

Serving the Island's



Town, Parish & Community Councils

The IWALC Bulletin

July 2023

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

Your IWALC Matters!!

Message from the NEW Chair!

I would briefly like to introduce myself to you all as the new Chair of IWALC. As I have only been in this position for just over a week, there is very little to report. Some of you know me from my role as Vice Chair and I have enjoyed working alongside Diana.

Being a councillor on Freshwater Parish Council for over 10 years has given me a great deal of experience. I have taken a keen interest in planning and was involved with our Neighbourhood Plan.

I also have experience with being the Chair of the Parish for two years and then I spent the last two years on Finance. Over time I have been on quite a few committees including the Toilet Committee. I am pleased to announce that our new toilet block at Freshwater Bay will be opened over the next few days. Like everything else, it took a long time to get there.

Lots of things for me to do now on IWALC, and I am looking forward to working with Cllr Steve Cooper (Mayor of Ventnor Town Council) who is the new Vice Chair. What we need is for you, as IWALC members, to let us know what you would like us to include within our busy programme of events.

Look forward to meeting you all.

Cllr Anne Bamford



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

Please note that there will be no August Bulletin - Thank you.

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 publish any contributions that for any reason we consider inappropriate.

IWALC News...

Annual General Meeting

IWALC's Annual General Meeting was held at 7 pm on Thursday 29 June at the Riverside Centre. The meeting was open to all councillors. There were 28 participants, representing 21 member councils. The Chair welcomed everyone, especially representatives from Calbourne, Newtown and Porchfield Parish Council, which has recently joined IWALC.

The main business of the meeting was the election of officers for the 2023/24 financial year, including the chair, vice-chair, treasurer, members of the training and communication groups, and delegates to other organisations. Diana Conyers, the outgoing chair, had already notified members that she was not going to stand again. She was thanked for her time in office.

Anne Bamford, a Freshwater Parish Councillor and the former vice-chair, was elected unanimously to replace her as chair. Steve Cooper, Mayor of Ventnor, was elected as vice-chair and Sue Hardy was once again elected as treasurer.

The meeting also:

1. Received the accounts for the 2022/23 financial year.
2. Agreed to appoint Maxine Warr as the organisation's auditor.
3. Approved a number of minor amendments to the organisation's Constitution.
4. Received a report from the outgoing chair (reproduced below) on the organisation's activities during the past year.

Meeting of Mayors and Chairs

An informal meeting of mayors and chairs of member councils was held immediately prior to the AGM. The purpose of the meeting was to enable mayors and chairs to meet each other and share their experiences in an informal setting. Although only nine councils were represented, it was a productive meeting. It began with a short presentation by Ian Boyd, of Arc Consulting.

Ian emphasised the great potential of local councils and encouraged participants to be ambitious and innovative. He pointed out that, with a volunteer work force of 298 councillors and a combined budget of nearly £6 million, the Island's local councils are an enormous resource. He said the IW Council should recognise this and work with the local council sector. He acknowledged IWALC's important role in bringing councils together and representing their interests and encouraged smaller groups of councils to work together to strengthen their capacity to provide local services. He also talked about the online data resources available to local councils.

Ian's presentation stimulated a lively discussion, in which participants shared their views, experiences and concerns, including ways in which IWALC can promote its activities and maintain its support.

Meeting with Isle of Wight Cabinet

There was an online meeting with members of the Cabinet on Thursday 8 June. The meeting was chaired by the Leader, Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox. About four other Cabinet members and the Council Chair were present and there were at least ten IWALC participants.

Only one question had been submitted in advance. Bembridge Parish Council wanted help in accessing digital information held by IWC to use in their own digital mapping system. The Leader agreed to take this up with the Chief Executive.

The Leader then informed us that it is still not clear how the changes to the IWC Constitution that we have requested will be made, but she is working on it.

The following questions were then discussed:

Provision of free school meals to all children: Cllr Mick Lyons asked for Cabinet's views on this. Cllr Debbie Andre said they were in favour and that she had written to the MP, asking him to support the case.

Yarmouth School Task Force: Cllr Steve Cowley said that the Task Force would like to talk directly to those who will be deciding its future. The Leader said it was not clear at present who will be making the decision but she would follow it up.

Disposal of land at Berry Hill for housing: Cllr Spink questioned whether this decision should have been made under delegated powers. The Leader said that full information had been available before the decision and that the land would be used for social housing, for which there is a desperate need.

This led to a wider discussion about the provision of social housing. The Leader said they had encountered many bureaucratic problems but she believed that some progress was now being made. Cllr Ian Stephens invited any councillor to contact him directly if they want more information.

Meeting with Bob Seely MP

There was a meeting with MP Bob Seely at 5 pm on Tuesday 27 June. There were 13 participants. The main issues discussed were:

Ryde Interchange: Progress with the project, including the opening of the new walkway along the pier, was noted and some problems discussed.

Armed Forces Day: The success of the event in Ryde was noted. Bob apologised for not being able to be there but said he had attended an event in Ventnor the previous evening.

Announcements about school closures: Bob said he will be writing to the Leader about the issue. He believes that the Council should listen to the views of head teachers about the difficulty of providing high quality education in small schools.

Application for housing in Whitwell: Cllr Sherlie Burrige emphasised the need to make a decision about the proposed housing development in Whitwell, which has dragged on for years.

Progress with Levelling Up Bill: Bob reported that the Bill is currently in the House of Lords but will hopefully be passed before the summer recess.

Gravel extraction in Wootton: Wootton Bridge Parish Council's clerk asked for Bob's views about the proposed gravel extraction project in Wootton. He said his views were mixed; it was a case of the impact on traffic versus that on jobs.

Coastal path through Osborne House: Bob said he was disappointed that Osborne House would not allow access but, since that now seems inevitable, no more money should be wasted on exploring alternatives to the existing route.

Red Funnell plans in East Cowes: Bob was unable to comment on the impact of the latest plans on traffic flow but spoke optimistically of development as a whole in East Cowes.

Training

The first part of a two-part Councillor Skills Update course was held on Thursday 22 June at the Riverside Centre. It was delivered by Trish Redpath, a member of Nettlestone and Seaview Parish Council and an experienced local government practitioner and trainer. She was assisted by the Council's Clerk, Brian Jennings.



There were 27 participants - 24 councillors and three clerks. The councillors ranged in experience from some who have been in post for years to others elected or co-opted very recently. Thirteen councils were represented. First prize went to Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council, since all five of its councillors and its clerk were there! We were also pleased to welcome three members of Calbourne, Newtown and Porchfield Parish Council, IWALC's most recent member.

Feedback from the session was positive. They particularly liked the fact that there were plenty of opportunities for them to ask questions and share their own experiences.

The second session was held on Thursday 6 July. Again, a very positive session with lots of information and discussion. The presentation was done by both Trish and her clerk, Brian Jennings, to give a balanced view from both positions.

Subjects covered this time were:

Committees and Working Groups: Procedures for standing committees and the need for following the statutory rules. Subcommittees and working groups organisation, and how they are formed. There was an emphasis on the Clerk being a 'proper officer' and usually the RFO.

Smaller Parish Councils: Would it be more financially viable if small councils cut administrative costs by sharing a clerk? The importance of collaboration.

Finance: Public works loans and other forms of borrowing, 'power of competence.'

Our next planned Training will be a course on Ethical Leadership, to be delivered by Cllr Steve Cooper, Mayor of Ventnor Town Council, probably in early September. Further details will be provided in due course.

