



# The IWALC Bulletin

November 2021

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 November issue of the Bulletin. Winter has arrived and I think we are all a bit apprehensive about what it holds in store.

In addition to the usual news from IWALC, NALC, local councils and other organisations, this issue includes an article on strategic planning by local government consultants, David Carden and James Corrigan. David has facilitated workshops for IWALC and Ryde Town Council and wrote an earlier article on strategic planning for the June issue of the Bulletin. Does your council have any sort of strategic plan? If you do, or if you would like some help in preparing one, please let us know.

As this issue goes to press, the Glasgow COP 26 conference is in its second week. Climate change and the climate emergency have thus been major topics of debate over the last month. It is therefore fitting that NALC has just released a report on climate change, including recommendations on what local councils can do. You will find further information on this in the section on NALC News below.

However, climate change is not the only crisis facing the country. There is also a housing crisis and the Island has been badly affected. There is an acute shortage of affordable housing, particularly to rent. The December issue of the Bulletin will focus on this topic. We will be inviting contributions about innovative ways of delivering the type of houses we really need and the possible role that local councils might play. If you have any suggestions, please get in touch.

*Diana Conyers (Chair)*



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

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**The deadline for the December issue is November 30th - 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 print submitted articles.*

# IWALC News...

## **Topic Meeting:**

Cllr Phil Jordan, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure, was our guest at the October Topic Meeting. The meeting was held via Zoom because of the high number of Covid cases on the Island at present.

Cllr Jordan explained that the renegotiation of the Island Roads PFI contract in 2019 had resulted in about £2 million savings, £1.5 million of which have already been implemented. He described how this has affected the delivery of various services and informed participants that local councils can, if they wish, contribute to the funding of services in order to get a higher level of provision.

Cllr Jordan also answered questions on a wide range of issues related to Island Roads, including speeding, water on roads, grass cutting and a request that local councils be allowed to undertake their own minor works. The notes from the meeting have been circulated to IWALC representatives and clerks.

## **Workshop Follow-Up:**

At the Community Resilience Workshop hosted by IWALC on 25 September, a steering group was set up to discuss follow-up activities. The group, which includes representatives from IWALC, the Isle of Wight Council and Community Action IW, held its first meeting by Zoom on 20 October.

One of the decisions made at this meeting was to write to all local councils, asking about any current or planned social welfare or community development activities they undertake and offering to provide information and support to any council wishing to expand this role. Clerks will be receiving these letters shortly.

## **Training:**

Covid has again disrupted our training plans. We had planned to hold a face-to-face Introduction to Finance course on 27 October. However, after discussion with the trainer, Sue Chilton, we decided to cancel this. It will now be held via Zoom on Wednesday 1 December. Hopefully this will still be in time to help councils with their budget preparation.

The Code of Conduct course scheduled for Wednesday 24 November will still go ahead but will also be held via Zoom. If you haven't already enrolled in these courses and wish to do so, please contact your clerk.

## **Your Questions to the IWC**

The IWC are hoping to resume regular meetings with IWALC in the new year.

In the meantime, if anyone has any questions they would like us to raise on their behalf, please let us know and we will endeavour to get an answer.

*(Send your questions/comments to [heatheriwalc@gmail.com](mailto:heatheriwalc@gmail.com))*

## Meet the Councillors....

My name is Toby Wilcock and I am one of six councillors representing Sandown South. Since being elected, I am fortunate to have been made the IWALC Deputy representative for Sandown Town Council.

My interest to run for this seat began with speaking to local councillors regarding the issues within our town, from the safety of residents to youth provision. I felt as though many residents were not being truly represented, and the ideas and views of my demographic were not being raised.

I aim to pursue the safety of our residents, with the increased pressures our towns are now facing. As well as ensuring to minimise the environmental impact we have as a town council. I have consistently raised issues regarding our town, to both Island Roads and Isle of Wight Council, and aim to increase this pressure as I develop into this role.



During my time as councillor so far, I have received great help and guidance from IWALC during training, which I am massively grateful for, as this has outlined many parameters of being a Councillor. Having conducted both in person and online meetings and training through IWALC, they have proven to be a great asset to all, with many thanks and appreciation to Diana and the whole IWALC team

I look forward to meeting all of you in the near future, and until then I hope everyone is safe and well.

*Cllr Toby Wilcock*

## Report from the Carisbrooke Castle Museum Trustee Committee at the Castle

We were given a summary of significant developments to the Strategic Plan now under review, embracing administration, culture initiatives, education provision, finance and the impact of the pandemic.

The discussion that followed drew together an identification of the Forward Plan and an update of the goals for the museum.

We were well engaged with listening and discussion for over two and a half hours.

*Cllr Helena Hewston (5th November 2021)*

## At a Glance...

### Virtual meeting with MP Bob Seely

Wednesday November 17th - time to be confirmed though expected to be 4pm or 5pm.

### Code of Conduct Training

Wednesday November 24th from 6.30pm to 8.30pm

By Zoom

Please book through your Clerk as soon as possible.

### Executive Meeting

The next Executive meeting will be on 25 November. We have yet to decide whether it will be held in person or via Zoom.

### Finance Training

Wednesday December 1st from 6.30pm to 9pm

By Zoom

Please book through your Clerk as soon as possible.

# News from NALC

## 1. NALC AGM

IWALC was represented by Bob Blezzard, Dave Hardy and Mick Lyons at the NALC AGM which was held virtually on 26th October.

The meeting agreed to a 1% increase in NALC affiliation fees to 7.49p per elector capped at £1,920 for the largest councils. Our representatives voted against this increase in accordance with an instruction from the IWALC Executive.

A proposal to bring forward the first date for County Associations to pay over subscription fees to NALC from 30th June to 31st May was heavily defeated. Again IWALC representatives voted against the proposal in compliance with a decision of the IWALC Executive.

A change was made to the NALC constitution replacing the term “chairman” with the gender neutral term “chair,” bringing us into line with many other organisations.

NALC has now appointed a new national president, Baroness Roz Scott of Needham Market, not to be confused with our former president Baroness Jane Scott who left the role after a short period in office to become a government whip in the Lords. In addition, a number of cross-party parliamentarians have been appointed vice-presidents. These are Baroness Natalie Bennett of Manor Castle, Andrew Gwynne MP, Lord O’Shaughnessy and Lord John Lytton.

## 2. TRANSPORT FOR THE SOUTH-EAST

I attended a briefing by TfSE (Transport for the South-East) organised by SERCAF (South East Region County Association Forum) and delivered by Rupert Chubb, Director of Highways, Transport and Economy, East Sussex County Council.

The transport authorities in the South-East region, including the Island, are working in partnership to deliver a strategic transport plan for the South-East. The TfSE authority is made up of representatives from the sixteen local transport authorities in the region, plus the five LEPs, and representation from the boroughs and districts.

The transport authority is supported by a “transport advisory forum which has been running since 2017 and includes parish representation, although it is unclear how that representation is appointed. TfSE is tasked with putting together a 30 year strategic improvement plan (SIP) to facilitate economic growth and environmental improvements. The SIP will be consulted on in 2022 before being submitted to the DfT in 2023.

It is understood that £70Bn to £90Bn Government funding for transport will be provided over 30 years. Five area studies are currently being carried out. The Island is included in the “South-West Radial Area” which extends up through Hampshire into Berkshire. The map indicates that only the road connections between Cowes and Ryde via Newport are included in the study. The work is being funded by £0.5M provided by the sixteen local transport authorities. Government grants at this stage are very much “hand to mouth.”

