

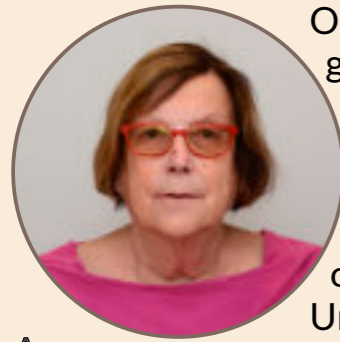


**IWALC**

**NOVEMBER '23**

Serving Parish, Town and Community Councils





Anne Bamford

Chair of IWALC

October has been rather a hectic month getting things organised for members especially related to finance. I have enjoyed working with Sharon Betts to get the Topic meeting organised with Colin Rowland about asset transfers and taking on other commitments from the Council. Unfortunately, due to the weather conditions we agreed to run it as a Teams meeting as we felt it was safer way to run the meeting.

Diana Conyers kindly offered to organise the Finance Meeting. We were pleased to run it at the beginning of November whilst parish, community and town councils have started looking at their budgets. Tara Bloomfield, who is the RFO for Ryde, kindly agreed to run the evening course.

I did meet with the Cabinet this month and we did discuss changing the meetings. Instead of general questions we agreed that topics each month would be better as the Cabinet could ask relevant officers along. November was on the topic of Waste. I also need future topics that you would like to discuss with the cabinet.

I know members are looking forward to the results of the Speed Review which will be out early next year. Various other reviews are going on such as the Net Zero. There is going to be a media campaign about empty properties, and a campaign about breast feeding in public places.

Work is ongoing on the website and Julie has enjoyed working on this newsletter.

I attended the NALC Annual Meeting which I found very informative. There are going to be new editions of both Local Councils Explained and Good Councillors guide.

I would like to thank everyone for their help through a difficult month.

# IW Youth Council

My name is Benson Hardy, and I am the current Chair of the **Isle of Wight Youth Council**. After holding a number of different positions on the Youth Council since I started over 5 years ago, I am honoured to be able to lead this fantastic group of young people.

For those of you who don't know, the Youth Council is a group of 10-12 young people who meet to ensure that youth voice is properly considered on the Isle of Wight, speaking with local organisations and charities as well as the Isle of Wight Council to improve and develop their considerations of young people in decision making. We believe that it is vital that young people are being meaningfully consulted on topics that are pertinent to them, allowing ownership over the decisions which will inevitably impact their futures.

One of the issues which we have been recently focused upon is the lack of youth provisions which are available to young people on the Isle of Wight, depriving them of a crucial outlet for socialising. The Youth Trust census of 2021 reported that 48% of young people on the Island have admitted to feeling terribly alone or isolated, despite this being from two years ago this year's statistic, whilst marginally improved, still reveals the extent of isolation which young people feel on the Island. We believe that this could be reduced with the introduction of a more widespread effort to provide versatile spaces, able to house a wide variety of different activities, which will offer young people a place to socialise, seek support from mental health professionals and have fun.

This has been something that we have presented to the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee and we would be willing to also present to IWALC.

By Benson Hardy, IW Youth Council

You can read the NALC report on empowering young people in our communities [here](#)



# Nomination for young Cameron

The Isle of Wight has a local contender for NALC Young Councillor of the Year award, Councillor Cameron Palin of East Cowes.

This is especially pertinent, following on from the NALC webinar regarding young voices being heard, the report can be found [here](#)

Cameron was happy to answer a few questions for readers of the IWALC newsletter.

*What prompted you to become a councillor in the first place?*

At the age of 14 I begin getting involved with local politics without even realising. I was Part of the Ryde ice rink campaign group as well as fighting to sort out the floating bridge (I still am), and I began to realise that the only way to help sort these local issues and others out was by getting onto the council as that's where the power lay to sort local issues. Therefore when the opportunity arose for a co-option onto the town council I grasped it with both hands and haven't looked back since.

*What aspect of the role do you find you enjoy the most?*

I really enjoy running local events for the community such as the monthly market, the party in the park for the platinum jubilee and Party in the park for the kings coronation. I love the

organisation, seeing plans and ideas come to life and well as meeting with so many residents all together.

