



**IWALC**  
Serving Town, Parish and  
Community Councils  
November 2024



## County Officer's Report

NALC are making strong representations to Government about the effects of raising employee contributions, which are set to make significant cost increases to councils.

Nalc are keen for as many people as possible to sign up and register on their website, all Clerks, staff and councillors can do this as member councils. Access to the full NALC website includes template policy documents and helpful resources.

We tried to use the video conferencing device on both 14th Nov and 31st October. Earlier last week I went to the Riverside with the assistance of the Riverside's Tech team. The WiFi speeds in the Hunnyhill room were low, currently 13Mbps, and it should be at least 200. The Riverside Centre will be working on this in the coming weeks.

I was invited to a Growth and Prosperity workshop at the beginning of the month. This information will go back into the Strategy that the IW Council have commissioned.

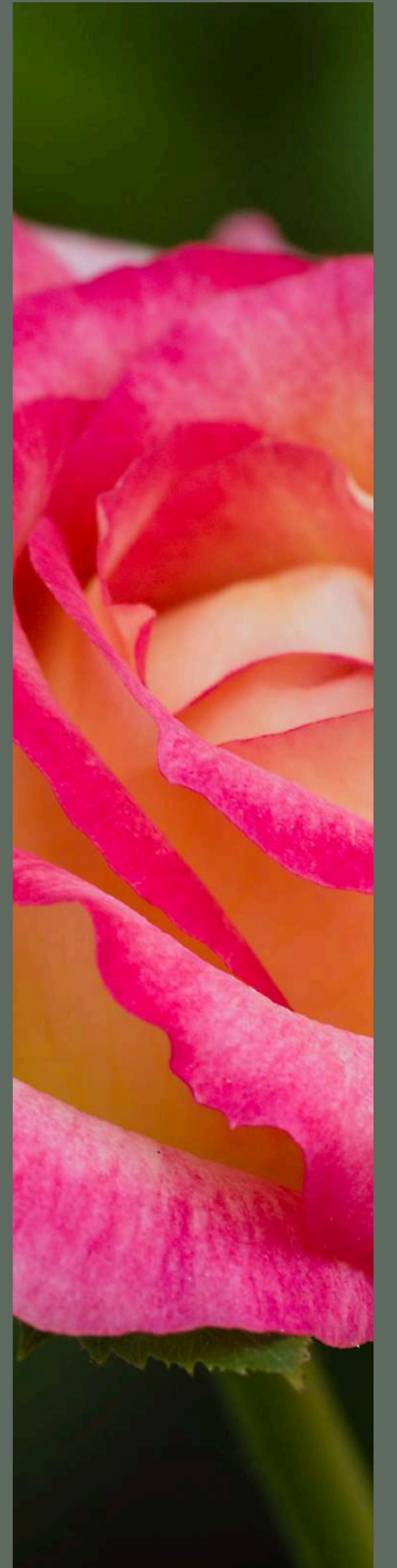
The February Topic meeting has been organised with Ruth Hayles from Youth Justice. Ruth will be preparing the presentation shortly, with the slide deck going out in advance.

There is a [Government consultation](#) which is open until 19<sup>th</sup> December about hybrid meetings, NALC are encouraging members to comment on it please.

Finally, the deadline for the January newsletter is Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025.

South & South East in Bloom is an independent charity that organises Bloom events throughout Hampshire and five other counties across Southern England. We have a number of communities participating in Bloom on the Isle of Wight and across Hampshire, and our Parishes in Bloom program is growing. Despite the name, we are not just about hanging baskets, window boxes, and floral schemes. While we appreciate attractive flowers, our main focus is on encouraging community participation, caring for the environment, and promoting local gardening and conservation efforts to address climate change. Our Parishes in Bloom category is relatively informal. An assessor visits once a year to assess and recognise the progress made in creating and maintaining the parish's character under simple criteria. Each participating parish receives an acknowledgement of its achievements. If appropriate, I would greatly appreciate it if it were possible to make Parishes in Hampshire aware of our existence and that a third-party validation to a recognised regional standard is available should they wish to join our annual program. We also have town and town centre categories that may interest your members. Should there be any interest, please email me at [peter@sseib.com](mailto:peter@sseib.com)

Many thanks  
Peter Holman FCIHort, CPP-I, NDH,  
DMS, ITD Dip. –  
Chairman  
(Link) [South & South East in Bloom](#)





With elections only a few months away, the subject was discussed at the November IWALC Executives meeting.

