

Serving the Island's



Town, Parish & Community Councils

# The IWALC Bulletin

May 2023

**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 May issue of the IWALC Bulletin!

This issue includes a report on a recent IWALC workshop on the division of responsibility between the Isle of Wight Council and local councils. The Workshop, which was held on 27 April, provided an opportunity for members to share their experiences of taking over and/or part-funding Isle of Wight Council assets and services over the last few years and to make recommendations for the future. Participants included both councillors and staff. There was a lively discussion, a positive atmosphere and a remarkable agreement on the conclusions and recommendations.

The next step will be to invite the Isle of Wight Council to a round table meeting later in the year, to discuss how we can work together to provide services to Island residents in the most efficient and effective way. The workshop was a good example of the benefits of local councils sharing experiences and working together to achieve our objectives – and IWALC's role in facilitating this.

As this issue goes to press, Island residents are about to join the rest of the country in celebrating the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. Next month's Bulletin will include reports on celebrations around the Island. We will be asking you to send us stories and photos from your own area. We will also include a report by Maxine Warr on her attendance at the Royal Garden Party in London earlier this week.

*Cllr Diana Conyers*



**Contact - IWALC County Officer, Heather Rowell ([heatheriwalc@gmail.com](mailto:heatheriwalc@gmail.com))**

**Website - [www.iwalc.org](http://www.iwalc.org) - Check out our Facebook page too.**

**The Bulletin - Communications Officer - Jill Webster - [jwebster.iwalc@outlook.com](mailto:jwebster.iwalc@outlook.com)**

**The deadline for the June edition will be May 31st - 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...

## **IWALC Workshop on Relations with Isle of Wight Council**

On Thursday 27 April, we held a workshop to discuss the division of responsibility between local parish, town and community councils and the Isle of Wight Council (IWC). The workshop was prompted by the increasing requests from the IWC to take over or part-fund assets and services that they can no longer afford to fund. The aim was to share our experiences and suggest ways in which the division of responsibility could be managed more efficiently and effectively for the mutual benefit of ourselves and the IWC. There were 25 participants, including 19 councillors, four council staff and IWALC's County Officer and Communications Officer.

In the first half of the workshop, participants divided into four discussion groups, each group including representatives from a mix of large, medium and small councils. The groups were asked to discuss the following questions: *What are the main problems you have encountered and lessons you have learned from the take-over and part-funding of assets and services? What solutions to the problems would you suggest?*

Following a short break, participants shared their findings. There was a notable consistency between the four groups, in both the problems encountered and the solutions suggested. Everyone agreed that:

1. It had been very useful to share their experiences.
2. Local councils have learned a great deal from their experiences over the last few years.
3. Local councils understand the financial problems faced by the IWC that have led to the current situation and to assist as much as they can.
4. There are steps that can be taken to improve the situation for the mutual benefit of both local councils and the IWC.

The main recommendations suggested in order to improve the situation can be divided into three main categories, as follows:

### ***Recommendations for individual local councils:***

1. Consider which assets and services are most appropriate to take-over or part-fund and which are not.
2. Do not over-commit the council or your ratepayers.
3. Ensure you have all necessary information about the short- and long-term financial and other implications before committing yourself.
4. Negotiate with the IWC to ensure you get the best possible deal.
5. Be innovative; e.g. look for ways of running services more efficiently or using assets to generate income.

### ***Recommendations for local councils collectively:***

1. Share experiences in order to learn from each other and avoid 'reinventing the wheel'.
2. Explore ways in which councils can collaborate with each other in order to provide services more efficiently and effectively, including collaboration between large councils and neighbouring small councils, between groups of smaller or neighbouring councils; and between all councils with regard to specific services.
3. Utilise IWALC as a means of sharing information and negotiating with IWC.

### ***Recommendations for IWC:***

1. Regard local councils as equal partners and work together to determine the most efficient and effective way of providing services to Island residents.

2. Adopt IWALC's recommendations for the revision of Protocol 16 and use this as a basis for negotiation with local councils.
3. Discuss the possible implications for local councils with them in the early stages of the budget-setting process, not at the last minute.
4. Share experiences and, where appropriate, standardise procedures for liaison with local councils across departments.
5. Where appropriate (e.g. for transfer of assets), standardise procedures in order to speed up process.
6. Be innovative and look for solutions that are mutually beneficial to IWC and local councils – and thus to residents.
7. Clarify and improve channels of communication with local councils, including the possibility of appointing a senior liaison officer.

***In conclusion, it was agreed that:***

1. The next step should be to invite the IWC to a round table meeting to consider the recommendations above.
2. The meeting should be held before the IWC starts its budget-setting process.
3. An external facilitator with experience of councils facing similar situations in other parts of the country to be invited to attend.

## **Future IWALC Meetings**

The next IWALC meetings will be as follows:

Thursday 25 May: 7.00 pm Executive Meeting

Thursday 29 June: 5.30 pm Meeting of Mayors and Chairs  
7.00 pm Annual General Meeting

Please note that all IWALC member councillors are entitled to attend the AGM. Please put the date in your diary and join us if you can.

## **Training**

We have two planned training events:

### **Access to the Media: Thursday 18 May, 6.30–8.30 pm at Riverside Centre**

This course will now be delivered by Louise Hill, the BBC's Local Democracy Reporter, and colleagues, and Allan Bridges and Hannah East, from Ryde Town Council. Topics covered will include establishing a media policy, writing press releases and liaising with the media. ***Please book though your clerk by Friday 12 May.***

### **Councillor Skills Update: Thursdays 22 June and 6 July, 6.30-8.30 pm at Riverside Centre**

This will be a two-part course. It will have two main objectives: (i) to refresh members' knowledge of key skills; and (ii) to provide an opportunity for members to discuss any topics where, based on their experience as councillors, they feel they need more information or discussion. It will be run by a team of IWALC councillors and staff, led by Trish Redpath, a Nettlestone and Seaview parish councillor with extensive local government experience. It is open to all councillors. ***Anyone wishing to attend should book through their clerk by Friday 12 May.*** They will then be consulted about specific issues they would like covered in the course.

## **Meeting with Isle of Wight Cabinet**

There was an online meeting with members of the Cabinet on Thursday 13 April. There were about ten IWALC participants and nine Cabinet members. No questions had been submitted in advance but there was a lively ad hoc discussion. The main questions and responses were as follows:

**1. Inability of IWALC to send substitutes to IWC committees on which it is represented:** The Leader confirmed that she had received the email from IWALC's Chair, asking the Council to review this section of the Constitution. She said the Cabinet supported the proposed change, that it had been added to the list of issues to be reviewed and that these may come up at the May Full Council meeting.

**2. Police funding allocated to IW:** Cllr Emma Cox reported that she had met with Cllr Karen Lucio ni, Cabinet member responsible for Police, that morning and she had agreed to find out what proportion of the funding for Hampshire and the IW is spent on the Island.

**3. Allocation of primary school places:** Cllr Debbie Andre, Cabinet member for Education, reported that the allocation of primary school places was about to be announced and almost all pupils will receive their first choice.