*What have been your greatest achievements?*

A couple of my greatest achievements have to be the setting up of a community orchard, creating and passing a climate change and environment policy as well as the events for the platinum jubilee and kings coronation.

*What advice would you give to other young people who might be considering becoming councillors?*

Definitely attend a few council meetings to get a feel for the council, have a chat with some of the existing councillors and see if these is anyways you can get involved in the meantime. If you feel like it's something you could do, absolutely go for it as it is always important all voices are represented, and providing a different perspective.

You can see Cameron in the local news [here](#)





# Together for Mission Zero

On 4 October, the community group Together for Mission Zero Isle of Wight, held a workshop at the Riverside Centre, Newport discussing the urgent need to prioritise active travel on the island in order to reduce our carbon emissions and to improve health outcomes for residents.

Attended by over fifty of the community's members, the evening opened with presentations from Will Ainslie and Martin Gibson of [People Powered CIC](#) who explained what good active travel public infrastructure looks like, citing both UK and international examples, and discussing what actions need to be taken now on the island to create a more sustainable future. We highly recommend that you [watch the video](#) recording of the presentation because it visualises how our community streets need to be designed so that active travel is made easier. This is especially useful for planning groups.

Sarah Chatwin, of [ERMC Limited](#), also shared her knowledge and experience with the group of how we should be using pivotal moments of change in people's lives, such as moving into a new home, to encourage structural and behavioral changes such as improved home insulation or a more active approach to travel.

The workshop then took a more collaborative turn in which the community discussed whether the Isle of Wight should aim for a default 20mph limit in residential areas, as recently adopted in Wales. The Welsh Government's evidence [states](#) that decreasing speed limits reduces collisions and improves the environment- as 30mph requires more than twice as much energy as getting to 20mph. Furthermore, decreasing speed limits creates a safer, quieter and more pleasant environment where people feel safer to walk and cycle. Alongside the need for safer roads, the Together for Mission Zero community also called for better bike parking



facilities island wide, the ability to put bikes on island buses and a pro-active approach by local parish councils to get these urgent topics on parish agendas. The Together for Mission Zero community would like to engage with and support interested parish councillors who are willing to discuss this topic within their parish.

Together for Mission Zero Isle of Wight is an open platform to connect, share, discuss and build a community around the Isle of Wight Council's Mission Zero Strategy for 2040. The community works within the remit of the island's UNESCO [Biosphere status](#); working to ensure that we can have thriving communities while enhancing nature and the environment. We often connect the Biosphere to nature, however encouraging active travel is just as important an aim of enhancing our Biosphere as it is about living well within our planetary boundaries; creating greater health outcomes while reducing our footprint on this island. Founded in March 2023, the community meets quarterly and has over 300 online members. You can read more about the ongoing work of the community and mission zero hubs on the Together for Mission Zero webpage [here](#) and join the conversation on facebook [here](#).

# Sustainable deliveries

Keert CIC Sustainable deliveries are looking to expand their network and need some help.

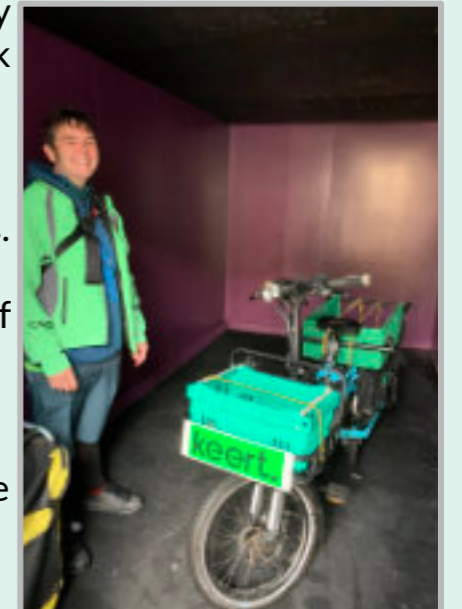
They're operating 7 days/week across and between Newport, Cowes and East Cowes (and everywhere in between).

