

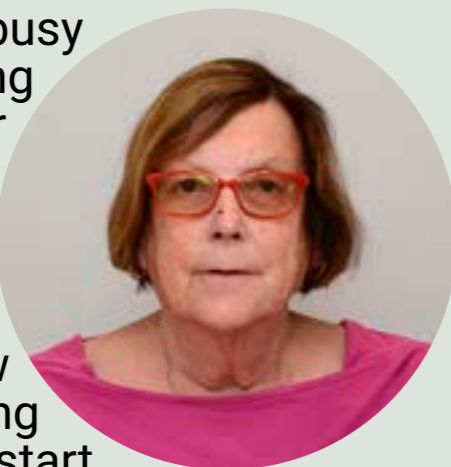
IWALC

DECEMBER '23

Serving Parish, Town and
Community Councils



IWALC has been busy this month getting things ready for the New Year. New Training proposals for 2024. The work on our new website is ongoing and I hope you start seeing improvements next year.



At the Executive Meeting at the end of November we were pleased to hear that Cllr Cameron Palin got the young councillors award from the National Association of Local Councils. He was against tough competition and IWALC was very pleased that he won the award for both the Island and East Cowes Town Council.

The main topic discussed at our meeting was the concerns about Flood Response on the Island. After discussion about the urgent need that councils need to know who to get in touch with the right agency. I am hoping from a response from the Environmental Agency to help with this matter.

It is a busy time for town, community and parish councils getting ready for Christmas.

I would like to send you Seasons Greetings and a Happy New Year.

Cllr Anne Bamford

Isle of Wight Youth Council - Youth Alliance

Fundamental to the work of the Isle of Wight Youth Council is expanding the opportunities for young people to have their voices heard. We aim to make it the duty of Island organisations to work to understand both the needs of young people and the effect which their decisions will have upon their futures. This is particularly important for local parish councils, understanding the issues which the youth in their area face, and subsequently making efforts to combat them.

One of the most difficult stages is consulting young people. Part of the work which the Youth Council has been recently focusing on, alongside the Youth Trust Task Force, is the organisation of an event to bring together a wide cross section of young people from different youth groups on the Isle of Wight, in order to discuss six key issues which they have identified on the Isle of Wight. We plan to hold this event in March, offering a chance for young people to discuss key topics with one another, guided in their conversations by youth facilitators, allowing us to form six key priorities (created from the six key issues) which are completely led by youth voice. We will also invite representatives from a broad range of different organisations on the Island, who will speak about what they do and encourage them to better understand what changes they could consider making for young people on the Isle of Wight.

For more information about this, please contact me via email:

benson.h.iwyc@gmail.com

Young Star Award goes to Cameron

Congratulations to Cameron for winning the NALC Young Councillor of the Year award. Cameron collected his trophy on 29th November at the House of Lords in London. The following information was the basis for which NALC gave Cameron his award.



Cllr Cameron Palin has exhibited exceptional dedication and innovation in enhancing the local community, establishing significant initiatives that have positively impacted the town.

As one of the key figures spearheading the creation of a community market hosted in the town hall, he has facilitated a monthly event showcasing up to 15 Small Market Enterprises. This initiative has broadened the choices for residents with locally sourced products and provided crucial support to local businesses.

Moreover, he was pivotal in supporting a local charity to establish a community hub. This hub organises free events courses and serves as a Ukrainian support hub. Additionally, he was instrumental in establishing a new community building and library. This multi-functional space has become a hub for various community events, housing a library, a tourist information point, and council offices.

Cllr Palin's proactive approach is evident in his involvement in a council-led group focused on collaborating with the local ferry operator to alleviate

congestion in the town. He consistently engages with the community through monthly surgeries in vital community spaces, effectively addressing residents' concerns and informing them about council plans and outcomes from previous meetings.

Moreover, his excellent communication skills are showcased through various channels, including a yearly newsletter, extensive use of social media for public engagement, and consistent personal presence at community events and meetings. He strives to make the community's voice heard and actively involves residents in local decision-making processes

Cllr Palin demonstrated exceptional organisational abilities and collaborative teamwork by overseeing major events like Party in the Park, Queens Jubilee, and the Kings' coronation. His ability to recognise his strengths and delegate tasks demonstrates his commitment to successful project execution. His dedication is further highlighted by his ability to balance his role as a town councillor with a full-time job, family responsibilities, and other community roles.