**4. Housing services:** The Leader reported that the employment of a Strategic Manager for Housing is designed to bring all housing services under one umbrella. She acknowledged difficulties in accessing funds for construction of social housing but reported that contact had recently been made with a company called Rentplus UK. Cllr Paul Fuller reported that the Pennyfeathers reserved matters application had just been refused because it didn't meet current expectations for a new housing development.

**5. Draft IPS:** Cllr Fuller said that Pennyfeathers demonstrates the urgent need for a new core strategy and explained the reasons for the delay in revisiting the draft Island Planning Strategy (IPS). He is trying to meet Bob Seely MP, to get an update on proposed revisions of the NPPF, which is one of the reasons for the delay. There will be an update for IW councillors on the current status of the IPS shortly and he will ensure that IWALC's planning representatives are invited.

**6. Holiday lets:** Cllr Phil Jordan noted that the government had that day launched a consultation on their proposals to require planning permission for conversion to holiday lets.

**7. Consultation with local councils over infrastructure provision:** Cllr Cox reported that a WightFibre box and an electric charging point had been installed in Freshwater without consultation with the parish council. Cllr Jordan informed her that WightFibre need planning permission for their boxes and advised her whom to contact. Cllr Diana Conyers reported that she had just attended a webinar for local councils on the IW Council's electric charging point strategy. [The presentation has now been sent to all member councils.]

**8. Leader's meeting with Minister for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities:** The leader reported that her recent meeting with the Minister in London had been disappointing. It lasted only 30 minutes and no commitments were made. It appears that the funding criteria keep changing and one has to be very specific about the justification for additional funding.

**9. IWALC workshop:** At Cllr Fuller's request, Cllr Conyers explained the purpose of the IWALC Workshop on 27 June, which is intended as preparation for a workshop with the IW Council later in the year. The Leader expressed support for the follow-up workshop. Members were warned that the Council's budget setting process begins in August.

The meeting ended with thanks from the Leader for the work of local parish, town and community councillors. **The next meeting will be at 12 noon on Thursday 11 May.** All councillors and staff are welcome to attend.

## Meeting with Bob Seely MP

There was an online Meeting with Bob Seely MP at 6 pm on 19 April. Only six council representatives attended. Bob said that next time he will email all local councillors directly, to ensure that they know about the meeting and encourage them to attend. He may also send them copies of his fortnightly newsletter. The following issues were discussed:

**1. IW Council delegation to London:** Following the Leader's report to councillors about her recent meeting in London, Bob was asked for his reaction to the meeting. He said that, although there were no immediate outcomes, the meeting (which was with Lee Rowley MP, Minister for Local Government) has reopened the discussion on the additional costs of providing services on the Island.

**2. School standards on Island:** Bob is concentrating on primary education standards because he thinks this is fundamental. However, he agreed to follow up questions about secondary education. There followed a discussion about the problems of getting maths teachers to Island, in view of the recent government proposal to extend maths education.

**3. Health services:** One participant praised the Stroke Department and another the work of Health watch. Bob reported on progress in establishing a Mental Health Hub in Newport and the recruitment of nurses from overseas. He agreed to follow up a question about patient access to the temporary surgery in Newport while Wootton Surgery is closed.

## Best Kept Village Awards

A reminder that judging for the 2023 Awards will be taking place between May 1st and May 21st

### Community Action's Winter Pressures Partnership Zoom meetings

Please contact Sandy Ciccognani (SCiccognani@actioniw.org.uk) to be added to the circulation list for more information, log-in details for Zoom and for the date of the next meeting.



### 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 contribution from one of our new Parish Clerks....**

Becoming a clerk is certainly a challenge but one I can say I am enjoying so far. Having served as a Parish Councillor in my home village just outside Brighton for 16 years, I was inspired to take up the challenge by our Council's clerk. I started life as a primary school teacher, accidentally becoming a computer programmer for an insurance company before giving up work to be a full-time mum. After I wanted to return to work, I looked back at the education sector and ended up as an LSA in a secondary school before taking on the role of a science technician. I am sincerely hoping I have picked up enough varied, transferable skills to allow me to be a competent clerk.

I was born in Brighton so grew up by the sea, learning to appreciate pebbles! At present I still live most of the week on the main land with my husband and two teenage children.

I am passionate about all sports and outdoor activities. My main sport is hockey and I have played for the same club for over 40 years; I consider I was incredibly lucky that the club grew in size as I aged and slowed! I hold coaching and umpiring qualifications in several different sports including gymnastics and basketball. I enjoy riding, cycling, swimming (in warm water only) and walking. I recently did my first Triathlon where I discovered I really don't like running especially uphill! I have thrown myself out of a plane, dived on the Great Barrier Reef and whilst undertaking a trip with the Earthwatch Foundation studying the effects of Global Warming on Coral Reefs, I got up close and personal with a reef shark and not so up close and personal with several hammerheads! Awe inspiring creatures if a little unpredictable.

I am looking forward to getting to know Bembridge, the people who live there and the wider area of the Isle of Wight.

*Julia Shorrocks (Bembridge Parish Clerk)*

## **Important Reminder about Training Sessions.....**

**Please book through your Clerk with Jill. ([jwebster.iwalc@outlook.com](mailto:jwebster.iwalc@outlook.com))**

**You, and your Clerk, will then receive a confirmation /acknowledgement email.**

## **Updating our Records....**

In order to keep our records up-to-date, later this month we'll be contacting Clerks to ask for updates and confirmation of names and email addresses for your Council's Mayor or Chair; Deputy Mayor or Chair; IWALC Representative and Deputy IWALC Representative.

**Thank you.**

# News from NALC

## News from NALC Management Board

It has been fairly quiet on the NALC front since the last National Assembly meeting reported on in the April bulletin. There was however an informal meeting of the Management Board on 17th April. Elections are taking place in most places on the mainland on 4th May. However, with two exceptions members of the Management Board are either unopposed or not facing elections which bodes well for continuity.

Following pressure from me, it has been agreed to hold an extraordinary face to face meeting of the Management Board to agree outstanding changes to constitutional arrangements and standing orders which are long overdue. It is likely to take place in London on Thursday 25th May, the same day as the next IWALC Executive meeting. I should however be able to make the 4.30pm train from Waterloo and hope to be back in time for IWALC.

The Chief Executive updated the meeting on the sale of 109 Great Russell Street which has now been completed. £2.7m proceeds arriving on Friday 14th April. As previously agreed £2.6m of this has been transferred into a deposit account at CCLA pending a draft investment strategy being drawn up for approval by the National Assembly.

I advised the meeting that motions agreed by the IWALC Executive on the cost of elections would shortly be submitted for consideration by the Policy Committee.

The member from Hampshire advised that the Home Secretary, Suella Braverman no less had attended a recent parish council meeting near Fareham recently, accompanied by her security entourage.

*Cllr Bob BLEZZARD May 2023*

## Fortnightly Meeting with County Officers

At the April 5th meeting between county associations and NALC, there was a briefing from NALC's HR partner Worknest. We discussed the updated version of the Good Councillor's Guide to Being a Good Employer which is currently in its final stages of being updated. This guide will cover both legislation and good practice. We also covered performance management including regular supervision and managing concerns, and a range of other general HR queries.

