



Minutes

Name of meeting	CABINET
Date and Time	THURSDAY 10 MARCH 2022 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs L Peacey-Wilcox (Chairman), J Bacon, P Fuller, C Jarman, J Jones-Evans, P Jordan, K Love and I Stephens
Also Present (Non voting)	Members also present(non-voting) Cllrs D Andre, M Beston, G Brodie, S Ellis, S Hastings and P Spink
Officers Present	John Metcalfe, Christopher Ashman, Simon Bryant, Steve Crocker, Laura Gaudion, Wendy Perera, Christopher Potter, Claire Shand, Roger Brown and Jayne Tyler

102. Minutes

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2022 be approved.

103. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jones-Evans declared an interest in item 5 (a) relating to the Armed Forces Covenant as both her parents were military veterans.

Cllr Jarman declared an interest in Item 5 (a) relating to the Armed Forces Covenant, as his father was a military veteran, and also in Item 7 (b) relating to the Dementia Strategy as his father was under the care of the local authority and Wightcare.

The Leader declared an interest in item 5 (a) relating to the Armed Forces Covenant as her husband was an ex veteran along with other family members.

104. Public Question Time - Maximum 15 Minutes for Written Questions and 15 Minutes for Oral Questions

A written question to the Leader had been submitted by Charlie Sherwood (PQ 04-22). A written reply would be sent.

A written question was submitted by Mathew Ambrosini (PQ 05-22). The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business Development and Tourism gave a verbal response.

105. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced that as part of National Women's Day the suffragette flag had been raised at County Hall. The Chairman had attended a meeting of the unions earlier in the week

The Alliance group had donated money to the Ukraine appeal and had been helping to collate items to be sent to those affected. The group would continue to work with senior management to make preparations in the event that refugees were to be sent to the island. The IW College students had been loading up trucks to go to the Ukraine with items donated. The Alliance group would continue to wear flags of support.

The Chairman had attended a meeting with a government minister regarding an upcoming announcement in relation to the marine industry. A press release would be issued shortly.

The Chairman had been invited to speak to a group of mainly teaching staff regarding women in leadership roles. Thanks had been expressed to them for keeping children educated through the pandemic.

The Chairman had attended a Safer Streets Meeting and was delighted that £450k for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight had been won for a Violence Against Women campaign. Better CCTV coming to the island to make people feel safe.

The Chairman was expecting a new granddaughter and may soon be taking a short time out to spend time with her family.

106. Report of the Leader of the Council

106a Armed Forces Covenant

The Leader stressed how important it was to support the Armed Forces, and she was pleased that the island now had a veterans' hub in Ryde. It would soon be the 40th anniversary of the Falklands war and the Leader would be keen to mark the event in some way.

107. Report of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills

107a Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Grant Recommendations Easter 2022

Ten providers had come forward from community and voluntary groups to provide a variety of holiday activities for children across the whole of the island. Although it was primarily aimed at children in receipt of free school meals, any spare places

could be offered to children in the wider community. Clarification was given that, although the provision in rural areas depended on providers coming forward, groups across the whole island had been approached.

108. Report of the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

108a Director of Public Health Annual Report

The effect of COVID19 on mental health and wellbeing was the focus of this year's annual report, which contained a number of recommendations that had been drawn up in consultation with partners.

108b Isle of Wight Dementia Strategy

The strategy was the result of ongoing consultation over many months with colleagues and partners from the health and independent sectors. If approved, it would be underpinned with an action plan to ensure the strategy was workable for the future.

It was noted that the strategy focused on family and unpaid carers and the lack of adequate respite care. Clarification was given that steps were being taken to recruit and train professionals to specialise in dementia. It was recognised that nationally there was a challenge to recruit and retain staff in this area, and it was hoped to commission expert training in dementia care.

More emphasis was to be put into prevention to enable more people to live happy, healthy lives.

It was agreed that this was needed now for the island's ageing population and it was good to see that more respite care was planned. Thanks was expressed for the work in preparing the strategy.