Lastly, his active engagement with residents in the ward and collaboration with other councils exemplifies his dedication to representing and advocating for the community's best interests. His proactive and innovative approach has led to significant positive changes and improvements.



Help for Communities

- Cold callers from Wightfibre have been quite pushy with older more vulnerable residents and ignoring yellow No Cold Caller stickers. We have spoken with Wightfibre: these are genuine callers however they will be making sure that they adhere to doorstep calling rules, avoiding doors with yellow stickers and leave when asked.
- TV Licensing email scam saying that you need to update your details – DO NOT click on any links in these emails, they will take you to a fake website where your details will be stolen
- Be cautious when signing up to exhibit or sell at a Christmas Fayre/ Event – we are seeing fake adverts placed in community Facebook pages
- Scam texts and emails purporting to be from delivery companies or Royal Mail asking you to click on a link to rearrange delivery – this is a phishing SCAM and your details will be harvested and sold on
- Scam calls can come from local Isle of Wight numbers too! One recently reported stating that there was suspicious activity on a Mastercard account – if you are concerned this might be genuine then contact your card provider to confirm. There was also a scam call claiming to be from Outreach Internet – again this is a scam – don't trust a number just because its 01983 – Scammers can buy landlines from all over the country
- Scam calls regarding safety pendants trying to get you to sign up for one, asking for a monthly amount however there is no service behind this. Do not agree to anything like this from a phone call out of the blue
- To businesses, be cautious when making deals over email, check that the email address is a valid one, phone the organisation that you are dealing with and speak to a human who can confirm the details, particularly when it comes to paying – don't trust payment details sent electronically – always verify them.
- *. A computer generated call stating that payments have been taken from your Visa/Mastercard account and to press 1 to report a fraud. This scam also takes the form of a payment from your Amazon account. This time of year when we are all doing a lot more shopping this may panic us into responding to the instructions on the message however all of these calls are SCAMS – do not respond.



(Other reports describe the same method but claim they are the Bank

- or Council Tax refund department – these organisations will NEVER contact you in this way)
 - And finally the cold weather doesn't seem to be deterring rogue traders – we are still seeing reports of them targeting vulnerable residents to try to clean and re-coat driveways, tree work, fencing and also trying to buy vans or motor homes offering low prices – do not engage with anyone on the doorstep – no genuine trader would approach you in this way
- Sally Ash, IWASP

There is a rise in elderly resident falls on the Island as our elderly demographic grows, placing a higher amount of pressure on primary and secondary care. In light of supporting organisations and improving population health, the Isle of Wight Public Health, NHS Trust, and Energise Me teams have created an older adults' falls booklet with a checklist on how to reduce the incidence of falls and improve health. We cover

- Exercising and diet
- Medicine advice
- Hydration
- Alcohol intake.
- Routine eye testing
- Safe footwear and clothing
- Feeling dizzy.

The information is available on the older adults web page [here](#), but with a considerable number of the islands over 65 population being digitally excluded, paper copies of the checklist are more user-friendly. The booklet has been made A4 size and user friendly, following focus group conversations with older adults. Email Kayleigh.pullen@iow.gov.uk or publichealth@iow.gov.uk with the number of copies you'd like.



Veterans Outreach Support are offering support to Veterans and their partners / carers. Residents can access their support by attending their monthly drop-in on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 1200-1600 at the Riverside Centre, The Quay in Newport. They are also offering social hubs at the IOW Donkey sanctuary, the Wight Aviation Museum in Sandown, the Military and Heritage Museum in Cowes and at the End of the Line Cafe, Afton Road in Freshwater. More details can be found on their website [here](#).

Elect Her are offering up training and support for women and female identified who are considering becoming councillors. Elect Her are supported by the Fawcett Society, who campaign for equality and diversity in our councils nationally. Training is normally free, for more details click [here](#)



Baby Box was set up in Ventnor in 2018 by a foodbank volunteer. The foodbank was unable to supply a range of nappies and other items for babies. With the support of Ventnor Town Council, the volunteer identified premises and funding and the service gradually expanded to serve the whole of the Isle of Wight. From January 2023 to September 2023; Baby Box Isle of Wight helped 1892 adults and 2403 children. Baby Box accept donations of items in a clean condition from the public for children from birth to 5 years old and is accessible to everyone. Contact them on their [Facebook page](#) or via [Tony McCarthy](#) at Ventnor Town Council.