The April 19th meeting between NALC and county officers saw an update from Steve Parkinson of the Parkinson Partnership, who will now be part of our support service on finance and audit. Over the coming months, he will work on an update of the financial regulations and advice on procurement and investment for local councils. This will be in addition to the current support for county associations provided by Derek Kemp of DCK Accounting Solution. There was also a climate change place-based framework presentation from Andrew Maliphant, NALC's representative of the government's Local Net Zero Forum on the climate emergency.

## Sign Up Now to Receive Your NALC Emails Directly

Did you know that you can receive all NALC emails directly?

Please follow the link below to subscribe -

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/nalc-newsletter>

# 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

## Bembridge Parish Council

Plans to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III are underway -

Saturday 6th May - Friendship Circle Coronation Coffee Morning in the Village Hall with refreshments and the screening of the Coronation from Westminster Abbey. Wear a bonnet or hat to celebrate the day. We will choose a winner!

Sunday 7th May - The Big Lunch – host your own street party or Picnic in the Park – bring family and friends for a picnic in Steyne Park.

Monday 8th May - Heritage Coronation Coffee Morning 10 am – 1pm. A special exhibition of Coronation Memories including the painting of HM King George VI & Queen Elizabeth's Coronation Day in 1937, created by local artists Cavendish and Concord Moreton.

Village Street Clean - Meet outside the Village Hall or at Steyne Park at 10am to see who can collect the most rubbish. Finish altogether at midday in the Village Hall for coffee. All ages welcome. Equipment provided.

Cloisters Fete – Friends of Holy Trinity are organising a garden fete at the Cloisters from 2 - 5pm.

Tyne Hall Open Garden - Free entry. 12 noon – 4pm. Bring your own picnic lunch / tea and rug. Dogs allowed on leads and no unaccompanied children please. Parking in paddock for elderly or infirm, otherwise park in Trelawny Way or Tyne Walk.

*Julia Shorrocks (Clerk)*



Bembridge  
Parish  
Council



## Gurnard Parish Council

### Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

The APM, held on 26th April, had no guest speaker this year but provided an opportunity to consider feedback on the 2023/24 Precept Consultation which was on display; this information will be up for the next fortnight to gather possible ideas for future work.



### Beach Safety Working Party (BSWP)

The BSWP has looked particularly at bathing water quality. Southern Water's Pathfinder Scheme is regaining momentum with improved communications! A form on the GPC website can be completed to request a water butt, additionally, when engineers call and the householder is out, a card will be left. The SuDS Planters have been planted up and the plants will grow and fill out as the weather warms; if we have another long hot summer they will need watering! It will be interesting to get feedback on the difference made by the Pathfinder Scheme interventions. Various ways of testing sea water quality, on a frequent and regular basis, are under consideration. Concerns raised about the way slipper clay has been exposed by recent works at the western end of the beach have been forwarded to the responsible bodies; responsibility does not lie with GPC but with the Marine Management Organization (MMO) and other organizations. GPC is looking for a positive outcome for all concerned.

### Celebrating the Coronation

No suggestions from residents about how to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III were received and so, especially as our next door neighbour, Cowes, has a big event planned on Sunday 7th May, there will be no GPC sponsored event over the Coronation weekend, however there will be plenty going on in the village.

The tree ordered for the Queen's Jubilee last year has finally been planted and is already showing signs of being very pretty. Perhaps caring more for the village environment is the best way to celebrate. Certainly all the 38 people who made a great job of clearing the village of litter on Earth Day made a brilliant contribution.



### Emergency Plan

It seems appropriate that, as a nationwide test of an emergency warning system was made 23rd April, the Community Emergency Plan has come up for revision. There's a lot to review!

### Waste Collection Woes

A letter received about possible changes to waste collection on unadopted and unmade roads has caused, particularly elderly residents, considerable concern. A request for clarification on the expected standards of the affected roadway will be sent to IWC. There was discussion about how casual users and heavy lorries can be encouraged to be more considerate and to keep speeds down in order to reduce damage to the road surface.



### Old School Meadow (OSM)

A local resident is keen to develop a pre-school Forest School in OSM but there are a lot of safety considerations to be discussed. Whatever the decision, some amenities need updating. The area a lovely place to visit and most visitors seem to be heeding the call to ensure dog poo is picked up and appropriately binned. Phew!

*Cllr Penny Acton*

## East Cowes Town Council

East Cowes Town Council is organising a whole weekend of celebrations for the Coronation. On Saturday 6th May starting at 10am the Coronation Live Screening will take place at The Town Hall with the East Cowes Town Crafters providing decorations and refreshments.



Sunday 7th May will see The Big Coronation Lunch Event at Jubilee Recreation Ground. Everyone is welcome from 12 noon to bring a picnic and enjoy the fun, music, stalls and entertainment. This whole-day event is concluding with outdoor screening of the concert from Windsor Castle.

Monday 8th May is also a special day. The Big Help Out Event at The Town Hall from 11am-3pm will celebrate the work of volunteers in East Cowes and provide information about opportunities for volunteering. There will be live music and refreshments. This day will also see the Town Council marking their own 25th Anniversary.

The East Side Curve, which opened in August 2022 and houses East Cowes Community Library, is getting busier all the time. It is part of the Warm Spaces initiative, offers Rhyme Time, Story Time, public access wifi and laptop, monthly charity coffee mornings and much more. The Town Hall also continues to be a popular venue for regular activities, clubs, classes, events and private parties. The Town Council's monthly Community Cinema and Market are now well established. The East Side Curve is also now the Tourist Information Point for East Cowes.

There are many outdoor spaces to operate too and a lot of work has been going into preparing the popular Esplanade Paddling Pool for the summer season.

Always lots happening in East Cowes!

*Claire Gale (Asst Clerk)*



THE OFFICIAL EAST COWES  
CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

SCREENING OF THE  
KING'S CORONATION



10 AM SATURDAY 6TH MAY  
EAST COWES TOWN HALL

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS  
INCLUDING TEA, COFFEE,  
SQUASH AND CAKES  
WILL BE AVAILABLE



FUNDED AND  
ORGANISED BY  
THE EAST COWES  
TOWN COUNCIL

THE OFFICIAL EAST COWES  
CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

THE BIG LUNCH



12PM - LATE SUNDAY 7TH MAY  
JUBILEE RECREATION GROUND

LIVE SCREENING OF THE WINDSOR  
CASTLE MUSIC CONCERT

MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT, STALLS, GAMES,  
GRASS COMPETITION, DRINKS  
VANS, BUG SHOW, EMERGENCY  
SERVICES AND MUCH MORE!



FUNDED AND  
ORGANISED BY  
THE EAST COWES  
TOWN COUNCIL

EAST COWES TOWN COUNCIL  
25TH ANNIVERSARY &  
"THE BIG HELP OUT" EVENT



MONDAY 8TH MAY, 11AM - 3PM  
EAST COWES TOWN HALL

THE MAYOR AND EAST COWES TOWN  
COUNCILLORS CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO  
JOIN US CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF THE  
TOWN COUNCIL AND THE VOLUNTEERS OF  
EAST COWES

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AND MUSIC WILL BE PROVIDED ALONG  
WITH THE CHANCE TO FIND OUT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR  
TOWN COUNCIL AND LOCAL VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES.