A range of resources are available that have been made by NALC, including a series on Nalc's Youtube account. The series, entitled '[Make a change](#)', gives accounts from a diverse range of councillors nationally, who talk about why they decided to become councillors themselves.

To accompany the series, NALC have produced a 'Make a Change' resources pack which can be found [here](#)

(if you don't already have a login to NALC, please see [this video](#) which will show member councils how to register. Logins are available to councillors and staff of member councils.

Also available is [this article](#) on 5 things you can do to promote local elections.

One of the most effective ways to inspire change is simply to ask people if they have ever considered becoming a councillor. You can make someone's day by asking them - it's often a compliment to be thought of in his way. Inviting people along to a council meeting can be a way of people seeing how a council operates before

deciding to commit. Many people don't know what the role involves, the time commitment, or what statutory powers each council has. Pre-conceived ideas are sadly rife. On the positive side, many people make new friends and learn new skills from taking on this voluntary role, with many councillors go on to serve their respective communities for many years.



Our councils ought to reflect the diversity of our communities. The more diverse the council, the more thought goes into council discussions and better outcomes as a result. So if someone you know springs to mind as you read this, consider asking them now, so that they have time to think about it next year.



## The Isle of Wight NHS Trust Ambulance Service needs you.

If you found someone unconscious and not breathing normally, would you know what to do? Learning how to perform CPR and where your nearest defibrillator is takes minutes but could make a huge difference and save a life.

Could you become a guardian for your local public access defibrillator, do you need help registering your defibrillator?

Please contact the Isle of Wight NHS Trust Ambulance, Training and Community Response Services Tel. 534111, email [atcors@nhs.net](mailto:atcors@nhs.net) or visit our website [www.isleofwightambulance.co.uk](http://www.isleofwightambulance.co.uk) to see what training courses we offer the public, businesses, and schools, learn about the support we can give to public access defibrillator guardians/sites.



Applications are now open until 28<sup>th</sup> February for a free defibrillator in your community, please click [here](#) for more information and to apply

Useful links:

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/how-to-do-cpr/learn-cpr-in-15-minutes>

[www.thecircuit.uk](http://www.thecircuit.uk)

[www.defibfinder.uk](http://www.defibfinder.uk)



The Isle of Wight NHS Trust Ambulance Service is seeking feedback. If you or a loved one have recently called 999 for an ambulance or been conveyed by an ambulance, we would really like to know about your

experience. Please visit [Ambulance Service](#)

[feedback](#)

Thank you



## SLCC Educational Trust

The SLCC Educational Trust was established to help improve access to education for those working within the local council sector and since it opened, it's first applications has agreed grants worth almost £7,500. Our grants have included:

- £120 to a Clerk in Wales to complete FILCA
- £138 to a Clerk in Suffolk to attend a training course on Financial Regulations
- £407 to part fund a Clerk from Northamptonshire attending the SLCC National Conference
- £90 to a Clerk in Wales to attend webinars on landlord responsibilities, social media and climate action
- Over £4,000 to support seven Clerks to complete CiLCA.

We consider grant applications every two months (with deadlines at the end of each even month) – our next round closes on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

Under this scheme, we are working to deliver our objective that more local council officers will be equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to serve their councils and their local communities for the public benefit.

The grant scheme is open to officers of local councils, principal authorities, and those working in other organisations that regularly interact with local councils – our objective is to enhance education within the sector, with a special focus on seeing more clerks complete CiLCA. Our grants will fund course fees, costs of attendance at events (such as travel, childcare and caring costs) and books or equipment to facilitate study (except the CAB as we believe every council should have this).

We will consider all applications but prioritise those who have not received a grant before and those from organisations with a turnover below £25,000. We assess applications to see how the training will benefit the community so we look for a link between the training the applicant wants to undertake and how that supports the

community they serve. We also look to understand how a lack of funding is a barrier to learning – for example, in larger councils with healthy budgets we would need to be convinced as to why the council is not funding the training itself. If you would like to find out more, or to apply for a grant, visit: [www.slcceducationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.slcceducationaltrust.org.uk). If you have any queries about the scheme, please email [trust@slcceducationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:trust@slcceducationaltrust.org.uk).

As it says, we particularly want to support clerks attaining CiLCA – particularly for the smaller councils. We are unlikely to fund CiLCA for clerks to larger councils as we expect those councils which can to fund it (though we might, for example fund it for another officer if they couldn't get the council fund their development). We will not fund the purchase of the Charles Arnold Baker (again as we expect all councils to have a copy as an essential text) but would consider funding other books to support study. We would consider funding any relevant education – CALC courses, webinars, conferences, formal qualifications etc. It is open to anyone, not just clerks and not just SLCC members.