The newly appointed Training Group will be meeting in the near future to prepare a training programme for the coming year. If you have any views about training needs, please let us know. Training is one of IWALC's main functions and, unlike many other parts of the country, it is free for IWALC members. We would encourage all members to take advantage of this, both by identifying training needs and by attending courses. Even the most experienced councillor can benefit from revising and expanding their skills.

Next Meeting

Please note that the proposed Round Table meeting with the IWC (previously scheduled for July 21st) to discuss the division of responsibility for assets and services between the IWC and local Town, Parish and Community Councils, has now been postponed until a yet-to-be-confirmed date, in August.

It has therefore been decided to postpone IWALC's scheduled Topic Meeting (July 27th) until after the Round Table meeting has taken place. The Topic Meeting will now take place at the end of August (date to be confirmed) to be able to receive feedback following the Round Table meeting.

Chair's Report August 2022 – June 2023

Presented at the AGM (Thursday June 29 2023)

This is my third annual report as Chair. Since, in accordance with changes to the Constitution made last year, we are holding the AGM in June instead of July, the report actually only covers eleven months.

Overview

Thanks to the cost of living crisis, this has not been the easiest of years for our members. The crisis has affected local councils in various ways. The most obvious one is that councils have, once again, found themselves in the position of having to provide material support to their residents. I am proud to report that, as in the Covid pandemic, our members have risen to the challenge and, often working in conjunction with local community-based organisations, have provided a variety of support, including the establishment of 'warm spaces', organisation of school holiday activities, and provision of supermarket vouchers.

However, there have also been less obvious impacts. Because of cuts to the IW Council's budget, local councils have been under increasing pressure to take on additional responsibilities from the IW Council. This in turn has forced them to make difficult decisions when setting their budgets for the 2023/24 financial year. How can they raise the additional money needed to fund the ever-increasing demand for services without increasing the financial burden on residents who are already struggling to meet basic needs?

On a more cheerful note, however, the recent Coronation celebrations, highlighted in the June issue of the IWALC Bulletin, demonstrate that, despite the financial problems, our local communities have not forgotten how to celebrate. In fact, it has been a year of commemoration and celebration, with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee last June, Her Majesty's funeral in September and the King's Coronation this June.

IWALC membership

There have been some changes in IWALC membership during the year. We have benefited greatly from the participation of Bembridge Parish Council and Ventnor Town Council, both of whom joined at the beginning of the year, and we are now delighted to welcome another new member: Calbourne, Newtown and Porchfield Parish Council. However, two parish councils, Lake and Wootton Bridge, have unfortunately decided not to renew their membership this year.

Training

We have unfortunately lost our main trainer, Sue Chilton, who resigned for personal reasons during the year. Sue has provided a wide range of basic courses for our members for many years and the feedback from participants has always been excellent. On the positive side, however, her resignation has prompted us to look elsewhere and we have discovered that there is a wealth of knowledge and experience among local councillors and staff, and also in the wider community.

This year we have run courses in Basic Councillor Skills (Sue Chilton's last contribution), Chairmanship, First Aid and Accessing the Media. We always welcome council staff on our training sessions and this year, because of the unusually large number of new clerks on the Island, we also facilitated some additional online training for clerks. This was provided by former clerk and county officer, Maxine Warr. Two more courses are in the pipeline: a two-part Councillor Skills Update and a session on Ethical Leadership.

Topic meetings and special events

We continue to hold meetings on specific topics of relevance to our members. This year we held sessions on road safety, measures to address the cost of living crisis, proposed changes to the planning enforcement process, and the housing crisis.

In addition to the regular topic meetings, we have held two special events. In September we organised an Open Day in Sandown, at which members showcased their activities, while in April we held an in-house workshop, at which participants compared their experiences of taking over or co-funding assets and services previously run by the IW Council. Both events demonstrated the value of sharing experiences and learning from each other. The workshop came up with a number of recommendations for improving the division of responsibility between local councils and the IW Council. These will provide the basis for a round table

Communications

We have continued to have monthly online meetings with members of the IW Council's Cabinet and with the Island MP, Bob Seely. These meetings provide an opportunity for members to keep in touch with Island-wide activities and raise concerns about issues affecting their communities. Meanwhile, our popular Bulletin continues to be a valuable way of publicising our activities and liaising with other organisations and we are also in the process of refurbishing our website.

In conclusion

This will be my last year as Chair. I have decided not to re-stand, partly because of other commitments but mainly because I believe that the chair's role should rotate regularly. I have held the post for three years and it is now time to hand over the reins. We have built up a good team and I am confident that whoever replaces me will do an excellent job. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and encouragement during my time in office, including fellow councillors, council staff, representatives of other organisations with whom we have worked closely, and our administrative team. I would especially like to thank this year's vice-chair Anne, our longstanding Treasurer Sue, other members of the Executive and, in particular, our hard-working staff, Heather and Jill.

Diana Conyers

June 2023

Monthly Meetings for IWALC with IWC Cabinet Members

These take place on the second Thursday of the month, remotely, via Teams between noon and 1pm. They are well worth finding an hour of your day for. All IWALC Councillors and staff are invited to take part in these informal but informative meetings.

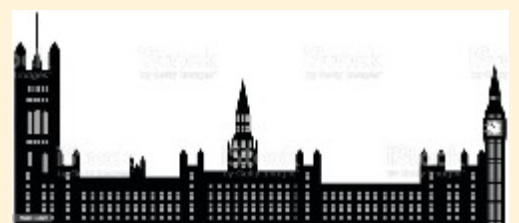


Please contact your Clerk for the Teams log-in details.

Meetings with MP Bob Seely

All Councillors and staff of IWALC Member Councils are invited to take part in these online meetings.

The Zoom log-in details will be circulated to Clerks in advance.



Please remember to check IWALC's Facebook page regularly for more NALC information and news.

If your Council has a Facebook page, please let Jill know and we can re-post your news etc to IWALC's Facebook page.



A Report on the Round 3 Community & Ownership Fund Webinar

...by Val Taylor (Clerk to Calbourne, Newtown and Porchfield Parish Council)

I joined the joint on-line Conference that was put on by the SLCC and NALC on the Round 3 Community and Ownership fund that is now open to Town and Parish Councils. It was very worth tuning in to it and it certainly explained how Town and Parish Councils could apply for a grant from the Round 3 Fund. During the webinar there was plenty of time to ask questions. The person from the Department gave very good examples of a variety of various projects that are taking place at the moment.

The Conference was led by a member of the Department for Levelling Up and a representative of My Community - both at the end of the presentations on the Fund were very helpful in answering questions.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities have a £150 million Community Ownership Fund available for grants to help communities across the UK take ownership of local facilities, community assets and amenities such as at-risk local pubs, theatres, post offices, sports grounds, parks, and corner shops and other types of projects as well.

The Department is working in Partnership with My Community, the go-to space for community groups, charities, not-for-profits, and individuals who wanted to make their communities a better place to live, work and play.

Locality (part of My Community) work with organisations from the voluntary and community sector. They have vast knowledge and skills to guide you through the bidding process giving advice and support. They will have in-depth support packages available to save groups' time. They will help develop a business case.

They will also help you with testing out various ideas, designs, and features and other aspects of your project

The Fund is part of the government's strategy to build-back-better from the pandemic and to foster a sense of community, and will make grants (on a matched-funding basis) available.