109. Report of the Cabinet Member for Community Protection, Digital Transformation, Housing Provision and Housing Needs

109a Isle of Wight Council Digital Strategy 2021-2026

The council's current strategy was coming to a natural end. The new strategy was the result of wide ranging internal and external consultation, and a framework had been established with a working group proposed to be set up to co-ordinate the programmes and plans within it. There were four key themes of Digital Island, Digital Council, Digital Citizens and Digital Intelligence.

ICT was ever changing therefore nothing was set in stone but would evolve with new legislation and new ways of working.

The work done to prepare for agile working had been heralded a success as the island had not felt the challenges of other local authorities who had not been so well prepared for the lockdown and remote working.

It was suggested that the heading at the top of pages 302 to 313 of the strategy 'Digital Island Potential Activities' be deleted so as to indicate that they were substantive, rather than potential items. This was accepted.

110. Cabinet Member Announcements

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Community Engagement reported that, following a motion agreed previously at Full Council a letter had been sent and a response received from the Rt Hon Stuart Andrew, which had been circulated to Cabinet members this afternoon. The next day the first briefing relating to the Island Plan would be delivered to all members of the council with a further briefing on 25 March which would include representatives from IWALC. Following this, a report would be prepared and the plan shared with the Corporate Scrutiny Committee before Cabinet would make recommendations to Full Council. Following this, there would be further consultation by the Planning Inspectorate. The council would ensure that residents were made aware of the further consultation.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills reported that there had been an excellent response to the consultation on term times for the year 2023/24, which was due to end on 18 March. A report would be prepared for Cabinet on 12 May 2022.

The Cabinet Member for Highways PFI, Transport and Infrastructure reported that despite what had been written in the press and on social media, the council had not walked away from mediation in relation to the floating bridge, it was continuing via the mediator.

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Corporate Resources and Transformational Change reported that a letter had been received from Secretary of State Gove regarding the situation in Ukraine. It was confirmed that the council was ahead of the game and reassurance was given that none of the council's pension investments were with Russia.

A streaming service had been established at the crematorium, which tied in with the Commercial Strategy. When the strategy was considered by Cabinet within the next few months this would be examined more fully. Public praise had been received for the direct cremation service at £450, which it was believed would help many people with the current financial challenges.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health reported that it was World Social Workers' Day on 15 March and on 17th a day of remembrance was to be held to remember the social care workers who died during the pandemic.

All care homes run by the local authority had received a CQC rating of 'good'. A meeting had been held with Integrated Care Systems (ICS) which was progressing well, with a strategy being developed and moving forward. Thanks were expressed to the council's Scrutiny Officer for his work at a national level with scrutiny and how it would work within the new ICS.

The Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Digital Transformation, Housing Provision and Housing Needs reported that the council's Beta website was up and running in some areas. There would be a 'soft' launch for councillors in the near future. The installation of new Teams software and equipment was being rolled out across County Hall meeting rooms. The council's current telephony contract was coming to an end and replacement systems were currently being looked into. In other areas, praise was given to Regulatory Services staff for the way they had adapted to various other roles during the pandemic. The Coroner's Service and staff based at Jubilee Stores would shortly be moving to different premises. The Safer Streets funding would bring enhanced CCTV to Ryde. There had been a case of avian flu on the island, which was being investigated. Bird owners were asked to be cautious and follow the council's website for updates and information.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Heritage and Waste reported that there had been a serious fly tipping incident in Porchfield. The culprit had been found and issued with a fixed penalty notice. Details of how to report fly tipping would be going out to the public via the press. The fly tipping Task and Finish group was still in hand but had been slower than hoped due to all the other work going on. It was hoped that within the next month or so batteries would be able to be collected on waste day to avoid having to take them to supermarkets for recycling, and following on from that, it was hoped that small electrical appliances would also be collected.

A Tree Strategy was to come forward in early summer, in line with the climate strategy. For every tree lost, two would be planted. A Climate and Environment Board was soon to be set up.

Compton Bay had been voted the second best location for stargazing in the UK. This fitted well with the dark skies policy.