Village Halls Week 18-24 March 2024

Village Halls Week is a national campaign, shining a spotlight on the contribution England's 10,000+ village halls make to rural communities. It is an opportunity for hall management committees to celebrate their work and get inspiration and feedback from others.

The theme of Village Halls Week 2024 will be environmental sustainability, in response to the need to make community buildings more energy efficient.

Community Action IW are encouraging village hall and reading room committees across the Island to plan an event during Village Halls Week to help raise your profile, show how important village halls are to the local people, engage with the wider community and perhaps recruit new volunteers. Community Action IW can support you by promoting your events and sharing volunteer opportunities through the IW Volunteer Centre.

A Celebration of Village Life & Future Sustainability

We are also working with the National Trust to put on an event at the end of the week, Saturday 23rd March, at Mottistone Manor (10am-3pm). This will be a free event, celebrating village life and the contributions of the Village Hall.

You are invited to create a 3 part display board showing the Past (heritage), Present (current activities) and Future sustainability.

Other ideas being considered for the day are (but not limited to) talks, seed and plant swap, baking, community bunting with each village contributing a penant, volunteering opportunities.

Why not plan an event in your village too - hold a coffee morning, afternoon tea or soup & roll lunch to fundraise for your Village Hall, showcase all the events and activities in the Hall and explain how trustees are working to make their Hall more energy efficient.

The national campaign will share inspiring stories online and encourage halls to host open days during the week.

Community Action IW can help to support and promote activities across the Island, and recommend the use of the hashtag #VillageHallsWeek for social media use.

Project Fusion – the project to create a new, combined NHS Foundation Trust to deliver community, mental health and learning disability services across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight – has reached some important milestones.

Since July's IWALC bulletin, a name for the new organisation - Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust - has been agreed in principle by NHS England following staff and community consultation.

A comprehensive full business case has also been approved by the Boards of Solent NHS Trust, Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust and IW NHS Trust. The full business case, detailing the case and benefits for change, and the work required to bring the trusts together will now be reviewed by NHS England. The aim remains for the new Trust to be formed by April 2024.

The new trust's leadership arrangements are also coming together with the appointment of Chief Executive Ron Shields and Chair Lynne Hunt. Designated Non-Executive Directors from the current organisations taking up roles on the new trust board have also been confirmed including Sara Weech, who is currently a Non-Executive Director at the Isle of Wight NHS Trust.

Bringing services into a single organisation will result in more consistent care and equal access to services across the region and help us to meet the increasing demand and complexity of health issues. The new organisation will be large and will enable the Island community and its staff to also benefit from wider specialist support and shared expertise, but services will continue to operate locally on the Island to ensure they can best meet the needs of local communities.

The Isle of Wight NHS Trust will continue to operate hospital based (acute) and ambulance services on the Island, working closely together with Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust.

If you have any questions or feedback about Project Fusion, you can also email us at iownt.iowfusionfaqs@nhs.net

Reports

ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS
REPORT OF HIOWLGA MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 24th NOVEMBER 2023
AT ANDOVER

1. WELCOME

We were welcomed to the meeting by the Chair of HIOWLGA, Councillor Sean Woodward. There was no option available to join the meeting remotely and no IW Council representative present.

2. DEVELOPING A LOCAL RESILIENCE STRATEGY

Andy Ferrier, Chief Executive of Test Valley Borough Council gave the context of the review of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Resilience Forum following Covid. Consultants working on behalf of the Forum, Peter Horne and Patricia Hughes gave a presentation. The Government published a framework for community resilience in December 2022 and the LRF commissioned a study to “undertake statutory development on community resilience.” Peter and Patricia had spoken to many people including parish councils. I suggested they visit the Island to talk to IWALC and individual parishes. Emerging themes from the consultation were groups are trying to take on board recommendations from the national framework whilst not being “slaves to it.” It was recognised that community resilience is a whole society endeavour and one thing being looked at is democratic accountability at local level. The Government wants clear accountability for effective delivery of community resilience. The Government is supporting eight pilot schemes around the country but Hampshire and the Isle of Wight has not been included. One of the national recommendations is for the local creation of a post of “Resilience Officer” but this was not supported by the consultants. A major theme was that local resilience needs to be as close to the people as possible and the strategy should be “hyper local.” There is no common definition of what a community resilience strategy is but it is all about generally pulling in the same direction. It was also pointed out the community resilience is not a ballwick of emergency planners. Following the presentation various examples of best practice were highlighted. East Hampshire District Council has handed out grants of £4,500 to parishes and community groups to support local resilience and it is understood that Scottish and Southern Electricity will support grants for generators for local community centres.