Four work streams being pursued, as part of the study, are: decarbonisation, buses, vehicle-charging infrastructure, and local authority capacity. Consultants Arup are supporting TfSE with this work. We were told that the SIP will be a blueprint for investment.

At no point during the presentation was the Island mentioned, something I drew attention to during questions. I was assured that we are a part of the study. I was also told that TfSE has little, if any, influence over the ferry companies. Another interesting point to come out was that local transport authorities, including the Isle of Wight, were required to provide the DfT with a bus improvement plan by 31st October.

Bob BLEZZARD (November 2021)

## WHAT CAN COUNCILS DO ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

NALC has recently published a report about the role of local councils in addressing climate change. It includes the result of a recent survey conducted to find out what councils are currently doing, from which a set of recommendations are drawn. It recommends (p.22) that councils should:

- Continue to declare climate and/or biodiversity declarations where possible as this leads to a higher level of climate action e.g. climate working groups, and sustainable neighbourhood plans.
- Conduct carbon footprint calculations at the community and individual level with resources provide by NALC.
- Utilise carbon footprint calculations to identify where councils can make changes to reduce carbon emissions within the community or their own operations.
- Aim to set up climate working groups to forge connections with other councils, principal authorities and climate action groups to share best practice and lobby MPs. To read the full report, go to: <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/news/entry/1878-nalc-publishes-new-report-on-climate-change>

## **IWALC Members' Views and Suggestions**

*We encourage IWALC members to express their views on topical issues. Let us know what you think about the views expressed below.*

### **Letter to MP Bob Seely Re: Promoting the Island in Germany**

I refer to our brief conversation at the recent IWALC zoom meeting and set out below my concerns which I hope you will be able to address in a positive way.

For several years the Isle of Wight German Twinning Association has manned a stall at the Christmas Market held in Coburg, Bavaria, the Island's twin community in Germany. The stall is provided free of charge by courtesy of the Coburg City Council. Last year the market did not take place due to the Covid-19 pandemic but happily our friends in Coburg have confirmed that it is going ahead this year starting on 29th November and they are looking forward to welcoming us back.



The purpose of the stall is to allow us to promote the Island as a holiday destination and also to promote Island produce. In the past we have driven to Coburg taking with us a wide range of products including jam, marmalade, honey, garlic products cider, beer and rum. Goods that did not fit into cars were sent by freight with the help of a local haulier. As the goods were purchased directly from Island producers excise duty and VAT was paid in the UK. This has worked very well over the years without any problems.

As an association we are keen to continue promoting the Island at an event which attracts over 100,000 visitors from across Europe. Unfortunately, however following the end of the Brexit transitional period things are far from straightforward. We will be treated as an exporter and are told that we should appoint a specialist to handle our export declarations or take the necessary steps to be ready to do this ourselves. We are told the process of gaining the specialist skills to do this is very time consuming and we "should not underestimate how much time and effort it will take." As a small voluntary organisation we do not possess the necessary skills to do this work ourselves and indeed we have noted that many SMEs are finding the new customs rules very burdensome and in some cases are ceasing trading with the EU as a result. Given that our trading requirements are for a short period once a year we are of the view that it would not be practical to train someone up to undertake what is acknowledged to be a time consuming and complex exercise.

You will recall that at the time of the referendum campaign the public was assured by Vote Leave that if we left the EU we would secure the quickest and simplest free trade agreement in history and prior to the 2019 general election we were told an "oven ready" deal was ready to be signed. I am sure it was never envisaged at the time that organisations like ours, wishing to promote the interests of our local communities in Europe would be faced with this type of bureaucratic Nightmare.

I am aware of your wish for the Island to be treated as an "exception" for some purposes and what is clearly needed here is for some form of exceptional arrangements to be put in place in order for local organisations to participate in one off festivals and other events in the EU without being subject to disproportionate bureaucratic burdens. I would suggest that a de Minimis annual duty free allocation of say £10,000 for twinning or similar organisations would be reasonable. Could you please, as a matter of urgency take this up with the appropriate minister on our behalf?

Yours sincerely,

Bob Blezzard

(Secretary, Isle of Wight German Twinning Association on behalf of the Association)



# Developing and Delivering the Council's Strategic Plan

*As a follow-up to his article in the June 2021 edition of the Bulletin, entitled 'Every Local Council Needs a Plan', David Carden has collaborated with his friend and colleague James Corrigan, a Director of a company called Council HR and Governance Support, to offer member councils a more detailed insight into strategic planning.*

## Why have a strategic plan?

It is no coincidence that high performing organisations have a Strategic Plan with SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time constrained). As the old saying goes if you don't know where you are going, how will you know when you have got there?

It is therefore surprising when Councils do not have any form of Strategic Plan. Many are put off by the thought of producing a substantial document with lots of evidence and detailed objectives which for the majority of Councils is simply unachievable due to limited staff resources. One of the most effective Strategic Plans we have seen was developed by a small Parish Council with a part time (10 hours per week) Parish Clerk. The plan was one side of A4 with a mission statement at the top and a list of targets in one column, why they were being delivered in another, source of finance and staff/volunteer resource, deadline, and current status. Over a period of 36 months the small Parish Council completed all of its objectives and set about devising a new plan.

The ideal, but not the only, time to develop a Strategic Plan is within the first six months of the formation of a new administration. The new Council will at its formation inevitably follow Bruce Truckman's 1965 model of Group Development namely "Forming, Storming, Norming and Performing and then Adjourning" in time for the next administration to be elected. As the new Council is likely to follow this process it is an ideal time to introduce the development of a strategic plan, the new Council then takes control of the process and attempts to secure benefit rather than confusion and conflict for the next four years.



**Forming** involves the election of the new Administration and bringing them together as individuals, often in the early training sessions and via the Councillors information pack. A visioning exercise completes the forming stage.

This leads into the **Storming** stage, where there may well be some conflict over priorities. This is to be expected but managing the process and the debate to create a fully evidenced and appraised Strategic Plan means that the effort will be worth it. The process of developing the plan brings together everyone in the organisation to develop the clear objectives going forward. This process in itself helps to focus everyone in the same direction and enables the team to focus on where they are and where they want to be and how they will get there.

The **Norming** stage is where everything settles down; all team members both officers and Councillors, buy into the common goal of the strategic plan and work together to deliver it. There may be some who do not do so and in the case of employees they may need to be re-motivated or consider leaving the organisation. When Councillors do not buy into the process they cannot be allowed to derail it and should be always encouraged to get on board.

The **Performing** stage sees the necessary appropriate delegation to officers to empower and motivate and to allow the team to deliver on the objectives in accordance with the Strategic Plan. During this time, you will be continuously monitoring progress.

The **Adjourning** stage is the inevitable breaking up of the “team” as the Council enters into the next round of elections and the next administration is elected.

## What should your Strategic Plan include?

There are several recommended variations but the five key elements to include are:

- Mission Statement
- Core Values
- SWOT analysis
- All your SMART objectives
- The coming years' SMART objectives

A **Mission Statement** describes what you do currently, for whom, and how. It should be memorable and not too long, the team should be able to use and retain it. Some mission statements combine the mission with the vision so are informative or descriptive as well as Inspirational, such as the Walt Disney one, which is “to entertain, inform and inspire people around the globe through the power of unparalleled storytelling, reflecting the iconic brands, creative minds and innovative technologies that make ours the world’s premier entertainment company.”