If you've got any questions please let me know, otherwise we look forward to seeing applications from people within your area.

# Wight Community Energy

- the Island's only community-owned energy generator – is now searching for candidate rooftops to host solar panel installations. As part of their ongoing commitment to expanding clean energy access and promoting sustainability, they seek property owners/managers and community organisations interested in partnering.

Solar projects reduce the cost of energy in participating premises, provide property owners with a unique opportunity to generate revenue and contribute to Community Benefit Funds.

## Why participate?

- **Financial incentives:** Earn consistent revenue through leasing a rooftop while also benefitting from lower-cost electricity.
- **Sustainability:** Support the transition to renewable energy, reducing carbon emissions and contributing to a greener planet.
- **No upfront cost:** WCE covers the entire cost of installation, maintenance, and operation of the solar panels, ensuring a hassle-free process for property owners/managers.
- **Community impact:** Help provide revenue for our Community Benefit Fund, putting 'profits' into local projects, not shareholders' pockets.



## Eligibility criteria

- **Rooftop size:** Large, sturdy roof around the size of a tennis court.
- **On-site electricity usage:** High on-site demand makes an easier financial proposition.
- **Building type:** Commercial, industrial or multi-household residential.
- **Commitment:** A long-term partnership with WCE, typically 20-25 years.

## Next steps

Owners and managers of commercial/industrial premises, schools and other community buildings on the Island are invited to contact Wight Community Energy. Our team will assess your rooftop's suitability and provide a detailed proposal outlining the benefits, terms and potential savings.

For more information or to submit your rooftop for consideration, please contact WCE via their website [www.WightCommunityEnergy.org](http://www.WightCommunityEnergy.org)

# Together For Mission Zero



On the evening of 6th November, volunteers came to the Together For Mission Zero Stepping Up a Gear Open Space event. People were invited to bring and talk about their environmental projects to invite feedback and potentially accrue volunteers and support.

Hosted at Browns Cafe in Sandown, the Open Space format was firstly explained - that participants could join any table to listen and feed back into a project that they were interested in, and could then move to another table if they so wished.

Project leaders introduced themselves to the whole room with a brief explanation as to what they would be talking about, when all of these were completed then the process began. Covering a wide variety of subjects, from talking about having our own currency to wealth creation to creative and engaging projects, many participants wished there was more time to spend talking on different tables. If you are interested in the work of Together For Mission Zero and wish to go on their mailing list so that you can come along to these events, go to their website and subscribe to their [Newsletter](#).

## Doughnut Economics Group

TFMZ's Doughnut Economics Group are interested in welcoming councillors to join the conversation about creating circular, healthy economies for the Island. To register your interest, please click [here](#)

## WHO ARE WE?

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Leveraging the power of community for addressing the Island's key priorities

- ▶ The Isle of Wight Doughnut Economics working group formed in June 2023 out of a **Together for Mission Zero initiative**. Over the last year we have gathered a growing group of Doughnut enthusiasts, and have had a series of monthly workshops to explore the Island's social and ecological fabric as compared to the rest of England. As we continue building an island portrait, we are on a mission to share our findings in hope that we can better inform decision-making around any action projects on the Island.
- ▶ **The Isle of Wight UNESCO Biosphere principles** serve as a back drop for our work. The Isle of Wight doughnut portrait has been informed by local and national data and is an ongoing process that will help to uphold the 9 IOW biosphere principles.
- ▶ We began our journey of engagement with the public at the **Biosphere festival in June 2023** where we carried out **two workshops** on doughnut Economic principles. We presented the IOW doughnut portrait and asked the participants to share their thoughts of what a thriving Isle of Wight might look like.
- ▶ We are officially part of the **Doughnut Economics Action Lab** where we have connected to other doughnut groups globally such as the city of Leeds and Birmingham and the Island of Curaçao. <https://doughnuteconomics.org/>

## CAN YOUR TOWN OR PARISH COUNCIL HELP US BUILD A THRIVING COMMUNITY FOR ALL? 4

Leveraging the power of community for addressing the islands key priorities

Over the past year the IOW doughnut Economics team have been working on a profile of the Island to determine where focus is most needed. We have identified NINE key priorities within our social foundations and ecological ceilings, and have had positive engagement and feedback from the public during our workshops.