3. SOUTH CENTRAL AMBULANCE SERVICE UPDATE

The meeting received an update from Councillor Dr Anne Crampton, a retired GP who is a governor of the South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS). Whilst thankfully the SCAS does not cover the Island (the service was rated inadequate by the CQC in 2022) I found her presentation interesting. The SCAS covers a population of 7M people in Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. SCAS has one governor representative from local government. The role of governors is: “to represent all people in the wider community.” For category 1 (999 calls) the target response time is 7 minutes. The SCAS response time in August

2023 was 8.31 minutes. For Cat. 2 (which includes strokes) the target is 18 minutes, (August 27.33 minutes). For Cat. 3 (urgent non-life threatening) the target is 2 hours, the (August 3.37 hours). For Cat. 4 (may need admission) the target is 3 hours (August 4.75 hours). SCAS is facing a deficit this year of £38M. Costs increased during Covid with the need to purchase more PPE although some of the costs have been offset by grants. A serious issue is that many hours are lost due to handover delays at hospitals. 12,000 callers to 999 callers are classified as frequent callers. Most of these are in the 30-60 age group, mainly people with mental health issues. The NHS is mandated to reach net zero by 2040 and SCAS is planning to be 100% electric vehicles by 2032.

4. POLICE REPORT

Chief Superintendent Southie, the Northern Area Commander reported that whilst there had been a 20% increase in prosecutions this year too many reports to the police are just being filed. This is being addressed to changes in the contact centre. There is a growing workforce with increased capability. Response times are: Cat. 1 15 minutes and Cat. 2, one hour.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future agenda items will include realignment of the LEPs, concern about a dispute between HCC and the districts over the sharing of recycling income and possibly a presentation by the Air Ambulance service. The next meeting will be held on 8th March 2024 at a venue to be confirmed.

Bob BLEZZARD November 2023

NEWS FROM NALC

NALC's National Assembly met face to face at the offices of the LGA on 29th November. However, the highlight of the day took place after the meeting in the House of Lords. This was a reception attended by 150 guests including many MPs and Peers and included the presentation of NALC's national Star Council Awards. These are for the Councillor, Young Councillor, Council, County Association and Clerk of the Year. I was delighted that the winner of Young Councillor of the Year was Cameron Palin of East Cowes Town Council. Cameron won this award against a very high quality field of finalists from across the country.

There were two presentations to the Assembly meeting. The first was from Councillor Mark Edwardson of Congleton Town Council about the White Ribbon Campaign. Mark's presentation gave lots of frightening statistics dealing with violence against women. The purpose of the campaign is to raise awareness of the issue and call out bad behaviour. Councils can become accredited members of the campaign for £330 or supporters for £150. The second presentation was by Sue Moore, CEO of the Jo Cox Foundation which was set up seven years ago following the murder of Jo Cox MP. The Foundation is working on building social cohesion and respectful politics. A report on the subject is being put together and will be published in January.

Bob BLEZZARD November 2023

Local Access Forum

There were three IWALC members at the meeting in Cowes on 16th Nov. chaired by Paul Fuller. Also present were the Rights of Way Officer and Assistant plus approximately 14 others either as guests or reps of recognised bodies.

Initial discussions at this meeting focused on the Coastal Path and the motion that a body is formed to explore the possibility of an alternative route around the problematic area of East Cowes to Wootton. The motion was carried. It was noted that it is regrettable that the relevant persons dealing with the Coastal Path were absent and it is to be emphasised that they need to attend.

Other conversations touched on

1. The Greenway to run from Freshwater to Newport. It is still in limbo. (I was informed later outside of the meeting that the Lee Farm section was being "ratified" the following day 17th Nov.)
2. Update on coastal erosion and elsewhere. Most of which is due to soil movement. The CC has an increased work load to achieve repairs.
3. A new bridleway has been opened through the Parkhurst Forest to Marks Corner. It is being used.
4. Reports were received from Landowners, CycleWight, Ramblers, and Bridleways. The later is being folded up in the New Year,
5. The relationship between the Forestry Commission officers and the County Council officers has resulted in the new Bridleway and the DEFRA enforcement issues at Silver Glades Caravan Park.

Helena Hewston.

