

Isle of Wight Councillor Report for July 2018 Parish Council Meeting

Hello fellow residents of Central Wight. This report covers some of my recent activity and on-going matters.

Brook Lane

There was an action from the last meeting that I should talk to Island Roads with regard to Brook Lane.

I emailed Samantha O'Rourke and asked what was happening and why it had not been done as part of the resurfacing of Main Road.

I have forwarded the response separately to the clerk for information and I have added Brook Lane to my list of matters to deal with on a ward walk with Island Roads on 5th July just two days after this meeting.

Resurfacing Works

I would imagine you are all pleased to have the resurfacing works by Island Roads finished now; it is a much smoother ride now through Chillerton.

I went to the site on the last day to see the foreman and thank them for their helpful and courteous approach to the residents during the works.

Whilst there I did have to redirect 20 walkers that the crew wouldn't allow through on the main road as it had hot tar on it. So there fit bit's would have recorded more than they bargained for but a scenic route for them.

Fire Service Consultation

As reported last month there will be a review of the fire service and we now know that the consultation with residents will take place in September and this will be after the full business case is published.

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

Brighstone Viaduct

I attended the opening ceremony along with Cllr Ian Ward, the Cabinet member for Transport and Infrastructure and had the pleasure of cutting the ribbon to officially open the bridge.

Island Roads have done a very good job here and restored the bridge sympathetically to the original and used wooden barriers rather than metal to fit into the AONB.

Environmental Conference

We held an Environmental Conference at the Cowes Yacht Haven, which was well attended by all interested parties.

Three workshops were held throughout the day to find ways of moving forward with regeneration of the Island but without spoiling what we have here and that which visitors come for.

A very important part of the day was the signing of our application to UNESCO for Biosphere status, which I am confident we will achieve as we have all the right ingredients.

This will give us greater protection whilst also increasing the right type of tourism as people come from all over the world to visit Biospheres in various parts of the world.

Arts Council for England

Bob Seely MP, Cllr Hobart and myself met with the CEO and Southern Director of the Arts Council for England with a view to achieving funding to move forward with the setting up of an Arts and Culture Board on the Island in order to achieve ambitions of attracting investors in this field in the future.

These discussions were very positive and Board members were identified with excellent qualifications and I felt we made the right impressions on the Arts Council to get the initial funding to move forward, a business case will now be put to them.

Midsummer Fair in Shorwell

Very well done to all those involved in the organising of the Midsummer Fair in Shorwell which was extremely well attended and on a wonderful sunny day.

Anyone visiting the tea tent might have seen me helping out pouring tea and coffee and my wife, Beverley making cakes and serving them.

This was hard work but really enjoyable with a great team around us, well done to all the volunteers.

A big thank you to Northcourt where the Fair was held and I am looking forward to next year getting involved again, more of the same weather please!

Chillerton and Rookley School

I had the pleasure of visiting the school recently, what a lovely feel the school has and the garden is wonderful for the children to explore. They really do make the most of the space available; it is little wonder the school is so well liked by residents.

I have been involved in discussions with the Cabinet Member for Education and Hampshire County regarding the way forward for the school and there seems to be a positive future ahead for them.

With best wishes to you all,

Steve

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