Encouragement was given for completion of the Beaver consultation, which had been delivered to the public and which included consideration of flooding issues.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business Development and Tourism reported on a number of issues, which included a meeting with the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership, exploring the value of culture and creativity. 36 practitioners had signed up to the Island Creative Network. It was suggested that on the island 30 per cent of the workforce was in the creative industry.

Other items of note included trying to bring back a Post Office to Newport and the re-launch of the Green Impact Programme to improve environmental sustainability for businesses.

The consultation on proposals for the future use of Newport guildhall would finish at the end of the week, and the Newport Harbour consultation was due to finish on 21 March.

Good progress was being made with the Branstone Farm development. Fifteen new homes were nearing completion and interest had been expressed in the industrial units.

Government SALIX funding would be use to mitigate the energy price rises faced in council buildings. Medina Leisure Centre was to utilise more solar power by May 2022.

Visit Isle of Wight had facilitated a recent visit by Ainsley Harriott and Grace Dent for a future TV programme around island food venues.

111. Consideration of the Forward Plan

The Forward Plan was noted and no amendments were made.

112. Members' Question Time

Four written questions had been received from Cllrs Hendry (MQ 06-22), Spink (MQ 09-22), Pitcher (MQ 10-22) and Brodie (MQ 07-22)

Cllrs Hendry and Spink were not present and their questions would receive a written response.

Cllr Pitcher was present and the Leader read out his question and the written response.

Cllr Brodie was not present and the Leader read out his question. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health gave a verbal response, a copy of which would be sent to Cllr Brodie following the meeting.

CHAIRMAN



Public Question time

To view any public questions that were put to this committee, they will be listed as an additional PDF document below the public question time section within the online minutes, an example is displayed below:

32. [Public Question Time](#) [PDF 87 KB](#)

Questions must be delivered in writing
later than 5pm on Friday, 15 January 20

Additional documents:

- [PQ 11-21](#)  [PDF 85 KB](#)
- [PQ 12-21](#)  [PDF 90 KB](#)

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Cabinet – 10 March 2022

Written question from Charlie Sherwood to the Leader

What steps will the Leader and Cabinet be taking to ensure that residents of the Isle of Wight and employees of the Council can have confidence in the Council's commitments to equality and diversity, particularly with respect to ethnic minorities?

The council's equality objectives action plan which forms part of its equality policy statement and guidance is due for review by the end of 2022. Working with officers I will bring forward the timing of this review and ensure that sure the next action plan secures the highest standards of fairness are applied in the council's dealings with individuals of all protected characteristics.

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Cabinet – 10 March 2022

Written question from Matthew Ambrosini to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business Development and Tourism

As a result of the Council Leader's decision to post a picture on Facebook in November showing her extensive collection of golly dolls - as she acknowledged in a statement referenced in written responses to questions raised at a recent Full Council meeting - the Island has received damaging national media coverage in the Daily Mirror, the Daily Express and the Sunday Telegraph; and on BBC News Online. These stories will have been seen by millions of readers and may signal to prospective holidaymakers that the Isle of Wight is indifferent to the offence caused by these outdated racial stereotypes.

Given the damaging nature of this media coverage, and the potential resulting adverse impact on visitor numbers to the Island, what steps will the Council be taking to pro-actively counter this ahead of the forthcoming tourism season?

Response

It is anticipated that the Staycation market for 2022 will continue with businesses already showing signs of filling up at key booking period and beyond. Research shows that 94% of the visitor economy on the Island is UK domestic. Short haul / near Europe visitors will begin to come back during 2022 also, however the longer haul inbound market is still quite unpredictable with a resumption in 2023 a more realistic return date. The current crisis in Europe will have an impact on short haul visitors.

Visit Britain / Visit England research on consumer sentiment (carried out in late February) shows That 59% of respondents have said they will be taking a UK overnight trips in the next 12 months as opposed to 43% going overseas, a positive trend. However, there will potentially be a "later booking" lead-time for about 21% of respondents.

The messaging that the Isle of Wight will communicate Pre-Easter will revolve around the key messages of "Explore, Discover, Unwind, Adventure, Escape, and Roam" and will be supplemented by a Call to Action "**Come play for the day or book now and stay**" which covers both the staying and day visitor markets.