Since the start of October, they've been working one day/week in Ryde for deliveries within the town, and as of 1st November there's also 1 day/week for deliveries around Ventnor.

"We have been having conversations with Food Pantries around the Island to see where we can help. At the moment, we are largely run by volunteers, when our network expands and we start taking more deliveries, then we can look at turning those volunteers into paid positions.

We'd be interested in offers of paid work within the parishes in our existing area of coverage, and if there are any that may be able to host space for a bike and a small amount of equipment in exchange for services and/or a small fee, we'd be interested in expanding the areas we serve. We are looking for bike storage and welfare facilities (a toilet and a sink) somewhere in the Bay Area, and also West Wight.

We have a website at [keert.uk](#) that describes a lot of what we do, and we are active on social media for people to get a feel for who we are."





IWALC report for planning  
[Watch the video here](#)

I attended the LPA site visit for the committee on Friday 13th October 2023 to view the Military Road site with officers and as we had previously viewed the Bembridge site.

The committee was informed by Ollie Boulter on 16/10/23 that application 21/01884/FUL had been withdrawn by the agent due to questions from Natural England, and would no longer be considered by the planning committee on the 17/10/2023.

20/01281/FUL Section of Military Road, Brighstone Reason for the Planning Committee consideration

The proposed development is for council purposes (public highway stabilisation), raises marginal and difficult policy issues, as Island wide significance, and would have significant impacts on the locality.

The application was recommended by officers for refusal.

Cllr Bacon raised the fundamental point in 7.37 of our reports regarding the lawfulness of any decision we might make as a committee.

7.37 Substantial negative weight is afforded to this issue. However, fundamentally, the Council is also unable to lawfully grant planning permission for the development, as it cannot conclude no adverse effect on the Habitats (SAC) site, or that the other subsequent legislative tests, set out in the Habitat Regulations, including the tests of alternatives and Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) would be met, and therefore to do so would be in breach of the Habitat Regulations.

This issue was discussed by the Committee and the Chair felt on balance after advice from officers that the application could be considered by the Committee. It was raised that we could go straight to the vote. Cllr Price, with support from Cllr Brodie, considered that the matter was of such importance to the public that the usual procedures should be followed.

Planning Officer Stuart Van Cuylenburg gave the officer presentation to the committee. Public Speakers

Cllr John Cirrone was to speak for Brighstone Parish Council, however unfortunately he was unable to attend the meeting and on his behalf I read out a statement he sent me to represent the views of Brighstone Parish Council.

Cllr Stuart, as the ward councillor, spoke about the importance of the Military Road to his ward and the importance of the ward to the West Wight community. These opinions were agreed by all Councillors.

Cllr Price, stated that he was uncomfortable voting to refuse the application which was of such importance to the public in the absence of an alternative.

The Chair agreed it was regrettable a better application had not come forward.

Councillors discussed the application and the real possibility that the Military Road may fail in the near future. It was felt by councillors it was a very difficult decision to make. Officers agreed that they too had found it difficult to come to the recommendation they had. It was accepted by all that the Military Road is of key strategic importance to the whole of the Island. Both as access to the West Wight for the public and for economic reasons. Councillors were reminded that they could only vote on the application in the room and not on an application they would like to see presented to them.

Cllr Quirke proposed that Councillors accept the recommendation of officers to refuse the application, this was seconded by Cllr Andre.

Councillors voted 7 to 2 to accept the officers recommendation to refuse the application. Cllrs Price and Critchison voted to regret the recommendation.

Members questions

Two written questions were received from Cllr Spink. The questions related to the Bembridge application which was withdrawn from the agenda. The questions were technical and related to the usage of and nitrate calculations provided by the applicants, as previously mentioned at the beginning of this report questioned by Natural England.

Cllr Spink was not sure his questions were directly answered and said he would follow up on these issues.

The Chair said he would circulate the written answers to all committee members. The meeting was closed at 5 p.m.