### SOCIAL

1 HEALTH & WELLBEING

2 EDUCATION

3 AGE EQUALITY

4 HOUSING

5 TRANSPORT & CONNECTIVITY

### ECOLOGICAL

6 CLIMATE CHANGE

7 COASTAL WATER HEALTH

8 SOIL QUALITY

9 RIVERS AND WATERWAYS

- ▶ As Town and Parish councils you have this incredible structure that has the power to serve and support your community positively. We are therefore reaching out to you to help us build the journey towards a thriving island. We foresee two main ways in which we can successfully collaborate together to make this happen.

**1 WE VALUE THE INFLUENCE YOU HAVE AND WORK YOU DO IN YOUR PARISHES TO POSITIVELY IMPACT YOUR COMMUNITIES. CAN YOU HELP US CENTRE THESE 9 KEY PRIORITIES IN DECISION MAKING PROCESSES WITHIN YOUR TOWN OR PARISH COUNCIL?**

**2 WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO JOIN US IN CONVERSATION AT THE NEW YEAR TO HELP BRING THE ISLAND INTO A THRIVING SPACE FOR ALL?** IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) TO SHARE YOUR DETAILS.

# Joe Robertson MP

"I have delivered my Maiden Speech in the House of Commons, where I highlighted the unique qualities that make our Island special, mentioning some favourite visitor destinations such as Havenstreet Steam Railway, the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary, and Brading Roman Villa. In my speech, I underscored the urgency of addressing the social care crisis and directing more health spending into the community. I also raised concerns about our ferry services, urging government intervention to improve timetables and reduce costs. I have also spoken in the Commons during the Carers Allowance debate, Employment Rights Bill and I am due to speak on the Budget.

I'm pleased to report on my recent election to the House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee where I will be able to work cross-Party to try and secure much needed reforms and funding from Government. Unfortunately, the Budget has put further cost pressures on GP practices and most social care providers by raising employer costs but without providing additional funding to pay for it which the Government has done for the NHS. This will make the situation worse not better and will pass pressures on to the NHS and Councils which is bad for everyone.

I've continued my meetings with local groups, including CycleWight, IW Bus and Rail Users Group, the charity Aspire and Ryde Police Station during its public reopening. Finally, I launched my MP Christmas card design competition for East Wight primary school children.



# Local News



## **IWALC Newsletter November 2024: Fishbourne Parish Council**

Following a meeting hosted by Fishbourne Parish Council in December 2023, at which we had a presentation from Chani Courtney from Surfers Against Sewage, we are working with Wootton Bridge Parish Council and Wootton Creek Fairway Association to undertake water quality testing in Wootton Creek. The testing is being done by the Fairway Association, with financial support from the two parish councils. This work will be of benefit to residents across Fishbourne and Wootton, as well as to recreational users of the Creek.

On Saturday 9 November we held one of our regular Spruce Up days. About 14 councillors and residents worked together to undertake various tasks, including litter picking, clearing brambles from footpaths and tidying up the beach. After the work participants gathered at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club for well-earned refreshments.

Diana Conyers



## Ryde Remembrance Sunday 2024

Islanders gathered at the Ryde Memorial on Lind Street last Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November to remember the fallen from 2 World Wars and other conflicts on Remembrance Sunday 2024. On this special day, the Isle of Wight and the rest of the country commemorates the service and sacrifice of those defending our freedoms and protecting our way of life.

It can be justly said of the slain that: “for your tomorrow, we gave our today”.

His Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant Deputy Nicholas England laid the first wreath followed by the Ryde Town Mayor Richard May, MP Joe Robertson & President of The Royal British Legion Charles Chapman. Those who took part in the parade included, the Royal British Legion, Military Veterans, Army Reserves, Cadets, Scouts, Beavers, Brownies, and Local Dignitaries.



### Here to help – Ryde Information and Support Service

Here to Help is the name of the brand-new Ryde Information and Support Service based at Ryde Library to offer support, reassurance and a helping hand all in one place. Some of the key areas in which Here to Help will be offering assistance include Interpretation & Explanation - Help users understand paperwork and official communications. Managing Documentation - Assist with completing forms, applications, and organising paperwork. Accessing Information - Facilitate access to online resources and provide clear, written information. Supportive Listening - Offer sympathetic, empathetic listening without judgment. Empowerment & Confidence Building - Encourage autonomy by building confidence, reducing paperwork anxiety, and fostering independence.