Expressions of interest will be accepted from all Communities across the UK. In most circumstances, bids should be made from community and voluntary organisations with formal governance in place. Town and Parish Councils more than qualify for this.

You can apply for up to £250,000 match-funded capital funding, revenue funding of up to £50,000, or 20% of total capital funding applied for is also available. Full applications will need to be submitted within the allocated dates. Next round opens after July

Applicants need to submit an Expression of Interest Form and if they think your project is eligible for funding you will be informed. All applications are assessed against a framework. You will need to have a Business Plan and also a Management Case. You will need to cover what risks does it face and what evidence you have in the Community to support it. What Partnership have you built with local organisations and how does your plan fit in with local plans and of what benefit to the Community. It will also need to show how does your project contribute to environmental sustainability.

Joining this on-line Conference was time well spent. V.T.

With thanks to Val for this excellent and very informative report.

News from NALC

Monthly Report from Cllr Bob Blezzard

HIOWLGA (Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association)

I attended the HIOWLGA Annual General Meeting held at Fareham on 23rd June. It was a hybrid meeting. The leader of the Isle of Wight Council, Lora Peacey-Wilcox and the Chief Executive, Wendy Perera joined online. Disappointingly, there was no representation from our colleagues at the Hampshire Association of Local Councils and this has been the case for some time now.

1. WELCOME

We were welcomed to the meeting by the leader of Fareham Borough Council, Councillor Sean Woodward, the current chair of HIOWLGA.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Councillor Woodward was re-elected Chair for the coming year. Councillor Phil North from Test Valley Borough Council was elected Vice-Chair.

3. BUDGET REPORT AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

It was reported that HIOWLGA's bank balance at the year-end stood at £15,603.60. As it had previously been agreed to take a subscription holiday until reserves fall below £10K there will be no subscriptions levied for 2023-24. Sarah King, Chief Financial Officer from Eastleigh will continue as Treasurer and Alan Bethune, Chief Financial Officer from New Forest DC will continue as Auditor for the coming year.

4. ANNUAL REPORT

The Association's Annual Report which summarised the work undertaken in 2022-23 was approved. The following matters considered in 2022-23 were summarised:

- a) Devolution;
- b) Waste;
- c) Sustainability and Climate Change;
- d) Housing;
- e) Health;
- f) Emergency Planning/Resilience;

5. DEVOLUTION UPDATE

The issue of a devolution deal has raised its head again. A letter has been sent from Government to Hampshire, Portsmouth Southampton and the Isle of Wight Council outlining the conditions for a combined devolved authority to be set up. Hampshire CC. Hampshire CC is keen to take this forward and Rob Humby, the council leader has emailed the three unitaries (Portsmouth, Southampton and IWC) seeking support. It is understood that BCP (Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council) has fallen out of the equation. If this is to be taken forward it will require the support of the three unitary councils. The leader of Portsmouth City Council doesn't feel able to support it but will take soundings and discuss with Southampton and the Island. Lora Peacey-Wilcox advised that she was not very impressed that the IW had been named by Hampshire and also advised she would be talking to the other unitaries. I requested that IWALC should be given a copy of the letter from DLUCH and was told by the chair "very probably."

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following were agreed as future agenda items:

- (a) Devolution;
- (b) Waste;
- (c) Travellers – There are problems in the Test Valley with appeals against injunctions;
- (d) Police – There are concerns that the Police are not using their powers under the Police, Crime and Sentencing Act. Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable are to be invited to a future meeting;

In addition to the above I requested that an update from TfSE (Transport for the South-East) and also that the Island ferry operators be invited to come to a future meeting given concerns over pricing and timetables.

7. FUTURE MEETINGS

Meetings have been scheduled for 15th September and 24th November 2023, venues to be confirmed. It had previously been agreed to hold 50% virtual and face to face meetings per year but over the past year only one face to face meeting has been held. It was agreed to look at holding more face to face meetings with a hybrid option.

NEWS FROM NALC

NALC's Management Board was scheduled to meet Tuesday 4th July, but the meeting has been cancelled due to a "diary clash." The National Assembly will meet in person at NALC's new headquarters, The Bloomsbury Building, 10 Bloomsbury Way, Holborn on Tuesday 11th July. There will be a number of new representatives at this meeting following some high profile casualties at the council elections on the mainland in May. The meeting will include a strategic update from the Chief Executive following the sale of 109 Great Russell Street. I am assuming that this will include the use of the £2.75m raised from the sale and the longer term accommodation arrangements for the organisation. Having visited the offices NALC is currently leasing I am of the view that whilst the arrangements are satisfactory in the short term the available space is too elongated and there are too many spaces shared with other organisations. I will make my views known on the 11th. One other important item to be discussed at the meeting is "Towards Net Zero." Assembly members are being asked to come prepared to share experiences on what their county associations/councils are doing to address the Climate Emergency. Any information from councils ahead of the meeting on the 11th will be most welcome.

IWALC MOTION ON THRESHOLDS FOR CALLING BY-ELECTIONS AND PARISH POLLS

I attended a meeting of NALC's Policy Committee remotely on 20th June when IWALC's motion seeking to increase the threshold for holding by-elections and parish polls was considered. The Policy Committee decided to "de-couple" the two issues, reaffirming the existing policy position on reform to parish polls and agreed to the principle of increasing the by-election threshold and to undertake further work to determine an appropriate and proportionate level. The Committee also agreed to lobby for a change in legislation to enable a local council to fill any remaining vacancies by co-option, which might arise from the holding of a by-election, (ie where there are fewer candidates at a by-election than the number of seats to be filled).

Bob BLEZZARD June 2023

Fortnightly Meetings with County Officers

At the June 14th meeting between NALC and county officers, the new chair of the **Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments** (SAAA), David Bowles, attended along with general manager Howard Midworth. It was an opportunity to introduce themselves to county officers and discuss some of the current developments in the local audit. We also gave an update on the development of our new website and worked on our current big theme topic of planning, which includes our recent call for more **planning case study submissions** which we will be publishing on a new dedicated page on the NALC website.

At the June 28th meeting between NALC and county officers, we discussed the forthcoming **NALC committee** elections and their timetable. We also had small group discussions about our **National Assembly**, how the councillors work with and get views from their county associations, and how this can be improved. There was also a discussion on the **Civility and Respect Pledge**, including how more councils can be encouraged to sign up and the experience of areas that have trained apprentice clerks.

News from Member Councils

Arreton Parish Council
Bembridge Parish Council
Brading Town Council
Brighstone Parish Council
Calbourne, Newtown & Porchfield
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

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
Ventnor Town Council
Wroxall Parish Council
Yarmouth Town Council

Fishbourne Parish Council

Nine intrepid Fishbourne residents turned out on Saturday 24 June to tidy up Fishbourne. They braved the searing heat to pick up litter and cut back brambles.



Half a dozen bags of rubbish were collected and a garden waste bin filled with brambles. The nine were rewarded for their efforts with a very welcome sandwich, drink and bun at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club (see photo). We will do it all again in a few months' time. Interestingly the item of rubbish most collected was discarded Costa coffee cups.

Our other main news is the acquisition of a very smart new notice board (see photo), to replace one that was in a poor state of repair! Thanks to our clerk, Katie, for organising this.

We had a record number of participants at our July coffee morning. We were joined by Danni and Debbie, community development workers with the Living Well and Early Help service. They explained what they do and what support the service can offer.