**Core Values** are the Council’s beliefs that will enable the Council to deliver on its vision and mission. These beliefs can cover areas such as community leadership, working in collaboration with the local community, representing the needs of the local community, delivering the best possible services and accountability.

A **SWOT analysis** (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) is a commonly used tool in the sector now, created by Albert Humphrey at the Stanford Research Institute in the 1960’s. Ideally the main stakeholders should develop this as part of a visioning exercise for the Council during the Forming stage. Carrying out this exercise will enable the Council to highlight the key areas to address. Some of these may be fairly mundane, such as achieving a clean bill of health at audit or increasing reserves by a certain amount. Others may be pioneering or of higher value, such as some of the exciting developments currently going on in the sector - like setting up food banks, providing affordable housing or building a new theatre. The SWOT analysis should consider key pieces of evidence, such as consultation surveys with stakeholders, tree surveys, building assessments, the Neighbourhood Plan, and partners’ aspirations. This ensures objectives are evidence based and not ‘vanity’ projects.

**SMART objectives** (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time Based) are an area where, at Council HR and Governance Support, we often see unrealistic objectives. This is usually because the desired objective is not within the gift of the Council. For example, a target of preventing further new housing in the Parish or opening the police station 24 hours per day. These are objectives where third parties will ultimately make the decision, so to have them as targets gives the impression to the public that the Council has the power to implement these objectives when it does not. Thus, the Council sets itself up for a fall when not achieved. This in turn can result in unnecessary stress for Councillors and officers alike, and more significantly adverse reputational impact.

It is vitally important if the Council is to deliver on its objectives that it keeps focused on them and specifically those that should be delivered over the coming 12 months. Getting too many balls in the air at once often leads to dropping most if not all of them. Equally the Council needs to ensure that new non-evaluated objectives, often vanity projects, are not allowed to come in outside the Strategy Development and go to the front of the queue. We have of course seen good examples of objectives that are worthy of this leapfrogging to the front of the queue during the pandemic, such as setting up food banks or coordinating food deliveries to the homes of the vulnerable. These occasions should be rare and generally speaking only where they are of considerable merit and time limited to be done soon or in any event before the creation of the next Strategic Plan.

For some smaller Councils you may wish to reduce the plan down to simply just SMART objectives, this is better than no plan. We find that the best way to achieve this simple plan is to ask four simple questions;



- Where have we come from? (What have we done well in the past and not so well – lessons learned).
- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to get to?
- How will we get there?

## **Delivering your Strategic Plan**

Once a Strategic Plan is adopted by the Council, it is vitally important that the objectives are delivered if the Council is to remain credible and the residents to see value for money. The key to delivering the Strategic Plan effectively is to link the objectives with the Council's Performance Management Systems.

This is achieved by setting all employees objectives that deliver on the Strategic Plan. It is good for team morale and motivation to ensure that every employee has at least one linked objective; this should be considered when devising the Strategic Plan, as it makes everyone feel valued, and improves motivation and morale all round within the organisation.

These objectives set at the annual appraisal should then be monitored as part of the regular performance management meetings with line managers. One of the difficulties in doing this is managing the Clerk, as technically the only line manager is the full Council. A system should be put in place and even included within the Member and Officer protocol for the Clerk to work in partnership with lead Councillors to monitor performance against the targets set in the strategic plan. A proven way to do this is to have a monthly, time limited, informal meeting with the Clerk and lead Councillors in a spirit of mutual support and collaboration. To support the meeting a spreadsheet with all targets on should be used as the means of updating on progress and by default performance managing the Clerk.

Poorly managed appraisals of the Clerk are a common source of conflict. As a former SLCC Advisor to Clerks, one of us was often amazed at how often relationships broke down between Councillors and the Clerk as a result of the annual appraisal. This was often due to a lack of training and a poor grasp of how the appraisal process should work and how to conduct it as a positive experience. Ideally the appraisal should follow an approved format such as that recommended by the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development, all parties should receive some training and ideally a HR qualified support should be present.

## **What next after adopting your Strategy?**

The Council will now need the resources to deliver the Strategy, so now is an ideal time to commission an organisational review to ensure you have the most effective and efficient staff resources to enable the Council to deliver its objectives over the remainder of the Council's administration. There are a number of organisations out there that can undertake this review for you, including Council HR and Governance Support. [We can also support you in developing your Strategic Plan and any other governance matters as well as recruitment, locum cover and an annual HR support service. All delivered by our team of expert associates.]

*James Corrigan is a Director of Council HR and Governance Support. Its ethos is to provide local councils with expert support via individuals who have done the day job. The overall objective is to support clients to be more effective and efficient but at the same time to take care of the welfare of all who work there and to ensure relationships prosper for the benefit of the local community. They are dedicated to ensuring best practice and continuous improvement in the local council sector by working collaboratively with councils to help them to achieve their full potential and ambitions.*

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# News from Member Councils

## Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council



Unlike many longstanding town and parish councils, on emparishment in 2008 Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council had no property in which to base itself. For nearly a decade we were based at the Riverside Centre, before a few nomadic years at Newport Guildhall and our current rented offices in Pyle Street.

However, in September we completed the purchase of the former Edinburgh Woollen Mill store in Newport High St, opposite the old post office. The Community Council intends to refit the store so that it not only provides an open plan office for our staff and reception for service users, but also perhaps a flexible meeting space, a heritage centre and lettable space for 'pop up' enterprises. The refit will be funded within existing resources.

The Newport High St Heritage Fund grant will also be used to improve the outside frontage.



The purchase is us saying "we believe in Newport" and the purchase has been made without any extra burden on the precept payer. Indeed, our precept this year actually went down, and as Chair and longstanding finance lead, I am always keen to keep our precept reasonable.

Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council has always been a cautious council over the past 14 years and with this purchase nothing has changed. *Clr Geoff Brodie*

(Chair of Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council)

## Niton and Whitwell Parish Council

Niton and Whitwell Parish Council are delighted to have the use of a new Parish Council office that is located at the centre of Niton. Councillors have named the building "The Exchange" as it is the original telephone exchange for the area, and it was latterly in use as the library in Niton.



Work is just starting on fitting out the building. Our Parish Clerk will initially work from the office one day a week and our intention is to create a hub for people in the Niton and Whitwell community to use. Our Ward Councillor, Claire Critchison, will be holding surgeries from "The Exchange," as will the local Policing team.

My family have lived in Niton for many generations, and I am particularly proud to serve on the Parish Council. We have recently updated the Objectives of the Council and I look forward to helping to achieve our goals which are:

- Prioritising the needs of Young People in the Parish
- Supporting Local Transport Services where needs are identified
- Maintaining safe and accessible routes between and around Niton and Whitwell. Work with the IW Council to prioritise the reopening of the A3035 Undercliffe Drive.
- Representing Local Views on Planning Policy and its implementation, whilst actively working to ensure these representations are given more consideration as part of the planning process and subsequent decision making

As a Parish Council, we feel strongly about supporting our local transport services, and as a result the Parish Council are providing the majority of funding towards the Number 6, Winter Sunday bus service which is a vital link for parishioners in our rural community.

*Lorraine Sheerin* (Chairman – Niton and Whitwell Parish Council)

## Fishbourne Parish Council



In the September Bulletin we reported that Fishbourne Parish Council had acquired the local BT phone box and, inspired by Chillerton and Gatcombe's example, were converting it into a community library.

We are pleased to report that the project is now complete (see photo) and the Library is already proving popular with local residents.