## Freshwater Parish Council



I feel that I write of nothing but our toilet rebuild at Gate Lane for the Bulletin, and here I find myself sharing with you all another update. Our Clerk, Heather, Cllr Brenda Hobbs and myself have been on a site visit, discussed changes that the construction company is considering and peeped into cavernous rooms which we are assured shall shortly be public toilets, ready for Walk the Wight. I am a little sceptical and fortunately the Clerk's team is organising portaloos for the event if the builders fall behind schedule. The importance of the toilets for Walk the Wight is our key to enable Freshwater Parish to contribute to this important fundraising event for the Mountbatten Hospice.

On a more interesting note, FPC is having a site visit for an application we are consulting on for the Albion Hotel at Freshwater Bay. I have never been on a site visit with the Parish Council but suggested it to Cllr Fosbury when she was Chairing the Planning Committee. Cllr Fosbury is currently our Vice Chair of Planning and was filling in for the Chair, Cllr Hicklin. We, as a group, felt that we should know as much as possible, not only for our debate over the application, but to ensure we can properly answer the questions of our residents. Hopefully the visit will go well and perhaps we could consider more site visits for Councillors to sites within our Parish, that are of either interest or concerning for Parishioners.

Sadly, our see-saw on the Stroud playing field is shortly to be condemned. I say sadly, but truthfully I do not enjoy see-saws, too many unhappy memories of my siblings getting off when I was sky high and coming down with a painful bump. I think it is likely the see-saw will be replaced with another, and possibly a second additional piece of play equipment. I have been tempted with the promise of looking at a catalogue and helping to choose this second item. It has brought back many happy memories of a childhood filled with playground visits full of equipment that would never get past health and safety today. I shall be travelling around the Island to see what other Councils have filled their playgrounds with, and I hope you have all been inspirational with your choices.

We are lucky in Freshwater Parish to have a Sports and Community Centre, the lovely Stroud playing field and a MUGA (multi use games area). In recent years this has become careworn and in need of a little love and attention. Councillors have voted to enter into a partnership with Basketball Isle of Wight to repair and upgrade the courts. FPC voted to contribute £1000 towards the project.

*Cllr Emma Cox*

## Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council

In the last month we have delivered our Newsletter.

We are also in the final stages putting up our War Memorial and are preparing for our Annual Meeting.

The Coronation will be celebrated in Chillerton by a live screening of the ceremony in the Gallybagger on the day, followed by a celebratory Afternoon Tea on the Sunday, with Prosecco to toast his Majesty.

In Gatcombe there will be a street party on the Sunday outside the Church.

*Cllr Nigel Phillips (Chairman)*



## Newchurch Parish Council

### Coronation of King Charles III

Newchurch Parish Council is organising a “Big Coronation Lunch” on Sunday 7th May from 12.30pm at the Sports Field and Pavilion at Watery Lane, Newchurch, by kind permission of Newchurch Parish Sports and Community Association.



The Parish Council is funding the provision of a simple basic buffet, but this is essentially a “bring and share” event for all residents of the parish.

There will be stalls and displays by local organisations.

The Parish Council is grateful for the generous sponsorship of the event by Goddards Brewery, Yates Brewery and The Garlic Farm.

*Cllr Bob Blezzard*

## Yarmouth Town Council

In a triumph over bullying, at Yarmouth Town Council’s Annual Meeting, the two women councillors were elected Mayor, Debbie McCleary, and Deputy Mayor, Gill Head. They were elected unanimously after the councillor accused of bullying, Rodney Corbett, resigned, citing age.



Yarmouth Town Councillors have much work ahead as they work on plans to retain Yarmouth School site for the community, and prepare details for establishing a Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan, which covers the parish, including Thorley, will help the town designate areas for environmental protection, housing for local people, economic development for a better future. A Steering Group of councillors and local people who would be prepared to work towards a positive future for the town is to be set up. Details from Brian Jacobs, Town Clerk.

Yarmouth Town Council is back to its ‘happy place’ - working together for the community.

*Cllr Steve Cowley*



*Photo courtesy of Louise Hill*

## Cowes Town Council

The closure of the 2022/23 financial year sees a lot of work for our Town Clerk & RFO, getting the books ready for the accountant and all the paperwork that entails. The accounts are with the auditor and we await their report.

We have filled our two vacancies in the Cowes Medina Ward by co-option, welcoming back Cllr Neil Oliver, and welcoming new Cllr Stuart Dodwell. This brings the Town Council back to a full complement.

Our April Town Council meeting went out on tour, being held in one of the beautifully restored chapels at Northwood Cemetery. We were warmly welcomed by the Friends of Northwood Cemetery, who provided Councillors with a pre-meeting tour of their current exhibition, followed by a presentation on the past work and future plans for the Cemetery. The time and effort put into restoration of the chapels and the cemetery grounds is amazing and they deserve our praise. They have a strong group of volunteers, but aren't letting the grass grow under their feet and are actively looking to the future to ensure this valuable community resource continues to go from strength to strength. We are very grateful to all the Friends.



Councillors have approved the purchase of commemorative mugs to celebrate the Coronation which will be given to nursery, pre-school and primary school-aged children in Cowes. Union Jack and Coronation flags and red, white and blue bunting have been installed to decorate the High Street area.

The Town Council has appointed the architectural services of Martin Hayles to oversee the Changing Places Toilet project at The Cut. We have worked with Martin on a number of projects and his guidance and knowledge is invaluable. We look forward to this project progressing and providing a much-welcomed Changing Places facility for visitors to Cowes.

Summer planting will again be provided and maintained by the wonderful team at Care in the Garden CIC, and watered throughout the summer season by JW Autosshine. Both teams do a great job and we look forward to seeing the red, white and blue colour scheme representing the Coronation, throughout the summer season.



Support was requested by local businesses for the Town Council to provide financial assistance for the provision and watering of an additional 28 hanging baskets throughout the High Street area. Councillors are pleased to work with our local businesses for the betterment of the town and the enjoyment of residents and visitors. The request was supported!

We continue to receive complaints of cyclists riding in the High Street pedestrian zone, with cyclists ignoring the No Entry signs. Councillor Fuller is liaising with the IW Council and Island Roads to, yet again, seek their approval for Cyclists Dismount signage.

At the Town Council meeting on 2 February 2023, Councillors discussed the IW Council presentation regarding the safety of waste employees when emptying bins in unmade and unadopted roads. The Town Council asked if the IW Council intended to take any enforcement action against residents in these roads. The IW Council have responded by saying that they have written to residents in the affected roads, in Cowes being: Coronation Road, Weston Road, Broadfields Avenue and Alexandra Road. Residents have been invited to carry out basic maintenance to improve safety levels on the road and walkways within the frontages of their property pending a further risk assessment in 3 months' time. Currently there is no threat to recycling and waste collections in these roads. The Town Council will continue to monitor this situation and assist residents where possible.

