residents in receipt of Local Council Tax Support with details on how to access a shopping voucher. This hasn't gone smoothly, and residents have been phoning in their hundreds to see if it is a scam, not understanding how to process the voucher online or either grateful or unhappy at the amount (£25). Our Help Through Crisis team have been doing an amazing job supporting clients and discovering other issues families may have at this time. We can then help with utility bills using money from the Household Support fund. If you have families who need this help now please look at the Islehelp.me website.



Our two websites for the Island will become one soon as we are developing them into a proper one stop shop which will be a better guide for Islanders and Advice First Aiders.

Every local council was sent a letter from me in December detailing the number of residents in each ward we had supported in the previous 12 months and , we are a charity after all, asking for donations to support the work our volunteers do. I am most grateful to the four councils who have responded so far. If your council has not received the letter, please email me at pauls@iwcab.org.uk and I will send a copy electronically. Thank you for all your support and I look forward to seeing you throughout 2022.

Paul Savill (CEO)

IW Chamber of Commerce

Island Business Magazine

Island Business, published by the IW Chamber, is the Isle of Wight's only business-to-business magazine. Every month Island Business magazine spotlights the businesses and business people that are making the news in the Island's economy. With exclusive interviews and editorial, we focus on businesses large and small. Our news pages keep readers updated on the business stories that matter to them, including member stories, updates and offers. If you would like to start receiving a copy of Island Business Magazine in the post (FREE), please complete the form via <https://www.iwchamber.co.uk/membership/island-business/>



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In the February edition we go inside Teemill, one of the Island's largest employers, with manufacturing in Freshwater and East Cowes. We hear how the clothing business adapted and continued to grow, despite the pandemic and its impact on our lifestyle and leisure spending habits. We also hear from HTP Apprenticeship College's Rachael Randall about how employers are showing renewed confidence by investing in training to drive business growth. Elsewhere in this edition we continue to spotlight stories of success and optimism. With the surge in Omicron hopefully behind us and restrictions being lifted, hopefully 2022 will be a kinder year to us all. You can read more via <https://issuu.com/iwchamber>



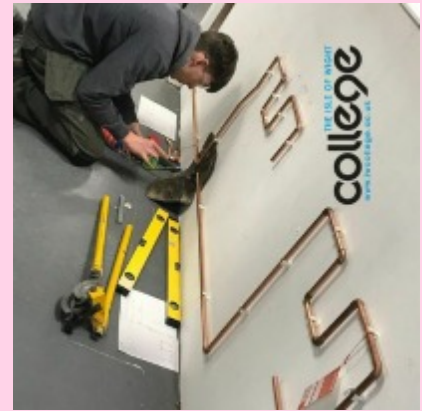
Best regards, *Emma Spinelli*

At the Isle of Wight College we pride ourselves on having a dynamic learning and working relationship with many local charities and businesses.



Recently our **Level 2 Painting & Decorating students** helped out at [The Wildheart Trust](#) (formerly the Isle of Wight Zoo).

The students painted the industrial kitchen - one room which members of the public never get to see! The students were there all week and received great feedback from the client.



Our **Phase 1 and 2 Plumbing Apprentices** recently took part in a 'Solder Wars' competition.

Each apprentice was given an identical diagram from which they had to produce a 3D copper piping installation. They started with 100 points each and points were deducted for dirty hand marks or burn marks to the wall, incorrect dimensions, excess waste of materials and tidiness.

Tutor, Craig Goldsmith, said: "This not only helps the apprentices to learn plumbing skills, it also helps them to appreciate the value of their work in customers' houses, who will be expecting high standards of work and tidiness."

Apprentices from various local companies took part, including: [Sovereign Housing Association](#), [Steve West Plumbing](#), [C Johnson Plumbing and Heating](#), [Focus Plumbing & Heating IOW](#), [Clarke's Mechanical](#), [LR Plumbing](#) and [Watertight Plumbing Solutions Limited - Isle of Wight](#).

If you are interested in working with the college please email: info@iwcollege.ac.uk.

Debbie Lavin, Principal, The Isle of Wight College

News from Wightlink

2022 is well underway and it seems a long time since Christmas but perhaps we can still wish you a Happy New Year?



