



The IWALC Bulletin

June 2021

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

Your IWALC Matters!!

Message from the Editor

Welcome to the June issue of the IWALC Bulletin!

Local government on the Island is in the midst of an exciting period of change. The May elections have resulted not only in many new councillors at both county and local level but also a new administration at County Hall! It will take a while for both levels of government to sort themselves out. However, these changes will hopefully result in a stronger, more coordinated and more responsive system of local government for Island residents.

This issue of the Bulletin includes the usual mix of articles and news items from local organisations. We would welcome comments from readers, particularly but not only local council members, on any of these items – and on the Bulletin as a whole. Please also continue to send us your news items and, if you want to raise a particular issue or express a personal point of view, why not write us a letter? *Jill Webster*

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Deadline for the July issue is June 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...

IWALC meetings

The next IWALC Executive Meeting will be at 7 pm on Thursday 24 June. After much deliberation, it has been decided to hold it online via Zoom.

There are two main reasons for this: inability to find a suitable venue in Newport and the likely delay in the removal of Covid restrictions.

We have been assured by NALC that, since these are not statutory meetings, we can continue to hold them online. One of the items on the Agenda for the meeting will be to discuss the format and venue of future meetings, including the AGM, which will be on 29 July.

Training

The Basic Skills Training 23rd June and 30th June (you have to attend both sessions to complete the training) is fully booked and will be held in the Council Chamber as planned. If anyone is still interested in attending I will hold a waiting list and we will look at the possibility of more sessions.

The Chairmanship training will also be taking place in the Council Chamber on the 7th and 14th July at 6.30pm; if anyone is interested, please get in touch. Again, both sessions complete the training.

Heather Rowell

Zoom Meetings with MP Bob Seely

These fortnightly online meetings have proved to be extremely popular with Town and Parish Councillors and it was very encouraging, post local-elections, to see so many new faces at the most recent Zoom meeting, where a wide range of topics, including the proposed boundary split for the Island, issues regarding utility companies digging up newly laid roads, the closure of public toilets in Sandown, and help being offered to struggling GP surgeries were discussed.

These meetings are open to all Councillors and Clerks - please contact your Clerk if you would like more information and details of how to be part of these meetings.

Parliamentary Boundary review

I am sure that most colleagues will be aware that the third Parliamentary Boundary Review in ten years has now commenced with initial draft recommendations being published, and firing the starting gun for an eight week consultation period.

The proposals for two constituencies, loosely based on the east and west of the Island, can best be described as "interesting" and were the subject of discussion at a recent zoom meeting with the MP.

I would encourage councils to look at the proposals and comment to the Boundary Commission for England.

Cllr Bob Blezzard

Return to Face-to-Face meetings

Despite objections from NALC and the Local Government Association, all local government bodies were required from 7 May to hold their meetings face-to-face rather than online. Since, in an election year, all councils are required to hold a meeting within two weeks of the date in which the new councillors take office, this regulation affected all councils on the Island. We therefore decided to ask them whether they had complied with it and, if so, whether they had had any problems in doing so. We asked them, in particular, whether any councillors had been reluctant or unable to attend, whether it had been difficult to find a suitable venue, and whether they had been able to accommodate members of the public.

Twenty two of the 33 local councils (67%) responded. Of those, 16 (73%) had held a face-to-face meeting. Only one council reported that a councillor had been reluctant or unable to attend and it was not clear whether or not this was due to concerns about Covid. However, five reported that they had had to find a different venue or delay the meeting until a suitable venue was available and one said that they rotate meetings around the council area and some of the venues would be too small.

Accommodating members of the public was not a problem for most councils because few people wished to attend. However, some mentioned that they had had to restrict numbers, or would have had to do so if more had wished to attend. One council had enabled members of the public to participate via Zoom another had livestreamed the meeting on YouTube. Other problems mentioned were difficulties in recording the meeting, the time and work involved in setting up the room and registering participants in compliance with Covid restrictions, and difficulties in hearing people speak because of social distancing and the wearing of masks.

Five councils (23% of respondents) had not held face-to-face meetings. One had not held any meeting since the restriction was imposed. They had had a Zoom meeting on 6 May and were planning to hold a face-to-face meeting on 6 June. The other four councils had held Zoom meetings. The main reason was councillors' reluctance to take risks, particularly before 21 June. However, other reasons mentioned included difficulties in accommodating the number of people expected, problems and costs of meeting social distancing requirements, and having arranged speakers from the mainland. Most of these councils said they will ratify the decisions made at the online meetings at the first face-to-face meeting.

Thank you to those Town, Parish and Community Councils that took part - we know this is a busy time for Clerks and appreciate the time you have taken to respond.

