

Serving the Island's



Town, Parish & Community Councils

The IWALC Bulletin

October 2022

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

Your IWALC Matters!!

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the October issue of the *Bulletin*!

This issue includes the usual sections reporting news from IWALC, the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), individual councils and other local organisations. The most important IWALC news is the success of our recent Open Day. The event, which was held in Sandown on 24 September, provided an opportunity for members to showcase their activities and projects, compare their experiences and network informally with each other. We are planning to hold more such events next year.

In addition to these regular reports, this issue includes two special features. One is a section on the current cost of living crisis, which is uppermost in many people's minds at present. It includes a summary of the many different support payments for which residents may be eligible, a guide on how to manage your finances over the winter produced by the Living Well and Early Help Service, and a list of organisations that offer support and advice. You will also find information about what other organisations are doing in the section on Other News.

The other is a report on NALC's Civility and Respect Project. The Project's aim is to ensure that local councils maintain the highest possible standards of public conduct and, in particular, avoid bullying, harassment or intimidation. Local councils, like other public bodies, have standing orders and codes of conduct to regulate their behaviour and it is essential that they adhere to these procedures and that action is taken against any individual or council that fails to do so. NALC is asking councils to sign a pledge, in which they agree to uphold such standards. IWALC also has an important role to play, particularly through our training programmes.

Finally, I would like to congratulate East Cowes Town Council, whose spectacular new East Side Curve community hub is featured in the 2022 issue of NALC's Points of Light publication, and Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council for winning two awards at this year's Best Kept Village competition, and to pay tribute to one of our longest-serving parish clerks, Mike Taplin, who retires this year.

Cllr Diana Conyers (Chair)



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

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

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

The deadline for the November edition will be October 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...

September Executive Meeting

The IWALC Executive met on Thursday 29 September at the Riverside Centre. There were 20 participants, including representatives from 16 councils.

The main issues discussed and decisions made were as follows:

1. *Open Day and Meeting of Mayors and Chairs*: Members discussed the Open Day held on 24 September (see separate report below) and the informal meeting of mayors and chairs held in July. It was agreed that both had been successful, particularly as a means of sharing experiences and networking, and that future such events should be planned.

2. *NALC's Civility and Respect Project*: Members agreed on the need to promote civility and respect in councils and to write a letter to the MP, Bob Seely, asking him to encourage the government to implement the recommendations in the 2019 report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. For details of the Project, see NALC News.

3. *NALC AGM*: Three members were nominated to represent IWALC at the NALC AGM, which will be held online on 25 October. It was agreed that they would support proposals for a move to a proportional representation voting system within NALC and a 3% increase in membership fees next year.

4. *South East Region County Associations Forum (SERCAF)*: It was agreed to continue to be a member of SERCAF and to write a letter to Trevor Leggo, the outgoing secretary, expressing our thanks and appreciation for his work for local councils in the region.

5. *Protocol 16 of IW Council Constitution*: It was agreed to accept an invitation from the IW Council's Cabinet to suggest revisions to Protocol 16 of the Constitution, which prescribes the relationship between the IW Council and local councils. A working group was appointed to prepare a draft.

6. *Climate and Ecology Bill*: It was agreed to write to the MP, Bob Seely, asking him to support the Climate and Ecology Bill and to encourage member councils to express their support for it.

7. *Planning issues*: Giles Alldred, IWALC's representative on the IW Council's Planning Committee, reported that he has been invited to join a working group set up to implement the recommendations of the LGA Peer Review held in May. He also expressed concern about the use of Lawful Development Certificates to turn caravan parks into permanent residential areas. It was agreed to write to the MP about this.

Note: For the MP's initial reactions to the issues raised above, see the report below on our recent meeting with him.

IWALC Open Day

On Saturday 24 September, IWALC held an Open Day, at which member councils shared information about their activities and experiences. The purpose of the event, which was held at Sandown Town Council's Broadway Centre, was to enable councils to find out what others are doing, learn from each other and discuss possible ways of cooperating or providing mutual support.

At least 35 people attended the event, including representatives from 17 councils. Members were invited to bring information about their activities, particularly any innovative projects or services. The many impressive displays demonstrated the wide range of activities in which councils are engaged. These displays, together with a continuous supply of coffee, tea, cake and biscuits, stimulated a great deal of lively and constructive discussion among participants.

IWALC would like to thank Sandown Town Council for the use of the Broadway Centre, which is an excellent venue for such an event. *(Please see photographs of the event on Page 4)*

October Topic Meeting

The next topic meeting will be on Thursday 27 October at 7 pm at the Riverside Centre. The subject will be Road Safety. The Isle of Wight has one of the highest road accident rates in the country and IWALC members want to know what can be done to reduce this. All councillors and staff are welcome to attend this meeting.

Meetings with Isle of Wight Council

The next meeting with the IW Council's Cabinet will be at 12 noon on Thursday 13 October. All councillors and staff are welcome to attend. Members of the Council's Highways Team will be present to answer questions. Participants are requested to send questions in advance to Jill (jwebster.iwalc@outlook.com). It will be an online meeting via Microsoft Teams. If you haven't already received the link, please contact your clerk or Jill Webster.

Meeting with Bob Seely MP

There was a meeting with Bob Seely on Thursday 6 October. Thirteen local council representatives attended. The main topics of discussion were:

- Energy costs: Participants wanted information about grants for solar panels, support for people who use heating oil or wood-burning stoves, and why electricity standing charges are not included in the price cap. Bob was not able to provide immediate answers but agreed to investigate these issues.
- Temporary closure of Wootton Bridge Surgery: Bob agreed to follow this up with the Integrated Care Board.
- Implications of change in government for Levelling Up Bill and thus Island Planning Strategy: Bob said he was a member of a small group of backbenchers that has proposed a number of changes to the Bill, including the abolition of mandatory housing targets and the ability of planning authorities to ban development on greenfield sites. [For details of these proposals, see https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/23127178/levelling_rm_pbc_10071.pdf, especially pp. 24-5.] However, he is supporting the current version of the draft Island Planning Strategy (IPS), on the understanding that it can be amended if/when these changes are adopted.
- Recommendations of Committee on Standards in Public Life: In response to IWALC's request that he support these recommendations, Bob said that he had had a quick look and was in basic agreement with them.
- Climate and Ecology Bill: In response to IWALC's request that he support this Bill, Bob said that it was a Green Party bill and he would not support it because it was badly written and was undemocratic in that it removed powers from Parliament.
- Caravan parks: In response to IWALC's concern about the use of Lawful Development Certificates to turn caravan parks into permanent residential sites, Bob offered to meet Cllr Alldred to discuss it further.

Training

The second part of the Basic Councillor Skills course, originally planned for 14 September, was held on 5 October. It was held at Newport Methodist Church because the Riverside Centre had to cancel our booking at the last minute. There were 19 participants and feedback was again very good. We would like to thank Sue Chilton for another very successful course, the Methodist Church for letting us use their building, and our County Officer, Heather for organising the last minute change in venue.

Future courses will include one on Chairmanship and, if sufficient members are interested, a First Aid course. Councils have been asked to let us know if they have any other particular training needs. If you have any views, please contact Jill (jwebster.iwalc@outlook.com)

IWALC Open Day

Saturday
September 24th

Broadway Centre,
Sandown



Photos courtesy of Michael Paler

Cost of Living Crisis

The country is facing one of the worst cost of living crises in history this winter. Here is some information to help you and your parishioners cope.