Cllr Sarah Talbot and Cllr Diana Conyers



Ryde Town Council

Ryde Celebrates a Memorable Armed Forces Day!

Ryde had the honour of hosting a truly poignant day celebrating our incredible Armed Forces Community. The event was an overwhelming success, with thousands of people joining us to pay tribute and show their support. It was heart-warming to witness a diverse mix of faces, both young and old, coming together to enjoy this special occasion. We are grateful for the unwavering support and enthusiasm shown by our community.

The day was filled with an array of spectacular activities and performances that left everyone in awe. Highlights included an impressive Parade, a breathtaking Royal Navy Parachute Display, thrilling Spitfire Aerobatic stunts, mind-blowing BMX display, and performances from the talented Vectis Corps of Drums, Company B, Jack Nicholson, and the Boogie Woogie Sisters.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the participants, performers and volunteers, who dedicated their time and efforts to make this event a resounding success.'



Ryde has even more exciting events coming our way in July!

Saturday 8 Mardi Gras

Friday 14 – 16 Pride

Saturday 22 – 23 South Island Sevens

Saturday 29 – 30 Wight Wave Beach Sports

Hannah East (Marketing & Events Officer)

Shalfleet Parish Council

A busy June meeting was held at Shalfleet CE Primary School.



Shalfleet Parish Council

Bouldnor Field: the Clerk was pleased to report that at long last a 'hoggin' pathway (which was a planning condition for the Bouldnor Mead site,) had been installed across the top of the field, parallel with the hedge. It looks good and blends in well with the natural landscape – see *photo to the right*.

Land adjacent Warlands Lane, Off Burt Close, Shalfleet (Ref: 22/00989/FUL): the revised planning application for the redevelopment of the site to provide 70 residential dwellings including 27 affordable units, was discussed. The Parish Council noted the many objections that had been sent in to them and agreed to object, as they did the previous application for this site. Their comment is on the Isle of Wight Council Planning portal- <https://www.iow.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-applications/application-search-view-and-comment>

West Wight Prostate Cancer Testing Day: the Parish Council agreed to give £200 towards the cost of facilitating a testing day to be held at Totland Bay Bowling Club on 19th August 2023. Last year 273 men were tested free of charge.

Annual Accounts and Governance Statement: these were agreed and signed by the Chairman and Clerk, the internal audit was also noted – all good.

Shalfleet CE School Leavers: the Councillors agreed to again purchase Oxford Dictionary and Thesaurus for this year's 27 school leavers. **Donations** of £50 were also agreed to be given to Victim Support and another local resident attending the Scouts Jamboree in South Korea in August.

Community Led Housing (CLH):

Insurance – the Parish Council insurers, Zurich, have confirmed that their Public Liability cover would extend to cover the Working Party to make plans on the site.

Architect – submissions from three Architects were considered at a meeting of the Working Party held on 7th June 2023 and the CLH Officer agreed to ask for further information from one, before a final decision is made at the next meeting on 21st June 2023.

Shalfleet Housing Needs Survey – this was also discussed at the Working Party meeting and will be finalised on 21st June 2023, together with publicity and timing.

Terms of Reference – the Parish Council agreed these at the June Parish Council meeting and will be added to the Parish Council website in due course.

Anti-social behaviour in the Parish: Parish Councillors are sadly aware of a recent increase and have contacted the Police to set up a meeting to discuss both this and Neighbourhood Watch schemes, members of the public will be welcome to attend and details of this will be publicised in due course.

Shalfleet Conservation Area Appraisal: this was agreed to be adopted by the Parish Council and will be forwarded to the Isle of Wight Council for their review and approval.

Next meetings: to be held at Shalfleet CE Primary School at 7.15 pm:
Wednesdays: 12th July, 13th September and 12th October 2023

Sally Woods (Clerk)



Yarmouth Town Council

Yarmouth School Site :July update



The WP is continuing to work towards setting up a Community Land Trust for the School site so that the whole community of Yarmouth can be involved in its future uses.

The success of the project will require the community's input and support.

We are dealing with multiple departments of the IWC: Legal, Property Services, Planning, Regeneration and Education, and at national level, the Land Registry, DfE, Department for Levelling Up and Community Action. All the people we have contacted have been supportive of the project. However, we are still awaiting clarification of 'Community Value' first mentioned at the Dec 2022 meeting.

We have an overall plan for the site but unfortunately our planner has had Covid so we have not been able to finalise details yet.

When we have the plan, we will ask for an Extraordinary meeting of the Council to explain the proposals to residents.

Both Yarmouth Town Trust and Yarmouth Council questioned the Land Registry about Catherine Leigh's Covenant and received a response saying that the LR consider the site to be held in Trust by the Diocese for the original grantors, one of which was the Borough of Yarmouth, the forerunner of YTC, Yarmouth Town Trust and Yarmouth Harbour Commission.

The Land Registry says the School site is held in trust by the Diocese of Portsmouth so it is unclear if the IWC is free to sell the site. The Land Registry does not give legal advice. To clarify the findings of the LR, the Working Party has instructed Counsel to look into this particular aspect of the law.

I have consulted Yarmouth Town Councillors who have supported this action.

We have support in principle from both Yarmouth Town Trust and the Delphie Lakeman Trust.

Following discussions with the IWC, they have agreed that we can extend the Asset of Community Value moratorium until 1st October as our IW Councillor failed to pass on the June 2022 briefing he was given.

Cllr Steve Cowley

Cowes Town Council

A further spell of dry and sunny weather has meant extra work for our watering contractors to try to keep the town's floral displays flourishing. A brief but welcome rainfall refilled our water butts.

We are in discussions with the local police team to raise our concerns regarding an increasing amount of vandalism and antisocial behaviour in the town. It is so important for any criminal behaviour to be reported to the Police as soon as possible; most criminal activity is unreported and vital information/evidence is not available to the Police.



Cowes Fringe was a good start to a new event for Cowes and the Island and was a sell out with acts from all over the country appearing; photo below taken on the final night of the Cowes Fringe - and what an end with Claire Sweeney !



During the Fringe weekend of art, culture and entertainment, a new mural was painted in Cross Street car park by Jim Vision - a visionary artist and painter of large-scale murals.



The Living Well & Early Help Service will be opening at the Isle of Wight Community Club in Park Road on 28th June. This is a new service for everyone in the Cowes and the surrounding areas and will be held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, from 12 – 2pm.



A new Dementia Hub will be opening at Parklands, Cowes – From the IW Council’s Cabinet meeting on 11 May 2023: “There were currently 2655 Islanders over 65 with dementia and estimated to rise to 3920 by the year 2030. It was proposed that Parklands in Cowes would be used by the Alzheimer Café and work was ongoing with other organisations to develop the service. Frontline debt management would also be incorporated into the facility, 4 along with memory groups, a gym and wellbeing area and would provide short term day respite care. Room-hire would generate income. The current cost of residential care was £1200-£2000 per week. Funding would be used for people to live independently in their own home, resulting in a saving to the council.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approves a 25-year lease of the Parklands Centre to be awarded to the Alzheimer Café IW for the purpose of developing an IW Dementia Hub. Where terms of the lease are to be agreed, delegated authority shall be given to the D Housing Needs.”

Kate Scragg (Deputy Town Clerk)

Photos courtesy of Cllr Michael Paler.