Council precepts 2021/22

The government has recently published information on the precepts levied by local parish and town councils throughout the country for the current (2021/22) financial year (for details, see: <https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=902fdbfb6b&e=2eb73f6e92>).

We included this information in the overview of local councils published in the Annex to the April Bulletin. However, since some councils were unable to provide the necessary data, we were unable to give a complete picture. The recently published government data has enabled us to check and update the figures provided by councils. It turns out that the average precept for a Band D property on the Island is £69.97. However, as we suggested in the April Bulletin, there is a major variation between councils – from £17.50 in Newchurch to £142.73 in Ventnor and £149.56 in Ryde. It should also be noted that, as reported in April, the average increase in precept on the Island remains well below the national average.

**We give a warm
welcome back to
IWALC to
Sandown Town
Council and look
forward to
working alongside
your Councillors.**



Sandown
Town Council



All Change at County Hall

IWALC looks forward to continuing its productive positive working relationship with the Isle of Wight Council, under the new administration led by Cllr Lora Peacey Wilcox. Cllr Peacey Wilcox has been a valued member of IWALC over the last few years, and we will miss her contribution to IWALC.

We want to take this opportunity to congratulate her on her election and look forward to working with her in her new role as Council Leader. At IWALC we are really looking forward to a great partnership with the IWC that is supportive to the IWC and facilitates the voice of town and parish councils across the island.

I was privileged to be part of IWALC for over 2 years as Mayor. As someone who has been involved in local council (coves) for over 22 years I FULLY understand and thank all those that spend years of their lives, for free, serving their towns. I will continue to bat for IWALC; but just give us some time to understand the HUGE complexities of local and central government.

Good luck, and a massive thank you to each and everyone of you giving your time for free to support your towns, our volunteers are exceptional!

Lora Peacey Wilcox

(IW & Town Cllr Cowes Medina & Leader IW Council)

Beavers

Many of you will know that the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is investigating the possibility of introducing beavers to the Island. They are focusing on the catchment of the Eastern Yar. There has been a mixed reaction to this from local councils and the general public in the area concerned. Those of you who could be affected may therefore be interested to know that on 25 May, BBC Radio 4 broadcast a programme reviewing the experience with the introduction of beavers in other parts of the country.

To listen to this programme, go to:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000w9v4?utm_source=MEMBERS&utm_campaign=e45d944a3b-

[EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_06_08_03_15_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_206970988f-e45d944a3b-361747330&mc_cid=e45d944a3b&mc_eid=2eb73f6e92](https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000w9v4?utm_source=MEMBERS&utm_campaign=e45d944a3b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_06_08_03_15_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_206970988f-e45d944a3b-361747330&mc_cid=e45d944a3b&mc_eid=2eb73f6e92)

Toilet Tax

Following an inquiry from Brading Town Council, we contacted the Revenues Officer -

Dear Mr Moore

I understand that, following the recent enactment of the Non-Domestic Rates (Public Lavatories) Bill, local councils are eligible for refunds for the business rates they paid in 2020/21 and that you are the officer responsible for processing these refunds.

I would be grateful if you could tell me what, if anything, councils have to do to get the refunds. Should they contact you or will the refunds be paid automatically?

I would like to include some information on this in the June issue of the IWALC Bulletin.

Thank you for any information you are able to provide.

We have had this response - *Thank you for your email. All the businesses affected have been contacted.*

L Moore (Revenues Support)

Hopefully, if you are entitled to a refund, you *have* been contacted. Here is the link from NALC though. ...

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/news/entry/1641-nalc-urges-government-to-get-toilets-bill-over-the-finish-line>

Every Local Council Needs a Plan

Guest article by David Carden, Local Councils Consultant

A key task early in the term of a local council is to develop a plan for the duration of the Council. Whether a large town or small parish council it is important to develop a strategy for the delivery of the key aims and aspirations of the community and to ensure that the resources of the Council are focussed accordingly. There are many challenges ahead for local councils not least the recovery process from the pandemic. Many are now building on the positive partnerships developed with their communities over the past 15 months.

Plans come in various forms and the thought of producing a Business Plan is often off-putting for a local council. The best strategic plans are the ones that are simple, focussed, monitored and refined as circumstances change. Having a strategy enables a council to ensure that the day to day decisions fit in with the longer term interests of the organisation. A strategy also encourages people to work together to achieve common aims. It is also good accounting practice to have a 3 – 5 year financial plan and a business plan can create this.

One option to assist local councils to develop a business plan is to embark on a visioning process. The goal of a visioning process is to develop written statements of a community's long term goals and objectives. A visioning exercise can be undertaken in-house or assisted by a facilitator. Often the best results are achieved by involving someone outside of the council to facilitate the process and to provide an external challenge. The author undertook this process with Ryde Town Council in early 2020 and the outcome has formed the basis of the priorities for the council going forward.