*CLLr Diana Conyers*



## Ryde Town Council

The Council has been working with the Isle of Wight Council to ensure the take over of Ryde Harbour is complete by the end of this financial year. Officers are attending regular 'Teams' meetings with officers from IWC and negotiations are going well.



The Town Council are also working with IWC officers from Parks and Beaches Department to ensure the Town has fantastic planting to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next June. We are planning on redesigning some areas of planting in St Thomas' Rest Gardens to reduce anti-social behaviour in the area. We hope to replace some of the flower beds currently containing tall shrubs with lower level planting to open up the area and remove hiding areas for those committing ASB.

We also welcomed a new member to the RTC family this week, young Luca who arrived rather early last Friday weighing only 5lbs 6oz. Congratulations to Liam our Facilities Officer and his partner Abby.

*Lisa Dutton (Clerk)*



Ryde residents have formed a new community group, Friends of Ryde Town Hall (FORTH), to help Ryde Town Council bring the town's most iconic building back into community use. FORTH was launched on 4 November, at an event hosted by the Ryde Society.

Despite the cold windy weather, the event, which was held from 5.30 to 8.00 in the Royal Victoria Arcade, attracted large numbers of people, including councillors and many members of the public.

Membership of the group is open not only to Ryde residents, but to anyone concerned about the future of this important building.

*Ryde Town Council representative*

## Arreton Parish Council

Arreton has been very much focused on the planning application put in by UKOG for exploratory drilling for oil in the Parish. The application was submitted to the IW Council last year and the Parish Council objected to it for many reasons.

At the October meeting of the IWC Planning Committee, the PC presented a summary of its objections. Support for the application at the meeting was limited to the applicant and his technical advisor and the committee voted unanimously to reject the application. We now wait to see if there is an appeal.

Changing the subject, along with many other councils we have been considering purchasing defibrillators and it seems likely that this will be approved shortly.

*Cllr Martin Kimber*



## East Cowes Town Council

The Levelling Bid of £5.8 million for the Venture Quays has been successful in the Government's budget. This will be allocated to Wight's shipyard to expand their site and bring new jobs - they have already taken on new apprentices.



The Barracks will also be brought up to standard for UKSA and shared community use. These talks will start soon. Albany Green will also be developed for a community events area.



The frame-work for the Library and community hub will be in place shortly so it is now all taking shape.

Recently, there has been a public consultation drop at the Town Hall; this has been well attended with councillors talking with the local community on what they would like to see take place in the next year.

Plans for the Indonesian 77th Independence Day Celebration at East Cowes Town Hall have been planned for August Bank Holiday weekend. The event that was held this year was a private event and

the people on the Island asked some questions as to why they could not also attend? Next year's event will have a public day of celebration.

There will be more plans for the town over the next few months to keep us busy.

Vaccinations are all going well and will be continuing over the next few months.

Take care and be safe.

*Michael Pater*

(Mayor of East Cowes).





## Cowes Town Council

Southern Water gave a presentation on sewage outfall at the October meeting of the Town Council. Councillors raised a number of questions following the presentation and were invited to a tour of Sandown Treatment Centre.



The Police have taken action locally against private eScooters being used on the roads (not Beryl eScooters) which resulted in four arrests and confiscation of the eScooters.

The Town Council has renewed its Zoom membership for a further year – just in case ....

Questions have been asked of the Highways PFI Team as to how Island Roads prioritise road resurfacing. Councillors feel that less-well used roads have been resurfaced ahead of more-well used routes which are in a worse condition.

The Town Council has added the 'Digital Friendly Island' logo to its Age Friendly Island Charter and adopted the 'Digital Friendly Pledge' which confirms that the Town Council will design its digital services to be accessible and inclusive; will signpost residents / visitors to other Digital Friendly Island organisations who can provide further support and will display the Digital Friendly Island logo. The Town Council will also endeavour to make its website age-friendly.



The Projects Committee is considering a number of projects including: applying to the IW Council for grant funding for the creation of a local cycling and walking infrastructure plan (LCWIP), planting a community orchard at Northwood Recreation Ground and installing a new information board on Cowes Parade to tell the story of The Ark and The Dove departing from Cowes on their historic voyage to Maryland, USA.

We're waiting for news from the Business Association about any late night shopping evenings in the run up to Christmas before we set the date for the switching on of the town's festive lights.

The town's planters have been planted to bring some welcome colour through the autumn and winter seasons.

*Kate Gibbs (Asst Town Clerk)*

## Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council

We are still involved in the effort to save our primary school from closure. The consultation has started again on 1st November.

We are trying to engage with Rights of Way about the maintenance of our footpaths after a difficult year in 2021. We are surveying our residents about options for a war memorial and will soon be surveying them again about actions we can pursue to deal with speeding traffic.



We had a lively meeting with representatives of IWC about the Draft Island Strategic Plan. We are particularly concerned about the impact of increased housing on our infrastructure, especially sewage. This is particularly relevant as we hear of massive raw sewage outflows in the sea around us.

*Nigel Phillips (Chair - Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council)*

## Yarmouth Town Council

The town remains very busy even after half term.



'Yarmouth on Ice' is coming just before Christmas. The Town Council has contributed to sets of lights to give extra cheer. Local businesses have organised Yarmouth on Ice, with any profits going to Charity

The Town Council's investments in new toilets is paying off. In 2018/19 the toilets cost the Council £16K because of numerous maintenance problems. The forecast for 2021/22 indicates a net cost of £10K allowing for an income of nearly of £5K from a charge of just 20p. This is very satisfying since we have much better facilities and a reduction in net expenditure.

The Council is quite frustrated by the lack of action from contractors failing to get works done to improve the 'Rec'. The 'Rec' is a Town Green which needs better drainage so that it is more useable through out the year. We have plans to add facilities including adult gym equipment, new goal posts and a petanque court.

The Council considered setting aside a budget for a Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan (LCWIP) but it appears too late in the process as an individual Council is unlikely to get funding. Although the scheme has been going since 2017 the cut off date is now 15th November 2021. This will be on the agenda of the West Wight Town and Parish Council in January.

Also on that agenda will be the Island Road Races, for April next year, just before the Cabinet meetings decision on whether the event will go ahead.

On a more general theme, I would suggest that when looking at budgets for next year we consider the pay and conditions of our Clerks. Local councils seem to be doing more for their communities because of pressure from the IWC, their councillors and local people. Although we are all under pressure, we can do nothing without our clerks.

*Steve Cowley (Mayor)*

## Hello...and Goodbye...

In recent months several of our Councils have seen changes in administration. Niton & Whitwell Parish Council now have a new Clerk, Karen McLaren, who replaces former Clerk, Vicky Ford. Meanwhile, St Helen's Parish Council's new Clerk is Jacky Matthews, replacing Richard Priest...who stepped down to concentrate on other 'duties'!

Meanwhile, long-standing Clerk to Northwood Parish Council, Barbara Herbert is stepping down. Barbara has been their Clerk since Northwood established a parish council in July 2013. With a birthday coming up soon, this is Barbara's well-deserved birthday present to herself!

We will also be saying goodbye shortly to Maxine Warr - former IWALC County Officer and currently, Clerk to both Chillerton & Gatcombe and Fishbourne Parish Councils. Max, who was CO to IWALC for two years and has been Chillerton & Gatcombe's Clerk since March 2008, and Clerk to Fishbourne since November 2019 is moving over to the mainland. We wish both her and Barbara well for the future.