IWALC Report for the LPA Planning Committee Training session Wednesday 8th November 2023

The biodiversity net gain (BNG) training was conducted primarily by James Brewer with support from Caroline Herbert and Ollie Boulter. The training was fluid with Councillors asking questions as the training material was presented through a slide show.

BNG will apply to all planning applications that enter the planning process from January 2024 for major developments and April 2024 for all other sites. There will be exemptions for householder applications, permitted development, small scale self-build and de minimus habitat of less than 25 square metres. Mandatory BNG will not be applied retrospectively.

The details of each site's BNG will be calculated using the biodiversity metric. 4.0 tool. This scoring tool uses the site's existing habitat. Using a combination of the habitat size, condition, distinctiveness and strategic

significance.

Irreplaceable habitats will not be included in the metric for example ancient woodland.

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide a completed metric within the submitted application.

BNG is in addition to existing protections for existing sites, habitats or species and any mitigation required to protect them. It is habitat based metric for flora and not for fauna, those continue to be protected by mitigation.

BNG will be delivered through on-site credits, off-site credits and statutory credits. On-site credits will require gains through improvements within the site to existing habitats areas or creating new habitats within the site through landscaping and green infrastructure. Off-site credits will work in the same way but not within the site, these could be delivered through habitat banks, land owned by the public and private landowners.

"For high-value habitats, the BNG required can be significant due to the inherent value of that habitat or the time it takes for a new habitat to reach the same condition, for example if you remove 10 hectares of species-rich habitat, it is not as simple as replacing with 11 hectares (ie 10%) but may require significantly more hectares of new habitat because of the time it takes for new habitat species to establish."

There are two different types of biodiversity units; area and linear. Area units are for example grasslands and ponds and linear units are for example hedgerows and rivers. They are treated separately within the metric and are not interchangeable. You would not be able to replace a river with a pond for example. Therefore if you remove a hedge you would be expected to replace and/or upgrade that loss with a similar linear unit.

Statutory credits are expected to be delivered through large-scale high value habitat projects which could also produce long-term nature based solutions.

Marine based credits are not currently available but they are being discussed by the government and it is hoped they will come forward at a later date.

Whilst it may be more cost effective for developers to meet their BNG obligations within the site of the application or using additional land in their ownership this may not always be possible. Developers will then need to purchase "credits" from other sources. If the credits are purchased off-site the cost of these credits will rise as the distance from the site increases.

The BNG habitats must be secured for at least 30 years and managed and maintained for that time. These sites will be monitored over the period set in a legal agreement to ensure that the BNG is delivered as intended.

Town, Parish and Community Councils could look at becoming a provider of BNG credits by joining one of the schemes offering off-site credits to developers using land in their ownership. This could be useful, for example if a council has land in poor condition and is considering a nature recovery plan for the site. Not only would the land be protected from development they could also charge for the monitoring of the site.

DEFRA will be publishing all current guidance and regulations concerning BNG on 30th November 2023.

The LPA is currently reviewing the processes around validation and are looking at software packages for BNG capture and monitoring. The LPA's planning ecologist will review the BNG metrics and habitat management plans.

UPDATE ON THE LURA

Levelling up and regeneration act 2023

Planning related provision of LURA

Part 3 - sections 112, 113, 114 (so far as conferring a power to make regulations).

s.112 Introduces the power to issue completion notices if a development is being built out "unreasonably slowly" and sets out the procedure for doing so.

s.113 Introduces the power for LPAs to decline to determine applications in cases of earlier non-implementation or unreasonably slow build out.

s.114 Introduces the power to impose conditions relating to development progress reports on specified residential planning permissions in England - detail to be set out in secondary legislation.

Come into force at the end of the period of two months beginning the day the Act was passed. (26th December 2023).

Sections 130 to 133 and 136

s.130 Introduces a wide-ranging power to make regulations and orders under the planning acts.

s.136 A requirement that the Secretary of State vary the Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2021 ("the 2021 Direction") so that it applies in relation to applications for planning permission for development affecting ancient woodland before the period of three months beginning on the date that the Act was passed.

Come into force at the end of the period of two months beginning the day the Act was passed. (26th December 2023).

Sections 109, 112, 113 and 114 (so far as not already commenced by virtue of paragraph (a)), schedule 13 (so far as it relates to Chapter 1 of part 3) and all other provisions in Part 3.

s.112 Introduces the power to issue completion notices if a development is being built out "unreasonably slowly" and sets out the procedure for doing so.

s.113 Introduces the power for LPAs to decline to determine applications in cases of earlier non-implementation or unreasonably slow build out.

s.114 Introduces the power to impose conditions relating to development progress reports on specified residential planning permissions in England - detail to be set out in secondary legislation. Sch 113 - regulations under chapter 1 of Part 3 or Part 6: restrictions on devolved authorities.

