

**REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT
(SUSTAINABILITY) AND LOCAL ENGAGEMENT
TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL
ON WEDNESDAY, 20 JULY 2016**

Waste contract surgeries

I met with 120 residents at surgeries across the Island. Issues raised to me included:

- Delays and update requests in dispatch of wheelie bins, inserts and gull sacks (85 requests).
- Reassessment requests/updates (20 requests).
- Complaints regarding the strength of garden waste sacks (11 requests).
- Flat assessments (nine requests).
- Specific insert/food caddy only requests (eight requests).
- Complaint regarding call centre delays (eight requests).
- Removal of 'rejected' black bins (eight requests).
- Missed collections (six requests).
- General enquiries about recycling (five requests).
- General health and safety concerns/updates (three requests).
- General complaints regarding accessing website/logging in etc (two requests).
- Queries on whether recyclables are actually being separated (two requests).
- Can bin men close lids after bins are emptied (two requests)?
- Obtainability of waste sacks, black bins being too small, early collections, gull sacks being too large (one enquiry each).

Attendee numbers at the surgeries were as follows:

- Ryde 63
- Newport 23
- Cowes 16
- Sandown 11
- Freshwater 3
- East Cowes 2
- Ventnor 2

It remains my intention to contact all residents who attended surgeries, to ensure issues have been positively resolved.

I have organised a surgery to take place from **9.30am to 11am, Monday 18 July** at **Ryde Library** and will be accompanied by Amey and council representatives to resolve any outstanding Ryde issues which require a resolution. In the meantime, there will be a greater focus in coming weeks to resolving ongoing (and some historical) issues, where there are high concentrations of dwellings.

Lynnbottom Civic Amenity Site closure 1 to 14 August

The Island's principal household waste recycling centre will close temporarily for two weeks on 1 August. This is to allow for improvements to the traffic flow on site, an

increase of recycling bays and the introduction of a new commercial waste recycling centre that will allow business to dispose of their waste on a pay as you throw basis.

During the temporary closure at Lynnbottom, the Afton Marsh Household Recycling Centre will remain open from 7am to 8pm, seven days a week to allow for the disposal of household recycling and waste and bulky items.

Residents may also take a limited number of recyclables and garden waste to a temporary recycling centre that will be provided by Amey at Smallbrook Stadium in Ryde. The Smallbrook Stadium temporary facility will be open every day from 1 to 14 August 2016 from 8am to 4pm and will accept limited number of recyclables and garden waste.

It should be noted that there will be no disposal facility for household asbestos and plasterboard for this two week period.

Prior to the Lynnbottom Closure, I have requested for steps to be taken to further reduce congestion in Briddleford Road. Options are being considered by Amey, but in the meantime I ask that wherever possible busy periods (between 11am to 2pm) are avoided.

Recycling progress

On a positive note, recycling rates for the first two months (April/May) of this contract year (April 2016 to March 2017) have shown significant improvement. Amey's target for this contract year is 52.7 per cent and the first two months have achieved a year to date total of 59.27 per cent recycling and composting for all municipal waste.

There has also been a significant increase in the diversion from landfill rate which now stand at year to date 59.29 percent; this is noticeably connected to a 15 per cent decrease in non-recyclable waste across the Island.

Rights Of Way updates

- **The Rights Of Way Improvement Plan** is being consulted upon, and continues until *16 September*. For further information please visit: www.iwight.com/Residents/Environment-Planning-and-Waste/Rights-of-Way/Public-Rights-of-Way/Rights-of-Way-Improvement-Plan-2016-Consultation
- **Coastal access.** The first meeting between the council and Natural England takes place on 1 September and will be resource focused.
- Rights of Way has provided support to Niton and Whitwell Parish Council which obtained grant funding (Tesco bag grant) to improve a section of **Ashknowle Lane** (NT18) linking Niton and Whitwell for year-round use.
- The **Rights of Way autumn cutting programme** is due to start on 1 August (after end of bird nesting season). This year, the rate of growth has been unprecedented due to very wet and mild weather. Patience will be required as the team work around the Island.

West Wight Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy Consultation Feedback

With officers from both the Isle of Wight Council and the Environment Agency, I attended two drop-in events, publicising the strategy held in Cowes and Yarmouth. In excess of 100 residents attended both events.

In respect of the consultation, the council received 83 responses to the three month public consultation, which closed on 30 June. These comprised 68 questionnaires submitted online and at the roadshows, plus 15 written comments. Responses are being analysed and with the results being published in full as part of the final strategy in Autumn 2016. The following answers to the two key questions provide a summary of the results which were received:

'Are you in support of the Strategy being taken forward to guide coastal flood and erosion risk management over on the Isle of Wight for the next 100 years?'

64 per cent said 'Yes', 28 per cent said 'No', and nine per cent said 'Don't know'

'Do you support the proposed strategic options to manage coastal flood and erosion risk in the areas that are relevant to you?'

Zone 1 (Needles Headland): 71 per cent Yes, seven per cent No, and 21 per cent Don't know/not applicable.

Zone 2 (Totland and Colwell Bays): 65 per cent Yes, 23 per cent No, and 13 per cent Don't know/not applicable.

Zone 3 (Yarmouth and the Western Yar): 83 per cent Yes, 11 per cent No, and six per cent Don't know/not applicable.

Zone 4 (Newtown Coast): 60 per cent Yes, 12 per cent No, and 28 per cent Don't know/not applicable.

Zone 5 (Gurnard and Cowes Headland): 56 per cent Yes, 22 per cent No, and 22 per cent Don't know/not applicable.

Zone 6 (Cowes, East Cowes and the Medina): 75 per cent Yes, four per cent No, and 21 per cent Don't know/not applicable.

Transferral of public conveniences

The process of transferring the freehold of public conveniences has commenced. The government's Valuation Office, has reassessed business rate liabilities. This may have a financial impact on both the Isle of Wight Council and at the current time a small number of town and parish councils. On this decision, I will work with officers to ensure that any such rate liability has been correctly applied by the Valuation Office.

Sustainability Forum

The forum met last month. I have requested that this organisation is given more focus on priority areas and have requested that members take a lead on initiatives. Current priorities for members include healthy homes (including fuel poverty), biosphere, sustainable transport and community energy.

Also, since last Full Council

- I've hosted six waste surgeries.
- I attended a Community Waste Forum.
- I attended the meeting of the Economy and Transport Select Committee.
- I attended a meeting of the AONB Partnership.
- I attended a meeting with Newport Parish Council regarding waste contract roll-out issues.
- I attended a meeting of Lake Parish Council regarding potential transferral of principal parks.
- I arranged and attended a meeting with Cowes town councillors to discuss options regarding sea front railings.
- In partnership with the Isle of Wight Cycle Forum and Southern Vectis the 'Go Wider of the Rider' to promote safe cycling has been rolled out.

Councillor Paul Fuller

Executive Member for Environment (Sustainability) and Local Engagement