As previously stated, it is good to keep the business planning process uncomplicated and to ensure you produce a document that is 'live' and is regularly reviewed. Too often complicated business plans are left on the shelf to collect dust and rarely used. The following approach to identifying a 'Vision' to form the basis of a business plan is one that is straightforward but effective:

Stage 1 Where have we come from?

Stage 2 Where are we now?

Stage 3 Where do we want to be?

Stage 4 How do we get there?

The first stage of the process is one of reflection, to ascertain what the council has done well in the past or perhaps not so well and how to learn from that. From there it is a question of looking at where the organisation is now and challenging whether the Council is meeting the aspirations of the community and making best use of its resources (finance and staff). This element can also include issues such as the decision making process. Once that element is complete the vision can then be created. This is the opportunity for a council to consider what it wants to achieve for the community over its term of office. It is also an opportunity to 'make a difference' and provide 'added value' in the delivery of local services and facilities. The final part

of the process is to ascertain how the vision can be achieved and what is realistic. In effect the business plan is the map of 'How do we get there?'

A good business plan will have a level of community involvement, clear priorities and a timeline. Additional options include the possibility of a communications strategy, an analysis of any risks and to include the resources required to deliver the plan. A plan needs to be flexible so that it can be refined to meet changing circumstances and performance against the plan should be monitored. The outcome of the monitoring process should be communicated to the community and councils should be proud to publicise achievements.

David was previously Town Clerk at the award winning Burgess Hill Town Council in West Sussex and now works with town and parish councils on a range of activities including organisational and staff reviews, visioning/business planning, devolution of services/partnerships, leadership and personal development plans for Clerks, mentoring/coaching, job evaluation, project and performance management and community capacity building. In February this year he helped to facilitate a visioning workshop for IWALC. For further information on visioning and business planning contact David – davidacarden@outlook.com 07532823744

Nettlestone & Seaview Parish Council

Beach Awards 2021

The Parish Council successfully applied for beach awards for Seagrove Bay and Springvale Beach. This continues a proud tradition, stretching back several years.



The Chairman (Cllr Barry Elliott) and Cllr Rebecca Hardie (a keen advocate of the importance of applying for the awards) have proudly raised them at each beach. The council looks forward to many visitors admiring them over the course of the Summer.

Local Elections – May 2021

The local electorate have chosen Cllr Dave Adams as their next Isle of Wight Ward Councillor. Cllr Adams replaces Reg Barry BEM who chose to stand down after decades of service to the community – the parish council thanks Cllr Barry for all he has done for the community and look forward to working with his successor for the overall good of the community.



The Parish Council has welcomed five new councillors to their ranks at the Annual Parish Council meeting and they are all keen to help make a difference.

Brian Jennings (Clerk)

Niton & Whitwell Parish Council

Crab Niton formerly closed down at the end of April although we are monitoring our emails and ensuring all our Standard Operating Procedures and Parish Resilience plans are up to date for the next time!

As things settle down we are returning to the other things that have an impact on everyday village life, and the volume of traffic through the Parish is one of those points.

The size of the coaches trying to turn onto the Blackgang Rd beside the White Lion are far, far too big for the Island, let alone our little streets. Walking up the High Street just this morning, this enormous vehicle arrived. How on earth it even got this far into the Village is beyond me and while I respect the drivers' ability, I cannot understand why such vehicles are allowed here! As for the passengers, I can only suppose that some of these monsters even have a stairlift for the use of those visitors of a certain age and agility!

Hmm, perhaps I should give it a go!

Cllr Jon Boileau Goad



Cowes Town Council

Following local elections, Cowes Town Council has 14 out of 16 Councillors elected. Clerks have been extremely busy with the numerous admin tasks that a new administration brings.

Councillor Paul Bertie was elected as Town Mayor at our Annual Town Council meeting, with Councillor John Nicholson elected as Deputy Town Mayor.

Policies and procedures have been updated, appointments to committees and Other Bodies made.

Our meeting schedule for the year has been set, with all public meetings due to be held face-to-face. We await news on the lifting of restrictions, or not, from 21 June.

In the meantime, our public meetings are being held in larger venues to accommodate Councillors, Clerks and members of the public in line with current social distancing measures. Signing-in and hand sanitisers are at our entrances.

In the town, we welcome several new shops to Cowes. The High Street is adorned with new flags and seasonal bunting. The summer planting has been completed, bringing much needed colour to welcome summer, and visitors, to Cowes.

Kate Gibbs (Asst Town Clerk)

[Photograph of summer planting at Carvel Lane, Cowes.]



East Cowes Town Council

The Town Council appointed a Planning Consultant to lead on the project due to their previous expertise in this area.