Come into force on such a date as the Secretary for State may by regulations appoint. Part 5 - Provisions relating to Community Land Auction Pilots.

Come into force on such a date as the Secretary for State may by regulations appoint. Part 6 - Provisions relating to Environmental Outcome Reports.

Comes into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which act was passed. (26th December 2023).

Part 9 - Changes to Compulsory Purchase.

Come into force on such a date as the Secretary for State may by regulations appoint. Part 10 - Provisions relating to High Street Rental Auctions.

Come into force on such a date as the Secretary for State may by regulations appoint. Some of the other provisions with no appointment date:

- Stream-lined 30 month plan making system
- Stronger weight to be given the development plan
- Heritage related provisions
- Enforcement provisions, including that LPAs will have 10 years to take enforcement

action

We are still waiting for changes to the NPPF. Planning fees regulations

- Increased planning fees by 35% for major developments and 25% for all other applications

- Make an annual inflation-related adjustment to planning fees.
- Remove the “free go” for repeat applications.
- Introduce a Prior Approval fee for the permitted right allowing the Crown to develop sites within the perimeter of a closed defence site.
- Reduce the planning guarantee period for non-major applications to 16 weeks.

Cllr Emma Cox Freshwater.

Report on Meeting of Isle of Wight Bus and Rail Users Group (IWBURUG)

Saturday 25 November 2023

The meeting was attended by the Chair (Stuart George), Treasurer (John Yunnie), two other committee members (Rodney Archer and Dina Jung) and 12 ordinary members.

We were informed that:

1. SW Railway still hasn't published the timetable for the promised two-train service. It is understood that they won't be able to run two trains an hour so are considering a service every 40 minutes. Members noted that this could be confusing because trains wouldn't be the same time every hour.
2. The plan to close the pier for further repairs, originally scheduled for October, has been postponed until next year – possibly during the summer, which members noted would not be good for tourism.
3. The service between St Johns Road and Ryde Pierhead, which was closed following the flood, has resumed.
4. The new buses are now in operation on Route 1. Apparently they have cameras in place of wing mirrors, which is causing some initial difficulty for drivers. There is only one red bus left – operating on Route 9.
5. The £2 fare will continue until December 2024.
6. IWBURUG membership fees will not be enough to pay the cost of hiring the current hall next year. Options under consideration include moving to another location, only meeting every two months and increasing membership fees.

I did not receive any issues to raise from IWALC members. However, I reported that SW Railway is refusing to take responsibility for the toilets in the new Ryde Esplanade station. Ryde Town Council has been asked to take this on. The Council is willing (somewhat reluctantly) to take responsibility for the cleaning but not the maintenance. Discussions are ongoing. It

appears that this issue was not sorted out when the Interchange project was designed.

The following issues were also discussed:

1. Lack of step-free access on platform 2 at Ryde St Johns Station. It was agreed to raise this at the next public meeting and consider involving Isle Access to strengthen the case.
2. Possibility of using some of levelling-up funds for sustainable travel, recently awarded to IWC, for bus services.

Next meetings:

Saturday 13 January 2024: Public meeting.

Saturday 24 February 2024: AGM

Diana Conyers

25 November 2023

Updates from Bob Seely, Isle of Wight Conservative MP

A few quick things I want to make sure people are aware of.

First, Island pharmacies will soon be offering more services meaning you won't have to go the GP for some basic but important things like blood pressure checks, birth control and medications to help with seven common health conditions: sinusitis, sore throat, earache, infected insect bites, impetigo, shingles and uncomplicated urinary tract infections. These are important, beneficial changes, especially for Island women.

Second, the government has confirmed the popular £2 bus fare scheme will continue until the end of 2024. Getting more people on the buses helps with the cost of living, gets people out and about and is great for reducing car emissions.

Third, the government is committing £13.6m to improve walking and cycling networks across the Island, and specifically the West Wight cycle route which will be a critical addition to our network. I hope we can also use some of the funds to repair existing routes such as the Sandown to Newport cycle route.

Fourth, assistance is now available for households affected by the recent flooding. I know many people were devastated by the impact of the floods.

