

**REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT
(SUSTAINABILITY) AND LOCAL ENGAGEMENT
TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL
ON WEDNESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2016**

Countryside access

- Management of the Isle of Wight Council's Countryside Estate has been transferred to a partnership agreement between Island 2000 and the Gift to Nature project. Of importance is the assurance that the estate will be safeguarded for public use. The opportunities within the new arrangement will significantly improve the ability to take advantage of funding to enhance access to the countryside.
- The AONB Partnership is due to re-appoint a lead officer. At the partnership's meeting it was agreed by members (in light of reduced funding by the council) to finance this on a part-time basis.

Waste

- Next month, Amey is due to deliver booklets to households outlining changes to refuse and recycling collections. This will be followed-up by the delivery of new bins for household refuse and gull proof bags. Because of perceived enquiries on this, I have requested that e-booklets are distributed to Isle of Wight town/parish councillors and clerks in advance. In the meantime there will be briefing for Isle of Wight councillors on 2 March and town/parish councillors and clerks on 3 March.
- More than 1,530 trees were collected by Amey during this year's Christmas tree kerbside collection. Trees will be composted and will assist both the council and Amey in increasing recycling rates. This proved popular in Cowes where 232 trees were collected, while in Ryde 221 trees were collected and in Newport 199 trees were collected.

Flooding

- Natural Enterprise is working with Newport Parish Council to train and equip voluntary emergency wardens. Thirty-six wardens will cover six areas across the parish which are most vulnerable to flooding. These wardens will act as local contacts to give guidance and assistance to neighbours. There are two further rounds of grant funding available, should other parish/town councils wish to get involved contact: carol.flux@naturalenterprise.co.uk. For further information visit the Island Rivers Website at: <http://www.islandrivers.org.uk/love-your-river/issues/flooding/>

Public realm/town and parish council liaison

- New arrangements have been sought to manage public conveniences from 1 April. Discussions between officers, town and parish councils and other organisations have been positive.
- I continue to work closely with Freshwater Parish Council on transferring services from the Isle of Wight Council to the local community. I am positive that following discussions which have taken place that the transition will become less tenuous.

Since Full Council

- I attended the meeting of IWALC, which took place on 21 January. One of the key issues raised during the meeting, was how liaison would continue between the association and the Isle of Wight Council. From my perspective I will continue to work with officers and members to ensure that this linkage can be strengthened.
- With other Executive members I attended a meeting with the Homes and Communities Agency concerning the Solent Gateways project, East Cowes.
- Within my former planning portfolio, I attended a meeting between a local councillor and developer to resolve longstanding environmental, public realm and planning issues. This meeting has subsequently had a positive outcome.
- Also within planning, a meeting took place between myself, Councillor Baker-Smith and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England.
- Within my former Executive role I attended a meeting between officers and a local member over a Lawful Development Certificate.
- I attended the annual general meeting of the AONB Partnership.
- Councillor Stubbings and I met with representatives of Isle Access.
- I have discussed a potential upgrading public rights of way matter with residents, parish councillors and officers.
- Investigations and an initial meeting has been arranged to utilise public space with residents and the local member.
- An initial discussion has taken place to forward dark skies status for the Isle of Wight. Further discussions will take place with colleagues to move forward on this matter.

Councillor Paul Fuller

Executive Member for Environment (Sustainability) and Local Engagement