During March, the messaging will feature in BBC Countryfile Walking Guide, Walk Magazine, Hampshire Life, targeted "Run of Network" digital advertising, Social media activities, primarily over Facebook and Instagram. Bus Shelter Advertising in and around Portsmouth and Southampton, Poster sites at SWR stations and various activities around the Spring Walking Festival including Competition prize of Return foot passenger tickets with Hovertravel, Red Funnel or Wightlink, Free bus travel with Southern Vectis, 2-night stay with One Holyrood, Evening main meal at The Castle Inn in Newport and a Lunch hamper from Bluebells at Briddlesford Farm, promoting that "car-free" approach to visiting the Island.

There will be a 3 week spot-advertising Radio campaign on Greatest Hits Radio, South Coast which will include a competition with presenter endorsements and stings. The competition will feature a break to the island for a family up to 5 (2 adults and up to 3 kids) They will stay for 3 night stay at one of Parkdean Resorts sites on the Island with return car ferry with Wightlink or Red Funnel, an Aqua park session at Tapnell Farm. Dinner at The Cow with a Family ticket to Monkey Haven.

The VIOU team have recently attended the Motorhome, Caravan and Camping Exhibition in Birmingham at the NEC which was exceptionally busy

Next week, the VIOU team are attending a Travel Media event in London where the team have 60 physical appointments with Travel media journalists and many more wishing to meet at the networking events being held.

The VIOU team are attending the Excursions Group Travel event at Twickenham Stadium on 19th March, this event is one of the key group travel events in the calendar organised and operated by Tourism South East

The VIOU team have a presence at the Virtual Explore GB event run by Visit Britain / Visit England over 3 days (22nd – 24th March) where they will engage virtually with tour operators from all over the world.

VIOU are working in partnership with the IWC team to deliver the Marketing & Communications including the on-island business and town / parish council engagement for the Tour of Britain event that will take place on 11th September 2022. This event is a potential “game-changer” for exposure of the Island to a key market of cycling, both the on-road and off-road markets.

The Spring Isle of Wight Walking Festival organised and operated by VIOU working closely with volunteer leaders the IW Ramblers and the National Trust will take place 7th – 15th May and currently has 60 walks to choose from and sign up to so far across the island, still waiting on a few more to be finalised and should end up with maximum 70 walks. This also encompasses the famous “Walk the Wight” event in aid of Mountbatten, very much part of the festival but focused on raising funds for Mountbatten.

In the process of finalising a training programme for front-line tourism and non-tourism workers, such as taxi drivers / bus drivers, Front of House teams and a whole lot more to become Island Tourism Ambassadors, this activity has been supported by IWC and aims to have that amazing Island Friendly welcome that we all know is there for visitors to the Island. More information to come out on this very soon.

Everything that is being communicated very much has Inclusivity, sustainability and accessibility at its heart whilst encouraging visitors to enjoy everything that the Island has to offer as being one of only 7 UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in the UK, with over 50% of the island designated as AONB.

Discover Paradise on your doorstep and for Islanders “Love where you live”

Member Question time of the Leader

To view any Member questions that were put to the Leader, they will be listed as an additional PDF document below the Member question time of the Leader section within the online minutes, an example is displayed below:

29. Member Question Time of the Leader

- [View the background to item 29.](#)

A question must be submitted in writing
on 17 November 2020.

Additional documents:

- [MQ - 15/20](#)  PDF 96 KB

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Cabinet – Thursday 10 March 2022**Written question from Cllr Stephen Hendry to the Leader, Isle of Wight Council**

At the Decembers Cabinet meeting, the cabinet unanimously passed “The Isle of Wight Council (Various Streets, East Cowes) (Traffic Regulation) Order No 1 2021”. Three options were presented:

Option 1: To approve the restrictions that are subject to this report in relation to THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL (VARIOUS STREETS, EAST COWES) (TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER NO 1 2021 as proposed.

Option 2: To approve the proposed restrictions that are subject to this report in relation to THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL (VARIOUS STREETS, EAST COWES) (TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER NO 1 2021 with amendments – to abandon some of the restrictions, and to implement the rest of the restrictions as proposed.

