

**REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT
(SUSTAINABILITY) AND LOCAL ENGAGEMENT
TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL
ON WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2016**

Waste

The Waste Contract Management Team has continued to monitor the contract and work closely with Amey to improve service delivery to our residents.

There are early signs of an improvement in the Island's recycling and composting rate this year, with an accompanying reduction in the amount of non-recyclable waste being collected which has to be sent to landfill. We are very grateful to residents for their positive embracement of the new collection regime despite the difficulties that occurred with the roll out of new containers.

Lynnbottom re-opened on schedule, with the major ground work completed. In the meantime there are some minor works such as new signage and the installation of the new commercial 'pay as you throw' area that we hope to be open to businesses shortly.

In the coming weeks there will also be a new permit scheme to enable residents whose business vehicles are their main transport to use the household recycling area for their household waste. This will only be required for commercial type vehicles and full details circulated in advance of introduction.

Public convenience transfers

Amended transfer wording has been agreed and a new side letter has been prepared to accompany the transfers. Town and parish councils are in the process of being notified to advise them of changes following feedback. Most freehold transfers will be circulated in the coming days, however, the leasehold transfers require further work before being circulated in October.

During the summer the council has received feedback from most town and parish councils, and we continue to work to resolve a variety of issues. These issues range from splitting out utility consumption with concessions to dealing with the decision of the Valuation Office to apply business rates at certain facilities as reported in July.

In the meantime both myself and council officers are grateful and wish to thank local members and town and parish councils for their ongoing support in safeguarding public convenience provision and working in partnership to ensure this can and will work.

Rights Of way

- Consultation on the Rights Of Way Improvement Plan has been ongoing throughout the summer, and concluded on 16 September.
- The Ladies Walk section of the coastal path, is now under Isle of Wight Council ownership and is now accessible for cyclists.
- Surface improvements have taken place at Whitecliff Bay, Bembridge.

- Financial contributions from the commercial sector have been provided to widen the footpath to the rear of the former Worsley Inn, Wroxall.
- Public access has been reinstated at Orchard Bay, Ventnor.
- The autumn vegetation cutting programme has commenced.
- The annual Isle of Wight Autumn Walking Weekend takes place from 23 to 26 October. The full programme of events can be downloaded at: www.isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk/

Parks

Ventnor Park has been successful winning the Park of the Year Award at the South and South East England in Bloom Awards. My grateful thanks to Ventnor Town Council, contractor John O'Connor and council officers in their efforts in making this Victorian park a very special place for many.

Also since last Full Council

- I have co-ordinated two further waste surgeries which have taken place in Ryde and Cowes. Further to my last report, enquiries and requests for support have significantly fallen. That said, I am still anxious to get see communal waste issues resolved and issues associated with residents requiring extra support - which continues to be for me, a priority.
- I have attended both a Lake parish meeting and a meeting of Newport Parish Council, and (hopefully) offered support to parish councillors regarding outstanding waste issues.
- I have attended two Waste Forum meetings.
- I've attended a Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee meeting and site visit in Southampton.
- I attended the recent Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils' meeting, and follow up with the chief executive.
- I arranged a meeting between Sandown Town Council, Councillor Blezzard and officers to discuss public convenience transferral issues. Subsequently, I've also supported representations on behalf of Bembridge, Newport, Shanklin, Cowes, Lake and Gurnard local councils.
- I have been asked to intervene on discussions taking place to replace railings on Cowes seafront and bollards in the town.
- I attended, and supported the award of seven grants for small rural businesses through the Local Access Fund. For further details, please visit: <http://www.naturalenterprise.co.uk/pages/economic/110-the-isle-of-wight-sme-fund>.
- I attended Cyclewight's cycling breakfast on 14 September.
- Alongside officers I attended a meeting between Rights Of Way and Natural England, in preparation for work on the English Coastal Path. Stage 1 will commence from April 2017, and this will be followed up by further meetings with stakeholders to agree routing, which I am personally hoping will include the Medina Estuary and improving off road access to the coast.

Councillor Paul Fuller

Executive Member for Environment (Sustainability) and Local Engagement