



IWALC
Serving Town, Parish and
Community Councils
January 2025

As 2025 swiftly comes in, we are all excitedly anticipating the New Year and the opportunities in the months to come. What better way to begin the year than with a Youth Council meeting?

This was an extremely busy meeting, featuring the Youth MP's virtual attendance, as we dove straight into discussing our constitution. After much frustrating deliberation, we finally agreed on our constitution - laying the fundamental foundation for the rest of the term. Afterwards, our Secretary and Democratic Officer presented a detailed report on the state of public transport on the Island, presenting various schemes to make buses more accessible to young people. It was advised that we presented this report to encourage any change concerning transport discussed at the Cabinet meeting on Thursday.

Kato, Secretary of Equality and Diversity, and Finlay will be attending the Full Council meeting on Wednesday to query the councillors on their views on equality. It is brilliant that we are continuing to make our presence in the council as clear as day.

There was a major shift in leadership on the Youth Council as I have now stepped down from the Youth Council. As many Year 13s will understand, last year was immensely busy and it has already gotten busier with exam season looming. The Youth Council deserves a dedicated leader, who has the time and energy to advocate for the causes we stand for. Finlay Diffey (Chairman) and Naomi Hallam (Deputy Chairman) have proved themselves capable over the first half of the term, embodying the dedication the Youth Council requires. Ysabella Abeto was elected Secretary of Crime and Safety. They

Spotlight on Youth

By Lianne Ponfederra



proved themselves extremely competent through their compelling speeches, rich with experience and knowledge. I look forward to seeing what they get up to!

Preparing my farewell speech, I contemplated my time on the Youth Council. I remember when I first joined. I was a manic and ambitious yet timid teenager, who wanted to stand up for marginalised voices but didn't quite have the space for it. The Youth Council has not only offered a space for me to authentically express myself, but to develop the skills to do so. I have left the Youth Council having developed a public speaking style, journalistic flair and built a level of confidence I didn't think I could achieve. Over my time on the Youth Council, I have found my voice.

The Isle of Wight Youth Council largely contributed to my sense of belonging, which I have struggled with as an ethnic minority. This would not have been possible without the members themselves. I had said this time and time again, but it has truly been fantastic being a part of a group with such determined young people. I am only inspired by our current Youth Councillors, and our predecessors, for channelling their intelligence and motivation into helping their local communities. It has brought me much hope meeting all the organisations and significant figures on the Isle of Wight who care deeply about our youth.

To anyone considering joining the Youth Council: do it. You'll not only make an impact but also grow in ways you never imagined. I can't wait to see what the Youth Council achieves in 2025

January 2025 County Officer's Report Julie Hutchison



IWALC Chair Cllr Anne Bamford stepped down from the role in December, with Cllr Steve Cooper stepping in as Acting Chair until the next AGM. We thank Anne for the work she has done in IWALC. An agenda item will go onto the next Executive meeting on Thursday 30th January for an acting Deputy Chair to replace Cllr Cooper.

Released last week was the Training schedule for 2025, at this time it is booked as follows, these are happening on the last Wednesday of the following months;

June: New Councillor

July: Ethics

September: Planning

October: Finances

November: GDPR

If you have any requests please do get in touch by emailing me on countyofficer@iwalc.org

Training is available free to all member councils for councillors and staff, and at a cost of £75 per delegate for non-IWALC Councils. Reminders for training events will go out in advance, and you can book training now if you so wish.

The first Landslides and Coastal Loss Forum will start next month, this will be on 5th February from 1.30-3pm. I will be sending out the link to the meeting as soon as I receive it.

OPENING UP A DIALOGUE WITH YOU

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

ENGAGEMENT FOR TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS

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/>

We would like to invite interested Town and Parish Councillors to an event in Newport on Thursday 13th February from 7-9pm. We would love to see you there! Please [click here to register](#) your interest. If you are interested but are unable to attend, please email info@togetherformissionzero.co.uk

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



The Isle of Wight's Energy Charity

THE FOOTPRINT TRUST

WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW TRUSTEES

Help make a difference on the Isle of Wight!

Since 2002, we've been helping Islanders reduce their carbon footprint, lower bills, and tackle fuel poverty. We've already supported thousands – and you can help us do even more!

As a trustee, you'll guide the direction of the Trust, support our team and attend bi-monthly meetings.

Experience in finance, personnel, or management is a plus but passion for helping is key.

