

## **Isle of Wight Councillor Report for September 2018 Parish Meeting**

### **Fire Service Consultation**

As reported last issue there is a review of the fire service and we now know that the consultation on the potential Combined Authority with Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight is open from now until 26<sup>th</sup> October.

This can be found at [www.hantsfire.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/consultation).

Paper copies can be obtained by calling 023 8062 6815

Or by emailing [hfrsconsultation@hantsfire.gov.uk](mailto:hfrsconsultation@hantsfire.gov.uk)

I would urge you all to take part in this consultation to let them know your views.

### **Age UK - LIVING WELL APPROACH for Adult Social Care**

The Living Well Approach supports people to lead Fulfilling lives and maintains independence through early prevention, self-help, and by empowering People to take positive steps to manage their own Health and wellbeing. The Living Well Approach is designed to help anyone over 18 who may have Multiple low-level needs requiring support or advice but who do not meet eligibility criteria to receive adult social care services.

It includes specialised Support for older people, people living with learning Disabilities, those living with Mental Health Conditions and Carers.

Isle of Wight Council's Adult Social Care from Improved Better Care has funded the Scheme and is available to all and not means tested. Since the start of the project in November, 662 people have been supported and there has been a wealth of positive feedback. One individual had the following to say: "Thank you for all your wonderful support and making such a difference to my mum and our family".

To make a referral email

[living.well.team@ageukiw.org.uk](mailto:living.well.team@ageukiw.org.uk) or call

(01983) 525282 and ask for the Living Well Team

### **Warm Up Wight**

This would be a good time to point out that there is an initiative on the Island, supported by the Isle of Wight Council to offer a free, fully funded service to any household in the area to upgrade insulation before the winter arrives.

I have used this service and it is very easy to access, all you need to do is telephone the Warmfront team on free phone 0800 032 8322 or the local operatives who are very good and courteous on 07510924970 (Chris) or 07401045823 (Lee).

They will come to you on an appointment to do a survey of loft and wall insulation and if your property qualifies and needs more insulation, they will arrange for the installation team at J and J Crump to make an appointment to install and all at no cost to you.

The energy companies and the Government cover this cost in order to meet our carbon emission reduction targets.

### **Shopmobility**

I am pleased to report that I am now a Trustee of Isle of Wight Shopmobility in Newport and I look forward to working with the other Trustee's and Volunteers within this vital service for many Island residents.

I shall be taking a test drive on a Shopmobility Scooter soon so beware if you see one taking a strange course around the Town of Newport.

This is to see just what it is like for the users to get around with poor surfaces and no dropped curbs etc. Also to see how vulnerable you can feel around pedestrians and traffic.

### **PFI Savings**

The Scrutiny Committee that I Chair is soon to look at the progress of the savings that can be made from the PFI contract.

There are a number of savings that can be made without reducing the service to residents for instance the cutting of verges, some times on street cleaning and street clutter ie road signs that are redundant but still get repaired or replaced by Island Roads and indeed cleaned when they are not actually needed any more, there is one in Newport pointing to the Post Office in Post Office Lane which has been gone for years and just a toilet block is there instead.

In some cases residents have wanted to plant wild flowers on verges but have been told that they can't as Island Roads are contracted to cut the verges and due to the contract they will be fined if they do not cut them. In these cases with agreement that part of the contract could be adjusted to allow wild flower planting and this would give a saving to the council also.

These savings could be in the region of £2m per year for the duration of the contract.

### **Regeneration Conference**

I was pleased to attend the recent Regeneration Conference at Lakeside in Wooten, which was very well attended and consisted of presentations followed by workshops to hear ideas and thoughts from participants who were from businesses on and off Island as well as a number of Councillors across all parties.

The general feeling was very positive and conversations were being had suggesting that things are really going to happen this time.

There was a new Regeneration Strategy launched at the Conference and soon to be presented to Cabinet for consideration will be a report on affordable housing, which was presented at Policy and Scrutiny for Regeneration, Housing, Planning and Environment Committee that I now Chair.

With very best wishes to you all,

*Steve*

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