We are making preparations for another busy summer but, in the meantime, we need to carry out essential maintenance on our fleet. St Clare is now in dry-dock at A&P in Falmouth for refit and we are spending more than £1million on a variety of tasks including extensive hull painting and the replacement of a propeller. A crew of 12 sailed the ship through the Channel and they are now working alongside contractors. Our hybrid flagship Victoria of Wight will be the next to be withdrawn from service for refit but she will not need quite so much attention this year.



Closer to home, we hope to begin work soon to transform the derelict Ryde Pier tramway into a pleasant walkway and cycleway, alongside the existing roadway. This is a major investment in the FastCat route and good news for visitors to Ryde.

Talking of the Pier, we have welcomed scientists and students from the University of Portsmouth who are carrying out a survey of the seagrass in the area. The UK has lost 39% of all seagrass beds so we need to protect the existing meadows in the Solent to enhance biodiversity and mitigate climate change.

Wightlink's summer timetable comes into effect at the end of March and you will see more sailings on all routes. While Covid restrictions have been lifted by the Government we still recommend face coverings should be worn in busy areas indoors but remind everyone that all our vessels have outside decks with plenty of healthy fresh air. Thorough cleaning regimes will continue and hand sanitisers are still available.

Karen Woods (Communications & PR)

Hovertravel Update

The start of 2022 has seen Hovertravel start the building works for the ground floor of their terminal at Ryde. This project, which is estimated to finish in late Spring, will provide upgraded facilities, including a Changing Places toilet and much increased space for passengers who have checked in.



Following the recent Government's announcement about the lifting of Plan B restrictions there is no longer a legal requirement to wear a face covering on our hovercraft and the Government suggestion is to wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces where you may come into contact with other people you do not normally meet.



As this is a personal choice, it is important to note that some customers may wish to continue to take a more cautious approach. We ask that we all be considerate of this and provide the opportunity and space for fellow passengers to reduce close contacts and wear a face covering, if they wish.

Our teams will continue to clean the terminals regularly and the craft handrails after each flight, alongside keeping the terminal windows open for ventilation and our hand sanitiser stations stocked for passengers' use. We remind our customers that if they need help in any way during their time with us, to take advantage of our Hover-Care initiative by contacting one of our team.

Stephen Forster (Creative Director)



Local good causes invited to apply for IW Foundation grants



Following the recent announcement of eleven local good causes to receive a share of more than £85,000, the Isle of Wight Foundation is now inviting groups to apply for funding for projects taking place in 2023.

Grants of between £3,000 and £16,000 are available for eligible projects, from a total funding pot of around £80,000.

To date, grants from the Isle of Wight Foundation – which is funded by the organisations behind Island Roads – have been used on a wide variety of projects which have a focus on connecting communities, reducing social isolation and supporting people to access employment and housing.

Almost £600,000 has been given to groups since the foundation was established, funding important projects including new minibuses, computers and tablets, community gardens, sports equipment, refurbishing buildings and providing training opportunities.

Rob Gillespie, chairman of the Isle of Wight Foundation, said: “We are very proud to have supported so many Island groups since the foundation’s launch and look forward to helping even more as we invite groups to apply for funding for projects taking place in 2023 which help to tackle social exclusion.”



A local group to benefit from the foundation’s support is lowland search and rescue organisation WightSAR, who were recently awarded £16,000 for a new command vehicle.

Dean Terrett, founder and chairman of the charity said: “We are very grateful to the Isle of Wight Foundation for their support which has allowed us to update vehicles and purchase vital equipment to assist us in our search and rescue work. Applying for the grant was a straightforward process and any questions we had were quickly answered by the foundation. We would encourage others to apply for these generous grants which are making a really positive difference to Island life.”

As well as grant funding, eligible projects are supported by Island Roads employees who are given the opportunity to be project sponsors and give their time to share their specialist skills with grant recipients to help them deliver their projects.

Funding applications can be made from Monday 7 February until midday on Monday 2 May 2022.

Full eligibility criteria and details of the application process can be found in the Isle of Wight Foundation section of the Island Roads website www.islandroads.com.

Samantha O'Rourke (Councillor Enquiry, Communication & Development Officer)

Picture shows I-r Dean Terrett with Matt Shaw (Island Roads senior district steward and award sponsor) with Samantha O'Rourke (IW Foundation Co-ordinator)