Cost of Living Support Payments for Households

There are currently six main types of support payment:

1. *Council Tax rebate:* All households in tax bands A to D should have received a £150 rebate earlier this year, including households who don't actually pay any tax because of low income or disability. Some low income households in higher tax bands have also received the payment under a discretionary scheme. If you think you were entitled to this payment and haven't received it, contact the IW Council.

2. *Support for people on means-tested benefits:* Anyone in receipt of a means-tested benefit (including Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Jobseekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support and Tax Credits) is entitled to two lump sum payments from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP): £326 in July and £324 between September and November. The payments are made straight into bank accounts. If you think you are entitled to these payments and haven't received them, contact the DWP department that handles your benefit.

3. *Support for people with disabilities:* Anyone in receipt of a disability benefit (including Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Attendance Allowance and Armed Forces Independence Payment) should have received a £150 support payment from the DWP, paid straight into your bank account. If you think you are entitled to this payment and haven't received it, contact the DWP department that handles your benefit.

4. *Additional Winter Fuel Payment:* Pensioners will receive an extra £300 Winter Fuel Payment. They will receive this sometime between now and Christmas, as part of their normal payment.

5. *Reduction in heating bills:* All households will receive a £400 non-repayable discount off their electricity and gas bills between October and March. This is in addition to the price cap imposed on the unit cost of energy. The scheme will be administered by energy providers. The method of payment will depend on the provider and the way in which you pay for your energy. However, it will normally be paid in six monthly instalments of £66 or £67. You should receive the payments automatically, either as a reduction in your bill or as separate payments. If you don't receive them or want to know how you will receive them, contact your energy provider.

6. *Households that cannot access gas supply:* The government has recently announced that households living in properties that cannot be connected to the gas grid will be eligible for £100 to support the costs of other fuels, such as heating oil. The details of who will be eligible and how the payments will be made have yet to be announced.

There is also support for businesses and public enterprises. We haven't attempted to provide information on this. For further information, see:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/getting-the-energy-bills-support-scheme-discount>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-support-for-energy-bills-begins-for-households-and-businesses>

Heating, Eating and Meeting

Top tips to help this winter

Many people are worried about rising prices as inflation, the war in Ukraine and other global issues affect the cost of living.

The following guide has been compiled to help give you the information you need to manage your finances during the cost of living crisis. It gives ideas on how you can reduce food and heating bills, along with supporting your health and well-being over this difficult period.

However, the guide is not exhaustive and there is more help needed if required.

The Living Well and Early Help service is here to assist people with direct advice, community support and assistance in accessing other services.

If you are worried and need support we can be contacted on **01983 240732** or email

LWEH@Aspireryde.org.uk



Charity number: 1163336



Heating

- Turn your thermostat down just 1 degree. This can save around **£142** per year in an average house
- Cut shower time by just one minute. This can save **£78** per person in heating and water bills every year.
- Wash clothes at a lower temperature. Modern detergents work well at low temperatures and washing at 30 degrees can save **£77** per year
- Block draughts. Examine your windows and doors for unwanted draughts. These can be blocked with old clothes, towels, even cling film over windows can make a difference. Average savings are around **£71** per year. But don't block up air bricks or window vents as this can cause damp and mould.
- Turn off lights when rooms aren't used. This will save around **£38** per year even with energy saving light bulbs.
- Use radiator thermostats. Not everyone has these but most modern heating systems do. Turning down heating in unused or little used rooms can reduce bills by an average of **£213** per year.
- Turn off the pre-heat on your combi-boiler. Most boilers keep a small store of heated water. Turning it off can reduce bills, particularly if you are out of the house a lot.
- Reduce temperatures on your combi boiler. These are usually little dials or digital buttons on the boiler and are often set higher than needed. 50 degrees for heating and 55 degrees for hot water should be sufficient.
- Use the tumble dryer sparingly. Running a tumble dryer costs around **£166** per year on average. Drying clothes on airers or in good weather reduces this considerably.
- Fill things up. Washing machines, dishwashers and even the oven are more efficient when fully utilised. Consider batch oven cooking and then reheating in the microwave to eat.



Myth busting!

- It's not cheaper to leave the heating on when you leave the house according to the energy saving trust
- It's not cheaper to heat the whole house. Lowering or turning off heating in unused rooms and keeping doors shut can save a lot of money.
- Painting radiators black doesn't help. The energy saving trust say it's a waste of time money and paint!

Eating

- There are many ways to save on food bills but we all shop in very different ways. This makes it harder to give ideas that will suit everyone but here are some suggestions:
- Cook large meals and freeze in portions. If you live alone this can save a lot of money compared to buying or cooking individual meals. It also saves energy costs.
- Use 'own brand' and 'value' label products where possible. Shifting down on brands can save 30% on food bills according to Moneysavingexpert.com
- Shop for discounted products. Most supermarkets reduce the price of short dated products towards the end of the day. Shopping in the evening can often find the best bargains.
- Use local food projects. All Island towns now have at least one, Foodbank, Food Pantry or Free Food Stand. Living well workers can direct and support with access as necessary.
- Attend community meals. A number of community hubs, churches and charities are planning to offer free or heavily discounted meals to help people this winter. Living well workers can advise where and when these are happening.
- Use online resources for suggestions on eating plans. Websites and Facebook groups such as www.fyf20quid.co.uk offer week long shopping lists and meal plans to feed a family for around £20.
- Use first time vouchers. Most supermarkets offer first time discounts on food order deliveries. They are only available once but £15 off a weekly shop can be helpful in a tough week.
- Change down brand on cleaning products as well as food. Most people are less likely to use an own brand washing powder than own brand food but the savings are significant, often without a noticeable change in effectiveness.
- Use comparison sites such as www.trolley.co.uk to find where your products are cheapest and where best to shop.
- If you always shop at the same supermarket then make sure you get the best value by signing up to their loyalty card and accessing all available discounts.

For more information visit our websites at:
<https://lweh.org.uk/>

If you need information in this leaflet in a different format like accessible PDF, large print, easy read, audio recording or braille please get in contact and we will consider your request and get back to you in 10 working days.



Meeting

- There is nothing like a crisis for bringing people together and unlike the recent pandemic there are excellent reasons for joining together at the present time.
- It's important for all of us that we meet socially and build our friendships and support networks. The Living well service is there to help, running groups across the Island. Please contact us if you need support in accessing these.
- Sharing heat and meals can be an enjoyable experience. Why not arrange with neighbours and friends to spend time with each other whilst saving on fuel and food. It's cheaper to heat one home at a time than two or three with only one person each.
- Visit a warm bank. Many Island communities are setting up warm places for people to go during the day. The living well team can provide local details.
- Get involved in your community. Join a Club, Society or Organisation that interests you. Meeting like minded people can greatly enhance your quality of life.
- Join in with phone befriending. If you find it difficult to leave your home you can still be a part of your community through talking to, and supporting others in similar circumstances. The living well service, Age UK and others can support with this.
- Try volunteering. If you are mobile and have time to spare then volunteering will help with feelings of isolation. Volunteering will also often offer a warm place to be during the day and even hot meals provided in some circumstances.
- Study. It's never too late to learn new things. Many courses are offered for free in warm and welcoming environments. Organisations such as the IOW university for free time meet in groups and support study for older people.
- Find a 'warm buddy'. Someone you can talk to, and share ideas with on how to weather the current economic storm. It's good to support each other and to take each others advice on when we need to seek additional help.
- Use local facilities. Libraries, Churches and other public buildings can provide warm and welcoming interludes during the day. They can also often provide further support and guidance for those who need it.
- If it's not there, start it! There are so many people doing so many things on our Island but if you cant find what you are looking for then why not create it yourself. Our Living Well team can work with you to get new groups and initiatives up and running so give us a call if you can't find what you need.

