

**REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PLANNING,
LICENSING, PUBLIC REALM AND LOCAL ENGAGEMENT
TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL
ON WEDNESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2015**

Planning

- **Area action plans**

Consultation is underway until 21 December on the area action plans for the Island's key regeneration areas of the Medina Valley, Ryde and the Bay Area.

This consultation is important for communities and local businesses, as this will when adopted offer certainty on how best we can grow our economy while safeguarding our environment for future generations.

Prior to this consultation commencing a briefing was held with local members and town/ parish councils affected.

- **Planning appeals**

Following concerns raised earlier this year I can report that between 1 April and 31 October, 16 out of the 20 planning appeals have been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate.

This demonstrates that the council's success defending planning appeals stands at 80 per cent, and has returned to exceeding the national average of 65 per cent to 66 per cent and benchmark of 70 per cent.

A full report is being prepared for January's Planning Committee.

- **Members' training**

Planning Committee chairman, Councillor Julia Baker-Smith recently attended a Local Government Association planning training event. This event provided an insight into how the emerging Planning and Housing Bill could impact upon local authorities and provided an opportunity to feedback questions and concerns to the Department for Communities and Local Government as to how this legislation may change local planning and impact upon localism. This event also offered an opportunity to look at best practice across local planning authorities.

On my behalf, Councillor Baker-Smith visited Wolverhampton City Council to look at how their restructure using the Vanguard Model has led to increased satisfaction of residents and developers and how lessons learnt can be used on the Island to shape the future of planning.

Licensing

- **Bestival debrief**

On the whole, all agencies seem happy with the way the event went this year. There were very few issues regarding traffic. However, at Fishbourne Lane late afternoon/early evening on Monday there are some ongoing actions which will require addressing before next year's event.

- **Highways permission**

The Licensing Department has started the process of ensuring that all tables and chairs and other items placed on the highway have the correct permissions to do so. Although there are some teething problems, I am supporting officers to ensure these issues can be overcome in a positive way.

- **Taxi fare review**

Officers have undertaken a review of the taxi fares. It has been agreed in both consultation with the chairman of the Licensing Committee and taxi operators that there will be no increase in fares for this year.

Public realm

- **Beach cleaning contract**

Officers are preparing details for the new beach cleaning contract. Invitations for tenders will go out by the end of November 2015, with the award for the new contract being in February. There will then be a period of mobilisation with the new contract beginning on 1 May 2016.

- **Beach huts**

I've arranged meetings to move forward a formal consultation on potentially changing beach hut colours at Appley. I am hopeful, with support of councillors Whittle, Whitby-Smith, Ryde Town Council and officers that a meaningful consultation can take place in the coming months.

It remains my intention to feed this back at a future date to those engaged with this consultation.

- **Public toilets**

At Executive members resolved the following:

- That the invitation of expressions of interest from parish and town councils to contribute to or take on the ownership of the management of the facilities be agreed.

- That the consideration a community asset transfer (CAT) of the facilities be agreed.
- That the investigation of the opportunity for a council owned company to manage the facilities which could include interested parish and town councils within the company, be agreed.

Local engagement

- **Planning enforcement**

Discussions are underway between planning officers and the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils to explore the potential of a partnership arrangement to support the 'discretionary' planning enforcement service across the Island.

- **Play area partnerships**

The council has established a partnership with Ryde Town Council to help maintain, refurbish, and replace play equipment across the Ryde area. Ryde Town Council has agreed to release £13,000 to the local authority help improve local play spaces within its local communities

Also since last Full Council...

- I attended a recent meeting of the Isle of Wight Cycle Forum, and am working with both the forum and officers on the 'Stay Wider of the Rider' campaign.
- I attended the Chamber Of Commerce Developers' Forum. Under the spotlight at this meeting was low cost affordable housing. In discussions during and after the meeting developers seemed supportive of the new pre-application service in place and outcomes.
- I attended a meeting of the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils. Issues raised are due to be discussed with officers next week.
- A meeting was arranged with Councillor Lumley to resolve ongoing issues at Pan Meadows. Timescales are due to be circulated by officers, to ensure that residents are appraised of deadlines and action points required.
- I provided a summarised report as to how the Isle of Wight Council is engaging with town and parish councils, following earlier recommendations made. A more in depth and fuller report has now been circulated.
- I met with representatives from the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England. A number of questions were raised prior to this meeting, which were responded to.
- Planning Committee approved applications at Windsor Drive, Shanklin, Oakfield Primary School and to redevelop the Costume Workshop site in Sandown. Following feedback from local members, committee supported this proposal against officer's recommendation.
- Planning training took place for all members of the Isle of Wight Council and representatives of town and parish councils. The focus of this event was to provide planning refresher training, training on Section 106 agreements and

planning enforcement. For this event which I chaired, 33 attendees took part. Overheads have been circulated to all members and clerks.

- I attended the Environment and Transport Select Committee meeting.
- Meetings have taken place between myself and select committee chairmen. Issues discussed have included improving liaison between the Isle of Wight Council and town and parish councils, beach huts and public toilets. My continued thanks to councillors Gilbey and Whittle for their ongoing assistance!
- In addition I have held a briefing with Councillor Jones-Evans as Licensing Committee chair.
- On Councillor Smart's behalf, I attended a meeting of Solent Transport held in Winchester, and have provided what I hope was pro-active support for the Sub Regional Transport Model Upgrade, (which is a tool that will undoubtedly support economic growth to the region) and regional bids for low emission buses.

Councillor Paul Fuller

Executive Member for Planning, Licensing, Public Realm and Local Engagement