There was a good level of community participation with the numbers who completed the survey on line or filling in the one hand delivered to their property, as well as forming a forum to discuss the proposals (by Zoom due to the pandemic!).

The next step is to take the Town Plan into consideration as the Council updates the strategic plan. Beyond that, moving on to a Neighbourhood Plan is something for the future as the new Isle of Wight Council Plan emerges and the national planning picture becomes more certain.

Full details of the plan are available on our website or <https://onthewight.com/east-cowes-town-council-adopt-15-year-town-plan-shaped-by-residents/>

Claire Gale (Asst Clerk)



Other News...

The Community Resilience Project

We offer free information, guidance and skills building events to people who are working in the community, including volunteers.

We have two new team members -

Introducing Julian Wadsworth – our new Community Resilience Coordinator for the Bay area -

I live on the island with my wife and three children and have been involved in community development, youth services, crime prevention and sport for development for over 20 years. During this time I have managed programmes in Hampshire working for Portsmouth City Council, Portsmouth Football Club and more recently, I have been Head of Hampshire Programmes for Active Communities Network.

I feel that collaboration is vital in ensuring that people have a genuine opportunity to have voice within their community and that by working together we can in make a difference.

I have enjoyed working closely with charities of all types, residents groups, housing associations, business, Hampshire Constabulary and Commissioners, various local authorities, schools, colleges, universities, sports clubs, arts spaces, national governing bodies and importantly, young people.

I am passionate about social justice and driven to enable young people and adults to fulfil their potential and overcome barriers and inequalities, to make our communities stronger and healthier.

You can contact me by email: JWadsworth@actioniw.org.uk

I look forward to working with you for the next 18 months. *Julian Wadsworth*

(Community Resilience Coordinator for the Bay area)



Introducing Lucy Nicholas - Community Resilience Coordinator for the Ryde and North Eastern area -

My name is Lucy Nicholas and I am the Community Resilience Coordinator for the Ryde and North Eastern area of the island.

I am a qualified youth and community worker and am now based at the Aspire Ryde hub on Dover Street in Ryde where I also have the role of volunteer coordinator. This means that I am ideally placed to help re-establish community groups within my project area and liaise with the Parish and Town Councils.

I am originally from Yorkshire and moved down to the island nearly 4 years ago with my family.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to continue working with Community Action Isle of Wight and other partner organisations and community groups as we begin to rebuild a new resilient infrastructure which will enable us all to make a positive impact on many people's lives.

You can contact me by email: LNicholas@actioniw.org.uk

I look forward to working with you for the next 18 months. *Lucy Nicholas*

(Community Resilience Coordinator for the Ryde and North Eastern area)



Zoryna O'Donnell (Project Manager)

Isle of Wight Council

Coronavirus variant a reminder we can't let down our guard
(May 20th)

"This is not a cause to panic, but It is a cause for caution." That's the message from Simon Bryant, Director of Public Health at the Isle of Wight Council, following the first recorded case of the variant of coronavirus, first identified in India, on the Island.



The Isle of Wight is one of 127 local authority areas where the 'variant of concern' (VOC) has now been detected, and it is likely that it will be present in all local authority areas in the future. Mr Bryant sought to reassure residents that the situation on the Island was managed appropriately and robustly. Where a VOC occurs, Public Health England's Local Health Protection Team ensures there is swift follow up, with any close contacts asked to self-isolate and further, precautionary testing offered.

Mr Bryant said he would not reveal the specific location or comment further on the circumstances due to the risk of identification. "While we wouldn't usually comment on an isolated case such as this, given the level of concern expressed locally, we felt it was important to reassure residents that the situation was managed appropriately," he said. "I understand people will be concerned about this new variant. We know that the numbers of cases of this variant are increasing across the country, but it is important to emphasise that there is currently no evidence that this variant causes more serious illness, or that the vaccine provides less protection against it. What we do know is that this variant spreads easily — which is why we need everyone to continue with the behaviours that we know stop the transmission of the virus.

"Get vaccinated when it's your turn. Continue to test regularly when you don't have symptoms; this can stop you unknowingly passing on the virus to others. Self-isolate and get a test at Newclose if you get symptoms. It's vitally important that we continue to wear face masks where required unless you are exempt, to keep on washing your hands regularly and keep two metres away from anyone not in your household. We're all enjoying more freedom following the relaxation of some rules this week, but I would advise meeting outdoors where possible. If meeting indoors then open the windows and the doors – this simple action will make a big difference. Just doing one thing isn't going to work. We all need to play our part, work together and continue to follow the guidelines. Our behaviour can help stop the spread."