The long-awaited Covid-19 memorial has been installed in the Rosebed on Park Road, at the entrance to Northwood Park. This is the brainchild of former Mayor, Cllr Lora Peacey Wilcox, who was delighted to finally see the project come to fruition. Lora was present to see the granite stone being placed in its location and found the experience extremely moving. The memorial has the inscription "Remembering all those who lost their lives during the Covid-19 pandemic". The nearby benches provide an area near the memorial for friends and family to sit and reflect.



Looking ahead we of course have the King's Coronation and three bank holidays! Local events include the Coronation 'Picnic in the Park' in the lovely grounds of the historic Northwood House. Run by the staff and volunteers of Northwood House Charitable Trust Company Limited, this free community event brings the whole town together. There will be plenty of activities and entertainment for all ages. Bring your picnics along and wave your flags!

Kate Scragg (Asst Town Clerk)

Photos courtesy of Michael Paler



# Ryde Town Council

## Ryde's Annual Town Meeting Celebrates Key Projects and Developments



Ryde's Annual Town Meeting, Celebrating Ryde, on Monday 24th April was a great success with over 52 residents attending. The event was an opportunity for the town to celebrate and highlight some of its key projects and developments. The Mayor of Ryde, Cllr Lilley, opened the evening with an update on the 2022-2023 council year and highlighted various activities and projects which included:

- Ryde Marina – continued development since acquisition from Isle of Wight Council in 2022.
- Supporting the community through the cost-of-living crises via a Ryde Community Development Forum.
- High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) - shop front improvements and the future plans for improving the pedestrian zone.

One of the projects that received attention was the progress on St Thomas' Church as the new home for Network Ryde. The Youth Manager for Network Ryde, Bex Swan, gave a presentation on the successful grant application award of £578,000 from the Youth Investment Fund. This funding will significantly improve Ryde's Youth Service by adding more space and facilities. The new facility will create a safe, warm, and accessible space that will include showers and toilets, a kitchen, quiet and confidential spaces, and an indoor games area. An outdoor area will also be provided where wildlife will be encouraged to live alongside the facility. The building is expected to be completed and ready to open its doors to users by the summer of 2024.

Another project that was presented was the restoration of Appley Tower. Graham Biss of Natural Enterprise provided a presentation on the restoration initiative that will see the tower being brought back into public use as a viable and fully accessible asset to Ryde. The Heritage Lottery Fund has granted £248K for this project, and partner support from Ryde Town Council, the Isle of Wight Council and Natural Enterprise to match fund the Heritage Lottery Fund grant. The total projected project cost is £368K, and work is expected to be completed, with the tower opening to the public, before January 2025.

Sharon George and Joe Plumb also gave a presentation on the project for converting and developing their base in Cross Street Ryde into a creative and cultural space called 'Department'. This will deliver various arts and cultural events and activities. There will also be new working and performance spaces, a shop and café (with an outdoor terrace) as well as providing a long-lasting home for Shademakers UK. The group has secured £1,969,458 of government funding to turn the store into a cultural venue and has submitted a planning application to the Isle of Wight Council for consideration.

Overall, the event was a great success and highlighted some of the exciting projects and developments taking place in Ryde.

If you would like to find out more about St Thomas' Church, Appley Tower or Department, please visit their websites (links below)

St Thomas' Church - <https://networkryde.co.uk/network-ryde-awarded-a-life-changing-youth-investment-fund-grant-to-transform-its-services-for-young-people-on-the-isle-of-wight/>

Appley Tower - <http://www.naturalenterprise.co.uk/pages/economic/158-appley-tower>

Department –  
<http://department-ryde.org/?fbclid=IwAR3evUrDYwRSIsjIprNqxUyrvGyYv5vzJU6kTPzVYPCdrT7WNcx-aeTLHLU>

Hannah East (Marketing & Events Officer)

## Shalfleet Parish Council



Shalfleet Parish Council

**Community Led Housing (CLH):** A CLH meeting was held on 29th March 2023 to go through the applications to join the Working Party. The outcome of this means the group now has 10 members comprising of 3 Parish Councillors plus Clerk, 5 community members, 2 landowner members, plus the Community Led Housing Officer, to take this project forward.

The Working Party will be able to take on new members, who support the project, in due course.

We will continue to provide updates in 'Village News' and the Parish Council will also give these at their monthly meetings (Minutes of which go on the Parish Council website: [www.shalfleetiow.org.uk](http://www.shalfleetiow.org.uk)) to try and keep everyone up to speed.

For further information, please contact the Community Led Housing Officer, John Prickett, on Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays. Tel: (01983) 524058. Email: [jprickett@actioniw.org.uk](mailto:jprickett@actioniw.org.uk)

**April Parish Council meeting:** A cold meeting was held on 12th April and attended by 3 members of the public and the two Ward Councillors, who both gave their reports.

**Fleetway Litter bin:** The Councillors agreed to increase the emptying frequency of this bin with Island Roads, from monthly to fortnightly.

**Finances:** The Parish Council Financial Regulations were reviewed and some changes made to make the amounts more in line with current monetary values.

A change was also made (by majority vote) for the financial year 2023-24 regarding donation requests in a bid to help Parish Council finances. For smaller groups and charities, a fixed amount of £50 to be given and an upper limit of £250 to be given to constituted organisations. This to be reviewed in a year's time.

Donations of £50 were agreed to be given the West Wight Timebank and three Coronation events taking place at Newbridge, Wellow and Shalfleet. The three venues for the Coronation celebrations welcome residents and their families and friends.

**Crash Site Memorial:** Cllr Thomas Cowley has kindly offered to make an aircraft memorial made from corten steel, to be installed in a concrete base, on land at Eades Farm, Newbridge. An agreement letter, to be signed by both the landowners and Parish Clerk, was approved.

**Bouldnor Field:** A new recycled plastic bench has now been installed. Discussion was held on whether to increase the 'Coronation Avenue' of trees that has been planted across the middle of the field, should further trees be available.

It is hoped by the time you read this, the new pathway, to run parallel with the road, will have been installed by the developer of Bouldnor Mead as part of the s106 planning agreement.

**Southern Water:** A letter had recently been sent to some residents informing them of works that will take place over the next year to upgrade the Water Treatment Plant at Shalfleet. The Clerk established this work involves refurbishing reed beds, installing Ferric dosing, making improvements to the existing storm tank and associated pipework. She also ascertained from the Planning Department, that this work would be undertaken under permitted development and did not require planning.

**Hamstead Road:** Concerns had been raised by a local resident some time ago. The Clerk had been chasing for improvement works to be undertaken at the junction with Ningwood Hill. An email had been received from Island Roads which stated that they would not be carrying out any works and previous repairs had been done as a gesture of good will. Cllr Peter Spink took a copy of the email giving this information and agreed to look into the matter.



**The Community Award:** This is to be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting and this year has been granted to stalwart newspaper deliverer, Andy Norman, with thanks for the service he gives to our residents in villages and countryside.