Emma Cox

IWALC Topic meeting notes by Nick Stewart

IWALC with IWC

2 Nov 2023

# Reports

Officers Sharon Betts/Colin Rowland  
Council Leader Phil Jordan

Cllrs

Emma Cox, Bob Blezzard, Julie Hutchison, Anne Bamford, Simon Cooke, Vivian, Steve Cooper, Bembridge Parish, Diana Conyer, Jacky Matthews, John Hobart,

Sharon Betts responsible for legal asset transfer TBC

Colin has Planning/Environmental Health ie services delivery TBC

Lee Mathews sent costings of service provided to Councils not seen?

MOU for each Council are different

Land Transfer & MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) were key point given the complexity and Parish/Town need to recognise specialist advice may be needed and IWC also has limited legal capacity.

(IWC guide for Parish/town advice availability)

General principle of working together MOU via Article 16 of IoW Council constitution.

Specific council might want MOU but IWC capacity restrictions. Discussion on general direct MOU with Town/Parish/Community councils

Asset Management plan through Sharon Betts. This will include regen assets.

Parish request asset transfer through Sharon Betts

Parish Groups discussed but no current mechanism to create. (Organic development or IWALC programme?)

Suggested possibilities of Parish taking own steps not just IoW handoffs. eg Community Housing

Diana question Inventory of services & changes which Parish Town & Community sent out by Lee Mathews NOT seen at Parish level??

Charging point issues (IWC error?) in Freshwater discussed & to be looked at.

Suggested charging points on all car parks to include solar collectors & batteries

Planning Enforcement Parish support

Ollie Boulter paper on planning enforcement??

Environmental health

Flood Recovery (Colin) IWC recovery@iwc.co.uk

Ryde Flooding exceptional-discussion including history and complexity of flood management.

Raised the Rural Parish issues that flooding damage is hidden and spread out but still serious.

Sharon- Community support had good help but could use coordinated

volunteer and officer approach.

Flood resilience plan needs to be upgraded from 2016. Requires Parish input. IWC will rely on volunteers as Island is so big.

suggested flood/emergency marshal plan. Note previous failure of Newport scheme.

IWALC put Parish planing on agenda with IWC input

Disaster management plans.

Useful meting to help increase trust with key contacts and active individuals.

Working towards additional support with development of Parish & Towns capacity.

NALC AGM feedback

Hi all.

I'm currently in the on-line NALC AGM, which is very interesting. Couple of points that has been discussed in great details, which are very relevant to us and for your information.

- NALC Civility and Respect pledge - Motion passed calling upon government to give Parish, Town, and County Councils powers of sanction on Councillors who behaviour unprofessionally or who bring the office of Councillor into conflict with the Nolan principles.
- Biggest cause of the shortage of Town Clerks and Assistant Town Clerks is due to poor councillor behaviours and personality clashes within councils which is creating poor and negative working environments. Town Clerks and Chairs/Mayors spending to much time on refereeing between councillors and staff, leading to warring factions within councils.
- 1400+ councils have now all signed up to NALC Civility and Respect pledge.
- NALC in January will have details and advice on JE and contractual obligation on staff T&Cs for Town and Parish councils who employ staff.
- Councils should be using and incorporating all they do in connection with the Localism Act.
- Sustainable traffic management, (more walkways, cycle tracks, buses), attracts central government funding. Worth a consideration?
- Parish and Town councils are effective agents of implementing government policy, make government councils/councillors and MPs listen to you, invite them to meetings, events, etc.

Regards, Cllr Steve Cooper

Ventnor Mayor 2023/24

East Cowes

After a very successful year for the paddling pool in East Cowes this has now been closed for the winter period. A new piece of equipment is due to be installed at the Bumblebee Play Area following a fundraising campaign by the community.

Over several years the town hall, theatre and stage has been upgraded including most recently the installation of a new truss system. The popular Amy White Theatre Panto will be performed in December and a mid-year show is planned too for 2024 making the most of the new facilities. The Town Hall is becoming a very popular venue for all sorts of events from drag nights to wrestling to concerts as well as the regular community market and cinema.