Gurnard Parish Council



The environment of the village is a focus at the moment and it is a real pleasure to note that Gurnard Press has been reopened, both the Portland and Woodvale pubs are looking great and the shelves on the village shop seem to be better stocked. A number of village residents have been working hard and there is a welcome show of colour along Worsley Road. Lots of seaweed along the beach front but that is something affecting a lots of beaches across the south.

No-mow May

Opinions reaching the council about No-mow May have been mixed, councillors' reaction is equally diverse. The consensus seems to be, however that No-mow May needs thought and planning if the impact is to be a positive one. It cannot be a poorly implemented, ad hoc measure which is a sort of money saving scheme but should be part of a proper plan for caring for our precious green spaces.

Planning

GPC has been considering ways to highlight the need for planning applications to show more consideration of environmental concerns. Solar panels and rain water harvesting as well as efficient insulation need to be considered at the planning stage, as do permeable driveways. Homes need to be affordable to run as well as to buy or rent.

Southern Water's Pathfinder Project

A few (generally very welcome) sharp showers have been testing the efficacy of the slow-the-flow water butts and SuDs planters which have been installed in Gurnard. The whole point of the Pathfinder Project is to reduce run-off (rain and storm water running off hard surfaces such as roofs) into the foul sewer. Too much run-off into the foul sewer over-whelms the system and triggers use of Combined Sewer Overflows – and there are two of these on Gurnard Beach. Nobody wants to swim in water which may be contaminated by sewage or sit on a beach where there are smells coming up from man-hole covers. Water quality has been a focus for the council's Beach Safety Working Group and the council has supported Southern Water with the slow release water butts roll-out as this is a positive way in which the company is working to tackle a Gurnard priority. The scheme's name clearly indicates that this is a learning situation for everyone. As yet only about 40% of the butts expected to be installed have been fitted but first indications are that there is measurable improvement.

Cllr Penny Acton

Other News...

News from IW Council

Cost of Living support – please share with your residents

- Use our cost of living web pages to see what's available near you. You can also call us on 01983 823134.
- Contact Citizens Advice Isle of Wight on 0800 144 88 48 or enquiries@iwcab.org.uk. Their advice is free, confidential and independent. They can help with debt, benefits, legal advice and much more.
- Contact The Footprint Trust for free advice or call them 01983 822282.
- Use the [connect4communities](https://connect4communities.org.uk) website to see what other support is available in your area.
- The government Help for Households website has information about help with childcare costs, benefits and many other schemes.

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme

Free places are available for children who get benefits-related free school meals. Some places are also available for other vulnerable families. The scheme offers different activities and a free nutritious meal every day.

Go to our new Family Information Hub for more information and how to book

Community pantries

- Community pantries are free.
- Anyone can use them to top up their weekly shop
- Join a pantry and for £5 a week, receive over £15 worth of food.
- You don't need a referral, contact your nearest pantry directly to join.

East Cowes Community Pantry

Community Spirited, Vectis Road, East Cowes, PO32 6HN 01983 296592

Opening hours: Tuesday, 1:30pm to 3:30pm. Wednesday and Thursday, 10:30am to 12:30pm

Ventnor Community Pantry

Baby Box, Victoria Street, Ventnor, PO38 1EJ 07961 959003

Opening hours: Tuesday 3pm to 6pm. Saturday 11am to 2pm

Ryde Community Pantry

Oakfield CE Primary School, Appley Road, Ryde, PO33 1NE 01983 563732

Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 3.00pm to 4.30pm

Newport Community Pantry

The Pyle Street Pantry, 98 Pyle Street, Newport, PO30 1UH. pylestpantry@gmail.com

Opening hours: Wednesday 11am to 1pm. Friday 5pm to 7pm

Find out more about getting hold of affordable food on our website

Please share this Facebook post and Tweet.

Shared Lives

Shared Lives provides care for adults who want to live independently but within a support network of family and community. It can be alternative to other supported living or residential care. Carers receive a fee and benefit from the perks of being self-employed.

Shared Lives supports adults with learning disabilities, mental health and other needs that make it harder for them to live on their own. The scheme matches an adult with care and support needs with carers registered with Shared Lives.

Find out more about Shared Lives on our website

Community grant funding via Household Support Fund

A total of £500,000 is available until 31 March 2024 for local projects and initiatives that support residents who are in food and energy poverty. The window for the first round of applications is open. It closes on 7 July. There will be two more application windows in autumn and in spring 2024.

The funding is available to community and voluntary organisations and town, parish and community councils. We are looking for innovative and sustainable new ideas and proposals from all corners of the Island.

Find out more and apply via the [connect4communities](https://connect4communities.org) website.

Share this Facebook post

£150 Disability Cost of Living Payment

The payment window for £150 Disability Cost of Living Payment is open.

If you are being paid a disability benefit you will automatically receive your £150 Disability Cost of Living Payment between 20 June and 4 July.

If you were waiting for confirmation of your eligibility or entitlement to disability benefits on 1 April, you will receive it later. This will affect a small number of people.

There will also be further payments of £300 for pensioners due later this year.

Get more information on the government website

Alcohol Awareness Week 3 to 9 July

The harm caused by alcohol affects millions of people every year, including financial worries, health concerns, relationship breakdown and family difficulties.

The total social cost of alcohol to society is estimated to be at least £21 billion each year.

The rising cost of living is causing some people to drink more than they'd like to cope with their financial worries.

We can all take steps to make a change. And with improved support and prevention, we can save money and save lives.

Get more information on alcoholchange.org.uk.

Take the Rethink Your Drink test

Abi Fox (Public Health and Community communications lead)

A pilot scheme geared at helping Islanders who suffer non-injury falls in their own home has been short-listed as a finalist in this year's Health Service Journal (HSJ) Patient Safety Awards.

Falls make up a significant number of 999 calls and many do not initially result in significant injury to people. However, delays to such calls, as ambulance crews are sent to higher priority incidents, can lead to more harmful impacts as people, who are often elderly, remain on the floor. With evidence showing that for every hour spent on the floor, the probability of hospital admittance increases by ten per cent, Island officials recognised they needed to take a different approach to respond to the needs of Island residents.

Working in partnership, the Isle of Wight Council's Wightcare service and the Isle of Wight NHS Trust Ambulance Service developed The Wightcare Community Falls Response which was launched in March 2023.

The service is sent to 999 or 111 calls where a person who has had a fall has been clinically assessed by the NHS Trust as not requiring an emergency ambulance response.

The new services means that locally people who suffer a non-injury fall receive swifter care — usually within one hour — and do not need to wait for an emergency ambulance.

To date, 45 people have benefited from the scheme.

A delegation of councillors from the town of Coburg in Germany have a tour of Newport to celebrate 40 years of friendship between Coburg and the Isle of Wight.

The tour began with a visit to Newport's Museum of Island History, where visitors could explore a special exhibition on the history of Coburg as well as scenes of rural life on the Isle of Wight. They were then taken on a historic walking tour of Newport by the Island Heritage Service, where they learnt about its successes as a market town. Councillors from both sides also enjoyed some sporting action as they participated in challenges set up by local athletes in the run up to the Island Games, taking place in Guernsey in three weeks' time.

The walking tour ended with a much anticipated visit to Constable's 'The Cornfields', on show at the new premises of the Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council on the high street.



Next, the visitors were taken to Branstone Farm, where they were given a tour of the business park, residential area, and the biosphere gardens, highlighting the island's work on its UNESCO biosphere status. The visit ended with a tour of Goddards Brewery, showcasing the best of local produce and industry.