Option 3: To not approve the proposed restrictions that are subject to this report in relation to THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL (VARIOUS STREETS, EAST COWES) (TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER NO 1 2021 and to abandon the proposal as a whole

Option 1 was selected, ignoring the views of East Cowes Town Council and the residents of East Cowes, with Island Roads Highways Safety Engineers deciding that the proposed measures were necessary, and the Cabinet accepting this view without challenge.

Would the Cabinet agree in the future to work more closely with Town/Parish Councils on future TRO changes, given that these local representatives are best placed to ensure that the views of their residents are heard, rather than just defaulting to what Island Roads wishes to put in place?

Response

Below is information which details the process the council undertook in relation to the recent Traffic Regulation Orders in District 1 of the Island (Cowes, Gurnard, East Cowes etc)

In January 2020, Island Roads as the Council’s Highways Service Provider started reviewing the Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) in District 1 as the first stage of wider Island wide District TRO Review.

This review focuses on improvement requests raised by local town and parish councils, residents, and businesses, as well as recommendations from Island Roads, for the period since the start of the PFI contract to Dec 2019. All of which had previously been assessed by the Island Road’s (IR) Road Safety Engineer and added to the Highways Safety and Improvement Register (HSIR) .

All proposals high scoring, those above 30, on the grounds of network integrity and safety, were designed for inclusion within the review. The detailed list of the proposals as well as assessment scores and information on the assessment methodology can be provided but will require time to collate.

All the proposals aim to ensure safety for all road users by increasing visibility at junctions and bends, by creating passing points at long stretches of the road, improving emergency access, preserving footways and grass verges. As well as a small number to resolve irregularities/anomalies with existing orders.

Although not a legal requirement, under normal circumstances, the council's Highways Contract Management Team (HCMT) alongside Island Roads, would conduct an Informal Consultation by holding an exhibition of the proposals in the Town Hall for the local council as well as Councillors to scrutinise. This process is accepted as best practice as adopted by other Local Authorities and takes place prior to any formal consultation.

Following this initial TRO process and the removal of Covid restrictions, we have now changed the way we consult informally as per the following:

- Improved the presentation of the proposals, they are all accompanied by a visual illustration of the proposed changes, showing the potential changes on street;
- Improved the model of consultation, we now offer a choice of an online presentation, a face-to-face presentation, and a written feedback as TC's support concerns.

This approach has already attracted a positive reaction when consulting on this basis with Local Councils and Councillors in District 3 and District 5 during Dec 2021 and Jan 2022.

The aspiration is to also improve the formal consultation as well, by developing an online consulting facility, with all proposals and visual illustration available on the Council's website.'

District 1 TROs

In the specific case of the District 1 proposals (e.g., Cowes and East Cowes), due to the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and related lockdowns, the consultation process was delayed.

As a mitigation, direct engagement was sought with the Town Council and Ward Cllr/s via emails, on site and online meetings, as soon as the social distancing restrictions allowed from August 2020 to January 2021.

The first draft of proposals was provided via email and an Informal Consultation was conducted via a Zoom meeting with East Cowes Full Town Council on 17 September 2020, again as per best practice as adopted by other Local Authorities under such circumstances. Island Roads and HCMT representatives explained each individual proposal by sharing the plans on screen and going through the rationales behind the proposals. All raised questions were answered.

From the online meeting it was identified that the proposal plans were not easy to understand, and we have worked with IR to amend/improve them subsequently. On 3 December 2020 improved plans were forwarded to the TC and Councillors.

The informal feedback received, mainly concerned the loss of parking spaces, and was reviewed by the IR and HCMT. The proposals were finalised taking it into account where possible consultation comments. Unfortunately, in some locations, safety and emergency access needed to take priority over preserving the on-street parking space.

Following the legal TRO making process and its requirement for a Formal Consultation, a public Notice, outlining the proposals and inviting public comments, was published in the Isle of Wight County Press on 14 May 2021. Notices and plans were also displayed on-street for a period of 35 days, two weeks longer than the legally required 21 days. The closing date for representations was 18 June 2021.