Earlier that week, Health Secretary, Matt Hancock said the variant first detected in India last October — known as B.1.617.2 — was set to be the dominant strain in the UK. There are 86 local authorities where there are five or more confirmed cases. The key symptoms associated with an infection of B.1.617.2 are the same as the Kent variant:

- A new, persistent cough.
- A high temperature.
- The loss of taste or smell.

Mr Bryant added: "This is not a cause for panic, but it is a cause for caution and a reminder we can't let down our guard. The best way to protect against the virus – and all its variants - is to continue following the public health advice – which remains the same for us all, whether we have been vaccinated or not: 'Hands, face, space and fresh air', get vaccinated and make 'test-record-repeat' part of your weekly routine. Thanks to everyone continuing to follow the guidance. The infection rate on the Island remains among the lowest in the country. I'd urge everyone to keep going and use your judgement to keep everyone safe."

More News and Warnings from Trading Standards

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you again for sharing this information, I have spoken with an increasing number of people who tell me that they knew the call, email or text was a scam because they'd seen or heard one of our messages. This means we are stopping people from becoming scam victims and saving them money please keep up the good work.



We have received a few reports this week including -

An email from McAfee stating that the person needed to update their Microsoft Windows version, he recognised this as a scam as he was already using Windows 10. This is not something that we might be aware of so be very careful when you see messages purporting to be support for your device – don't leap in and click on links, think about it, chat with somebody who is familiar with IT.



Be wary about messages from Whatsapp updating their settings. Again don't make a knee-jerk response, take some time to think about what you are doing and are you making sure that your account is protected and private.

If you receive any calls about your debit or credit card being used and large amounts taken, don't follow the instructions on the call contact your bank and check with them. These calls will ask you to press for contact with an investigator who will then ask you for all sorts of banking details. This is a SCAM.

Residents are reporting calls from a Bournemouth number and the caller will offer you a FREE survey to find out if your loft insulation is causing damp issues. If you agree to the survey they will book somebody in to come and have a look and we can almost guarantee that they will find problems and then proceed to do the work for you at an inflated price. The Footprint Trust have advised us that in most cases fibre glass loft insulation does not cause damp issues and if it does it can easily be remedied by pulling it back from where it touches the roof which increases airflow. You can do this yourself and if you are unable to a handyman should be able to do this for a reasonable price. Do not engage with these callers and don't let them into your property.

We are also receiving reports of the HMRC phone scam, either around your NI number or unpaid taxes – the HMRC will NEVER contact you in this way – this is a SCAM hang up immediately.

But...lastly, a piece of good news – you may have heard in the news about the 8 arrests this month in connection with the Royal Mail text scam that so many of us have received lately. These messages are known as smishing texts designed to steal the victims personal and banking details by getting them to follow a link to a fake version of a trusted website.

It's nice to be able to share something positive - however the fight against scams goes on!

As always – stay safe, *Sally Ash (Fair Trading Officer)*

I'd just like to add one to the list... supposedly from Gov.UK...and please note one of the tell-tale signs of a scam...an incorrect spelling...of 'deliberate'.... *Jill*

Self-Employment Income Support Scheme.

Claims for the Fifth SEISS grant have now opened for Application .

We've determined that you are eligible to receive a tax claim grant .

Please submit your application for the fifth SEISS grant now.

Please "Sign in to HMRC online services" reference below and follow step 1 of 3 to have your tax refund credit to your bank account, also note you need your Passport and Driving Licence details to submit this application .

Sign in to HMRC online services self assessment. <<http://www.mxxia.com/intern/>>

Note : For security reason we will record (IP Address, Time and Date) Deliberate Wrong input or flooding will be criminally pursued.

Best regards,

HM Revenue & Customs

Latest News from Ryde Aspire

Nothing major to report in terms of new developments this month, but the groups we have up and running are well attended, and 'bacon butties and banter' is attracting around 20 people per week. Mainly men, but not all, and conversation and social interaction is proving very helpful.

We also have a Community Lunch on a Tuesday, and an Older People Lunch Club on a Thursday where attendance is growing and some familiar faces are returning, which is nice.

Most of our services are now open and functioning again and we are awaiting the end of restrictions (possibly on 21st June - but let's see) before returning to full capacity in our softplay and café area.

We are really in need of volunteers to work in our high street store - mainly on the retail side of things - and also for people to undertake surplus food collections from supermarkets for us. They can either use their own cars or drive our van or minibus to do this, if preferred. We can happily provide more information and application forms if anyone is interested. *Trevor Nicholas (Chief Executive Officer)*



Updates from Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice IW, like many charities on the Island, celebrated Volunteer Week at the beginning of June. We have 30 volunteers in various roles, but most are answering phones or, as trained advisers, speaking to clients about the issues they are facing. This is supported by some 'back office' roles on digital platforms; media and research alongside our Advice First Aiders.