# Local News



IWALC Bulletin: Fishbourne Parish Council

Our latest parish council newsletter has just been published. It is delivered to every household in the parish. You can view a copy online [here](#). Our monthly coffee mornings continue to be popular with local residents. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. Three or four councillors usually attend and I am there with my Citizens Advice hat. We have had a number of interesting presentations at recent Parish Council meetings, including ones from Surfers Against Sewage, Southern Water and the IWC Enforcement Team. We have told the Enforcement Team that we are willing to pay for some time from an IWC Enforcement Officer but only for three or four days a year. If any other council would be interested in collaborating with us, please contact Katie, our clerk, at [fishbournepc@btinternet.com](mailto:fishbournepc@btinternet.com).

Diana Conyers  
IWALC representative



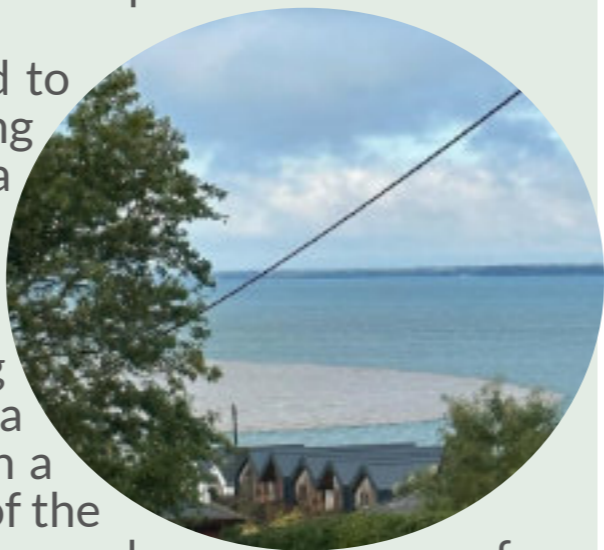
## GURNARD

The hope everyone managed to stay safe and reasonably dry through Storm Babet, as expressed in the last report for



the Gurnard News magazine, feels very out of date after two Amber weather warnings for rain. A number of people in the village have discovered, to their surprise, that the Jordan Valley does have a water flow through it and the Luck has become much more than a little stream this October. The photo, taken from Lower Church Road, looking over the Luck Valley shows an unusual scene. The increasing extremes of weather really highlight the need for our Community Emergency Plan to be completed and published.

The Beach Working Party are very pleased to have finally made real progress with moving to a more rigorous water testing and data collection scheme. The village hall will become even more central to village life as both GPC and Gurnard Village Hall Association have agreed that water testing could be managed at the hall. Finding a secure site for the test equipment has been a major hurdle. The photo shows the results of the Luck depositing its storm water at the western edge of Gurnard - we hope just storm water! Water testing is the WP's main focus.



The Old School Meadow Working Party has met and a community event to plant hedging whips will be held in November. The application to a scheme with the Woodland Trust has been successful, so a bundle of 30 mixed dog rose, hazel, hawthorn and dogwood saplings will be filling in thin patches on the hedge rows.

## IWALC Bulletin: Ryde Town Council

As you may have heard, Ryde is one of 55 towns that, according to an announcement at the recent Conservative Party Conference, will receive £20 million over the next ten years, as part of the government's levelling up programme. We have yet to find out how and when we will get this money. All we know so far is that we will have to set up a Town Board. Needless to say, we have already thought of more than enough projects on which to spend the money!

Meanwhile, the Council continues to be very busy with an ever-increasing range of assets and services to manage. We have recently published a 28-page Ryde Community Guide, which has been distributed to every household in the town. It was produced by our Community Development Officer, Alison, and distributed by a team of councillors and volunteers. We have also received some money from Connect for Communities to fund another round of supermarket vouchers for vulnerable residents.

Diana Conyers



### Housing Needs Survey



**Ever complained about no houses for local people? Then now is the time to help do something about it.**

Shalfleet Parish Council want to help **local** people afford to live in the Parish they were brought up in, or work in. Even people whose families have lived in the Parish for generations may not be able to afford a home here.

Have you been born/raised in the Shalfleet Parish but had to move away due to lack of rents/property in your price range?

Do you work in Shalfleet Parish but can't afford to rent or buy a home here?

Are you living in a house which is too small for your needs because you can't afford a larger one?