**Coronation:** Shalfleet Parish Council has supported the three village halls in the civic parish for the residents and friends coming together to mark the Coronation of King Charles and his wife, Queen Camilla. Tea parties and a picnic lunch are planned with the attendant games, quizzes and music entertainments. Let us hope for fine weather.

*Sally Woods (Parish Clerk) & Cllr Helena Hewston*

## Fishbourne Parish Council

The May edition of our Parish Council Newsletter has just been published and copies distributed to all residents. It includes an interesting array of articles, including information about our new clerk, Katie, two articles about local authors and the unveiling of a new bench in Quarr Lane, jointly funded by Quarr Abbey and the Parish Council.



An online version of the Newsletter can be accessed at: <https://www.fishbourneiow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Fishbourne-Parish-May-20233074.pdf>.

Our latest monthly coffee morning, held on 4 May, was again well attended by local residents - including three dogs! We were also joined by Joel Bateman, Project Manager of Community Action's Resilience Project, who explained what the Project is doing.

*Cllr Diana Conyers*

# Other News...

## Information from the IW Council



### Cost of living

Please continue to share information about cost of living support with residents:

- Use the Isle of Wight cost of living web pages (<https://www.iow.gov.uk/keep-the-island-safe/cost-of-living/>) to see what's available near you. You can also call the council contact centre on 01983 823134.
- Contact Citizens Advice Isle of Wight on 0800 144 88 48 or [enquiries@iwcab.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@iwcab.org.uk). Their advice is free, confidential and independent. They can help with debt, benefits, legal advice and much more.
- Check out this video (<https://www.facebook.com/reel/119086581029149>) with 3 energy saving tips from local experts The Footprint Trust. You can contact them for free advice on 01983 822282 or via their website.
- Use the connect4communities website to see what other support is available in your area. (<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities/supportforfamilies/community-grantrecipients-low>)
- The government Help for Households website has information about help with childcare costs, benefits and many other schemes. (<https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>)

### Community Pantries

Did you know?

- Community pantries are free and for anyone so they can 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.
- The Pyle Street Pantry in Newport is opening soon.

### East Cowes Community Pantry

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

Opening hours are:

Tuesday, 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Wednesday and Thursday, 10:30am to 12:30pm

### Ventnor Community Pantry

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

Opening hours are:

Tuesday 3pm to 6pm

Saturday 11am to 2pm

### Ryde Community Pantry

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

Opening hours are:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

3.00pm to 4.30pm

Get more info about community pantries and accessing healthy food on our website (<https://www.iow.gov.uk/keep-the-island-safe/cost-of-living/food/>)

Please share this Facebook post or tweet.

### Two energy bill support schemes end 30 May 2023

- Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding is for households who haven't received their £400 energy bill support. This includes certain park home residents and partially or wholly self-funded care home residents.

For more information on eligibility and to apply go to this page on the government website: (<https://www.gov.uk/apply-energy-bill-support-if-not-automatic>)

- A £200 Alternative Fuels Payment (AFP) is available for homes that:
  - are in England, Scotland or Wales
  - use alternative fuels for most of their heating, such as liquid petroleum gas (LPG), oil or solid fuel
  - are connected to the electricity grid

You should have received an automatic payment for this. If you haven't, please go to the government website for information and to apply.

If you would rather talk to someone or need help to fill out your application, call the government helpline on 0808175328.

## COVID-19 vaccinations update

COVID-19 is still around and it's still making people very ill.

Make sure you and your loved ones are protected. Book an appointment online or call 119 for free. (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination/getting-a-1st-and-2nd-dose-of-the-covid-19-vaccine/>)

### The Spring vaccination is for:

- adults aged 75 years and over
- residents in a care home for older adults
- individuals aged 5 years and over who are immunosuppressed

To make sure you and your loved ones are protected this spring, book today online or call 119. Your GP may also invite you.

### First or second dose:

If you've only had one COVID-19 vaccination, or none at all, you can get the vaccine until 30 June. After this date, the offer will be targeted at those who are at increased risk from the virus.

The Isle of Wight and Hampshire Vaccination Helpline is available to answer your questions. Call 0300 561 0018 to speak to someone.

*Abi Fox (Public Health & Community Communications Lead)*

**The Newport High Street Heritage Action Zone project**, which aims to improve the pedestrian environment making the High Street a more pleasant place to shop and spend time, enters a new phase with Isle of Wight Council's consultation on the related traffic changes.

These new traffic regulations form part of a People First Zone project and this includes more usable pavement space to make walking around the town easier, will also feature new planting, seating and cycle parking. A public consultation last year has led to design changes in response to the feedback, including:

- Introduction of more planting, in larger blocks, to give the town centre a greener feel.
- Improvements to parking for disabled people, with parking on both sides of the road and one extra-long parking bay to allow rear ramps to be used more easily.
- Retention of some general parking, to provide extra provision for disabled people who do not need dedicated bays and short-term parking for other others.

The High Street Heritage Action Zone (funded by Historic England, Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council and Isle of Wight Council) is working in partnership with Southern Water to introduce new Sustainable Drainage Systems to the street. This will reduce combined sewer overflows into the Medina Estuary.

The consultation on the Traffic Regulation Orders has a closing date of May 12 and details of the proposed orders including how to submit your feedback are available via the council's website ([link](#)).

Comments of support and objections can only be legally considered if full contact details are provided whether by letter, email or by online survey. (Please choose only one method of response).

## **Island residents can help shape the future of a lifeline service supporting people to live independently in their own homes by taking part in a new consultation.**

Wightcare is a critical service provided by the Isle of Wight Council used by hundreds of Island residents every month. It provides vital support to those who need help due to age, disability, isolation, illness or vulnerability with care technology solutions and 24-hour call out services.

The service, which currently offers community alarms, Telecare and Telecheck services to enable people to live more independently in their own homes, is reviewing the packages of service provided. As part of this work, the team is asking people who use the service and anyone who has an interest in its future about how well Wightcare meets their needs.

The survey will be sent to current customers and can also be accessed online. Paper copies of the survey are also available from council libraries. The consultation will close on 18 May 2023 and more information about the consultation and the Wightcare service is available online.

## **The Isle of Wight Council is supporting the national 'No Mow May' campaign at several of its sites.**

This national campaign supports local biodiversity and our UNESCO biosphere status. The campaign aims to encourage people to 'liberate their lawns' — letting the grass grow will provide a feast for insects and bees, and lock away greenhouse gasses carbon below ground.

For safety reasons, the council will continue to mow the first metre of roadside verges throughout May and a number of outdoor spaces that serve sport and recreation activities. However, the council will be letting some areas return to their natural state throughout the month.

In 2021, 'No Mow Mayers' reported more than 250 plant species including wild strawberry, wild garlic and a dazzling array of rarities including adders'-tongue fern, meadow saxifrage, snake's-head fritillary, and eyebright.

For more information about No Mow May, visit: <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>

## **Councillors are being asked to allow more time for new government guidance to be published and come into force before reconsidering the Draft Island Planning Strategy (IPS).**

In early December Michael Gove, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, announced a number of possible changes to national planning policy in relation to housing, local plans and other issues. Public consultation on a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Prospectus took place and ran until early March 2023 and a large number of local planning authorities across the country have paused their local plan making while these national planning changes take place.