Organisations Offering Help and Support

There are many organisations offering various types of help and support, some covering the whole Island and others community-based. The main Island-wide organisations offering help with cost of living and energy related issues include:

Living Well and Early Help Service: General support to enable you to live independently in the community, including help in contacting other organisations appropriate to your needs. Tel. 01983 240732

Citizens Advice: Advice on a wide range of issues, including benefits, housing, employment, debt management, and consumer and family issues. Tel. 0800 144 8848

Age UK: General advice and support for older people. Tel. 01983 525282

Footprint Trust: Advice on ways of saving energy, grants and other financial support. Tel. 01983 822282

Future Isle of Wight: Advice on, and access to, energy saving grants. Tel. 07720 629601

You will find details of a wide range of other organisations on the Isle Find It website: <https://www.islefindit.org.uk/advice-pages/advice-directory>. For organisations in your local community, contact your parish or town council or the Living Well and Early Help Service.

Mike Taplin - Fifteen Years A Clerk

I was fortunate to be able to take early retirement as Transport Services Manager for Gloucestershire CC at the age of 55, and after a three years, Janet and I selected the Isle of Wight as our retirement destination. In the meantime I had worked as Deputy Clerk at Rodborough, so when we arrived on the Island in 2007, I was already listed for interview for the post of Rookley Clerk.

The interview was in front of the full council, plus Sue Chilton, and they gave me the job, starting in May, replacing John Whitney. John was also Clerk at Shalfleet and very much involved in national affairs, so I was always conscious that he was keeping an eye on me. He encouraged me to set off along the CILCA road, when the Parish Team at County Hall provided training for half a dozen of us, and I was successful in obtaining accreditation.

In the meantime, Mike Platt had decided to retire as Clerk at Wroxall, and I replaced him in October 2007. With my CILCA certificate I was able to apply successfully for the clerkship at Lake as Tina Bailey moved on to a full-time job in Ventnor in December 2009. After that, I decided three was enough, as the months rolled by in accordance with the deadlines that dominate a Clerk's life, both monthly and annually.

I inherited from John a handwritten, bound cash-book, which got me through the first audit, but from then on the Excel spreadsheet became the norm, together with the daily avalanche of e-mails and replies. Accounts were still paid by cheques approved and signed by councillors at each meeting, then posted out.

Over the years Councillors have come and gone, Chairmen too, though I would like to pay tribute to Adrian Gallop, Wroxall Chairman, who is, I think, coming up to his 30 years in that post! I have been lucky to enjoy a good relationship with the various Chairmen, both men and women, though some took longer than others to get through a typical meeting's business.

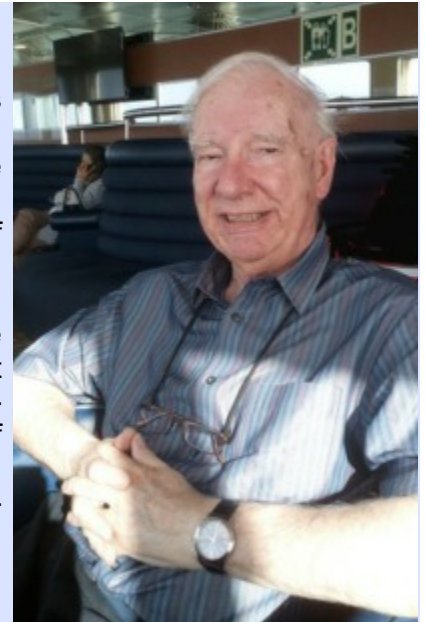
The biggest jolt to routine came when the IW Council decided to walk away from ownership and operation of public toilets in April 2011, leaving town and parish councils to (mostly) pick up the pieces. Lake has three, so suddenly contracts for locking/unlocking and cleaning had to be put in place and monitored, and the all too familiar blight of vandalism became a regular issue to be dealt with. Bad news phone calls became routine. Councillors became toilet inspectors.

Then the pandemic in March 2020 - meetings cancelled and soon replaced by on-line Zoom events. The end of signed cheques, replaced by BACS transfers. I was never comfortable with Zoom, but it enabled business to continue. Everyone gave a sigh of relief when regulations permitted the resumption of face-to-face meetings in May 2021, but no-one wanted to go back to cheques, so on-line banking became the norm. The postage bill is almost nil.

But after 15 years and approaching my 75th birthday I decided that the time had come in 2022 to gradually let go of my parish responsibilities; Wroxall in July, Rookley in September and Lake in December. Little did I think that one of my last duties would be to replace the contents of the noticeboards with a portrait of her late Majesty, edged with black velvet ribbon. I went to the 1953 Coronation on a London bus from my infants school, so I'll soon have the opportunity of the 2023 Coronation, without the worry of organising events in three Isle of Wight parishes.

I wish my successors well; a touch of irony in that Tina Bailey is taking over from me (at Rookley) just as I took over from her at Lake 13 years ago.

Mike Taplin



Climate and Ecology Bill 2022/23

At the Executive Meeting on 29 September, IWALC members agreed to write to Bob Seely MP, asking him to support the Climate and Ecology Bill 2022/23. The recommendation was made by Gurnard Parish Councillor, Penny Acton. In this article, Penny explains what the Bill is about and why it should be supported.

What is the Bill?

The CE Bill is a private member's bill due to go to the House of Lords' Committee stage on 21st October. Lord Redesdale's CE Bill has been written by scientists, lawyers and other expert and activists and, if passed, would ensure that the UK Government recognises, and takes seriously, both climate change and the importance of nature.

Why does it matter?

The climate, nature and cost of living crises are interconnected.

We are in the middle of a climate crisis. Scientists have made their warnings very clear; we are on the cliff edge of irreversible tipping points; the collapse of the Greenland ice cap, Atlantic ocean current changes and the melting of carbon rich permafrost regions may already have reached the point of irreversible change at just 1.1°C of warming. Climate change is having an impact here on the Island already: droughts and potential water shortages will become more frequent and intense: sea level rises will be exacerbated by more stormy weather. As an island, we are especially vulnerable to such changes.

Alongside the Climate Emergency, the world is suffering from an Ecological Emergency. We are dependent on the natural environment and ecosystems for clean water, breathable air and food security; a healthy environment is essential for our survival and the survival of our (human) society and economy. This is a global **and a local problem**. 41% of UK wildlife species are in decline and 15% are at risk of extinction; species extinction is happening at 100 times the natural evolutionary rate. The UK is now in the bottom 10% of countries in the world for intact biodiversity.

The whole Island is a Biosphere Reserve and as such all councils should be working to minimise this loss and damage and attempting to live in harmony with the natural world. Biodiversity gain is required from new developments and there are some important council led actions. However much of the work of protecting the ecology of the Island is being undertaken by charities, individuals, research and activist groups. Much more could be done and it is important that, as local councils, we continue to press for further action, particularly in our green spaces, and spaces that are not green enough. Too often measures are reactive (e.g. objecting to planning) rather than progressively ecological.

Okay, there is a problem but what can we do as councils?

The IWC is on the list supporting the Climate and Ecology Bill. However, although one of the unique aspects of Island government is that ALL areas of the Island have a first tier local council, none of the community, parish or town councils have supported the IWC and pledged support to the CE Bill. Support from local councils could help persuade our MP to support the Bill and this could help before the Bill goes to the Committee stage. I will be presenting a motion to Gurnard Parish Council at its next meeting, suggesting that we support it.