Bob Seely



LOCAL NEWS

Ventnor has been hitting the headlines with the largest landslide that has been seen in over 20 years. Some 20 households were evacuated, with most now being allowed to return. The Isle of Wight Council and emergency services have worked around the clock to provide support and assistance. Ventnor Town Council give exceptional thanks to the work of the Isle of Wight Council and Emergency Services for their urgent response to this very sad occurrence. Key messaging has been to stay away from the landslide area for the safety of everyone. Photo by Mike Collins.

Ventnor

The weekend of the 11th of November saw an act of Remembrance on Armistice Day outside the Royal British Legion Club house. Cadets were in town collecting for the annual Poppy appeal together with the local Ventnor RBL branch. It was an honour to meet so many that have served and to hear of their personal accounts of history. On Sunday the 12th, a Remembrance service took place at St. Catherine's church, followed by a parade to the cenotaph by Ventnor park, where a service and wreath laying took place. The Lord Lieutenant and local MP Bob Seely attended both services.



For the first time, Ventnor celebrated the switching on of the Christmas tree lights. The event was sparked by resident Sue Golding, who had wanted it for the children of Ventnor.

Sue Golding had dedicated 10 years to Ventnor Carnival, decorating floats and making dresses for the Carnival Queens and had also made thousands of costumes over the years for school performances. It was felt that Sue should have the honour of turning on the lights.

Around 200 people attended, with Father Christmas, elves, carols and mince pies. The event was ended with a circle of residents holding hands and wishing love and peace to the world.



Wroxall

We have been lucky to get two grants from Connect4Communities. These have greatly helped a variety of people in the village. We have just received our third grant.

Our beautiful recreation ground in the village is well used. With this in mind we purchased two picnic benches. There are also two seats, rubbish bins and a dog poo bin. The views from the recreation ground are absolutely stunning

Seats and flower plants have been placed around the village. These are maintained by people in the village, community spirit is strong here.

The derelict pub The Worsley has been an eyesore in the village for many years. Huge effort has been made by the Parish Council and in particular Councillor Rodney Downer to find a solution to this. There is now light at the end of the planning tunnel.

Stenbury Hall is a huge asset. Various groups and activities are run from the hall including community library, bingo, quiz nights, roller skating, table tennis, indoor bowls, dance classes, Rural Police beat surgeries and a village lottery. We have two defibrillators here also.

Report from Councillor Helen Little.

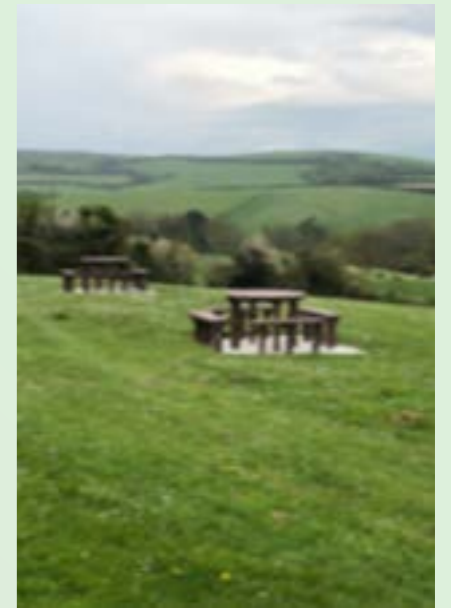
Fishbourne Parish Council

November has been a relatively quiet month. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our monthly coffee morning because of storm Cieran, but we were able to hold our Armistice Day event as planned on Remembrance Sunday.

Our PCSO, Steve Hull, has recently provided us with crime statistics for the parish for the year to date. Fishbourne is one of the smallest and quietest parishes on the Island. We were therefore surprised to learn that nine crimes had been reported. They included three missing persons, two suspicious persons, one assault without injury, one concern for safety, one domestic incident and one harassment.

We suspect that one of the reports relates to an incident on the beach near Quarr Abbey. The residents in that area apparently 'own' the beach right down to the low water level and some of them try to stop the public walking along the beach. We are seeking advice on this issue through the NALC Coastal Communities Network. If anyone else has had a similar experience in their parish, we would be interested to hear about it.

Diana Conyers



Ryde

Remembrance Sunday:

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our impactful Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade! Over 500 individuals filled All Saints Church, with an additional 300+ joining us at the War Memorial. It was a moving sea of faces, spanning generations, united in honouring and remembering.