As a result of the potential changes to national planning policy, at the Full Council meeting in January councillors agreed to extend the time until the end of June for a decision to be made on whether to take the Draft IPS forward.

As the government has not yet published the new NPPF, at Cabinet and Full Council meetings this month councillors will be asked to allow further time for the new NPPF to be published and come into force before reconsidering the Draft IPS. At the same time they will be asked to keep open the route of preparing a new plan in line with any further changes to the planning system as a result of the forthcoming Levelling Up and Regeneration Act.

The IPS is a 15-year plan would set the council's housing targets, outline employment space and create new planning policies.

The latest report due to go before Cabinet on 11 May and Full Council on 17 May is available here: <https://iow.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=145&MIId=1465&Ver=4>

## As the UK prepares to crown its new King, we've got you covered on everything you need to know about recycling and waste over the Coronation bank holiday weekend (8 May).

The household waste and recycling collection will continue as usual, with collections as normal on bank holiday Monday 8 May. The bulky waste and free re-use collection service is also still available over this period. The Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) at Lynnbottom and Afton Marsh will be operating normal hours, but you must book your visit online beforehand. You can book your visit via <https://www.iow.gov.uk/waste>

With such an historic occasion taking place, join us on a journey looking back at the history of waste management.

- Waste management is an ancient practice that dates back to the early civilizations of the world. The first waste management system was developed in Athens in the 5th century BC, where people collected waste and dumped it outside the city walls. In ancient Rome, people used a similar system to manage their waste.
- The first documented waste management system was established in 1388 by King Richard II. The king ordered that all waste be removed from the city of London and taken to a designated area outside the city walls.
- The industrial revolution brought about a new era of waste management. In the late 1800s, the first municipal solid waste incinerators were developed. This allowed cities to burn their waste and convert it into energy.
- In the 20th century, the UK government set up the Ministry of Waste Management in 1973. The 1990 Environmental Protection Act followed. It aimed to reduce pollution and waste and promote sustainable development.

Today, the UK is a leader in waste management, with comprehensive waste collection systems, waste treatment plants, and recycling programs that help manage waste efficiently. The UK also has strict regulations on recycling, waste disposal and encourages citizens to practice the three R's (reduce, reuse, recycle), as well as reduce, to minimize their waste footprint. However, waste management remains an ongoing challenge, and there is always room for improvement.

As we celebrate the coronation, let's continue to work together towards a more sustainable future.

### Finally...some scams from Trading Standards...

- One of our IWASP partners has reported someone knocking their door and offering to buy one of their vans. We're not entirely sure how this scam would work however suspect they would test drive – or pay a deposit and then disappear with the van. There were similar reports about motor homes a couple of years ago. NEVER engage with somebody on your doorstep whether buying or selling.
- A resident has reported receiving frequent calls from a health care company offering her a pendant that she can press if she ever has a fall. DO NOT engage with these callers, they may send you a pendant which will be pretty useless and will take monthly payments from your account. If you need a product like this or any kind of care do your own research, ask friends or family to help you if you are unsure.
- The Trading Standards email received its own scam the other week!! An email purporting to be from ebay confirming an order of over £800. It asks you to call a number if you didn't place the order – we suspect this is where the scam will involve lengthy phone conversations and the scammer will ask you to allow remote access to your device – NEVER allow anyone remote access to any of your devices. As this was obviously a scam it was easy to identify however if you aren't sure look at the senders actual email address – it may say EBAY but the address behind it will be somebody's personal address. Forward scam emails to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)
- Beware of copycat websites – an Island resident tried to renew his driving licence online using what he thought was the GOV.UK website. The site charged him £14 to renew. His licence arrived and he noticed he had been charged £89, the following month a further £89 was debited from his account. Be very careful when renewing or applying for important documents such as Driving Licence, Passport, Blue Badge and ensure that you have accessed the Governments web site and not a copy site. Not only can they take money from your account they will have harvested all of your personal details at the same time which could be used in future scams.

Sally Ash (Fair Trading Officer)



## Help Available from The Blue Lamp Trust

The Blue Lamp Trust helps protect vulnerable residents in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight from becoming victims of crime - as part of their crime prevention advisory service. (<https://www.bluelamptrust.org.uk/>)

The scheme from the Blue Lamp Trust offers **FREE** home visits providing both general and specific crime and fire prevention advice to improve home safety.

They visit residents of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight who are:

- Vulnerable due to age (over 65)
- Disabled
- A victim of crime
- A victim of burglary
- A victim of domestic abuse

Their trained, police vetted, Bobby Scheme Fitters will visit and carry out a full survey and, as appropriate fit items free of charge, such as:

- Locks
- Spy Holes
- Door Chains
- Smoke Alarms
- Carbon Monoxide Alarms

### Installing Key Safes

They can also supply and fit Supra C500 Key Safes. These are ACPO Police Accredited and have a 5-year guarantee. Cost £75.

***All of the Blue Lamp Trust advisors are police vetted and carry ID cards to reassure local residents that they are genuine – and please remember, they will not be offended if you ask to see their ID to validate their identity.***

### Referrals

If you, or anybody you know, is eligible (based on the criteria above) and would benefit from a Bobby Scheme referral, please enquire via the Blue Lamp Trust website at <https://www.bluelamptrust.org.uk/bobby-scheme-landingpage/>

Alternatively, you can make an enquiry by calling the Blue Lamp Trust directly on 0300 777 0157.



## Police & Crime Commissioner Seeking Views on Victims Hub

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is seeking your thoughts and views around how and where victims of crime access relevant and appropriate local support.



Donna Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and Isle of Wight, has a duty to provide local support services for victims of crime, and is looking at developing a Victims Hub. This would provide a central point for providing support to victims of crime.

The Victims Hub will facilitate quicker and tailored access to the appropriate local support services whilst ensuring that victims of crime can access information about their reported crime. It is really important that you have the opportunity to share your ideas with the OPCC as they move forward in shaping the services victims are able to access across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

You can complete the survey by clicking the following link:

[https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90546961/VHS2023?fbclid=IwAR2O2mljhvq1UzHCV\\_ASZNbWK-IfxQ89SX9f6lXVDnu5r72o2HxYBHqwnP0](https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90546961/VHS2023?fbclid=IwAR2O2mljhvq1UzHCV_ASZNbWK-IfxQ89SX9f6lXVDnu5r72o2HxYBHqwnP0)

If you have any questions in relation to the survey then please email the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner using the following email: [opcc@hampshire.police.uk](mailto:opcc@hampshire.police.uk)

## Monthly Report from MP Bob Seely

### Tackling Sewage Pollution

On 25 April, I spoke in Parliament about the Southern Water pathfinder project to reduce sewage discharges on the Island.

After I persuaded Southern Water to make the Isle of Wight a national example of best practice for reducing sewage discharges, Southern Water are continuing to roll out slow-release water butts across the Island.

On 4 April, the Government introduced the national Plan for Water, a national plan to clean up the water and sewage network. The plan will speed up water company investment and will tackle all sources of water pollution, including storm overflows. Thanks to these and other measures, water firms are set to invest over £50bn in the coming years, the largest investment programme of its kind since Victorian times.