During the visit, the Chairman of the council was presented with a 3D printed statuette of Prince Albert as a token of appreciation and friendship from the Coburg delegation. Prince Albert, born in Coburg in 1819, was a regular visitor and thereafter resident at the Island's Osborne House alongside his wife Queen Victoria and their children.

Peter Jackson, from IOW German Twinning Association said: "IWGTA members are looking forward to a return trip in October when we shall celebrate the anniversary of our long-standing friendship in Coburg with councillors and members of the Coburg Town Twinning Association, who visited the Island earlier in May."

The Isle of Wight Council is inviting comments on a draft Housing Affordability Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), with a view to formally adopting it to use in planning decision making.

The draft Housing Affordability SPD updates what information needs to be considered in planning applications that are required to provide affordable housing. Since the adoption of the Island Plan Core Strategy in 2012, which includes the current affordable housing policy DM4, national planning policy guidance on affordable housing has been revised. Locally, updated evidence has been collected that reflects the significant changes in the housing market on the Island in recent years.

While a new affordable housing policy can only be agreed through the Draft Island Planning Strategy (draft IPS) — which is currently paused awaiting changes to national policy — it is considered that the Housing Affordability SPD will update and clarify how policy DM4 is used when making decisions on planning applications until such time as the draft IPS is adopted.

The purpose of the SPD is to provide clear guidance on the types of affordable housing most needed on the Island, as well as the target mix — with a clear focus on social and affordable rented properties. The draft SPD also details the data sources to be used when identifying what local affordable housing requirements are in a particular part of the Island, with an emphasis on using up-to-date local housing needs surveys where they have been carried out.

The document also provides an outline of the how the affordable housing process works from planning permission through to the occupation of homes. The draft Housing Affordability SPD is available to view and download on our website, along with further information relating to the consultation.

A questionnaire can be filled in online, or alternatively comments can be submitted by email to policy.consultation@iow.gov.uk or by post to Planning Services, Seaclose Office, Fairlee Road, Newport, PO30 2QS. Copies of the documents and large print questionnaires are also available to view at County Hall and Seaclose office (from Monday 19 June). The closing date for comments is Friday 28 July 2023.

It's a crime not to care about your waste.

The Isle of Wight Council is reminding residents that it is their responsibility to dispose of waste correctly, even if they have paid someone else to take away the material. The warning comes after new figures reveal the council dealt with 920 fly-tipping incidents in 2022/23, compared to 855 during the previous year. Of this, 324 were household black waste bags left on the highway, compared to 259 in the same period over 2021/22.

Many people are not aware that as per government legislation, the council can issue fixed penalties when householders do not follow waste collection rules. More information is available here:
www.gov.uk/guidance/household-waste-bins-when-and-how-councils-may-issue-fixed-penalties

Bins or sacks must be brought back onto your property by 10pm on the day of collection. Any waste left outside of these times could be deemed as fly-tip.

If residents have larger waste loads to dispose of, they can hire a licensed waste carrier to take the rubbish away, or they can use the council's own bulky waste collection service. Passing the disposal job onto another individual or firm is no excuse and it is the responsibility of the householder to ensure they have taken steps to ensure the waste disposal is legal.

If using a waste company to remove waste from your property, check they are registered waste carriers. They should have a copy of their registration documents on them. You can also check their licence number by calling 03708 506506 and the Environment Agency can check for you. Get a written receipt or transfer note showing their contact details, a description of your waste and details of where they are taking it. Note down the make, colour and registration number of the vehicle that's taking your waste away. There may be times you have an extra bag of general waste that does not fit in your bin. If this is the case, you should not leave it outside your property. If you do, you could get a fine.

You must take it back on to your property until your next collection day. You could also take it to either Lynnbottom or Afton Marsh Household Waste and Recycling Centres.

Isle of Wight Council has launched a new draft document – a 'Statement of Community Involvement' (SCI), which sets out the opportunities people will have to give the council their views on emerging policy in development plans and planning applications.

The current version of the SCI was prepared in 2015 and the local planning authority is now consulting with Islanders on an updated version.

The latest version of the SCI has been prepared partly in response to one of the recommendations in the recent Local Government Association Peer Review. One aim is to simplify the document where possible as well as including some new information relating to how and when people can be involved in neighbourhood plans. Four key principles for engagement are set out in the new SCI and that is that any consultation process should be:

- Timely
- Simple
- Accessible
- Transparent

Link to the draft: Statement of Community Involvement (iow.gov.uk) and an online questionnaire is available. Alternatively comments can be emailed to policy.consultation@iow.gov.uk or by writing to Planning Policy Team, IOW Council, Seaclose Offices, Fairlee Road, Newport, PO30 2QS.

News from Trading Standards

A couple of scam reports from one of our IWASP partners this week –



- An elderly client received a cold call from a company called Active Alarms saying they are affiliated with the NHS. They were claiming that it is a free service offering a bracelet that activates if someone has fallen, it is to save the number of 111 calls and that the client will receive a quicker response than 111. The client asked for some written information, which they did not respond to and then got another call the next day from a different man asking why she would not take it up as it was such a great service. The telephone number they gave was 01293 267245 but when called this is now no longer active. We have checked this number on the Who called me website and it shows a negative rating and is clarified as a medical scam along with 81 comments confirming this
- The same client also had someone from a solar panel company come out to her house saying the solar panel company she uses had gone into liquidation and that he was doing the annual check, the man then proceeded to say the panels needed work on them at a cost of over £1000 but he was only on the Island for a few days and the work would need to be carried out quickly. Our client called her solar panel company who advised they had not gone into liquidation.

This resident has carried out checks to confirm whether the information she is being told is correct and verifying that they are scams. If you receive a call and are unsure whether it is genuine or not then make sure you contact the organisation, using contact details you have found yourself, to confirm.



Sally Ash (Fair Trading Officer)

Citizens Advice

Have you been using Isle Find It to support your role on your local council? Last year 53,161 users visited the website and with new parts of the website developed, everyone can see services, events and advice in one place. This is your community directory run by our charity and we are very grateful to business sponsors who are helping to keep it going, plus a recent promise of funding from Public Health who appreciate the value the website can have in reducing anxiety when easy solutions are discovered.



Citizens Advice IW works in partnership with Age UKIW and People Matter IW to deliver the Information, Advice and Guidance contract for IWC. We are inundated with callers at the moment so whilst we encourage you to signpost Islanders to us, please let them know we are very busy and may not answer calls straightaway. The summer used to see a slight drop in client numbers, but since 2020 that hasn't been the case so our volunteers get no respite; they are amazing in how they keep going. We have just awarded a 20 year long service award, amongst others.

If you are one of our 210+ Advice First Aiders across the Island or support us in any other way, thank you very much - it is really appreciated.

Paul Savill (CEO)

Ventnor Community Food Bank

Baby Box – Ventnor Central, Victoria Street

No voucher or referral needed.

All welcome.

Please call 07862 247694 or drop in.

10.00am to 12.00 noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays

**Please support our Food Bank by donating at our
Collection points:**

Baby Box- Victoria Street – during opening hours

Ventnor Co-op The Millbay

Norris Family Stores, Niton St. Catherine's Church

St. Lawrence Church

For more info email ventnorcommunityfoodbank@gmail.com

or phone 07862 247694

Project Fusion: Bringing together Community, Mental Health, and Learning Disability services.

What is Project Fusion?