Are you a young adult worried that you may never be able to afford to move out of your parents' home?

**Surveys are available from the Parish Office and Shalfleet Village Stores**

Parish Office 01983 531491 or [clerk@shalfleetiow.org.uk](mailto:clerk@shalfleetiow.org.uk) or on the Parish Council website [www.shalfleetiow.org.uk](http://www.shalfleetiow.org.uk) under Community Led Housing.



Complete online

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6F2JLXK>

**Do you know someone who has had to move out of the Parish because they can't afford to live here? Please let them know about this survey.**

Shalfleet Parish Council are calling for Shalfleet residents to complete their Housing Needs Survey.

For any queries, please email [clerk@shalfleetiow.org.uk](mailto:clerk@shalfleetiow.org.uk)

If you live in Shalfleet, or know someone who lives in Shalfleet, and want to complete the survey, then click [here](#)



# Help for carers

## The Carers Passport Scheme

Carers IW has teamed up with the Isle of Wight NHS Trust to launch The Carers Passport scheme.

This is the first of its kind on the Island and aims to support unpaid Carers to be recognised for the important role they play, caring for people who need that extra support.

The new passport scheme is designed to provide a range of useful benefits to our Island's unpaid Carers, not only ensuring that unpaid Carers are recognised, but to support them within the important caring role they provide.

It will help to connect Carers to local support and advice services along with accessing discounts and local concessions to make life a little easier.

The passport will also help Carers, when visiting St Mary's Hospital, to visit the people they care for outside of visiting hours as well as enabling them to support with feeding and to be actively involved in meetings about the patient, with their consent, and be included in any discussions surrounding discharge planning.

Carers IW and Isle of Wight NHS Trust are encouraging all Carers on the Island to apply for the passport.

A temporary passport can be issued by the team based in the Carers Lounge, located at North Hospital, the ward or at main reception.

The Carers IW Community team will also be holding a drop-in session every Thursday morning at the Carers Centre, Riverside, between 10.30am and midday from Thursday 26th October where Carers can apply for a passport.

## The Carers Passport

The Carers Passport is a scheme enabling Carers to be recognised for their caring role. It highlights the role that a Carer plays and the wealth of knowledge they have about the person they care for. It connects Carers to local support and advice services along with accessing discounts and local concessions to make life a little easier.

The Carers Passport is a new scheme for the Isle of Wight. It is a working document and will develop over time. Please send application & photo to [info@Carersiw.org.uk](mailto:info@Carersiw.org.uk)

## Who is eligible?

An unpaid Carer is someone who cares for a family member, friend, or neighbour, who wouldn't cope without their help, this can be full-time or a few hours a week. The Carers Passport is for adults over age of 18 yrs. supporting another adult who would struggle to manage without their support.

## Is there a cost & how do I get one?

The Carers Passport is free and will last for 5 years.

Contact Carers IW on 533173 to arrange an appointment to register.

# Green Open Homes



Spring 2024 will see a brand-new eco-friendly event on the Island. Wight Community Energy are organising the Islands first 'Green Open Homes', this event will see proud homeowners which have upgraded their properties with energy efficiency in mind open their homes to the curious public.

**This event aims to demystify** the techniques and technologies that can make our homes more comfortable, cheaper to run and less impactful on the environment, and to help interested people find out more about them from owners without sales pressure.

Wight Community Energy are following a national model to deliver the event with detailed plans available to cover every imaginable aspect of this project, including the booking of visits to suit the homeowners and the related legalities.

Stephen Cockett general manager at WCE said "Feedback from other communities who have run such events tells us that both hosts and visitors find these days to be both fun and informative, visitors can gain invaluable insights into the real-world experiences of installing and living with energy efficiency measures and low-carbon technologies enabling them to make better informed decisions about how to go about 'greening' their own properties.

Green homes on Wight is scheduled to take place in the last week of February into early March.

If you know homeowners who may wish to take part, then please direct them to [stephen@iowcommunityenergy.org](mailto:stephen@iowcommunityenergy.org)

Full details can be found here: <https://www.greenopenhomes.net/>