I continue to speak with Southern Water every month to ensure that the Island is prioritised for work to clean up our rivers, beaches and seas.

### Islands Forum

This month (May 2023), Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Michael Gove will attend the second-ever Islands Forum on the Isle of Wight.

This is an important opportunity to raise constituents' concerns with the Secretary of State and officials; and to explain some of the challenges facing the Isle of Wight.

I continue to seek a better deal for the Isle of Wight from the Government and am delighted to welcome the Secretary of State to the Island.

### A Better Deal for Island Sub-Postmasters

After writing to the Post Office Limited about support for sub-postmasters on the Island, I met with Laura Tarling of the Post Office Limited on 18 April to discuss local sub-postmasters' concerns.

I recognise the challenges of keeping post offices open at this time. I know that the current economic climate, shortfalls in remuneration and the requirement to cover a number of overheads have put significant pressure on sub-postmasters.

I continue to campaign for changes to post office remuneration to ensure that sub-postmasters get a fairer deal.

### Education and Phonics

On 15 March, I met with Schools Minister Nick Gibb to discuss phonics - an essential part of primary education.

I secured an important commitment from Minister Gibb to work towards delivering an English Hub on the Isle of Wight. English Hubs are designed to provide a local source of support and best practice in phonics provision, to improve the teaching of early language and reading in Reception and Year 1.

This month, I held meetings with ministers and officials across government and local government - including Ofsted and Hampshire County Council - to discuss these plans, as well as exam results and phonics provision on the Island.

After my meeting with Minister Gibb, I am pleased to confirm that preparations are underway for a summer phonics conference on the Island with Minister Gibb himself. I strongly encourage Isle of Wight schools to engage with the Government's phonics schemes in the leadup to the conference.

### Special Educational Needs Roundtable

On 21 April, I hosted a roundtable meeting with over 20 people from organisations on the Island who work with or support young people and their families. We discussed help and support for young people with special

educational needs and disabilities on the Island; waiting lists for Adult Social Care and ADHD; and the planned Special Educational Needs (SEN) school on the Island.

I am grateful for their thoughts and look forward to meeting again later in the year.

### Yarmouth School

Earlier this year, I wrote to Yarmouth residents about the old Yarmouth school site. As you may know, the Yarmouth school has moved to Freshwater and the school site is currently vacant.

I am keen to see a community use for the site. This could include affordable housing for local people, community use for the old school building itself, and space for local employers.

On 19 April, I spoke to Minister for the School System Baroness Barran and Department for Education officials to discuss the rules for future use of the site. I will continue to press the Isle of Wight Council to ensure the site is used for community benefit.

### Pints of View

I continue to hold regular 'Pints of View' meetings in pubs across the Island. My latest meeting was on Friday 28 April at the White Horse Inn in Whitwell.

I encourage all readers to join me at the next 'Pints of View' for an informal chat about any issues you may wish to raise - no appointment necessary.

Bob Seely MP



**DUE TO THE GENEROSITY OF THE PUBLIC  
WE HAVE PLENTY OF:**

COOKING SAUCES  
PASTA  
BAKED BEANS  
TINNED PULSES  
CEREAL  
TEA  
PET FOOD



Thank you



## IW Walking Festival

### Submit your Autumn walks now!

The first IW Walking Festival event of 2023 takes place this month and runs from Saturday 13 – Sunday 21 May. Over 85 walks will take place across the Island, all hosted by volunteer walk leaders and Island businesses. With 2023 being the year of the coast, there's never been a better time to show off the Island's beautiful and dramatic coastline to visitors.

The beauty of walking on the Island is that you can take a walk in Spring, and again in Autumn, and it's a totally different experience. Which is why Visit Isle of Wight is hosting two Walking Festivals this year.

The Autumn walks will be bookable after the Spring event, later this summer, and the IWWF events team is on the lookout for some new routes to add to the programme. If you would be interested in hosting a walk or two in your local area, please contact the IWWF events team at [walking@visitwight.org](mailto:walking@visitwight.org)



## Island Roads

### Time running out to apply for Isle of Wight Foundation grant funding

There is still time to apply for a grant from the Isle of Wight Foundation.

Each year the foundation, made up of the partners behind Island Roads, issue grants of between £3,000 and £16,000 to charities and not for profit/community organisations working to tackle social exclusion.

Since 2014, the foundation - comprising Island Roads, Meridiam, Vinci Concessions and Island Roads Services – has donated over £740,000 to such projects.

Those wishing to apply for grants this year have until noon on 9 May to do so.

IW Foundation chairman Rob Gillespie said: "In the last nine years we have been proud to work with a wide range of organisations who are supporting people to play an active part in their communities and assisting them in accessing employment and housing.

"But we know this work is ongoing and we would welcome applications from community groups for grant funding this year."

Further details are available from Island Roads | IW Foundation



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## News from Red Funnel

### Red Funnel partner with the National Autistic Society to increase accessibility on its ferries

Red Funnel is dedicated to ensuring every customer has the option for an accessible experience onboard its ferries, and to mark World Autism Day collaborated with the National Autistic Society (NAS) to make its journeys more comfortable.

The NAS undertook an audit of the ferry operations, to help Red Funnel help tackle loneliness within communities on public transport by making it more accessible to autistic people and making travel a more enjoyable experience.

Fran Collins, Chief Executive Officer at Red Funnel, added: "We want to make our ferries as accessible as possible for all passengers, and following feedback from our recent Customer Forum, we have made several key improvements for autistic customers. We have been working with the National Autistic Society to provide our colleagues with further training and to help us assess opportunities to improve our service. We believe that autism-friendly considerations and adaptations to our service will benefit our customers."

### Red Funnel teams up with Planet Aware for Island beach clean

To mark this year's Earth Day, Red Funnel staff members headed to Binnel Bay and took part in a beach clean.

In partnership with Planet Aware, the volunteers collected an incredible 67kg of rubbish including plastic bottle caps, food wrappers, fishing tackle line and ropes, disposable face covers, tyres, kids' toys, shoes, and even shotgun shells!

The beach clean follows Red Funnel's announcement of its new ESG strategy "Changing Tides", which will chart the ferry operators' course to Net Zero and creates a framework to achieve real results and have a positive impact on the Island community.

Leanna Lakes, Operations Director at Red Funnel who took part in the beach clean, said: "We're committed to finding innovative ways to reduce and mitigate all aspects of our environmental impact, and to protect the environment and biodiversity within the places we operate."

### Maritime project to encourage girls in STEM roles takes place at Red Funnel

Red Funnel hosted students from Cowes Enterprise College onboard the Red Falcon, where they took part in a coding challenge as part of an educational project to showcase the diverse careers available to everyone within the maritime industry.

Six year eight girls commandeered the Signature Lounge where they designed, built, and coded autonomous vessels, and navigated the ships from Southampton to East Cowes using an extensive map of the Solent. The girls then constructed ports, ships, cranes and even Red Funnel's ferries and terminals... using only LEGO! *Josey Page (Senior Account Executive)*