Extra Funding for St Thomas' Church:

Great news for St Thomas' Church! An additional £46k in funding has been secured through the Youth Investment Fund to support the ongoing renovations. The renovation work is progressing smoothly, with several significant milestones already achieved, including heating systems, electrics, upper lights, and bathroom renovations. Stained glass window repair, cleaning, and full restoration have been completed, with plans for reinstatement in March 2024. We're also making strides in restoring the clock face and the main clock. Two Sea Chests, Coats of Arms and Armitage plaque have been restored and are now on loan to Ryde Museum.



The newest installation at [Re:Box](#) is the creation of Ryde-based artist Donna Jones MBE. Donna's inspiration stems from her father, who brought back a collection of Japanese paintings after the Korean War during her youth. Influenced by artist-calligrapher Toko Shinoda and fashion designer Yohji Yamamoto, her work consistently features origami, ancient script, the colour red, and a sense of balance.

SHALFLEET PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Island Roads – representatives attended the November Parish Council meeting to discuss two proposals for double yellow lines in the Parish, going out for public consultation later in the year.

The Parish Councillors are aware that several Parishes will be having double yellow line proposals put to them and have let Island Roads have their comments on the proposed schemes, which were:

Ningwood: Coming out of Station Road, into Main Road, Ningwood, towards Yarmouth, there was no need for double yellow lines on the righthand side of the road. On the left hand side, to just have these near to, and just past the bus stop. The Cllrs felt no double yellow lines were needed on the road to the right of the Station Road junction.

Newbridge: No need for the proposed double yellow lines – a waste of time and money.

Trees – at the meeting the Clerk gave the Tree Warden's report on trees in the Parish that are either on Parish Council land, or that the Parish Council have planted. The Councillors agreed for replacements to be obtained and planted to replace those that had died and for work to be undertaken at Withyfields on trees requiring attention (subject to the Tree Officer giving his consent as this is in a Conservation Area)...

Policing – the Parish Council have been informed there is a new PCSO for the West Wight and it is hoped he will be able to attend a future meeting. School/community involvement – the Parish Council arranged for a 'mock up' meeting to be held at Shalfleet CE Primary School in November. This was to give some of the children a chance to speak to Councillors and discuss 'How do we improve our Community' and find out more about how the Parish Council operates.

Remembrance Day – wreaths were laid at both the Service held at Freshwater and that at Shalfleet Church.

Community Led Housing – it is hoped that the pre-planning application for the Newbridge site will be finalised and submitted to the Planning Department for comment, by the end of the year.

Next Meetings: 10th January 2024 at 7.15 pm to be held at Shalfleet CE Primary School.

Nettlestone and Seaview Neighbourhood Plan Production

The Council's steering group have had a busy couple of months promoting the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation. The Councillors have ensured that leaflets have been delivered, public Q&A sessions taken place (at Seagrove Pavilion and Nettlestone Primary School) and that banners and notices were put around the Parish and online.

The Consultation closed on November 12th and the Council are delighted that hundreds of people took the time to respond to the survey – our residents' opinions are the key to the Neighbourhood Plan being a success for the Parish and their responses have already been analysed by professional planners and fed into the production of the plan as you read this. The steering group have also engaged with two teams from AECOM to work on a couple of centrally funded Technical Assistance Packages. So far, production of the plan remains on track to be completed within two years



Cowes Town Council

Christmas Lights: It was a pleasure to turn on the town's Christmas lights this year. Lanesend Primary School Choir beautifully sang an array of Christmas songs and many local shops held a late night shopping event. Turning the lights on is something that we do in conjunction with the town's newly-formed Traders' association. The town also has three beautifully lit Christmas trees; one in Francki Place provided by the Town Council, and two at The Cut and Market Hill, provided by Cowes Harbour Commission.

Town Clerk Update: Following Debbie's decision to retire, we have appointed a new Town Clerk/RFO. Debbie has kindly offered to stay until the end of January to help the new Clerk settle in. I wish to thank Debbie for her service and loyalty, and wish her all the best in a happy and long retirement.

Councillor Update: We say goodbye to two Councillors who have served the Council with passion and loyalty. I would like to thank Michael Paler for his enthusiasm in the role. It is worthy of special note that Paul Bertie gave 40 years' public service. A founder member of

Cowes Business Association; former Town Mayor, a duty which he performed with diligence, and a former IW Councillor for Cowes North.

John Nicholson, Mayor of Cowes