Cllr Penny Acton (October 2022)



BEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk to the Council,
5 Foreland Road, Bembridge, Isle of Wight, PO35 5XN
Tel: 01983 874160 Email: clerk@bembridgepc.org.uk



JOB VACANCY - PARISH CLERK

Job Location:	5 Foreland Road Bembridge, Isle of Wight, PO35 5XN
Hours of Work:	32 -37 hours per week
Annual Salary:	SCP 20 -30 (£26,446 - £34,373 pa (FTE)) subject to qualifications and experience

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. 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. The successful candidate in conjunction with the Responsible Financial Officer will also be required ensure 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 or be prepared to work towards obtaining 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

For a job description and further details, please contact the Parish Council Office.

Email: clerk@bembridgepc.org.uk, Telephone: 01983 874160

This post is an excellent opportunity for someone with the right personal and professional skills to embark on a fulfilling role in helping shape the future of the Parish. Part of this role will be to ensure that councillors are well informed, engaged and supported in their efforts to serve our existing and future communities.

Applications should be returned to the above address by 21st October 2022.

IWALC MEETINGS 2022/23 (REVISED)

Thursday 27 October 2022: Topic meeting
Thursday 24 November 2022: Executive meeting
No meeting in December
Thursday 26 January 2023: Executive meeting
Thursday 23 February 2023: Topic meeting
Thursday 30 March 2023: Executive meeting
Thursday 27 April 2023: Topic meeting
Thursday 25 May 2023: Executive meeting
Thursday 29 June 2023: AGM

Correction to information in the September Bulletin-

Cllr Peter Whiteman is the IWALC Representative for the Community Led Housing Board, and Cllr Helena Hewston is the Deputy Representative.

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.



Teams log-in details are circulated to all Clerks prior to the meetings.

Meetings with 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.

In addition, IWALC continues to be included in the regular Heads of Organisations meetings with Bob Seely,



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.

News from NALC

NEWS FROM NALC: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES 2023-24 BUDGET

The NALC National Assembly met on 4th October with a full agenda. The meeting welcomed a new representative from the Cleveland Association, Clare Gamble of Billingham Town Council in the Tees Valley. The meeting received the 2021-22 accounts prior to going to the AGM. The accounts had an unqualified audit report and showed a net surplus for the year of £54,346. The 2023-24 budget was approved as was a 3% increase in affiliation fees. This means the affiliation fee will be 7.71p per elector with a cap at £1,978 for the largest councils. I proposal I made for the future to change the basis of calculating affiliation fees from elector numbers to the tax base, (in other words linked to the ability to pay) was not accepted but will no doubt be a discussion for another day.

A Task and Finish Group set up to review NALC's governance arrangements reported. I must confess to being disappointed at the lack of progress made by this body. It is clear to me that NALC's constitution and standing orders are out of date and need radical updating, yet only a handful of recommendations have been made. A motion on online voting and on the voting system to be used for internal NALC elections will be going to the AGM (to be held virtually on 25th October) as will a motion from the Northamptonshire Association expressing concern about the problem of recruiting and retaining staff. The proposal seeks the engagement of a consultant to benchmark clerks' terms and conditions. My own view is that whilst not disagreeing with the sentiments of the motion I do not support engaging yet another consultant at an unspecified cost when there is undoubtedly sufficient ability within the wider NALC family to undertake this work.

The other major item discussed by the Assembly was the future of the NALC HQ at 109 Great Russel Street, WC1B 3LD. There is a feeling that the building is no longer fit for purpose given the fact there is now more home working than before the pandemic and also that the meeting facilities in the building are really inadequate. The building has now been valued at £2.5M and it is being marketed in order to gauge the property market in central London.

Cllr Bob Blezzard

NALC's Civility and Respect Project

NALC's Civility and Respect Project is a joint enterprise between NALC, its Welsh counterpart One Voice Wales, and the Society for Local Council Clerks (SLCC). The Project stems from growing concern about the impact of bullying, harassment and intimidation on councillors and staff and on the effectiveness of local councils.

The Project has a number of components, including:

- Training for councillors and staff
- Promotion of appropriate codes of conduct and other governance measures within councils
- Support for councils struggling to function effectively because of civility and respect issues
- Lobbying government to implement legislative changes recommended by the Committee of Standards in Public Life, including provision of sanctions against councillors who breach code of conduct regulations.

Local councils are being asked to support the Project by signing the following Civility and Respect Pledge:

By signing the Pledge, your council is agreeing that the council will treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles and that it:

- *Has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff*
- *Has signed up to the Code of Conduct for councillors*
- *Has good governance arrangements in place including staff contracts and a dignity at work policy*
- *Will seek professional help at the early stages should civility and respect issues arise*
- *Will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens*
- *Will continue to learn from best practices in the sector and aspire to be a role model/champion council through for example the local Local Council Award Scheme*
- *Supports the continued lobbying for change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.*

For further information on the Project and to sign the Pledge, go to: <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/civility-and-respect-project>

The following case study from the mainland illustrates what can happen if there is even a relatively minor or unintended breach of regulations.

A Cautionary Tale

AUTHOR: MIKE ATTENBOROUGH-COX, CHAIR OF THE SMALLER AUTHORITIES' AUDIT APPOINTMENTS

A complaint was received by the external auditor from a parish council in the southwest that had received a Public Interest Report and invoice for associated charges for 2020/21. The parish council levied a precept of £10k for the past two years.

However, the previous clerk had left in January 2021, and the email address which contained the parish council name was a bt.internet account personal to the clerk, which, when the clerk departed, became dormant. The telephone number was also the personal mobile for the previous clerk, which was no longer in use.

The council website had not been updated since 2018/19 and still advertised the email and telephone number of the previous clerk. A new clerk was appointed in March 2022, although whilst the new clerk set up another email in the council's name, it was not published anywhere and was again linked to a personal Gmail account accessed only by the clerk.

Apparently and surprisingly, neither the new clerk nor the council realised they were required to complete, approve, submit and publish an Annual Governance and Accountability Report (AGAR). After no contact from the council at all for the audit year 2020/21, a Public Interest Report was issued in December 2021. No minutes appear to have been taken or published between January 2021 and March 2022, no AGAR has ever been published on the website, and the auditor's invoice for 2019/20 also remained unpaid.

Eventually, contact was made with the chair, who then complained about the Public Interest Report, although admitted no AGAR or accounts had been prepared or approved by the council. It was claimed the clerk had been under pressure, and the chair objected to the issue of a Public Interest Report and associated charges, which are now payable.

What went wrong?

- The council did not have a generic email address despite numerous reminders by NALC, SLCC and SAAA that all smaller bodies should have a generic email address which can be accessed by council members other than the clerk.
 - The council, surprisingly, did not complete and publish an AGAR.
 - The council appears not to be aware of its legal responsibilities and failed to be accountable to the community it represents.
 - Notice of Public Rights: the internal auditors' Annual Report, Governance Statement and Accounting Statements were not published hence electors' rights were frustrated.
 - It would appear that the council's internal auditor failed in their duty (assuming the council had appointed an internal auditor) to complete the internal auditors' Annual Report, included within the AGAR, and report to the council. The internal auditors' report includes:
 - Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.
-
- The authority complied with its financial regulations, invoices supported payments, approved all expenditures, and appropriately accounted for VAT.
 - The authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.
 - The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.
 - Expected income was fully received based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and appropriately accounted for VAT.
 - Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.
 - Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with these authorities' approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were applied correctly.
 - Asset and investment registers were complete and accurate, and properly maintained.
 - Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.
 - Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.
 - The authority publishes information on a website/webpage, up to date at the time of the internal audit, in accordance with the Transparency code for smaller authorities.
 - During the previous year (2019/20), the authority correctly provided the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (evidenced by the notice published on the website and/or authority-approved minutes confirming the dates set).
 - The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2019/20 AGAR.

