

IOW Councillor Report March 2020 for Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council



Cabinet visit to Wight Building Materials

Cabinet Members made a visit to Wight Building Materials recently and were shown around the very impressive site by the General Manager, Steve Burton.

From left in the picture, Cllr Wayne Whittle, Cllr Dave Stewart (Leader of IWC), Cllr Barry Abraham, Steve Burton (General Manager) and myself Cllr Steve Hastings.

This is a very impressive business and well organised as it has to be in order to supply building materials on the Island and to keep up supplies for Island Roads for their on-going programme of road and infrastructure repairs.

I was pleased to hear that they recycle a lot of asphalt rather than it going to waste.

Their plant and conveyor belt, computerised systems are very impressive and run like clockwork to create the right mix for a particular job.

Hard to get lost on site in these very bright outfits!

Climate and Environment Strategy 2020 – 2030

Our Vision for the Isle of Wight Council:

'Is for the Isle of Wight to be an inspiring place in which to grow up, work, live and visit'.

The environmental agenda is developing nationally with new government legislation moving through parliament and pressure on Local Authorities to contribute towards UK carbon budgets set out in the UK Climate Change Act and the Paris Agreement.

The Task and Finish Group has been working since August on the development of a Climate and Environment Strategy and action plans that will prioritise:

- Council actions towards achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030;
- Supporting the island community towards net zero of carbon emissions by 2030;
- Energy opportunities and energy resilience for the Island;
- Actions to protect and enhance the Islands natural environment by managing land sustainably and connecting people with the environment.
- Actions to ensure the Island can adapt and be resilient to effects of climate change.

The council is well placed to aspire to become a leader in developing and adopting a green agenda through internal behaviour change and the promotion of sustainability for our community, economy and environment.

The Isle of Wight area's performance on climate change is better than most compared to other local authority areas. A recent national research project conducted by Friends of the Earth indicated the Isle of Wight area is the second best performing in the country.

None-the-less, even the best performing, need to do more to adapt to a changing climate and build resilience for energy water and natural resources. The Isle of Wight as a community should aim to increase public transport use, improve home insulation, reduce fuel poverty, and encourage alternative energy, re-evaluate our land use strategies and increase renewable energy

Through positive collaborative conversations with community groups, organisations, town and parish councils and individuals at the councils environment and sustainability

forum we have taken on-board the wealth of excellent ideas and existing projects being delivered on the Island to enhance our agricultural system, biodiversity, ecology and reduce carbon impacts.

This draft strategy is growing into living documents that will be regularly updated as actions come forward and are achieved.

Target 2030

As a council we recognise that we are limited in our ability to deliver change to the whole area of the Isle of Wight. However, our Strategic Approach as a community Leader will be to:

- Aim for the corporate functions of the IWC to be net zero carbon emissions by 2030
- Aim for the Services we deliver as a council to be net zero Carbon by 2030 where possible and commit to developing an evolving action plan for services and contracts for delivery to become net zero carbon emission when technologically and economically practicable.
- Aim to develop alternative energy solutions for the civic buildings and estates on the island through a heat network and direct wire network with an associated energy centre
- Aim to decarbonise our civic buildings.
- Working with local University's to develop a commercially viable electricity grid with associated battery storage owned by the council to build resilience and enable growth of a renewables sector.
- Enable the Island Community to take actions that will allow residents, businesses and community groups to make changes that contribute to net zero carbon emissions by 2030. This includes developing a supportive community forum to facilitate Islanders to make environmental conscious changes. The community engagement Action Plan will be managed by the members of the Environment and Sustainability forum and be a live document.
- Engage with Town and Parish councils to enable them to develop new zero emissions plans for 2030 for services delivered by them and residents and businesses in their local areas.

The Draft Strategy is currently being costed and refined with input from the Environment and Sustainability forum and officers across all directorates of the council to ensure that we are able to achieve our 2030 aspirations for an energised and decarbonised resilient Island.

Recycling - continued rise in DEFRA league table

Last year we were very pleased to have risen up the DEFRA league table by some 90 places to 51st in the table, so it gives me great pleasure to report that in this years table we have risen again to 36th place (21st out of unitary and county councils) and this is due to Council Officers making sure we have the right facilities in place but most of all it is thanks to you, the residents of the Island going with the system and acting to facilitate good recycling practises, so a big thank you to you from the Isle of Wight Council.

We had a target of 55% recycling set by Government for this year and here we are in February and we have now achieved 55.7% up from 53.4% last year and later this year we will have our brand new state of the art energy from waste plant operational which will be able to supply energy and heat to local buildings such as the prison and hospital.

With best wishes, Steve

Councillor Steve Hastings

Cabinet Member for Procurement,

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