## **CHILLERTON AND GATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Salary: Scale SCP 18 – 28 depending on experience, a home working package will also be applicable.

30 hours per month, pro rata

The Parish Council is looking to appoint an enthusiastic and innovative Clerk to fully service the needs of the Parish Council.

The Clerk is the Proper Officer of the Council and the Responsible Financial Officer. The successful candidate will be required to carry out the lawful instructions of the Council, to advise the Council, to assist in policy formulation and prepare all the information required in respect of the Council's activities. In addition, as Responsible Financial Officer, the successful candidate will be responsible for the effective management of resources, all financial records and for financial management.

The ideal applicant should:

- have previous local council or government experience and hold the Certificate in Local Council Administration
- have good literacy, numeracy, IT software, word processing and communications skills
- have a flexible approach to working hours including the availability for evening meetings
- be prepared to work from home.

For a job description and further details, please contact the current post holder:  
Mrs Maxine Warr, 30 Fieldway Crescent, Northwood Cowes PO31 8AJ

[clerk@chillertonandgatcombe.org](mailto:clerk@chillertonandgatcombe.org)

Applications should be returned to the above address by 23rd November

# Other News...

## Citizens Advice

Partners from Isle Help worked together to put on the third Winter is Coming event and were pleased that many people turned up to the Riverside Centre.

One recurring theme is how useful the 60-minute briefings have been. This is where the partners explain the services that are on offer and how they can be accessed for families or individuals

The next one will be held on Zoom at 13.00 on Monday 29th November and all councillors are welcome to attend.



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81560957845?pwd=dWxmd2lGYXRIM3hYTHpoUGlOQjZPQT09>  
Meeting ID: 815 6095 7845

Citizens Advice IW delivers the Help Through Crisis project where families in food or fuel poverty can apply for support. This normally comes in supermarket vouchers, or we can help with paying some utility bills. This money comes to the charity via IWC, DWP and DEFRA. Families can apply on the <https://www.islehelp.me/> and press the red button.



Our Advice First Aid courses are running well and we now have over 80 AFAs in the community. If you would like to know more, please look on our website <https://www.citizensadviceiw.org.uk/> or email [simob@iwcab.org.uk](mailto:simob@iwcab.org.uk)

*Paul Savill*

## Update from the Community Resilience Project

There have been some changes at Action IW but Zoryna O'Donnell will continue supporting the Community Resilience Project as a volunteer Training Coordinator. You can send her your booking requests or questions regarding the training courses offered by this project free of charge to people who live and work or volunteer on the island.

Following the requests from the local community groups and other non-profit organisations, we introduced three new training sessions which may be of interest to you or people you know:

- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults /Adults at Risk Awareness Workshop (live online) on 9 November 2021;
- Improving the success rate of funding applications (live online) on 27 January 2022 and 22 March 2022;
- Evidencing the impact of your projects on individuals and families (live online) on 8 March 2022.

Please click the link

<https://outlook.live.com/mail/0/inbox/id/AQQkADAwATNiZmYAZC0yNmE4LWYwN2UtMDACLTAwCgAQA D%2BS6a69NTBIVZDVz5kvcaY%3D/sxs/AQMkADAwATNiZmYAZC0yNmE4LWYwN2UtMDACLTAwCgB GAAADhWjIIIRJBk%2BFkYX2kpSp9AcAENE4qCZwakysA32MekpaTQAAAEMAAAAENE4qCZwakysA32 MekpaTQABsmmVigAAAAESABAA3tKDqpSgtUCre5MjX0LEhw%3D%3D>



By signing below, you are acknowledging that you have read and understood the following statements:

Your information will be shared with our drivers for the purposes of arranging your trips.

If you require a carer to assist you with your journey, it is your responsibility to arrange this. Our drivers provide transport only, and are not trained to assist people with differing mobility requirements.

When booking a journey, we usually require a minimum of 2 working days' notice.

Our coordinator will ask questions that will help them to organise your journey. Once a driver has been identified, our coordinator will call you back to confirm your journey.

Cancellations should be notified to us at your earliest possible convenience by phoning us.

The cost of the journey is payable to the driver, in full, on the day of the journey. We do not transport wheelchairs.

Signed: .....

### Emergency contact

Name: .....

Friend or Relative: .....

Tel No: .....

How did you hear about the service? .....

The information on this form will be held in accordance with The Data Protection Act 1998 and will be used by the Community Action Isle of Wight for purposes associated with the voluntary car scheme and will only be divulged to a third party in the event of an emergency.



Reg Charity No. 1063737

Comp Reg No. 3340032



**Membership Scheme 2021**

**Transporting elderly and frail residents to appointments and helping them to access the services they need.**



**Telephone: 01983 522 226**

### About the Scheme

Across the Island there is a network of volunteer drivers who give their time freely, using their own cars to provide a door to door service.

The service is available for members to attend:

- Medical appointments
- Hospital appointments/visits
- Day Centres and Social Trips

### What will it cost?

Annual membership is £40 per person or £60 per household couple. Renewable annually on 1st January 2021

There is a mileage charge of 45p per mile, paid directly to the volunteer driver, who will provide you with a receipt for the cost of the trip. A minimum charge of £3.00 per trip (e.g. journey under 6 miles)

Mileage costs are calculated from the driver's home and return.

Accompanying carers do not pay membership fees.

Drivers cannot accept tips or gifts

### Other Terms to note

Optio is reliant on the goodwill of the volunteer drivers. It is not possible to guarantee every trip request will be met but we try our best. Optio is not an emergency service. All trips must be booked at least 2 days in advance.

Optio is not a medical/care service. People in need of medical support en route to an appointment should contact their GP or the Hospital.

Our volunteer drivers are not trained to carry people in or out of cars. If you need this support, you must ensure that a carer or helper is available.

The driver will normally wait for up to an hour. Beyond this the driver may go home between trips and the return trip would be classed as a second trip and charged accordingly.

It is not possible to take young children due to seat belt concerns.

#### Please Note

If your appointments are cancelled/changed, please let the office know as soon as possible, or there will be a **charge** for the driver's mileage.



Riverside, The Quay, Newport, Isle of Wight. PO30 2QR

Tel: 522226

### NEW MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

(please complete both sides of this form)

**Please note: Optio is reliant on the goodwill of the volunteer drivers and membership does not guarantee that every trip request can be met—but we will do our best.**

Name: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Tel No: .....

EMAIL: .....

#### Reasons for using this service

Unable to access other forms of transport  Disability

#### Do you have a walking aid?

Walking frame  Walking Stick

Crutches

#### Membership costs (Mileage extra @ 45p per mile)

£40.00

£60.00

All cheques to be made payable to:

**COMMUNITY ACTION ISLE OF WIGHT**



## IW Foodbank

Donate festive food to help Isle of Wight Foodbank bring joy to local families in crisis this Christmas. Isle of Wight Foodbank is asking local people to help bring festive cheer to families struggling to eat this Christmas by donating festive food items to the food bank. For some families, the Christmas boxes given out alongside standard food parcels will be their only treat this Christmas.



Isle of Wight Foodbank is hoping to collect enough Christmas food from the Island community for local people facing bleak times this Christmas. They will be given Christmas boxes containing mince pies, puddings, chocolates and other festive treats alongside a standard emergency food parcel. The Foodbank partners with frontline care professionals, such as health visitors, social workers and other community-based support workers, who are able to identify people in crisis and refer them to the Foodbank.

