

**REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT
(SUSTAINABILITY) AND LOCAL ENGAGEMENT
TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL
ON WEDNESDAY, 15 JUNE 2016**

Waste issues

Since the roll-out of the new waste and recycling contract, a very large proportion of my time, officer time and call centre time has been spent responding to members' and residents' enquiries concerning non delivery of receptacles, reassessments and most recently perishable green waste sacks. Although issues are being resolved there still remains outstanding issues, where bins and sacks have been missed.

On this matter, on the receipt of dozens of calls, I very much share members' frustration and will be pushing for the council to press for the highest penalties when obligations within the contract are not met.

A briefing has been held for Isle of Wight councillors. In the meantime, I am also holding surgeries in Newport, Ryde, Cowes, Sandown, Ventnor, Freshwater and East Cowes to listen to, and take up issues on residents' behalf.

In the meantime, can I request members contact the Waste Team direct with enquiries at waste.contract@iow.gov.uk to reduce the level of enquiries to the council's call centre. If the enquiry is resident specific can members provide a name, address and telephone number.

Town centre waste issues

I called a meeting with representatives from Island Roads, housing and our environment officer team to resolve fly tipping and the collection of waste within town centres. This is something that is long-standing, which I am anxious to make headway on, in partnership with local members, town/ parish councils and landlords, once roll-out issues with Amey are resolved.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Public consultation on the review of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan will be starting later this month. The current plan is ten years old and is due for renewal in accordance with the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

It will be the opportunity for the public and key user groups to give their view as to the extent to which the rights of way network meets the needs of the public and what improvements are desired to provide a better experience.

The results of the consultation will confirm whether the current plan requires revision.

Beach access

Rights of Way have reinstated beach access at Compton car park and Shepherds Chine. Work will soon start on reinstatement works at Horestone Point, Bembridge Hard and Linstone Chine.

Coastal access update

At the Local Access Forum held on Thursday, 2 June, a representative from Natural England attended and confirmed that development of the England Coast Path (Coastal Access) pursuant to Part 9 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 is due to start on the Isle of Wight in the spring/summer of 2017 and that initial discussions within Natural England regarding the scheme on the Island have commenced.

British Horse Society award

The council's Rights of Way Team has been nominated by the Isle of Wight Bridleway Group to receive a British Horse Society Access Achievement Award.

The award recognises their ongoing work to equestrian rights of way and how the team has taken a resourceful and cutting edge approach to carrying out statutory duties.

West Wight Coastal and Flood Defence Strategy

Last month, I accompanied officers from both the council and the Environment Agency at public engagement events that took place in both Cowes and Yarmouth. Consultation on the strategy continues until 30 June.

Countryside

Gift to Nature has now taken over the day to day management of much of the council's owned countryside estate.

In recent months, in partnership with Newport Parish Council, Gift to Nature has successfully bid for grant funding for Pan Mill Meadows (£46,000), while in partnership with Ryde Town Council, Gift to Nature received a grant for Swanmore Meadows (£25,000).

Appley and Puckpool beach huts

A further beach hut consultation took place in March. Of the 144 owners contacted, 68 responded, with 41 owners in full support of allowing a greater choice of colour and shades.

From 1 June owners now have the option to vary colours. On this matter, I wish to record my grateful thanks to the efforts, perseverance and support by Councillors Whittle and Whitby-Smith.

Transferral of public toilets

Freehold transfer documents are scheduled to be circulated to town and parish councils during late June/early July. I've asked for this to allow for town and parish councils to consider these before the summer break.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) Award

The recent IW Council's bid LSTF 3 funding was successful, and will provide £450,000 in revenue funding for better access to education, work and visitor attractions across the Island.

Of note within my portfolio is the smart cycling corridor between Newport and Cowes, cycling hubs and continued investment in Sustran training in partnership with schools.

Warm-Up Wight

Warm Up Wight is an Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funded scheme which offers free insulation (and potentially heating) improvements to qualifying households.

Warm Up Wight is being delivered by J & J Crump & Son in partnership with The Warmfront Team. The scheme has met the requirements of the council's code of conduct and is therefore promoted by the council.

The aim of the scheme will be to offer customers 100 per cent free products. However, if a property is oversized then a small contribution may be required.

Before any works are specified, an energy survey will be required for the property to determine what improvements will be effective in reducing energy consumption or making homes warmer to live in. For further information, please contact info@warmfrontteam.co.uk or telephone on 0800 032 8322.

Also since my last report:

- attended a police rural policing meeting;
- Attended an IWALC conference, which addressed the evolving role of town/parish councils;
- accompanied Amey and council officers on IW Radio's Friday Report twice;
- accompanied Amey and council officers on Vectis Radio;
- attended a waste briefing with Shanklin Town Council and residents;
- attended a meeting between IWALC and the chief executive;
- attended the Regional Flood Defence Committee with officers and members from the south east region;
- attended three Community Waste Forum meetings;
- attended a Rural Fund Projects meeting - this meeting is called to distribute LEP funding to rural businesses;
- with the council leader and Rural Fund members attended a site visit to the Living Larder initiative in Apse Heath;
- attended three waste briefings called to update local and Isle of Wight councillors and the media;

- attended a meeting of the Local Access Forum;
- attended four sessions on the waste trailer which visited St Thomas' Square and River Fest, Newport and Market Square, Ryde;
- made early contact with town and parish councils in preparation of partnership working regarding principle parks;
- attended and initiated waste drop-in surgeries for Cowes, Newport, Ryde, Freshwater, Sandown, Ventnor and East Cowes - during these sessions, I have met, listened to and engaged with in excess of 200 residents; these will continue until issues are resolved;
- hosted a meeting of the Sustainability Forum.

Councillor Paul Fuller

Executive Member for Environment (Sustainability) and Local Engagement