Project Fusion is the temporary name for the work to bring together Community, Mental Health and Learning Disability Services across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight into a new, single NHS Trust by April 2024.

Who is involved?

The work involves the services above provided by Isle of Wight NHS Trust, Solent NHS Trust, Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust, and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (who deliver Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services in Hampshire).

What will it mean?

It will mean services will continue to be delivered on the Island as they are currently, but that patients and staff will benefit from being part of one organisation.

What's the latest news?

The documents which set out the initial case for making this happen were submitted to NHS England (NHSE) in March. Since then, we have been given the go-ahead by NHSE to continue with the preparation of a full business case which will be submitted for their approval in the autumn.

This month, we took the next step in appointing a Chair for the new Trust - Lynne Hunt - following a comprehensive assessment process led by the Integrated Care Board and involving stakeholder panels with a range of partners from across the local health and care system.

Alongside this, we have been engaging with our staff, community groups and other stakeholders on the Island to gather their views to help us shape the new organisation.

How can I find out more?

We have printed leaflets and posters available, together with an easy read version (co-produced with People Matter IW) which we can provide to you if you would find these helpful. These materials can also be viewed and downloaded on our website www.iow.nhs.uk/projectfusion Here you will also find more information and a short survey where you can share your views with us.

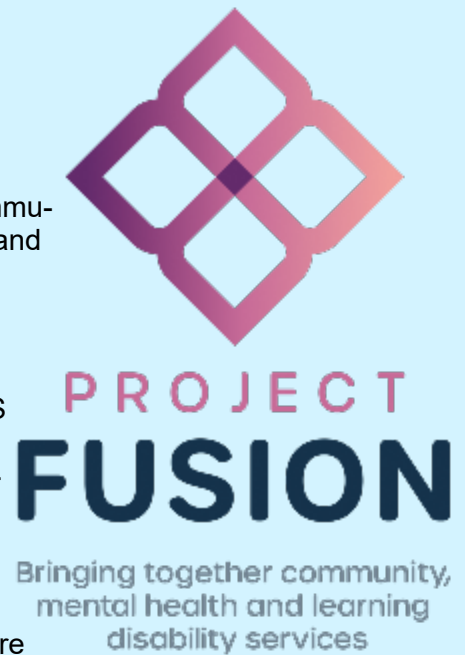
If you have any questions or feedback, you can also email us at iownt.iowfusionfaqs@nhs.net

Claire Robertson

An Update on Project Fusion by Sandy Belfitt, Community Action

There will be another opportunity to hear about the creation of a single Trust for the delivery of Community, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities services across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight on 18th July 10am to 12pm at the Riverside Centre.

One hour will be spent concentrating on obtaining your views on how the new Trust should be governed and how services should be delivered across the region and the request to get you thinking caps on for a new name for the Trust. In the second hour we will hear updates on the Ryde Health and Wellbeing Centre, the refurbishment and commissioning of Sandown Barracks for use by the IW NHS Trust, and the commissioning of the old HMV store in Newport (No 62 High Street) as a Mental Health Hub. Please register your place on Eventbrite using this link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/project-fusion-tickets-666665082207> and share this invitation with your members and the people that you support.



Your Experiences of Mainland Medical Appointments Need.

Wightlink Ferries is keen to hear the experiences of groups and individuals who use its services to attend NHS medical appointments on the mainland.

The purpose of this listening exercise will be to understand more about the issues faced by this important travel group. This feedback will, in turn, help the company continue to provide the best possible services to passengers travelling for NHS treatment.

Wightlink has asked Robertson Foster, an Isle of Wight-based communications company, to host two focus groups at which you will have the opportunity to tell us more about your experiences of medical travel with Wightlink.

Following the sessions, a full and comprehensive report outlining the key issues raised will be sent to Wightlink.

This report will also be available to those who have attended the sessions. Wightlink has pledged to consider the report's contents and address – wherever possible – themes raised. It has also undertaken to respond in detail to the major points highlighted. To help ensure the sessions are independent, Wightlink will not be present at the session.

As a user of services for NHS travel, you are invited to attend one of these focus groups. We have arranged these at an accessible, central location in Newport – **the Riverside Centre**. We will conduct one session in the afternoon and the other early evening. We do hope that one of these will be convenient for you.

The dates and times are as follows:

Tuesday July 11, 2pm – 4pm.

Wednesday July 12, 5pm – 7pm.

Please email to let us know which session you would like to attend.

At the sessions, you will be asked to give feedback on your general experiences travelling with Wightlink for medical appointments, what went well and what could be improved. You will also be asked for any suggestions as to how medical travel could be made better.

While this will be an opportunity for full and frank discussion, you are also more than welcome to give us any previously prepared written feedback which we will collect during the session.

If you are unable to attend but would like to contribute to this process, please forward details of your experiences, as per the topics above, by return email. Your views will then also be relayed to Wightlink.

We look forward to your participation in a focus group. Please be aware while parking is free, you must register your vehicle via the screen in the entrance to the Riverside Centre.

If you have any questions, then please contact us using the details below. You can find out more about Robertson Foster via our website www.robertsonfoster.com

All best regards,

Gavin (gavin@robertsonfoster.co.uk)

Gavin Foster (Director, Robertson Foster)

Monthly Report from MP Bob Seely

Policing

Our top team: PCC Donna Jones, our new Chief Constable Scott Chilton, and our new Superintendent Rob Mitchell, are all working on plans to drive down crime.

The new Chief Constable's priorities are: Relentless pursuit of criminals, Putting victims first and Exceptional local policing.

On Friday 30 June I hosted a public meeting with Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Donna Jones to inform Islanders about plans to reduce crime across the Isle of Wight. If you haven't had a chance to look at the PCC's Police and Crime Plan yet, you can view it here. <https://www.morepolicesaferstreets.com/>

In line with the PCC's plan, I'm pleased to say that we now have 30 additional police officers tackling crime on the Island.

The PCC has also committed to reintroducing named dedicated police officers and PCSO's for Isle of Wight communities, with the first of these in place by April 2024. Look out for more news on that over the coming months.

If you would like to know more about what's being done to tackle crime on the Island, please do get it touch.

Education Conference

An education conference focused on improving outcomes for children in Isle of Wight schools took place in Carisbrooke last month.

The conference was organised by the Department for Education (DfE) following conversations between myself and Schools Minister Nick Gibb.

Head teachers from over twenty Isle of Wight primary schools heard from officials from the DfE and Ofsted as well as representatives from Springhill Catholic Primary School in Southampton – an English Hub school providing outreach and support to all schools, academies and free schools to improve teaching of phonics, early language and reading.

Through the DfE's English Hub programme, Springhill is offering all Isle of Wight primary schools a free fully funded early reading review to help support teachers to drive up reading levels for Island children. All of the support model packages are delivered for free with backfill costs covered.

Not only does the support package include advice about best practice, Isle of Wight schools can also apply for funding from the hub up to £9,000.

The government has accepted my argument that the Island needs its own English Hub centre of excellence in future. This is to ensure that best practice can be shared throughout Island schools. We are going to work towards that. More information about the Springhill Education Hub can be found here. <https://www.springhillcatholic.co.uk/English-Hub/>

Landscape Protection

I recently met with Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Minister Trudy Harrison to discuss my proposal for a special 'island designation' for the Isle of Wight.

We currently have a patchwork of protected landscape across the Island; we need to look at protecting our landscape as a whole.