We held a virtual Afternoon Tea on Zoom which was lively, and the volunteers are keen to get back face-to-face with each other and have tasked me with sorting out a BBQ when restrictions allow.

Demand for our service has stayed high so retaining the skills of our volunteers and staff is crucial at the moment. We have also taken on two Kickstart employees (18-24 year olds) and will look to increase the number of young people involved in, and supported by, our charity. *Paul Savill (Chief Officer)*

The Lord Lieutenant Looks Forward...

It seems as though we are coming out of the tunnel of the pandemic and it is time to look forwards. After many false starts, plans are being made to remember all those who have suffered over the last 15 months and to thank the myriad of volunteers who have helped all those most in need.

The weekend of September 10th to 12th will see a wide variety of events. There will be a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving at the Newport Minster at 6pm on Friday 10th September (Looking Back) It is hoped that other ceremonies might be held across the Island.

Saturday 11th September will be Isle of Wight Day with a theme of thanking volunteers and celebrating. There will be volunteer receptions at a number of locations across the Island and it is hoped that any number of other events and shows will be taking place.(Celebration and thanks)

Sunday 12th September is Mountbatten Hospice 'Walk the Wight' and in the evening 'Songs of Praise' (Looking to the future)

All this is in the early stage of planning and over the last year we have all learnt to adapt to rapidly changing plans. Can I encourage everyone to think how their communities might join in with this weekend and I will try to make sure you are all kept informed as plans develop.

Susie Sheldon (Lord Lieutenant)



Age Friendly Champions

Thank you to those Town and Parish Councils who have been in touch to let me know who their new Age Friendly Champion is.

Town and Parish Councils have been working in partnership with Age UKIW (and historically Community Action Isle of Wight) on creating Age Friendly Towns and Parishes. This is part of the larger Age Friendly Island Programme funded by National Lottery Community Fund to combat loneliness and isolation of older residents.

So what does an Age friendly Champion do?

Town and Parish Age Friendly Champions will look at aspects of their community against World Health Organisation domains and ensure that changes to policies, plans and procedures are driven by older residents aged 50 and over.

Understanding of Age Friendly Towns and Parishes: The Age Friendly Champion will need a good knowledge of what makes an Age Friendly Town and Parish both environmentally and in respect to the services offered as well as the ability to upskill Councillors in aspects of Ageing.

Understand the local area: The Age Friendly Champion will need to have a good grasp of the local area as well as understand existing facilities for older people and their needs. They will engage with local groups to ensure that changes suggested are co-produced.

Excellent Communication Skills: The Age Friendly Champion will be able to facilitate groups of older people to co-produce the changes needed. It is important that the champion has the ability and skills to manage people's expectation when co-producing.

Monitoring and Evaluation: The Age Friendly Champion will develop tools with older people to continually review the changes being made to Town and Parish services, plans and policies to ensure these are age friendly and to monitor how successful they are.

This role is supported by the Age Friendly Island Team through training and resources. If you would like to know more, please get in touch with Helen Lewis, AFI Engagement Officer on Tel: 01983 525282 or email: helen.lewis@ageukiw.org.uk

Helen Lewis

Monthly Report from MP Bob Seely

Housing Objections

This month I have objected to two proposed housing developments – the first in Wellow and the second in Westridge. On both sites, the houses planned are market houses which will most likely attract mainland retirees rather than housing young Islanders.

In Wellow the application delivers zero affordable housing, takes away more of our natural landscape and most importantly does not address the housing needs of Islanders.

In Ryde I am concerned about more vehicles exiting on to an already very busy road. While we need new housing, particularly for our young people living in the Ryde area, the houses proposed are not for Islanders and they are in the wrong place. The houses planned are three-bedroom market houses with not a single one of them classed as affordable. We need genuinely affordable housing for Islanders in the right places.



Tree Planting

The Sakura Cherry Tree Project is looking for locations across the Island to plant cherry trees as part of a project which aims to celebrate the UK's relationship with Japan.

If you know a school or community group etc. who would be willing to take part in the project please get in contact with me at bob.seely.mp@parliament.uk

Cowes Enterprise College

I am aware of parent concerns about the limited number of school places available at Cowes Enterprise College. There is clearly a demand for more places, particularly from families local to the area, and funding appears to be the issue that needs to be addressed. I am seeking a number of meetings with those involved in education on the Island to see what can be done. In the meantime, I have raised the issue with the Department for Education, and I will also seek advice and support from ministerial colleagues.

Solent Sewage

I have written to the Department of Health and Social Care - and Defra - about the discharge of sewage into the Solent. I am primarily concerned about the risk to the health of bathers, but I also have concerns about the discharge of sewage into our Marine Conservation Zones as well. I have already spoken to Southern Water, but I want ministers to hear our concerns too.