Consequences

- The council must pay outstanding invoices for reminder letters and the Public Interest Report, £280 plus VAT. As a result, the council will be required to have a Limited Assurance Review in 2021/22, costing £200 plus VAT, all of which could have been avoided.
- If the council fails to pay the outstanding invoices and statutory fees, legal action will be taken to collect the debt, and the council will incur additional charges.
- The community will now be aware of the council's failure, given the Public Interest Report has to be published.

A copy of the Public Interest Report will be sent to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Points of Light

NALC has just published the 2022 edition of its Points of Light publication, which showcases successful initiatives by local councils. We are delighted to see that East Cowes Town Council's new East Side Curve community hub is featured in this.

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/publications/points-of-light/3763-points-of-light-2022/file>

Fortnightly meeting with county officers

September 21 - At this week's regular fortnightly meeting with county officers, we were joined by Julie Walker and Kevin Richards from NALC partners BHIB Councils Insurance. They ran through the current status of the insurance market and the support they offer to local councils, as well as answered questions on issues that local councils are currently facing with insurance. Later in the meeting, we looked to the future coronation of the King and discussed the support and advice that local councils would find useful in the run-up to that event.

October 5 - At this week's meeting with county officers, we received a presentation on the Tri Sector Challenge, which is a competition and training opportunity open to all in the local council sector and previously won by Weymouth Town Council. The event comes highly recommended by those in the local sector who have participated and said it was one of the best training events they have attended. It is a good value given that it provides a career development opportunity that otherwise would not arise. We were also joined by colleagues from the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) to receive a general update on the Certificate in Local Council Administration, including training and how this is delivered by county associations.

Star Council Awards

NALC has announced that the Star Council Awards 2022 winners will be unveiled at an online ceremony on 13 October 2022 at noon (12 pm).

The ceremony will be open to everyone in the sector and beyond to watch and celebrate all the winners' hard work. The event will be streamed live on NALC's YouTube page.

The Star Council Awards are the only awards in England that recognise the local (parish and town) council sector's positive contribution to its communities, rewarding local councils, councillors, young councillors, county associations and clerks.

This year's award sponsors are BHIB Councils Insurance, Aubergine, Blachere Illumination, Breakthrough Communications, CCLA and DCK Accounting Solutions.

News from Member Councils

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

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

Fishbourne Parish Council

When the news of the Queen's death was announced at 6.30 pm on Thursday 8 September, we were just starting our Parish Council meeting.

At the time, we didn't appreciate the implications of the news for council activities. We went ahead with our meeting, including plans for our Spruce Up Fishbourne event two days later. It was not until the next day that we realised that it was not 'business as usual'.

After a flurry of emails and phone calls, we decided to cancel the Spruce Up Day. And it was not until Saturday that a couple of us decided that we should have a condolence book. By that time, all the stationers in Ryde and Newport had sold out and, by Sunday, one couldn't even buy one online.

However, my fellow councillor, Sarah, used her imagination and artistic skills to convert a book that she happened to have and, with the help of her husband, Nigel, installed it in the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. Thank you, Sarah and Nigel!

Our other major effort this month has been to produce a leaflet advertising our monthly coffee mornings and informing residents where to get help if they are struggling as a result of the energy crisis and increase in the cost of living. Copies have been distributed to the majority of homes in the parish.

Cllr Diana Conyers



Fishbourne's leaflet promoting their new Monthly Coffee Mornings - The next one will be on Thursday 3rd November



FISHBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Fishbourne Coffee Morning

Join us for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat!

When: First Thursday of the month 1030-12noon

Where: Royal Victoria Yacht Club, Fishbourne Lane

Meet new people and find out what is going on in the local area.

Representatives from the Parish Council, Aspire Ryde and Citizens Advice will be there to provide information and advice on any concerns you may have.

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY 6th OCTOBER

Are you struggling to cope with the Energy Crisis and increasing cost of living?

The following organisations may be able to help:

Citizens Advice: general advice on benefits, housing, employment, financial management etc.

Tel 0800 144 8848

Age UK: general advice and support for older people Tel: 01983 525282

Footprint Trust: advice on ways of saving energy Tel: 01983 822282

Living Well Programme: general support to help you live independently in the community

Tel: 01983 240732

Aspire Ryde: various community activities, including craft and gardening clubs, community lunches and information point Tel : 01983 716020

For further information or if you need help with transport to the coffee morning, please contact Cllr Diana Conyers, either by phone on 01983 717517 or by email at

conyersdiana@gmail.com

Lake Parish Council

Lake Parish Council was about to meet on 8 September when the news came through of the death of the Sovereign. It was decided to go ahead with the meeting, but Members observed a two-minute silence before the start. The Lake Parish Council flag at Thearle's Green was replaced by the Union flag, flying at half-mast.



The Parish noticeboard was cleared of content, replaced by a portrait of HM Queen Elizabeth II in her Coronation robes, edged with black velvet ribbon. The Union flag was temporarily returned to full mast on 10 September to mark the proclamation of the accession of HM King Charles III. Lake's own reading of the proclamation was made on 12 September jointly with Shanklin Town Council.

The Parish Council, held a Remembrance Service to the late Queen Elizabeth II on Friday 16 September, at Thearle's Green, Lake. The service was hosted by Cllr Adrian Whittaker and led by Reverend John Izzard. The service was well represented by individuals from the Lord Lieutenants Office, Shanklin Mayor and Parish Council, Shanklin Fire Service, Teachers and pupils from Broadlea School, Residents and members of Lake Parish Council. Mr Richard Priest DL read a letter from the Lord Lieutenant thanking the Parish Council for the respect and the observance of the memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Following the two-minute silence each individual was invited to lay a single red rose in a pot in front of the flagpole with the Union flag flying at half-mast.

Mike Taplin (Clerk)



Photos by John Marshall

Cowes Town Council

Things are starting to return to normal after the sudden death of our late Queen. While not everyone is a fan of the Royal family, her dedication to her country and commonwealth should be admired.

Our summer Newsletter has been distributed to 5,500 residences throughout Cowes and to a number of local businesses.

The Royal Yacht Squadron Isle of Wight Foundation hosted the Marine Careers Fair at the Castle in Cowes on 29 September. It was well attended with presentations, workshops and exhibitors from a broad range of marine careers providers, trainers and businesses and over 870 school children from across the Island. These events take a lot of organising but the support from businesses is recognized and the event is a great way to promote what Cowes has to offer.

A selection of photos from the event are below, courtesy of Cllr Michael Paler



We now turn our attention to budget setting, our winter planting schedule to brighten the town during the darker months and Christmas arrangements. Autumn is definitely upon us – jumpers are back out and the heating is on! Stay safe everyone. *Kate Gibbs (Asst Town Clerk)*

Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council

Following the sad death of Her Majesty the Queen, Chillerton & Gatcombe set up a book of condolence for villagers to sign in the Village Hall. St Olave's Church in Gatcombe did the same. Many villagers shared their thoughts and memories of Her Majesty.



On a more cheerful note, Chillerton & Gatcombe had a very successful evening at the Best Kept Village Awards winning both the prize for the Medium Sized Village and the prize for the Overall Best Kept Village, the first time we have won in 35 years.

In the pictures below the first shows us receiving the shield for the Medium Village presented by Karen McNeill of Waitrose and the High Sheriff, Kay Marriott.