Subsequently all representations were reviewed and considered by the IR and HCMT, and a Cabinet report was prepared, recommending implementation on safety grounds and emergency access, and giving an option for voiding some of the proposals. Decision to implement all proposals on safety grounds and emergency access was reached by the Cabinet on 16 December 2022.

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Cabinet – 10 March 2022

Written question from Cllr Geoff Brodie to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

At paragraph 41 of the Dementia Strategy paper the following lofty statement is made, "*Our Alliance Administration celebrates equality and diversity in our communities.*"

Can the Cabinet member explain to me and other concerned Islanders how this 'celebration' fits with the unapologised posting by the Council's Leader on her social media last November of a racially offensive image? And his own refusal to even consider its offensiveness at Full Council recently?

Would the Cabinet member be as relaxed and unconcerned about social media postings by a leading public figure that were offensive to other people with different, protected characteristics?

Response

I understand better than most... As someone who falls within two of the nine protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010 I have and continue even today to suffer horrendous hatred and I have had to fight all my life to be free of the chains of discrimination. Some of those chains still remain. I and many other LGBT+ are still not living without an occasional glance over ones shoulder, to see if we are in fact safe. I have been terrorised and traumatised by hatred over the years and I put my head above the parapet, to support and represent the hidden, frightened and silenced voice of others. This has made me and my partner a target but we battle on in the face of it as there is no other way.

Some of our friends have committed suicide, some too frightened to tell families of their love and life. Those who passed away who I called friends, some died in agony because of discrimination of HIV in the 1990's and I still carry their secrets and pain. Today I still cannot bring myself to hold my partners hand in public for fear of hatred and violence. That's before I say anything about what it feels like to struggle and be treated as though I was worthless because of a life long struggle I have had with the written word. I truly know what bullying is, to be terrified and to consider suicide as a way out. I chose to be someone who would stand up, taking personal risks in doing so, laydown in the road to protest for equality, human rights and educate people about equality and diversity so we can all live a better happier life. And yes, my extended family is of mixed race.

You take the opportunity with in your question to challenge my commitment to equality and make no allowance to the fact, which you knew then and today, of my mother's passing and how I returned to the island early, leaving my family grieving when I should not have done so. I returned to undertake my commitment to represent the people of my ward in that full council meeting. I was emotional, as I am now and did not respond directly to the issues raised although it may seem so. I responded in my disappointment and grief, to the hostile situation, chaos and manipulation of politics for personal party political gain. Having made my comments, I then left to recover

myself. I resent bitterly this slur on my character today by someone I respect for being different in their political approach. What I conclude is that these questions are nothing more than attempt to hurt individuals, to create a narrative of racism which does not exist and damage the public confidence in people and our Island council.

I can also better understand when there are opportunities to celebrate equality and diversity on our island such as in the opportunities both my partner and I, our hidden communities, our council and many others have worked hard to create, supporting and encouraging Island people. I ensure, as does my ASC director, who will confirm that equality and diversity are celebrated and engaged in all things and that I champion and ask questions on these matters during our meetings.

My life experiences have taught me to try judge people on the facts of a matter and their actions, to resist jumping to simplistic conclusions. I am totally confident having known Cllr Peacey Wilcox for many years, she is honest in her determination to celebrate and support diversity, inclusivity and equality. Make no mistake, I would simply step away from this administration if I thought otherwise. Cllr Brodie has misplaced and burdened me with his anger while not offering any meaningful solutions for the positive engagement and better implementation of equality policy, diversity and and inclusive practices. What do you want to see changed to create a more positive inclusive future for island people?

None of us are perfect, we make mistakes, and it is what we learn, how we deal and respond from that which truly matters.

Anger will only create anger and that will resolve nothing and I will not be diverted away from this important Dementia Strategy which we bring forward today in an attempt to be more inclusive, transparent and creative.

Cabinet – 10 March 2022

Written question from Cllr Peter Spink to the Leader, Isle of Wight Council

I have read and attached a copy of the minutes of a meeting between Graham Bliss and Cycle-Wight which took place on 17 June 2021

re the proposed bridleway between Newport and Freshwater (the Greenway).