Isle of Wight Foodbank Manager, Hannah King says: 'Christmas is a very tough time to be hungry – it's cold and it is heartbreaking to know you cannot give your children a Christmas treat when everyone else is celebrating. Hidden behind closed doors there are many Island families with little to look forward to this Christmas, the good news is we can all help. We hope that the Island community will join in with our Reverse Advent Calendar to help local people with little to look forward to a happier Christmas.'

This year, Isle of Wight Foodbank will be distributing Christmas boxes to families and individuals in crisis over the festive season in addition to our usual food parcels. These contain goodies such as mince pies, selection boxes, Christmas puddings, and crackers. We will be making up these boxes from the week commencing 6th December. As I'm sure you can imagine this will take a lot of co-ordination which is why we are doing the Reverse Advent in November. May we ask that once you have collected the items, that they be delivered to our Warehouse in Cowes in unwrapped boxes or bags as we will need to weigh the food individually.

During the Christmas period last year, we supported over 1100 people and in addition gave out over 250 Christmas boxes. This Christmas we are asking for items to support our Christmas Box Project. All items must be unopened, non-perishable, in date and undamaged. Please could you assist us by delivering your Reverse Advent collection to our Warehouse by Friday 3rd December at the latest.

*Hannah Jones (Foodbank Centre Coordinator)*



### Reverse ADVENT CALENDAR

PLEASE BRING CHRISTMAS DONATIONS TO OUR WAREHOUSE  
IN LOVE LANE, COWES BY FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER

<b>1</b> Instant Whip / Angel Delight	<b>2</b> PAR BAKED BREAD ROLLS (Jan 2022 exp. date)	<b>3</b> Gravy Granules	<b>4</b> HOT CHOCOLATE / COFFEE (Small)	<b>5</b> Chocolate Tins / Tubs	<b>6</b> TRIFLE MIX
<b>7</b> CRANBERRY SAUCE	<b>8</b> Pickle / Chutney	<b>9</b> CUSTARD	<b>10</b> Savoury Crackers	<b>11</b> CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS	<b>12</b> Stuffing
<b>13</b> Sponge Puddings	<b>14</b> BISCUITS	<b>15</b> Stollen / Yule Log / Panettone	<b>16</b> SOUP	<b>17</b> Sweets / Chocolate Packets	<b>18</b> INDIVIDUAL SACHETS OF RICE
<b>19</b> SMALL SQUASH 750ML	<b>20</b> Fizzy Cans / Soft Drinks	<b>21</b> CRISPS / PRETZELS / TWIGLETS	<b>22</b> Advent Calendars	<b>23</b> CHRISTMAS CRACKERS	<b>24</b> Mince Pies

[isleofwight.foodbank.org.uk](http://isleofwight.foodbank.org.uk)  
Registered charity in England and Wales (1144644)

01983 292040  
Love Lane, Cowes, PO31 7ET



## Isle of Wight Council

### Support package to help Island families get back on their feet

Vulnerable renters on the Isle of Wight struggling due to the impact of the pandemic will be helped by a share of a multi-million pound support package recently announced by the government. The Isle of Wight Council has been allocated around £160,000 to support low-income earners who are behind on their rent — helping to prevent homelessness and support families get back on their feet.

The fund recognises the impact the pandemic has had on households in the private rented sector with the lowest income, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities said. It also forms part of the council's ongoing support to those who are in need in the private renting sector. The funding will be available through the winter months and households at risk of eviction or homelessness should contact the council if they require help.



Councillor Ian Stephens, deputy leader and Cabinet member responsible for housing provision and housing needs, said: "Our response to support people at risk of homelessness during this crisis has protected many lives and it is vital we continue to provide support as we enter the winter months. As a top-up to the existing Homelessness Prevention Grant, this money is ringfenced for homelessness to target those most in need. It will help us to support low-income private renters with COVID-19 related rent arrears to avoid eviction or find a new home where necessary to prevent homelessness."

People who are homeless or threatened with homelessness should contact the council's Homelessness Reduction Team who can advise of the options available to you and how the council can assist you. For further information, visit: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/Residents/care-and-Support/Housing/Homeless-Section/Homelessness> or call (01983) 823040.

### Isle of Wight Council statement on Climate change successes to date

The Isle of Wight Council is highly supportive of the ambitions of COP26 for net carbon zero by 2050. As the summit gets underway in Glasgow on Sunday (31 October), locally we're already well underway to meet our own aims of a carbon neutral Island by 2040.

We have recently adopted a Climate and Environment Strategy (September 2021), but have undertaken a number of actions already to:

- retrofit eligible housing with various heat management solutions including insulation, windows, draught proofing, etc. using the Green Homes Grant;
- review the Draft Island Planning Strategy, outlining environmentally sustainable requirements in new developments on the Island in line with the UK Environment Bill, including renewable energy and electric vehicle charging provision;
- secure funding for 10 new on-street Electric Vehicle charge points;
- rollout the 'Warm Up Wight' scheme which provides free insulation to eligible households; across the Island
- secure funding for a new e-bike loan and hire scheme starting this year, on top of the e-scooter trial that is already underway and a 'cargo bike' scheme.
- achieve a 56 per cent household recycling rate
- plant over 400 trees in a 'Planet Aware' tree planting project.

Councillor Jonathan Bacon, Cabinet member for environment, heritage and waste, said: "With COP26 happening over the next couple of weeks, it's a great time for us to celebrate all that we've achieved so far and highlight what we'll be doing next. I know that Islanders are passionate about protecting and sustaining our environment – the natural beauty that we're surrounded by is one of the reasons that many of us love to live here. Through the work that we're doing and will do through our climate and environment strategy, we'll not only be protecting our Island for future generations but enhancing our Biosphere and doing our bit for the rest of the world."

Upcoming projects include:

- a 'Woodland and Planting Plan'
- heat and energy decarbonisation projects at 12 council buildings, using funding received from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme
- a 'Mission Zero Hub' is being developed, which will allow the council to partner with groups, communities, and individuals across the Island to work towards net zero targets.

### **Council receives formal Motor Race Order application**

A formal application for a Motor Race Order has been received by the Isle of Wight Council.

The application was submitted earlier this week on behalf of the Isle of Wight Road Races, which is proposed to take place between 20 April and 24 April 2022.

The council, as the highway authority, is required to consider and determine the application — a report will be brought before the Cabinet early next year for a decision.

Councillor Phil Jordan, Cabinet member for transport and infrastructure, said: "At this stage, it would be inappropriate for the council to comment on a live application. There will, however, be a period of consultation when people will have the opportunity to have their say on the proposal and further details will be announced in due course."

In addition to the Motor Race Order, the council will also be required to consider a temporary traffic regulation order for the road closure.

Legislation dictates that where a closure will remain in place for longer than three days — and the council was minded to approve the application — further approval must also be sought from the Secretary of State for Transport at least four weeks before the start of the event.

### **Council awarded almost £1 million to bring forward three disused sites for housing**

The Isle of Wight Council has been awarded almost £1 million in government funding to bring forward three potential brownfield sites for local housing. The windfall will be used to seek to develop disused land at the former Island Learning Centre, Berry Hill, Lake, Thompson House, Sandy Lane, Gatcombe, and the former Weston Academy in Totland. In total, the sites could provide around 70 homes to help local people and families get on the property ladder.

The funding – which totals £949,765 – comes from the government's 'Brownfield land Release Fund' which is designed to regenerate and 'level up' towns and cities across the country. The bidding process was highly competitive with all English local authorities eligible to apply. The money is provided on the basis that the sites are released for development by March 2024.