Environment Bill

This week I put forward amendments to the Environment Bill which, if adopted, will see all trees located in a protected landscape area (such as an AONB, SSSI or ancient woodland) subject to Tree Preservation Orders, and enforcement action taken against breaches of planning control in these areas, including ancient woodland.

I want to make sure that our trees have greater protections on them to prevent mass felling like we have seen in Cranmore recently. The more layers and safeguards that we can put in to protect landscapes, the better.

Dentistry

This week I spoke in a debate about dentistry to highlight to Dentistry Minister, Jo Churchill the struggles that some Islanders have been facing with trying to access an NHS dentist.

I put forward some ideas that could help to ease the problem including the initiation of a dental training scheme on the Island, the need to simplify the process for qualifying as a training practice, and a boost to the funding for the salary of interns.

There is no easy solution to the problem, but I want to work with the Government to see what can be done to ease problems here on the Island.

Bob Seely, MP (28.05.21)

Hovertravel & Wessex Cancer Trust team up to support travelling patients

Hovertravel has announced an enhanced boarding procedure for patients, developed in conjunction with the Wessex Cancer Trust. Patients with the Wessex Cancer Trust lanyard will be allowed to pre-board, ahead of other customers, if they wish. Loretta Lale, Head of Commercial at Hovertravel, explains: "Having chosen the Wessex Cancer Trust as our charity of the year, we wanted to embrace our relationship and see if we could make practical improvements to our journey experience, which would assist patients."

At the same time, we are fully aware of the huge backlog of patients with hospital appointments and that some people might be feeling apprehensive about travelling. Our discussions with the Trust identified that we could give these customers more time to board by offering pre-boarding ahead of other customers."

The pre-boarding policy was trialled during the month of April, to gain feedback from patients, Hovertravel staff and other customers.

Mike Sizer Green, Manager of the Isle of Wight Cancer Wellbeing Centre, adds: "I personally want to thank the Hovertravel team for helping to develop the boarding procedure for Islanders needing to cross the Solent for cancer treatment at the Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth. The Wessex Cancer Trust Daisy Bus provides around 10,000 individual journeys annually for Islanders affected by cancer. We can be contacted on 01983 524186 or at isleofwight@wessexcancer.org.uk".

The pre-boarding procedure is voluntary. Hovertravel will make the following announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen we are about to start pre-boarding for any customers using the Daisy Bus" and at that point any patients who would like more time to board can come forward. The Wessex Cancer Trust provides a free minibus service (the Daisy Bus) picking up patients from outside the Hovertravel terminal in Southsea and delivering them to the Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth.

Prince Philip Memories:

At Hovertravel we were privileged to have Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, as a guest of honour twice in the last twenty years. On 3rd August 2003, he opened our Ryde Terminal and on 24th May 2006 he named Solent Express. We remember and salute the Duke for his life of service and duty. Our thoughts continue to be with the Queen and his family.

Thanks also to Mr Michael Dunkason, Official Photographer for the Lieutenancy Office of the Isle of Wight, for use of the photos.



Southern Vectis

Southern Vectis' passenger numbers continue to grow and are just over 70% of what we would normally expect. We're looking forward to continuing to welcome customers, old and new, back on-board as restrictions lift and people return to the workplace.



Our open-top and seasonal services have been popular since their return, which is encouraging. Our new app was launched last month and is already proving popular, and our second new ticketing method, tap-on tap-off, launches in July.

We continue to operate a full 'normal' level of service and we have ample capacity available for people wishing to travel. *Richard Tyldsley (General Manager)*

Wightlink works with its neighbours at Fishbourne to support Isle of Wight wildlife



Bird boxes and bug hotels are being offered to the people living along Fishbourne Lane on the Isle of Wight as part of Wightlink's aim to encourage biodiversity in and around its nearby port. In early 2020, Wightlink set about creating a host of ecologically-friendly features at the Fishbourne terminal – including a planting programme designed to provide wildlife with habitat, food or nesting opportunities.

Keen to involve Island business and charities in the project, Wightlink worked with Aspire Ryde's Men in Sheds group to build the bird and bat boxes; bug hotels and plants were supplied by the Wootton-based social enterprise Care in the Garden. Thanks to Fishbourne Parish Council, the nesting boxes and bug hotels are now being distributed to local residents who would like to put them up in their gardens, ready for next year's nesting season.

