



IWALC Newsletter

Summer 2018

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Welcome from the Chairman Peter Whiteman

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the first issue of the IWALC Newsletter, we hope you find it interesting and informative. There are articles on two of our important roles as representatives on IWC Scrutiny and the Health and Wellbeing Board, as well as adverts for forthcoming training sessions.

We are currently developing our website, as well as communicating through Facebook and Twitter, please join in and give us your feedback. If you have an issue you think IWALC should be involved with please let us know. One recent topic meeting concerned grass cutting contracts and the next one is about GDPR and cyber security.

Members of Town and Parish Councils are always welcome to attend and agendas and minutes are available on our website for your information. Please remember our beautiful Island is unique and all Town & Parish councils are stronger by working together.

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How can IWALC influence the IW Council?

CLlr June Davison on the role of IWALC representative on IWC Scrutiny

The big question for Town and Parish Councils (T&PC) is can we as a collective voice influence County Hall policy decisions and if so how. Fortunately IWALC has a voting representative on the County Council Scrutiny Committee which meets each month before the Cabinet meeting.

Having attended my first scrutiny meeting after our AGM in 2017 I realised that T&PCs could have a significant input by encouraging Councils to look at key cabinet policy papers before having a discussion at IWALC meetings where I could take note of any concerns raised. This enabled me to ask the questions or make comments knowing I was representing our member's views.

IWALC has made its views known on a variety of topics including:-

- 2018/19 budget and quarterly financial performance
- Contact centre, staffing levels need to be monitored so quality of service not compromised.
- School term times we agreed to the option to shorten summer term by one week & to increase October half term by one week. Now implemented.
- Non-residential care charging policy IWALC members opposed the cabinet proposal as it put a higher financial burden on residents with an already tight budget. Council went ahead with the proposal.
- Floating bridge an ongoing saga
- Fire Service review IWALC members very concerned by staffing reductions which could compromise both firefighters and the public. Eventually cabinet rejected the paper but be warned it will come back.

So what, you might say?

To which my reply is, even if the cabinet rejects recommendations from this committee it does enable IWALC affiliated councils to ask questions and to play an active part in influencing policies that affect us all.

CLlr June Davison Newchurch Parish Councillor

Training News

July 2018 - Planning

- * Do you understand the role of Parish and Town Councils in the development control process
- * Do you understand what is meant by a 'material consideration'?
- * Do you think that your Parish/Town Council makes relevant and effective observations on planning applications?

If you would like to know more please sign up for the next session

IW Day 22nd September 2018



'Nip down to the Beach' is the theme this year and the organisers are looking for an Ambassador for each town, village & hamlet to head up the 'Coastline Clean Up' on the weekend of 22nd September. IWALC hope to have a stand at the event in Northwood Park, come and see us there!

IWALC is represented on:

- Carisbrooke Castle Museum
- IW Health & Wellbeing Board
- NALC
- IW Council Scrutiny Committee
- Sustainability Forum
- Community Action Isle of Wight
- AONB
- Campaign to Protect Rural England
- Best Kept Village
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Local Government Association
- South East Regional County Association Forum (SERCAF)
- IW Council Appeals Committee
- Community Led Housing Board

Training News

Council as an Employer

Are you aware of Employment Law, Disciplinary & Grievance policies and procedures?

Would your council benefit from advice on bullying and Councillors' conduct towards employees?

Facilitation and Conflict Resolution

In a diverse community conflict can arise, do you have the skills to resolve issues? As a community leader, you can play a pivotal role in keeping close to your residents and understanding their needs, views and concerns. Learn how to develop your skills to take this role forward.

Both training sessions will be available in the next few months.

Don't forget training is FREE for IWALC Members!

IWALC ON THE IW HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

I was elected the new IWALC representative to the IW Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) last May.

HWBs were required by Government across England from 2013. It meets quarterly and its purpose is to take:

an overview of the Island population's health and wellbeing, make plans to improve it and ensure delivery of its priorities.

Its membership includes the IW Council, the IW NHS Trust, the IW NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Hampshire Police, the Voluntary Sector Forum, Healthwatch and IWALC. It is Chaired by the Leader of the Council. With all that 'firepower' you would have thought a great deal would have been achieved over the previous 4 years. It hadn't!

I had observed the HWB for previous 4 years and had found it to be entirely unfocused. The new Leader of the Council broadly shared my views and is committed to it becoming an outcome-focused body.

Since last May I have been a proactive member of the Board and had input into the refreshed Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2018-21, supported the new 'Care Closer to Home' direction of adult social services, and have been the main critic of the deeply worrying 'Acute Services Re-design' plans for future hospital services. I have also been instrumental in securing a focus on addressing the deprivation issues that face many parts of our Island – urban and rural. A project has recently been established in Newport, with the intention of rolling its lessons out into other towns and villages.

Finally I report back fully to all IWALC Executive members and seek their views on issues being addressed by the Board.



Clr Geoff Brodie
Newport Parish Councillor

Royal Garden Party



Clrs Helena Hewston and Malcolm Hector were delighted to represent IWALC at a Royal Garden Party on 15th May

Meeting Dates 2018

(All meetings held at the Riverside Centre)

- ◆ Thursday 21 June Workshop – GDPR & Cyber Security
- ◆ Thursday 19 July - Annual General Meeting
- ◆ Summer break during August
- ◆ Thursday 20 September - Executive Committee
- ◆ Thursday 18 October - Workshop – topic TBC
- ◆ Thursday 15 November - Executive Committee
- ◆ Thursday 20 December - Workshop – topic TBC