I want to see one single combined designation status - an 'Island Park' - that recognises and protects the entire Isle of Wight.

For us, this would mean national recognition of the Island's unique natural and cultural heritage, legal protections for landscapes across the Island and a more sustainable planning system.



I'm keen to work with farmers, landowners, the Isle of Wight AONB Partnership and others to ensure this proposal works for everyone.

I'm pleased the Minister has accepted my invitation to visit the Isle of Wight over the Summer months so that I can show her the Island's beautiful and unique landscape and discuss the best way to protect it.

Pub Surgeries

I continue to hold open surgeries in pubs across the Island. So far, I've met with constituents in Cowes, Whitwell and Totland.

Please look out for details of my upcoming pub surgeries and, if you would like to chat, do come along and say hello.

Bob Seely

IW Chamber of Commerce

IW Chamber Business Expo 2023 supported by WightFibre

The Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual business showcase event at Ryde School on Wednesday July 12th.

The move brings the Island's premier business networking event to a larger venue, with more scope for exhibitors and interaction.

We've got brilliant business confirmed as exhibitors but we're expecting hundreds more visitor attendees on the day.

If you're in business on the Isle of Wight, don't miss IW Chamber Business Expo 2023. Entry is free for all to attend. You don't have to be a Chamber member.

Spread the word, let's welcome as many Island business people as possible for a massive day of networking.

Expo opens at 10am and closes at 4pm.

Find out more at <https://iwchamber.co.uk/expo>

See you there!

Emma Spinelli

IWChamber
BUSINESS EXPO 2023
12 JULY RYDE SCHOOL
Supported by
WightFibre
Because we care

**Be part of the
biggest day of the
year for business
networking!**

www.iwchamber.co.uk/expo

Designers of the Future!!

My name is Hannah, and I am casting a new series for CBBC and Lion Television about sustainable fashion.

We are looking for budding young designers aged 10-14 years old, (they must be aged 11 by September 1st 2023) and I was wondering if you would be happy to share our flyer with your council?

In each episode we will see young creative minds come together to create bold and colourful outfits reusing, re-claiming and upcycling fabulous fashion by using only vintage, second-hand and sustainable materials.

The children will need to be great designers but do not necessarily have to be great with a sewing machine as they'll be paired with a creative who can help them cut/sew/stitch/paint their outfits within a few hours!

Anyone interested in applying can email Fashion@liontv.co.uk or apply through the CBBC Website on the following link - Be on a Show: Style It Out - CBBC - BBC

lion TV MEDIA

ARE YOU 10-14 YEARS OLD?
DO YOU HAVE A
PASSION FOR FASHION?
DO YOU HAVE INDIVIDUAL STYLE?

Would you like to show off your creative design skills to celebrities + showcase your ideas to the fashion world?

**THE MAKERS OF "HORRIBLE HISTORIES" ARE
LOOKING FOR 10 TO 14 YEAR OLDS FOR A
BRAND NEW STYLING CHALLENGE SHOW FOR**

CBBC + iPLAYER

For more details, ask your parent or guardian to contact:

Fashion@liontv.co.uk

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS MAY APPLY. WE WILL PROCESS YOUR PERSONAL DATA BY NECESSITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR PRIVACY NOTICE AVAILABLE AT <https://www.liontv.com/help/contributor-privacy-notice>. ALL APPLICANTS MUST HAVE PERMISSION FROM THEIR PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN TO APPLY. CHILDREN MUST BE AT LEAST 11 YEARS OLD AND NO MORE THAN 14 YEARS OLD ON 1st SEPTEMBER 2023.

News from Red Funnel

Red Funnel teams up with Planet Aware for Island beach cleaning

Red Funnel staff members joined forces with volunteers of the Isle of Wight based environmental community group, Planet Aware to partake in a beach cleaning afternoon at Binnel Bay in St Lawrence.

The volunteers collected 67kg of rubbish which included scores of plastic bottle caps, food wrappers, fishing tackle line and ropes, disposable face covers, tyres, kids toys, shoes, and shotgun shells.

Red Funnel recently announced their new ESG strategy, Changing Tides. The plan charts Red Funnel's course to net zero and offers a framework to achieve real and measurable results in terms of making a positive impact on the environment and the Island community.

Red Funnel Supports Island Athletes at The Island Games

Red Funnel is proud to once again support Team Isle of Wight at the bi-annual NatWest International Island Games, providing cross-Solent travel for 250 Island athletes.

Top athletes from all over the world will compete in the NatWest International Island Games held every two years, this year in Guernsey. Team Isle of Wight are one of 24 Islands taking part in the games, with athletes competing across a range of 13 sports – from triathlon to table tennis. Red Funnel's own Duty Operations Manager, Joe Butcher will be competing with the Isle of Wight football team, hoping to strike gold at the games.

Red Funnel Invites Public to Have Their Say on Proposed Upgrades to East Cowes Port

Red Funnel is encouraging feedback from the community, businesses, and stakeholders in a four-week long consultation to help shape its plans, which will look to redesign Red Funnel's three existing sites within East Cowes: Phoenix Yard, Trinity Yard and Redux Yard. The upgrades will ensure the resilience of Red Funnel's operations, helping its services run more punctually and reliably, reduce congestion in the town and offer an improved passenger experience.

Residents can have their say on the proposed plans for Red Funnel Port by visiting the website: www.redfunnelport.com. Red Funnel will also host a public exhibition at East Cowes Town Hall on Saturday 15th July between 10am and 4pm, where members of the public can meet with representatives from Red Funnel and the planning team to discuss the proposals in more detail.

World touring, pop-up attraction comes to Cowes this August

Northwood House in Cowes will be home to a unique first for the Isle of Wight in August, as cross-Solent ferry company Red Funnel presents "Dodecalis" - the Architects of Air Luminarium. Making its Isle of Wight debut towards the end of Cowes Week, the "Dodecalis" Luminarium is a spectacular and unique sensory experience which will be built on the lawn of Northwood House.

This unmissable event is sponsored by Red Funnel, and is part of the ferry company's long-term environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) strategy, *Changing Tides*, which commits to providing ongoing support for the Island community and visitors, as well as showcasing the Isle of Wight as a whole and operating responsibly.

Sophie Bates (Account Manager)



News from Wightlink

Isle of Wight footballer Lucy Scholes has been picked for the final training squad ahead of the Deaf Women's World Cup in Malaysia in September.



The Wight Eagles player from Wootton, who is sponsored by Wightlink, spotted trials for the Championship were underway and decided to give it a go. Lucy played for the Isle of Wight Ladies at the 2017 Island Games in Gotland and combines her love of football with her day job as an instructor at BAE Systems in Portsmouth.

"It is an amazing opportunity to play for England," she says. "The team members are friendly and very talented, so to be selected for the final training squad is a privilege. It's very exciting and it has been a great help to get my frequent travel to the mainland sponsored by Wightlink." She is now looking for other sponsors to help her on her self-funded journey.

Wightlink Commercial Director Phil Delaney adds: "Wightlink is delighted to support Lucy in her bid to get to the Deaf Women's World Cup. We wish her all the best and here's hoping she scores the winning goal."

A spokesperson for the England Deaf Woman's Football team says: "We are delighted Lucy Scholes has been selected in our training squad, she has been a fantastic and exciting addition."

"Lucy deserves as much support as possible to continue her journey with us as she prepares for the final squad selection later in July."

Karen Woods
(Duty Media Officer)



Lucy (in blue) in action.