

## **Councillor Report November 2020 for Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish**

### **Green Island Homes Grant**

The Green Island Homes Grant is a variation on the Government scheme but is the result of our application for a grant of £500k, which officers were successful with achieving.

Homeowners on low incomes could receive up to £10,000 towards the cost of making their homes warmer and more energy efficient.

The Isle of Wight will be one of the first places in the country to benefit from the government's new Green Home Grants Local Authority Delivery scheme - thanks to a successful bid by the Isle of Wight Council.

Under the scheme, low-income households will be able to apply for grant funding to cover the cost of hiring tradespeople to upgrade the energy performance of their home.

In total, £500,000 is being made available to eligible Islanders to help make their homes greener and cheaper to run.

As Cabinet member for the environment, I welcome this news and to secure this level of national funding as part of the initial phase of the scheme is a fantastic coup for the Island.

These grants will support those most in need by helping to raise the energy efficiency of their homes, cut energy bills and reduce their carbon emissions.

At the same time, the scheme will reduce fuel poverty on the Island, help to phase out the installation of high carbon fossil fuel heating and support local jobs in green construction and trades.

Grants will be offered to cover green home improvements ranging from insulation of walls, floors and roofs, to the installation of double or triple glazing when replacing single glazing, and low-carbon heating like heat pumps or solar thermal - measures that could help households save up to £600 a year on their energy bills.

As part of the scheme, the council also plans to work closely with the Isle of Wight College on training and apprenticeship opportunities.

Eligible households will have:

- A combined income of less than £30,000 per year; and

- An Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of E, F or G.

The scheme will be open to owner-occupied, private rented and social rented properties. Further details, including how to apply, are published on the council's website.

### **Abandoned Vehicle Policy Change**



Imagine having this clearly abandoned vehicle left in front of your garden wall. Bad enough you would think if it was there for a few days or even a week or two, well how about if you had to put up with it at your front wall for six months or more.

This is what is happening to residents in my ward and it is just not good enough, therefore I have asked the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure to write a policy for the council and cabinet to support to have such vehicles picked up from the street that they occupy and take them to a car-pound whilst the DVLA checks are taking place.

This is because I have discovered that before anything can be done about disposal of such vehicles after we contact Island Roads who have the contract for collection, they first of all have to attempt to locate the owner of the vehicle before they move it.

As you can imagine such vehicles as the one in the photo, the owners are not rushing to come forward to claim the vehicle and in this case the car has sat outside a residents wall and on the pavement causing an obstruction since April.

To me this is ridiculous and there is no reason why we cannot remove it to a pound whilst attempting to locate the owner and furthermore once the owner is discovered and should they wish to collect their scrap of metal in this case but possibly a car in good order, they can come to our pound to collect it and pay any fees or Road Tax that might be due or of course they could choose to have it sent for scrap and sign the car/piece of metal away.

I am pleased to report that at the time of writing I have received an email from the Director of Island Roads confirming that this vehicle has now been collected and the residents of this road are very pleased to see the back of it at last.



### **Un-adopted Roads and Waste Collection**

There are a number of un-adopted roads on the Island and some of these are a danger to waste operatives, so the Waste Team are asking residents of such roads to make a plan to get these made good.

It is the frontage's responsibility to make good the surface outside of their property even if they don't hold ownership of the road itself.

The council and Amey have not stopped or refused to collect waste from properties on private roads. There are over 250 private and un-adopted roads on the Island that we collect waste and recycling from every week. We are still collecting it, and they have not been deemed unfit for collection. The council and Amey both have a legal obligation to ensure that our collection crews have a safe working environment, so we do ask people living on private roads to make sure the areas where waste is collected from outside their properties are reasonably level and safe, so our staff can move the bins across, and load into the vehicles. We've made a smaller list of 29 private roads where repairs to the roads are needed so that collection staff can work safely. We recently wrote to residents and asked them to fix their roads within six weeks, or agree a plan with us to make sure the road will get repaired. As a last resort, and if we are unable to agree a safe way to continue collecting waste in a certain road we could ask residents to use temporary collection points further down the road. We are still working with residents, ward members and local town and parish councillors to resolve these safety issues.

In any of these circumstances, anybody with an Assisted Collection will be unaffected, and will continue to have their waste collected from the agreed point on their property. Anybody affected who wants to talk with the Waste Team or have a meeting to look at the site has been given contact details so we can arrange a meeting or site visit.

With very best wishes,  
Steve,

Councillor Steve Hastings  
Cabinet Member for Environment, Heritage, and  
Waste Management. 07870127024