

Report on Meeting of Isle of Wight Bus and Rail Users Group (IWBRUG) on Saturday 25 October 2025 in Newport Methodist Church Hall

The meeting was attended by the Chair (Stuart George), Vice-Chair (Robert May), Treasurer/Membership Secretary (John Yunnie), two other committee members and at least 13 ordinary members.

The main information provided was:

1. Island Line will be totally closed until 2 November and again on 16 November. The line between Ryde St Johns and Ryde Pierhead will be closed until 17 November. Signage to rail replacement minibuses at the Pierhead is again inadequate.
2. Roadworks continue to be a problem on many bus routes. However, it is understood that, when Elenors Grove (Fishbourne) is closed from 2 February to 10 April next year, buses and emergency vehicles will still be able to use the road.
3. There is some doubt regarding the future of the Downs Breezer and Sea Breezer, partly because of limited demand but also because two of the open-top buses are reaching the end of their life.
4. Committee members will be meeting with Island Line, Southern Vectis (SV) and Richard Quigley MP in November.
5. The consultation on the Local Transport Plan is open until 24 November. The questions are designed in a way that it would be difficult for groups to answer. Individual members were encouraged to respond.
6. The Wightlink User Group (WUG) has been renamed the Solent Transport User Group. They have reported an improvement in communication with Wightlink since Katy Taylor took over as CEO.

In the general discussion, three main issues, all of which have been discussed before, were raised:

1. Inadequate communication regarding road closures, not only between SV and passengers but also between IW Council, contractors and SV.
2. Location of bus stops in relation to where buses actually stop and implications for queuing.
3. Lack of coordination between FastCat and train times on both sides of the Solent and problems caused by ongoing works at Portsmouth, that delay loading and unloading of the Fastcat and limit use by disabled passengers.

Next Meeting: The next members' meeting will be at 11.15 am on Saturday 22 November. There will be a public meeting in January.

Diana Conyers
26 October 2025