Councillor Julie Jones-Evans, Cabinet member for regeneration and business development, said: "This is fantastic news for the Island. Making the most of previously developed land will help protect our cherished countryside and green spaces. Delivering affordable housing for Island residents is a key priority for this council and this grant funding is a step forward in achieving that aim."

### **SCAMS and Frauds**

The following link popped up on my social media this week and I thought it was a real positive step forward so wanted to share with you-

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-59032795>

However I suspect we are still a way from this happening and it certainly wont stop all scams so in the meantime the following information may be of use to your clients and communities-

Free Call blocking is available from the following call providers-

- Sky
- Talk Talk
- WightFibre

And can be set up fairly easily

For those of you who have extremely vulnerable customers, or for chronic scam victims, Trading Standards have purchased a small number of call blockers and call blocking phones which we are able to loan to residents. These aim to reduce scam calls by 99% and there is no charge for this, however we do suggest that if they find it beneficial they consider purchasing their own so that others can benefit from the units we hold.

We have received a few reports about a scam Whatsapp/Text message, the recipient will receive a message claiming to be their son or daughter saying they'd changed their phone number, when the recipient replied on the new number they got a text back saying that their child was having trouble accessing their online



banking app on their new phone, could the parent please make the payment for them if given the details. In the cases we've heard about the parent has felt that something wasn't quite right about the message so contacted their child on their old number and surprise surprise, they knew nothing about it! Please be very wary if you receive a message like this – scammers are getting incredibly sophisticated and will stop at nothing to get their hands on our money. Never send money following an online request, email, social media, text, whatsapp – they can all be hacked and cloned. If somebody you know has asked for financial help in some way then please ring them and check if its genuine.

It's creeping closer to Christmas and the scam DPD, Royal Mail, Hermes messages are back. If you receive a message from a courier asking you to click on a link to make a payment or confirm details – DON'T. Even if they don't take any money this will be a Phishing exercise which means your information, which is incredibly valuable to criminals, will be harvested and sold on multiple times.

A scam has been shared with us that doesn't appear to have hit the Island yet – but forewarned is forearmed! The caller will state they are from the NHS, they will ask questions about Covid vaccinations and then ask if you have Health Insurance, this will probably be another Phishing exercise aimed at gathering your information to sell on.

Any phone call, text, email, social media message out of the blue should be treated with suspicion – Hang up or better still if you don't know the number that's calling you – don't answer it!

Stay safe and remember scam texts can be forwarded to 7726 and emails to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

*Sally Ash* (Fair Trading Officer)



...and still on the subject of Phishing and Scams...

IWALC has also been alerted to a scam affecting its members. Some councillors have received messages that appear to come from a fellow councillor but are actually from a gmail address ([boardman295@gmail.com](mailto:boardman295@gmail.com)), asking the recipient to 'do them a favor.'



Also popping up in my Inbox lately... an invitation to become a Mystery Shopper for 'Morrisons' and receive £250 for doing this, requests from 'Waitrose' to complete a short survey, requests to test and receive free products (Gillette and Lenor) and apparently I am eligible to receive the Married Person's Allowance.... I don't think so!!!

Stay safe -J



## Monthly Report from MP Bob Seely

### Levelling Up

Last week I received confirmation that the Government has granted – as part of its Levelling Up Fund – £5.8 million to improve facilities in East Cowes. I raised the Island's bid earlier this year in a parliamentary debate on the levelling up agenda and championed the bid in a series of meetings with Ministers in Westminster.

The funding means improved facilities at the Columbine building: a greater refit capacity for marine clients and creating a centre of excellence for the R&D, construction & servicing of the green energy boat sector, vital for the Island's future. Funding also means renovating the Victorian barracks next to the Columbine building for multi-purpose accommodation linked to marine skills. All the elements of this fund means jobs, prosperity and a better future for East Cowes and the Island.



We were not in the first round of priority bids. We had to change that and we did. The Prime Minister, the Chancellor and their teams listened and moved us up the priority funding list. I made it very clear to Ministers that the Island needed this funding to invest in green shipbuilding and new jobs. We won the argument. So, from a poor future for these buildings, we've got a very positive one, creating jobs and prosperity for the future.

### New Trains

I'm delighted that the new trains are finally now in operation, they have been a long time coming.

When I was first elected as the Island's MP in 2017 the future of Island Line was uncertain. Thanks to a team effort of local campaigners, members of the previous council administration, and myself, we persuaded government to underwrite this investment.

I am grateful to South Western Railway and the government for listening to us and I am glad to see the upgrades finally come to fruition with this significant investment.

We now have decent trains running on an improved track which will make travelling easier and more comfortable for Islanders and visitors.

I look forward to seeing these trains carrying thousands of passengers over the coming year.

### Brownfield Land Release Fund

Last month Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Michael Gove announced he will give the Isle of Wight Council nearly £950,000 to help with the construction of new homes on brownfield sites across the Island.

I have been leading a parliamentary campaign on planning and housing, arguing that the Government should do more to ensure building takes place on brownfield land so I am delighted the Government has created this fund and allocated us a share of it. We need housebuilding, in sensitive numbers, in exiting communities, for Islanders. What we do not need is low density, car-dependent, greenfield development which damages our quality of life, our tourism economy and which does permanent damage to the landscape.

### Houses in Seaview

I have objected to plans to build houses on greenfield land in Seaview. The plans by Eton College for nine homes on rural land behind Solent View Road (the Donkey Field) are unnecessary, unwanted and unsuitable. This is yet another example of a low-density, car-dependent development which has been put forward by landowners who have shown a depressing disregard for the community in this area and the environment. The access roads are narrow and unsuitable, and the homes planned will go nowhere towards addressing Isle of Wight housing need. Not one of them will meet the criteria as affordable. Furthermore, the site has not been identified for development in either the Nettlestone and Seaview Parish Plan or the draft Island Plan, so development in this location is not needed and also not welcome.



## Sea Burials

Last week I called on the government to make it mandatory for DNA samples to be taken from bodies buried at sea. Every investigation involving a body washed up at sea requires a pathologist - and an awful lot of police time - to discover where the body might have come from. There is also the emotional distress of families who give DNA samples in the hope that it might be a relative of theirs.

If we had a requirement for DNA sampling prior to burial at sea, it would be easy for the police or the coroner to check against the database and make a quick distinction about where the body part had come from. It would save police time, save the coroner's time and save the emotional distress of the families involved.

*Bob Seely MP*

## Appointment of new Deputy Lieutenants for the Isle of Wight

Two new Deputy Lieutenants have been appointed to serve on the Isle of Wight. In this formal voluntary role they will assist the Lord-Lieutenant in her work. The appointment is until retirement on their 75th birthday.

### *Dr Jonathan Nainby-Luxmore*

Jonathan has lifelong connections with the Island, being baptised and married in Bembridge, where his family always retained a home. After studying Medicine at Lincoln College, Oxford and St Bartholomew's Hospital, he served eleven years, worldwide, in the Royal Army Medical Corps including Gulf War 1.

For twenty eight rewarding years he was a 'traditional' GP and GP Trainer in a very rural isolated two partner practice based on Middleton-in-Teesdale, Co Durham. The area was the same size as the Isle of Wight but atop the Pennines.

Responding to an epidemic of suicides in 1991, he was involved with establishing the charity "UTASS" to support the isolated farming and village community, serving as chair for ten years and resigning in 2021. He was a trustee of St Teresa's Hospice, Darlington for seven years, and a trustee of "AVF Launchpad", a national charity that provides accommodation and support to help veterans make a successful transition from military to civilian life.