The second shows us receiving the carved plaque for the overall Best Kept Village on the Island from Cllr Critchison, Chair of Isle of Wight Council and Kay Marriott again. The plaque is carved from a Beech tree that fell in Gatcombe Churchyard in 1990.

The third picture shows photographs of Lord Mountbatten planting a tree in Chillerton when we won the overall prize in 1970.

This was a reward for all the people of the Parish. Mention was made of the sense of community here that was apparent to all the judges. The improvement in the area round the Village Hall, the condition of the Play Area and the absence of litter were all highlighted, and especially the flowers in the bus shelter opposite the School. As I tell anyone who will listen, Chillerton & Gatcombe is the best place on the Island to live!

Cllr Nigel Phillips (Chair)



Ryde Town Council

Accessibility Grant Bid

We have put in a grant funding bid to South Western Railway's Customer and Community fund to allow us to increase Accessibility on to Ryde Beach.



The money would allow Ryde Town Council to provide beach wheelchairs, raised sunloungers, water wheelchairs and an accessible pathway on to the beach and to the water's edge. We hope to hear the result of the bid by the end of 2022.

Ryde Marina Phase 2

This week will see the installation of our new pontoons at Ryde Marina begin. This important phase replaces the old, tired wooden decking with brand new fibreglass decking and should take about 4 weeks to complete, depending on the weather.

Along with the new pontoon decking, this week will also see the brand new CCTV security cameras being installed. Following that, the next stage will be the inclusion of new electricity bollards, so there is lots happening at Ryde Marina.

Civility & Respect

We have also signed up to the Council Civility and Respect pledge.

Allan Bridges – Business Development Manager

& Deputy Clerk



Gurnard Parish Council

When GPC finally met in September it felt a long time since the last meeting in July and something of a different world. Some councillors had attended the memorial service for Her Majesty in Newport Minster; our thanks to all concerned in the organisation of this event.



The meeting started with a really comprehensive report from our energetic and hard working Environment Officer. She is a real asset to the parish and is willing to go the extra mile, meeting with councillors and contractors when applicable for example.

There was, inevitably, quite a list of planning applications and it was a relief to find that some other councillors found a few plans as incomprehensible as I had done. Perhaps there is need for training or for applicants, and their architects or consultants, to ensure plans are clear. Also a worry is that any comment from Southern Water is usually generic and includes no consideration of the cumulative impact of development on overloaded sewers. In Gurnard many residents are concerned by the way CSOs appear to be in use far too often and the lack of any adequate testing regime means there is insufficient data on water quality. The Beach Safety Working Party will be reconvened as soon as possible and the aim is to include the Environment Officer, a Gurnard Sailing Club representative, a member of the swimming community, and the Environment Agency.

There were many other items discussed: a survey on seafront benches, what can be done about minor incidents of anti-social behaviour with the biggest concerns being the lighting of fires and barbeques and, on a happier note, enquiries about the possibility of a Forest School opening. The big agenda meant some items had to be deferred although a draft of an open letter to the MP will be considered next rather than looking further at the motion on the CE Bill which had been distributed to councillors prior to the meeting.

Cllr Penny Acton

Bembridge Parish Council

Bembridge Parish Council welcomed its new RFO, Mark Rochell, at the beginning of September and said good bye to Clerk Marion Evans at the end.

The council is now advertising for a clerk details can be found on BPC website www.bembridgepc.org.uk.

September's activities were centred on the War Memorial Garden. On 3rd September BPC raised the Merchant Navy flag assisted by Capt. Graham Hall and Mrs Caroline Peel DL.

The Union Flag was lowered to half mast, on 8th September to mark the sad death of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. To acknowledge the Accession of His Majesty King Charles III the flag was raised on 10th September in the presence of Mrs Caroline Peel DL, & IOW Cllr Joe Robertson before returning to half-mast for the mourning period for Her Late Majesty. T

he War Memorial became of focus for residents to lay floral tributes and there was a Book of Condolence in Holy Trinity Church.

On 27th September, Bembridge was delighted to receive two awards, at the Best Kept Village IOW 2022 ceremony, presented by the High Sheriff, Kay Marriott.

The village won not only the Extra Large Village Shield but also the Best Kept War Memorial Garden.

It is a recognition of the efforts of many residents, who assist in many ways with beach cleans and litter picks but go especially to the group of volunteers known as The Community Gardeners who tend the War Memorial Garden with care and dedication and whose efforts have been especially appreciated in the last month.

Cllr Liz White



Bembridge Parish Council



Top - Merchant Navy Day Sept 3rd with Capt. Graham Hall, Mrs Caroline Peel DL & BPC Cllrs.

Above right - Accession of King Charles III 10th September with Mrs Caroline Peel DL, Cllr Joe Robertson & BPC Cllrs

Above - Some of The Community Gardeners with their award in the War Memorial Garden

Right- Best Kept Extra Large Village Shield & Best Kept War Memorial Garden Salver 2022

We are pleased to announce that Bembridge has been awarded two prizes in the Best Kept Village Awards 2022.

The Village was awarded the "The Best Kept Extra Large Village" Award and "The Best Kept Memorial Gardens Award". We would like to thank the Lengthsmen and the Community Gardeners for everything they do and without whose efforts the Village would not have been successful in winning these awards.



Other News...

Isle of Wight Day

Unfortunately, following the cancellation of Isle of Wight Day earlier this month due to the passing of the Queen, we have been unable to secure a new date to hold the event this year.

We can though announce that Isle of Wight Day 2023 will be at Brading Roman Villa on Saturday September 16th 2023, with all the activities and attractions that we had planned to bring this year with £1 entry for Islanders.

We are looking for volunteers to join our team as Friends of Isle of Wight Day and help with the delivery of next year's event. For full details visit www.isleofwightday.com.

See you at Brading Roman Villa next September!

David Thornton (Isle of Wight Day team)



Digital Workshops & Conversation



Age UK Isle of Wight's digital support workshops are available for all older people. They are gently paced, and tablets and smartphones are available to borrow.

Conversation sessions are held after the workshops, and are about interacting and exchanging ideas to help improve the lives of older Islanders. Refreshments are provided.

Come along to one or both – it's up to you. Be part of the Conversation and learn a bit too!

For more information and to book your place call Age UK Isle of Wight on 01983 301693 or email digital@ageukiw.org.uk

**Tues 11th
October**
Sandown Library
10:00-12:15

**Tues 18th
October**
Cowes Library
10:00-12:15



Registered charity number 1118711

IW Walking Festival

Still time to lace up your walking boots and check out the Autumn edition of the Isle of Wight Walking Festival, taking place from 8th to 16th October. The first 50 guided treks are live and bookable!

Run by guided by volunteer walk leaders from groups such as the Isle of Wight Ramblers Association, the New Carnival Company, the National Trust as well as local businesses, there's plenty of walks on offer across the whole Island and for all fitness abilities.

To sign up for a walk or two head to isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk or if you would like to lead a walk yourself in your community, get in touch with the event organisers Sarah and Jo at walking@visitwight.org



Due to the generosity of the public we have plenty of-

PASTA
TINNED FISH
TINNED MEAT
TINNED VEG
COOKING SAUCES
TINNED TOMATOES
BAKED BEANS
ANY BEANS
CEREAL
SANITARY ITEMS

TEA *Thank you*



Isle of Wight NHS Trust

The Isle of Wight NHS Trust Ambulance Service is seeking feedback.

If you or a loved one have recently called 999 for an ambulance or been conveyed by an ambulance, we would really like to know about your experience.