- 1. Does Cabinet, and in particular Cllr Fuller in his capacity as Chair of the Local Access Forum, and Cabinet Member for Planning and Community Engagement, agree that the following extracts taken from the minutes are of concern for the reasons stated in italics; and what is proposed to rectify these matters of concern?**

a). "In principal landowners will be compensated for land taken up by the track at a flat rate per acre, which would be the same for all on the route (that is there was no special negotiation)". *It would appear that planning application Lee Farm was the subject of special negotiation, namely the recommendation of planning officers that planning committee waives the right to require an element of affordable housing.*

Response

The local planning authority (LPA) cannot prevent applications being submitted and it is required to determine any valid planning application. In this case, the planning application for Lee Farm was valid and given the planning balance involved in the decision it was considered appropriate for the application to be considered by the Planning Committee. The issues relevant to the planning consideration of the application were set out in the officer's report and then the application and the officer's recommendation was duly considered by the Planning Committee. The Committee considered the issues and debated the application. It then voted to approve the planning application, subject to additional conditions.

b). "To bring about co-operation from landowners there have had to be trade-off agreements to extinguish some rights-of-way. Some of these are north-south footpaths exchanged for the east-west multi-use route. About 4700m of footpaths are likely to be removed". *There should have been/will be a full public consultation before rights of way, some of which are ancient rights, are made the subject of negotiation.*

Response

No public rights of way have yet been removed. Negotiations with landowners where public right of way diversions, extinguishments and creations may occur are yet to be concluded. Suffice to say that no changes would (or could) be made without full public consultation under the provisions of the Highways Act 1980. Further, the path changes discussed to date would improve connectivity with the existing rights of way network as well as providing a Greenway route.

- 2. Have land-owners been subjected to threats of compulsory purchase if they do not agree to allowing their land to be used for the Greenway?**

Response

Compulsory Purchase Orders should only be used as a last resort, and when the acquiring authority has demonstrated that they have taken reasonable steps to acquire the land. At this moment in time negotiations with landowners have been undertaken on an individual basis.

- 3. Based on the briefing Notes attached to an email of 23 June 2021 from Lucy McLaughlin it does not appear that any of the above matters were disclosed at the subsequent briefing of Councillors. Does Cabinet agree that this is a matter of concern and not in the interest of being open and transparent?**

It is considered that the Planning Committee had all the necessary planning information in front of it to make the planning decision that it did.

Cabinet – 10 March 2022

Written question from Cllr Daryll Pitcher to the Leader, Isle of Wight Council

1. What action are the Isle of Wight Council taking to mitigate the looming energy affordability crisis that could plunge the majority of the island population in to fuel poverty?

Energy affordability is an international issue linked to the availability of gas and oil in the main which is significantly impacted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the economic sanctions imposed on it.

Therefore, the council is limited in the direct action it can take to support its residents, much as it would like to and it must look to the national government to take the lead in response to the significant challenges the community will face.

In the short term we are doing all that we can to issue the government provided £150 energy grant to all households in council tax bands A to D as quickly as possible. Although this will be even quicker if we already have people's bank account details – so I would encourage anyone in need of this grant to get these details as soon as possible.

We are also waiting for the final information from government to confirm how we will allocate discretionary funding for energy grants to support vulnerable people and individuals on low incomes that do not pay council tax, or that pay council tax for properties in Bands E-H.

2. What steps are the Isle of Wight Council taking to support the Ukrainian people in their hour of need?

I and my Cabinet colleagues stand with the people of Ukraine and abhor the invasion by Russia that has denied the people of Ukraine their human right to a peaceful and dignified life.

The council is prepared to respond to whatever opportunities are developed by the government to support the people of the Ukraine.

Unfortunately there is only one scheme operational – the Ukrainian Family Scheme, for people with relatives in the UK. Another is still being designed - the Humanitarian Sponsorship Pathway, which will allow communities to bid to host Ukrainian refugees, the government has pledged to liaise with local authorities on the development of this scheme.

Officers are in constant contact with the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration so that we can be prepared for an ask that may be made of the council.

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