His interests include his dogs, sailing, gardening and all rural pursuits. He retired to Bembridge, serving as Commodore for Bembridge Sailing Club 2019-2021, during the Covid 19 pandemic. He married Sarah in 2015 and has three adult sons.

### *Geoff Underwood*

Born on the Isle of Wight, Geoff is founder and CEO of IFPL Group, which designs and manufactures equipment for Inflight Entertainment Systems.

IFPL Group is proud to have received The Queen's Award for Enterprise on five occasions.

Active in the business community, He was President of the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce and founded The Isle of Wight Technology Group. Geoff was High Sheriff 2019/20, setting up and chairing the local Covid Crisis Appeal Committee. He is also the Founder of The WightAid Foundation which is focussed on channelling business giving to local causes. He is married to Amy, and between them have four grown up children.

The Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight, Mrs Susie Sheldon, said: "I am delighted to welcome both Dr Jonathan Nainby-Luxmore and Geoff Underwood to the Lieutenancy team where their in depth knowledge of their particular sectors will be invaluable to the Lieutenancy role on the Isle of Wight."

## Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce



The Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce provides help and advice on starting a business or being self-employed. Do you know someone that would like to be their own boss?

### **BUSINESS START UP COURSE**

Thursday 25th November 9.30am-12.30pm

We offer new businesses the opportunity to take their ideas from paper into practice. We offer a business seminar aimed at people who are starting a business. Get the tools you need to take your idea from the drawing board to the real world. This course is designed for those with a business idea through to those who have been in business for six months.

This course will be held on Zoom. Please note there is a £5 admin fee for this course. This course is available for members and non-members

Find out more via <https://www.iwchamber.co.uk/> or email [chamber@iwchamber.co.uk](mailto:chamber@iwchamber.co.uk)

Emma Spinelli

## Hovertravel

### **Hovercraft wear poppies to support 100th anniversary of British Legion's Poppy Appeal**

Hovertravel is showing its support proudly for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal 2021 by wearing poppies on the exterior of both its hovercraft.

Neil Chapman, managing director of Hovertravel, explains: "We wanted to go beyond our usual fund-raising activities to make this 100th anniversary year extra special. As a team, it is with great pride that we are displaying the poppy on our hovercraft, demonstrating our thanks to those in the armed forces and their families for the sacrifices that they make for us all. Recently we were honoured to host a group of veterans who helped us reveal the new livery as the start to our support for the British Legion's Poppy Appeal this year."



Hovertravel is selling a range of poppies at its terminals in Southsea and Ryde. To donate to this year's Poppy Appeal or for more information on the important work of the Royal British Legion, please visit [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk).

### **Hovertravel revises freight charges in time for Christmas posting**

Hovertravel offers the fastest freight service across the Solent and, as well as working for the Royal Mail for almost 50 years, continues to transport a broad range of items which are required urgently on the Isle of Wight.

Loretta Lale, Head of commercial at Hovertravel, explains: "We are a crucial part of the supply chain which connects the mainland to the island, delivering goods such as auto parts and time-limited pharmaceuticals on a daily basis. Research amongst our customers revealed that there is an increasing requirement for mid-sized packages to be transported. We have sub-divided our existing 0-10kg freight bracket by adding a new weight bracket of 0-5kg. We believe that this, combined with our super-speedy service, will help businesses and individuals during the busy build-up to Christmas."

Customers can drop-off and collect from either of our terminals seven days a week. For more details please visit: <https://www.hovertravel.co.uk/freight/hover-fast-freight-parcels/>

Stephen Forster (Creative Director)

## Wightlink update for IWALC (Mon 8 Nov 2021)

It's been a busy summer and early autumn at Wightlink. Once Covid-19 travel restrictions were lifted, holiday-makers flocked to enjoy a 'staycation' on the Isle of Wight, and passenger numbers remained high well into November.



We always take the opportunity every winter, when numbers of sailings are reduced, to carry out essential maintenance. The refit programme costs more than £5 million and ferries are sent to shipyards in Southampton, Portland and Falmouth for work that usually involved a time in dry-dock.

On shore, Wightlink is embarking on a major maintenance and renewal programme at our Fast Cat terminal, in Portsmouth, costing more than £1 million. Like Ryde Pier, it has been in use for more than 150 years and investment in future of the route is needed.

Work began in early November and will last for at least six months. It means there will be changes to how customers board the Fast Cats. Passengers will wait for their sailing in a temporary covered area within the railway station close to the ramp down to Wightlink's terminal. It will have ticket machines and seating. Our customers will be able to use railway station toilets.

Unfortunately, Wightlink's Costa café at Portsmouth will be closed during the works, but the café at Ryde Pier will be open for refreshments.

Climate warming and sustainability is in the news. On the eve of the COP26 summit in Glasgow, Wightlink pledged to further reduce our carbon footprint significantly over the next decade. We already operate England's first hybrid energy ship, Victoria of Wight and her carbon emissions are 20% lower than a diesel-powered ship.

Now, we are drawing up specifications for our next new ferry on the Portsmouth-Fishbourne route. Advances in sustainable technology mean it will be possible to commission a new ship that will use electric power from batteries to an even greater extent than at present by Victoria of Wight. Although there are still obstacles to be overcome, Wightlink hopes that shore power can be used to charge batteries, enabling full electric operation to become a reality.

Since 2007, we have reduced our carbon footprint by 33%. Overall, Wightlink has cut carbon emissions by 17% over the four years prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Wightlink features in a UK Government video series about Climate Leaders. Senior Master, Captain Sam Mitchell talks about how climate change is changing the world around us and how sustainable technologies, such as hybrid energy, can make a difference. See: [www.wightlink.co.uk/newferry](http://www.wightlink.co.uk/newferry) to view the video.

Portsmouth's Clean Air Zone (CAZ) will come into operation from Monday 29 November. Cars and vans going to and from our car ferry terminal in Gunwharf Road will not be charged. Drivers of these vehicles can continue to use Wightlink services as usual. Motorcycles are also exempt. The only vehicles to be charged will be older taxis, private hire vehicles, buses, coaches and lorries (HGVs). To find out more, see [www.travel.portsmouth.gov.uk/schemes/charging-clean-air-zone](http://www.travel.portsmouth.gov.uk/schemes/charging-clean-air-zone)

If you're not sure, you can enter your vehicle's registration number on the website to see if you will be charged.

The charge will be £10 for taxis and private hire vehicles and £50 for HGVs that are older than Euro 6 if diesel, and older than Euro 4 if petrol.

Portsmouth City Council is introducing the CAZ as some areas of the city centre have levels of pollutants, like nitrogen dioxide, that are likely to remain above safe legal limits unless action is taken now.

*Karen Woods (Communications and PR)*

## Southern Vectis update for IWALC (Mon 8 Nov 2021)

We've seen a slow but steady return of customers aboard our buses and are currently carrying around 85% of pre-COVID levels.

Our new app and ticket-less tap-on tap-off contact-less payment options have been a great success.

Whilst commuters are still lower than pre-COVID, we have seen very strong numbers of tourists using our buses.

Our driver absence levels remain high and this has impacted our services on a couple of short occasions, but generally we have good driver numbers and a healthy recruitment pipeline.

*Richard Tyldsley* (General Manager)



Thank you to everybody who takes the time and trouble to contribute to the Bulletin...  
we know how busy you all are!!