Please visit Isle of Wight NHS Trust - Ambulance Service Feedback ([iow.nhs.uk](https://www.iow.nhs.uk/our-services/acute-care-services/ambulance/Ambulance-Service-Feedback.htm)) <https://www.iow.nhs.uk/our-services/acute-care-services/ambulance/Ambulance-Service-Feedback.htm>

Thank you.

Also, please visit our website www.isleofwightambulance.co.uk to see what training courses we offer the public, businesses and schools, learn about the support we can give to public access defibrillator guardians/sites and look out for our Restart a Heart Day event.

Louise Walker (Ambulance Education, Training & Engagement Lead)

Food Waste and Food Poverty Conference - Friday 18th November- Riverside Centre

The country is facing one of the worst cost of living crises in history this winter. Here is some information to help you and your parishioners cope.

A group of organisations – Pan Together, Aspire Ryde, Ventnor Town Council, The Real Junk Food Project, and Newport Congregational Church – are working with Public Health at the Isle of Wight Council to address issues of Food Waste and Food poverty.

We are organising a Conference on the 18th of November at the Riverside Centre to bring together organisations and individuals working on issues of food poverty and food waste on the Isle of Wight.

Town and Parish Councils are key partners in addressing these issues in all our Island communities. Many people on the Isle of Wight have difficulties accessing affordable and healthy food in the face of the cost-of-living crisis. Our invitees will include organisations offering free food, such as food banks and food shelves, and groups working to ensure that food waste is minimised, and that surpluses are made available to our communities. Our aim is to bring together key organisations from the voluntary and community sector, town and parish councils, the Isle of Wight Council, NHS Trust, and supermarkets – to work more effectively together and start a conversation about these issues. The opportunity longer term will be to develop a partnership that can adopt a strategic approach to reduce the impact of food poverty and food waste on the Isle of Wight.

The event will include key speakers from policy makers at the Isle of Wight Council and NHS Trust, The Trussell Trust, Independent Food Aid Network, a local authority that is leading in this area of policy and a director of a leading supermarket. We will also be showing the film Family Voice, commissioned by Ventnor Town Council, and produced by Utility Films, which gives a voice to people living in poverty in the town. The conference will be an opportunity to network and discuss your experience of food waste and food poverty in your community alongside organisations already working on these issues and contribute to our strategy.

To book a place at this event please follow the link to Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/isle-of-wight-food-waste-and-food-poverty-conference-tickets-430835539697> If you have any questions about the event please contact publichealth@iow.gov.uk

Citizens Advice



Citizens Advice IW, along with Footprint Trust IW, has been leading the “Winter Is Coming” project since 2019. This makes professionals and organisations aware of what support is available from the voluntary sector for families and individuals on the Island facing a difficult winter. The first 60-minute briefing was held in September and well attended. The recording is here. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJcic-qAhhs>)

The in-person event is on Thursday 13th October at the Riverside centre, Newport. Anyone is welcome to attend for free and pick up great tips and useful information on how to tackle the challenges winter might throw our way. A second briefing will be held online on Thursday 24th November.

I compared August 2021 to August 2022 whilst our client numbers remained similar 793 down to 780 the number of issues brought to us rose from 1571 to 1607. The activity the charity did around those issues rose from 1962 to 2118. An example of increased pressure on the resources we have is the increase in clients needing support for PIP applications these have risen from 44 in August last year to 99 this year. Each appointment can take up to 2 hours This keeps our hard working volunteers busy and we are pleased to say more trainee advisers are successfully working with us.

During November CAIW will contact each local council with data on how many of their residents have used the charity’s service plus how many Advice First Aiders are based in their locality. If anyone wants this information sooner, please email pauls@iwcab.org.uk

Finally, CAIW took part in the Southampton Legal Walk with a twist, we did it around Newport. This is a 10k walk completed after work and raising money for advice charities across in Southampton and here. Our team is shown outside Carisbrooke Castle well over half way to the finish line. You can still donate on our IOW page here. (londonlegalsupporttrust.enthuse.com/pf/citizens-advice-isle-of-wight)



It was a lovely evening and next September (2023!) we will open it to legal companies and other organisations to join us.

Paul Savill (Chief Officer)

News from Aspire Ryde

- Aspire has set up a warm bank in our community hall (the only warm room we have!). This will run from 10am to 1.30pm Tuesday to Friday each week. There is free tea and coffee available and we will provide a warm lunch each day, also for free. This is at the Church on Dover Street in Ryde and will run from now until the end of April.
- The Living Well service has obtained funding for a mobile support hub which will be running from the beginning of November. This will be visiting communities across the Island to give advice and support, particularly to those who are isolated and lonely. We would be very happy to hear suggestions from Parish Councils on areas to visit.
- If anyone would like printed copies of our Living Well leaflet Eating, Heating and Meeting (published elsewhere in this issue), please contact me.



Trevor Nicholas

News from the IWC

A road safety campaign is raising awareness of some of the main reasons why people are killed or seriously injured on the Island's roads.



The scheme aims to improve driver behaviour through a simple picture based reminder of the factors present in almost all major and minor collisions. These are inappropriate speed, in-car distractions such as using a mobile phone while driving, not wearing a seatbelt, drink/drug driving and following too close — tragically titled the 'fatal five'.

Building on similar initiatives developed by the fire service and police, the campaign features simple safety messages in the form of circular 'pictogram' stickers with an overarching message: 'It's not worth the risk'. Adding these stickers to council vehicles will give motorists numerous opportunities to see these key road safety messages on every journey, at the very time and place they are most relevant — on the road.

The campaign is being backed by the Isle of Wight Ambulance Service, Island Roads and waste provider Amey with many of their vehicles displaying the stickers. Lewis Campbell, the council's road safety officer, said: "The majority of motorists drive safely and would not take unnecessary risks which compromise their safety and the safety of others, but there are a small minority who do. Seeing these pictograms will remind all drivers of safer driving behaviour, and hopefully changes the driving habits of risk-taking motorists.

"This campaign aims to raise awareness of contributory factors which are common in road traffic collisions, namely speed, in-car distractions (such as using a mobile phone), lack of seat belts, alcohol or drug use and keeping a safe following distance. Combined, these factors were present in 41 per cent of all road traffic collision related casualties within the past five years."

Councillor Karen Lucioni, Cabinet member for community safety, added: "The pictures are being used to communicate the message that roads are dangerous and care needs to be taken. "We want these symbols to give people that little nudge to drive more safely. The 'Nudge' theory is a widely acknowledged behavioural science concept that subtle, indirect suggestions can influence motives and behaviour change. Thank you to our partners who have applied the branding to their vehicle fleets, enabling a wide reach across the Island."

Trading Standards

- Scammers are yet again preying on our vulnerabilities – with the rising costs of energy they are sending texts purporting to be from GOV-UK advising you to click on a link to apply for your energy rebate. This is a SCAM – you don't need to do anything. If you get one of these texts you can forward it to 7726 where it will be used in intelligence gathering
- Texts have been received claiming to be from Amazon and Apple Pay advising you to click on a link – DON'T!
- Be wary of unknown callers on 01983 numbers – these WILL be scammers – they purchase unused phone numbers to carry out their activities. We tend to be more trusting of a call from a local number but treat it with the same suspicion as you would any unknown caller.
- Reports of emails from banks asking you to log in to change information and security details for online banking – NEVER click on links in emails particularly from banks. If you receive an email like this and you are unsure if it is genuine always check with your bank in the first instance



Scam texts can be forwarded to 7726

Scam emails can be forwarded to report@phishing.gov.uk

If you receive a call purporting to be your bank you should hang up, wait 10 minutes then contact your bank by calling 159 and then select the correct option for your bank – this is a secure way of verifying if it really was your bank contacting you

Sally Ash (Fair Trading Officer)



Hampshire Alert



The Blue Lamp Trust

Hampshire Constabulary wanted to share an update with you from our partners, [The Blue Lamp Trust](#), of which our Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney is a Trustee.