INTERESTED? GET IN TOUCH BY MARCH 1ST FOR MORE
INFORMATION OR AN APPLICATION PACK:
INFO@FOOTPRINT-TRUST.CO.UK

BE PART OF SOMETHING IMPACTFUL!

Reg Charity No. 1106024- Reg Company NO.04587815

Tackling Fuel Poverty in Your Community

Who are The Footprint Trust?

The Footprint Trust is a local charity with over 20 years' experience in helping people save energy and keep their homes warm. On the Isle of Wight, 14% of households face fuel poverty, higher than the national average.

What does The Footprint Trust do?

The Trust offers free support to 2,000 vulnerable islanders annually, saving over £600,000 last year.

We cover: energy and water reduction, billing issues, grants, thermal imaging to identify heat loss, heating systems, damp and condensation.

- Outreach & energy saving talks: We attend drop in sessions at community hubs, warm spaces, Food banks and family centres across the island.
- Phone help: Qualified energy guides create personalised Energy Action Plans to address the root causes and effects of fuel poverty.
- Home visits: The Footprint Trust can provide a comprehensive visits, particularly where energy or communication needs are complex.
- Tangible support: The trust provides financial, and energy efficiency items and appliances where schemes are available.

What can you do?

Know someone struggling with bills? Refer them (with permission) to Footprint Trust: 82 22 82 or email: info@footprint-trust.co.uk

Want to learn more?

- Attend our FREE Fuel Poverty First Aid training.
- Discuss developing a Warmer Towns project to target support in your area.

Email: laura@footprint-trust.co.uk



The Footprint Trust

**FREEHOME ENERGY
INFORMATION
REDUCE YOUR UTILITY &
WATER BILLS**

01983 82 22 82

info@footprint-trust.co.uk

**Findusat Newport Library every
Monday from 10am-2pm**

Follow us on Facebook for outreach details

Reg Charity No. 1106024- Reg Company NO.04587815



MP Joe Robertson Isle of Wight East

Joe Robertson, Member of Parliament for Isle of Wight East, secured a Westminster Hall Debate on the Impact of the rise in National Insurance Contributions on Charities. Within the debate Joe spoke out against the Government's Autumn Budget which announced significant changes to Employer National Insurance Contributions (NICs) effective April 1 2025. These changes will have a disproportionate and potentially devastating impact on charities, particularly charitable social care providers, which are not exempt from these increases.

Joe criticised the Government for not extending the NIC rate relief or exemptions to charities, particularly those delivering essential services like social care, homelessness support, and disability services. Joe urged the Government to implement targeted relief, as without urgent intervention, the cumulative impact of these changes risks eroding the foundation of the UK's charity sector, leaving vulnerable communities underserved and critical services dismantled. There will be huge sector impacts for not only hospices, but homeless, social care and women's charities, with Women's Aid raising

significant concerns that the NICs increase will negate 80-100% of Gift aid.

Joe Robertson quoted Sarah Elliott, CEO of NCVO: "This is the biggest shock to the sector since the pandemic. Charities already juggling rising demand, escalating costs, and falling funding cannot absorb an additional £1.4bn in costs without drastic service cuts. Charities across the country are already in a dire situation, juggling a triple threat of rising demand, escalating costs, and falling funding. This additional cost, for which there is no headroom in budgets to cover, will be devastating."

Joe applauded charities within the local community including Aspire Ryde, Age UK, Community Action IW and Mountbatten Hospice for their continued hard work despite the lack of support by the Labour Government. Not only do charities deliver almost £17bn worth of public services every year, but many also provide support when public services fall short - without receiving any public funding at all.

Local News

East Cowes

It's been a very busy couple of months for East Cowes, our Christmas Market was a huge hit as well as our Christmas Lights Switch on Event and we would love to thank all the community, volunteers and staff for their efforts in making it extra special. With the New Year in full swing and everything settling back down.



East Cowes Town Council have arranged a number of health related sessions such as a NHS health check service, this is a free check for adults aged between 40 – 74 and it's designed to help spot early signs of stroke, kidney disease, heart disease, type 2 diabetes or dementia, please pop in on Tuesday 4th February (1pm – 5pm) no appointment necessary. We also have our Health and well-being clinic on Thursday 23rd January (12.30 – 3.30) where you can get your Autumn COVID and Flu Vaccinations. Thirdly we have an amazing support group coming to the East Side Curve called IOW Heart Health – they will be here on Friday 24th January (10.00 – 12.00.) Keep an eye on our Website and Facebook for lots of other activities and sessions.



ROOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Light up a Life what a great turn out for the Carols and Service around the well-lit Christmas Tree on Rookley Village Green on a cold and blustery December night.

Men in Sheds Guitar Group provided the accompaniment. Thank you to Revered Izzard for acting as MC, Simon, from Mountbatten, for undertaking the collection, and all residents who came and were in good voice.

The hard-working team, as well as erecting gazebos, installing generators and PA system, also organised the welcomed mulled fruit punch (non-alcoholic) and warm mince pies, with a smattering of chocolate fingers. They then fought the gusting winds and slithered in the mud afterwards to take it all away.



IWALC Newsletter January 2025: Fishbourne Parish Council

At our January meeting we set our budget for 2025/26. Our anticipated expenditure will increase significantly (from £23,000 to £27,250) but, as in recent years, we agreed to cover this by taking money from our substantial reserves rather than increase the precept. Since our residents benefit from services in Ryde, we agreed that our expenditure will include contributions to the Ryde Help Centre (£500) and to the new Ryde Information and Support Service (£840).

Diana Conyers

In October we were successful in obtaining a Farming in Rural Landscapes grant. This was used to enhance our recreation ground and volunteers from the village planted 2000 wild flower plugs and 4 sacks of daffodil bulbs. On the previous Thursday the school captains and vice captains from Wroxall Primary School started the planting in appalling weather conditions. Fingers crossed they all grow. 10 varieties of wild flowers included tufted vetch, common knapweed, lady's bedstraw, white campion, yarrow and self heal were planted which will be good for wildlife. Next



stage is replacement of 20 metres of hedge and 6 trees plus the installation of an interpretation board

Wroxall Parish Council



Merry & Bright 2024

Ryde

At 11 St Thomas's Square RTC New Office on Friday the 6th Dec we co-hosted Merry & Bright with the New Carnival company. Despite the weather the event was still able to go ahead due to the spaces that were able to be used inside. Network Ryde our youth centre had over 1,000 people attend their venue. The evening started with Richard May turning on the Ryde Christmas lights, and he also did a little speech which was excellent. He then gave out information on all the changed locations. It was an excellent night with a great turn out.

Ryde Reindeer Roundup

We hosted our own little Game this Christmas 'Find all the 12 reindeer around Ryde in different locations between December and the 6th of January and be in the chance of winning a family ticket to Leo Leisure Commodore Cinema as well as some treats.



4th
MONDAY
OF THE
MONTH



1pm
to
3pm

TOGETHER

LIVING WELL & EARLY HELP SERVICE

NEW Wootton Together drop-in session

This session is FREE to attend and will be a safe, relaxed space, to meet other members of your community over a cuppa.

Need some information or guidance?

A range of guest organisations and members of the Living Well Service will be on hand to provide support.

Our theme this winter is 'keeping warm and connected'.
Come along and bring a friend if you can. We look forward to seeing you there.

Information
and
guidance

WOOTTON TOGETHER

Wootton Bridge Community Centre
Brannon Way, Wootton Bridge
PO33 4NW

2025 DATES
27th JANUARY 24th FEBRUARY
24th MARCH 28th APRIL
1pm to 3pm

Free
Refreshments
Board games
Activities

Guest
organisations

Keep warm
Stay
connected

01983 240732
lweh.org.uk
reception@lweh.org.uk



ASPIRE
Charity Number:
1163336

West Wight
Sports & Community Centre
Pan Together



MONDAY
27th
JANUARY



NEW

TOGETHER

LIVING WELL & EARLY HELP SERVICE

ORGANISATIONS ATTENDING ON MONDAY 27th JANUARY 25:

EMBRACING AGE – later life in all its fullness

HOME INSTEAD – home care services

IWASP – Trading Standards / scams and doorstep crime

LIVING WELL & EARLY HELP SERVICE – supporting the island community

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE – find out what's on offer

PACT – Parents and Carers Together

SIGHT FOR WIGHT / WIGHT SENSE TEAM – hearing/sight support

THE CO-OPERATIVE FUNERAL CARE - funerals, memorials and support

1PM – 3PM

****NEXT SESSION****

MONDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2025

and then the 4th Monday of each month

01983 240732
lweh.org.uk
reception@lweh.org.uk



ASPIRE
Charity Number:
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West Wight
Sports & Community Centre

Pan Together

