

IOW Councillor Report November 2019 for Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council

Battle for our buses

Following an email from a Brighstone resident that no longer drives and is reliant on our bus service, which is clearly inadequate I have decided to set up another meeting with Southern Vectis.

This time though I am not just asking for more buses and them explaining that the number 12 (or 6) is not used enough to make it viable, I want to go to them with some evidence that if they put on more buses and later buses they would be used so to this end we have set up a petition which will come your way at some point or can be found in the Brighstone Surgery, Newsagents and village stores.

The resident has also set up a petition on change.org on Facebook, which is shared publicly.

The idea behind this is that when I go to Southern Vectis this time I will have signatures of residents who have stated in the petition that they would use the service if it were introduced.



We are also looking for the No12 services to be extended to Yarmouth with a later return service so that residents can use evening facilities and leave the car at home but still be able to get home afterwards, this was something we discussed previously with Southern Vectis and was being considered as a possibility.

I am also asking for a later return from Newport as the current last bus from Newport being around 5.30pm is restrictive and means residents cannot rely on getting home after shopping and maybe visiting a restaurant in the early evening so they have to bring their car.

With the Blanchards development looking more likely now with a new developer and architect involved there is even more reason to have a better bus service available which I will also use as an argument with Southern Vectis.

We will also be leafleting all Brighstone residents with a use it or lose it type information sheet on the new service should it be introduced.

At the end of the day Southern Vectis is a commercial company and they will only make a decision to add services if they are used and it is commercially viable for them to do so.

Personally I would use the bus to and from Newport for meetings but most meetings finish around 8pm which means I cant get home again by bus so I go by car and I would love to be able to leave the car at home for such purposes.

Therefore if you want better bus services to and from Brighstone please seek out the petition and sign it but also mean it when it says that you will use the service if it were provided.

This same approach could be taken for other parishes in Central Wight to improve services from Southern Vectis

FYT Bus

Residents might be aware that the FYT bus service through Brighstone was also cut a short while ago and this was due to low usage numbers and the loss of the driver for the route due to illness at the time.

As a Trustee of FYT bus I am holding discussions with them as well in case Southern Vectis still won't make the changes necessary to provide a good service for us then perhaps with the same commitment to use petition I might be able to persuade them to put the service back on but with better connections to Newport and Yarmouth and regular services for reliability which could cover other Parishes in central Wight. This of course can only happen if Southern Vectis decide not to give us a reasonable service, as there are certain regulations in place to be dealt with. The FYT bus service also relies heavily on volunteer drivers, which does make it difficult to run a reliable service, as drivers are hard to come by especially on a regular basis.

West Wight Meeting

There was a meeting of West Wight Town and Parish Councils recently where I was asked to present updates to the Military Road.

I was able to bring to the meeting a Civil Engineer who showed us what action is being taken on the erosion at Brook and how they will install a 26m retaining wall which in this case does need planning permission due to Environmental and ecological issues.

The structures engineer informed us that this retaining wall would be longer lasting and more successful than the original plan of a bridge installed, as the wall will be more adaptable and flexible than a bridge.

This will keep the erosion at bay and keep the Military Road in use for another 20-25 years.

Also on the agenda at this meeting was speeding which is an issue across the West Wight including the Military Road especially with motor bikes which really need more policing and as Hampshire Constabulary get their numbers up following the review recently and more resources promised to Hampshire and the Isle of Wight hopefully this can be looked at.

Meanwhile for other roads up to 30mph there is a chance to re-introduce Speed watch to the area as Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council (new name agreed) has voted positively to purchase the required equipment and get volunteers trained up by Hampshire Constabulary, for this we need at least 6 volunteers and the training is free.

This will mean initially other Town and Parish Councils can borrow the equipment and decide if a group of them wish to purchase their own equipment or not.

Mechanical Treatment Plant

The new Mechanical Treatment Plant at Forest Park has now finished all tests and has passed successfully.

We have now received our certificate, which means we can make full use of the facility.

The second phase of the works is to complete the energy from waste part of the site, which is very exciting to get on with especially as now the cables are going in as part of the St. Mary's junction improvements.

This is a more challenging section of the project but is still on target at present for spring/Summer of next year for completion and hand over.

Once this plant is up and running we will be diverting 90% of our waste from landfill and supplying heat and electricity to local buildings like the hospital, prison and others.

With best wishes,
Steve