While you may already be aware of, or indeed used, their Bobby Scheme service – which provides free home security visits, long-life smoke alarms and advice to vulnerable residents in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, particularly the elderly and victims of burglary and domestic abuse – they have launched; **Cyber Bobby**.

This is a scheme from the Blue Lamp Trust which is seeking to help protect vulnerable people from becoming victims of cyber-crime.

The scheme, much-like the Bobby Scheme, provides home visits, giving advice and guidance about basic IT security.



Our police vetted advisors offer FREE home visit to residents of Hampshire who are:

- Over 65 years old
- Disabled (over 18)
- Previous victim of cyber crime

They will discuss and advise local residents on:

- What is cyber-crime
- Cyber and scam prevention advice
- How to check privacy settings
- Signposting to other advice and resources
- How to report issues
- How to recognise scam emails and text messages

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.

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

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

What3Words app for precise locations in emergencies

Being able to give your precise location in an emergency can save vital time and lives.



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Monthly Update from MP Bob Seely

Planning

I have objected to plans to build 70 homes off Burt Close in Shalfleet. If approved, this development will negatively impact on the Island's environment and roads. I believe the development is unsuitably large for the area and I am concerned that it will put more pressure on existing infrastructure.

This is yet another unnecessary car-dependent development using up yet more greenfield land with not enough affordable homes planned.

You can view my comments on this application on the planning portal (Application Ref 22/00989/FUL).



Islands Forum

The first meeting of the Island's forum took place in Orkney last month.

The forum was set up earlier this year by Michael Gove as a result of a conversation I had with him about the different challenges faced by UK islands.

The forum gives islands an opportunity to feed back to ministers the challenges that we face as a result of our separation by sea, particularly with the additional costs we face to run health and other services here.

If you have any examples of additional costs or challenges we face because of our geographic location, please do get in touch with me to share them.

Hospital Funding

I have requested a meeting with Health Minister Robert Jenrick to discuss unavoidably small hospitals. St Mary's is one of twelve such hospitals in England and Wales, unavoidably small due to its remoteness.

Because the size of the population served is relatively small, and travel times to other hospitals is relatively long, provision has been made for the funding formula to be adjusted for the higher costs faced.

However, while I welcome this funding adjustment for St Mary's, I want to see all of the additional costs St Mary's faces being factored into this adjustment.

It's important that Islanders receive the same quality of healthcare as the rest of the country and that our health services are sustainably financed. I recently led a parliamentary debate on this subject. You can read more about that here....

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-09-06/debates/10497C92-58AA-4A8D-A20F-C150137404BE/details>

Bob Seely MP

Southern Water

Southern Water recently held a community roadshow at The White Lion in Niton, working in partnership with the Niton & Whitwell Parish Council.



The weather was fine and we managed to engage with 32 customers and provided free goody-bags providing free water-saving devices to help reduce water consumption and also reduce ongoing water bills. There were also free F.O.G devices (fat, oil and grease) to prevent blockages etc.

Two pensioners were entitled to the 20% annual discount through our Essentials tariff. Further community roadshows are being planned for next Spring.

More good news from Southern Water

With effect from 1st October 2022, the minimum annual discount for the Essentials tariff has been increased from 20% to 45% per annum.

What this means:

- Any customers applying after October 1st who qualify (i.e. the total household income is less than £21,000 p/a) should be put on a 45% discount
- Any customers renewing after October 1st should have their discount amended to 45% (unless they are already on a higher discount)
- Any customer contacting us after October 1st, who is already on Essentials, should have their discount increased to 45%
- This also includes all Pension Credit claimants

This will be in place until 31st March 2023 when it will be reviewed again.

Stuart Bailey (Vulnerability Liaison Officer (Hants & I.O.W))

Hovertravel

New 0745 flights

Following requests for earlier flights came from individuals, the local council and a variety of other groups, including Portsmouth Grammar School, Hovertravel is trialling a new 0745 flight from Ryde on Saturday mornings until 10th December.



Try Before You Fly Event

Our next Try Before You Fly is at 10am on Saturday 8th October. These free events are an opportunity for anyone who thinks they might need a little extra assistance with their journey to see our facilities and to tell us what we can do to become more accessible.

Flexi-tickets

Our flexi-tickets offer the best value option for people looking to cross the Solent more than once. Available to purchase online in 10, 20, 40, 100 and 250 single journeys, they can be used for day returns, period returns or for single journeys and our Hoverbus is also included. With the added flexibility of 18 months validity, these tickets allow island residents to plan, and budget, their travel more easily.

Football support

We continue to help Portsmouth FC supporters living on the island enjoy late home games at Fratton Park with extra night flights added to our timetable. There will be a 22:15 flight from Southsea on Tuesday 25th October for the match against Oxford United, on Thursday 29th December for the match against Ipswich Town and Tuesday 14th February for the match with Burton Albion. We will add in more flights if extra fixtures are added. We also have a special discount for all ticket holders looking to travel on other match days.

Stephen Forster (Creative Director)

Good causes on the Isle of Wight are invited to apply for Wightlink sponsorship



Isle of Wight charities, sports groups and arts organisations who regularly need to visit the mainland can now apply for travel support over the next year through the 2023 Wightlink in the Community: Sponsorship programme.

Applications open on 1 October 2022, and successful groups will receive 12 months support from 1 January 2023. Details of how to apply can be found at www.wightlink.co.uk/sponsorship. The closing date is Monday 31 October 2022.

Wightlink in the Community currently supports around 40 Island groups with regular travel, helping Islanders to attend mainland training, events or matches and/or bring people or equipment to the Isle of Wight.

The ferry company is particularly looking to support applications with a focus on young people as well as environmental initiatives – complementing Wightlink’s Green Fund for Schools.

Aspire is one of a number of charities to receive help from Wightlink. Trevor Nicholas from the Ryde-based charity says: “We often need to travel to the mainland to pick up supplies for our community work and any money we can save, we can put towards helping people in need. We’ve developed a good relationship with Wightlink over the years which has gone beyond just sponsorship - the company takes a real interest in our work and helps us where it can.”

Platform One College of Music has been supported by Wightlink for more than two decades. This has helped the college bring music industry specialists to the Island and aids students embarking on mainland tours or attending concerts as part of their studies.

David Pontin, Platform One Director, says: “We’re really grateful for the support we receive from Wightlink, which helps us provide top quality music industry tuition to young people. From assisting us to bring music professionals to the Island to providing support for mainland tours, it makes such a big difference to us and our students.”

The Isle of Wight Triathlon Club, whose members are aged between 8 and 18, received sponsorship after successfully applying last year. Alison Jenkinson from the club says: “As there are no junior triathlon events on the Island our members need to travel across the water regularly in order to compete.”



Wightlink Chief Executive Keith Greenfield says: “We take great pride in our Wightlink in the Community scheme which helps a variety of good causes. They all play an important role in Island life and many create valuable opportunities for young Islanders.

“We look forward to receiving applications from groups in need of travel support in 2023.”

Karen Woods (Duty Media Officer)



Top- Wightlink Wight Mountain Cyclists. **Above left-** Dave Pontin (Platform 1). **Above right-** John Cattle’s Skate Club