Unfortunately, the pandemic delayed the ferry company's plans to distribute the bird, bat and bug boxes to people in Fishbourne last year so they could be in place ready for this year's nesting season. Wightlink Chief Executive Keith Greenfield says: "As a shipping operator, we are passionate about operating as sustainably as possible. Victoria of Wight, England's first hybrid-energy ferry, uses 17 per cent less fuel than a conventional ferry of the same type and we are constantly looking at more ways to support and enhance the Island's special environment. At Fishbourne, we are lucky to host a range of wildlife, from red squirrels to woodpeckers and we've even seen the newly introduced white-tailed eagles soaring above our ferries. We feel it is important to do what we can to provide habitat for creatures large and small, both on land and in the water – our artificial rockpools on our harbour wall are another example of this. We hope by sharing nesting boxes and bug hotels with our neighbours in Fishbourne Lane we can encourage even more wildlife to thrive in the area."

Becky Fisher, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Acting Director of Advocacy and Engagement, says: "In order for nature to recover we need many more people on nature's side. I'm delighted to see our partners at Wightlink taking action to help local communities become more connected to nature and support local wildlife and biodiversity. This is a great example of the work we are doing across our two counties as part of Team Wilder programme. I hope that those people who have received one of the boxes will be lucky enough to see an increase in wildlife as a result and we look forward to hearing their updates".

Residents of Fishbourne Lane who would like a nesting box, bat box or bug hotel should contact Fishbourne Parish Council.

Karen Woods (Duty Officer)



MHST host organisation

Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) are a new service funded by NHS England, Health Education England and local partners, whose aim is to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in the community by identifying and treating mental health issues early. The IOW team is comprised of **8 trainee Education Mental Health Practitioners (EMHPs)**, overseen and supported by experienced Clinical Practitioners.

The Isle of Wight College has been selected to host two EMHPs – Ella Craig and Callum Shairp – who will be leading intervention sessions for students at the college with mild to moderate mental health difficulties:

Ella is an Isle of Wight local, who previously studied at the college. Ella has gone on to gain valuable experience in social care, previously having worked as part of the homelessness prevention team.

Callum is from the mainland and has recently joined the MHST, having worked in a wide range of social care and mental health sectors. After a period of time at the college Callum will move across to a mental health support role in a primary school.

Having attended focussed training sessions over the past couple of months, we are looking forward to Ella and Callum joining the college team from early June.

European ‘MOM’ project

The Erasmus-funded Mind Over Matter (MOM) project is an international partnership between Italy, France, Greece, Norway, Estonia and the UK, represented by the Isle of Wight College. The aim of the project is to identify how we can support both students and staff with mental health.

The project enables a number of college staff – known as the **MOM Mental Health First Aid Champions** - to attend mental health first aid training. Each of these ‘champions’ are required to research a mental health area, directed by an external professional trainer, and to prepare resources to share with colleagues across the college. The 15 areas we have developed are:

Depression	Anxiety	Self-harm
Psychosis	Eating Disorders	Suicide prevention
Diet	Exercise	Sleep
Safeguarding	ADHD	Autism
Mindfulness	Trauma	Wellness Recovery Action Plans (WRAPs)

Alongside the staff awareness sessions, the college is also working with students to develop an understanding of their knowledge of mental health and how this impacts them directly, or the people they know.



Students in each country have also been asked to design a logo for the project. Shown (left) is the college’s entry, submitted by a Level 1 Hospitality student, who researched different languages and computer software to complete it. Each country has voted on their entry and the MOM teams will vote to identify an overall winner of the competition.



Island Roads

Island Roads is producing a series of facts sheets that we hope will give you an overview of our services and some of our key responsibilities.



The first two are 'Grass, Verges, Hedges and Tree Maintenance' and 'Street Cleansing.'

We hope you find these useful both for your own information and to help you respond to any queries you might have from residents in your area. They have also been emailed to your Ward Councillor.

We will be producing additional fact sheets in the coming weeks and will send these on to you as soon as they are available.

For your reference we have also published these on our website on the following page <https://islandroads.com/factsheets/>

Samantha O'Rourke

(Councillor Communication & Development Officer)

June News from the Foodbank

June
ITEMS MOST NEEDED
2021

SPONGE PUDDING
COOKING OIL
GRAVY
LONG LIFE MILK
PAR-BAKED BREAD
at least 2 weeks shelf life
TINNED VEGETABLES
NOT sweetcorn/mushy peas

CLEANING PRODUCTS
kitchen/bathroom
TOOTHBRUSHES - SINGLE
WASHING CAPSULES/POWDER
FEMALE & MALE DEODORANT
SHAVING FOAM/GEL
BUBBLEBATH
MEN'S SHOWER GEL

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

TINNED SPAGHETTI
COOKING SAUCES
BAKED BEANS
TINNED SOUP
TINNED MEAT
TINNED FISH
FRUIT JUICE
BISCUITS
CEREAL
PASTA
RICE
TEA

Isle of Wight
foodbank

Isle of Wight
foodbank