

## **Councillor Report January 2021 for Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish**

### **Green Island Homes Grant**

**I make no apology for including this matter in my report again for this month, as it is a time limited grant from the Government ending in April.**

The Green Island Homes Grant is a variation on the Government scheme but is the result of the Council's 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. Please apply ASAP, as this grant must be spent by April 2021.

### **Coastal erosion and the Environment Agency**

- It is important to recognise that coastal erosion is a natural and on-going process that has been happening for thousands of years. The coast is constantly changing and is at risk from sea flooding, erosion and landslips. Sea levels will continue to rise well into the next century, which will accelerate the rate of coastal erosion in some places.
- Local authorities take the lead in managing coastal erosion and landslips. They work with communities where protection measures are not technically possible or affordable, or may be environmentally damaging, and have a number of tools available to actively support those affected
- Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) set out the locally consulted management approaches for 100 years, roughly covering the 21st century. They, and more local strategies that accompany them, also highlight the potential management 'pathways' that might be taken as thresholds such as sea level or particular impacts are crossed. SMPs are material considerations in the local planning process and many local authorities have designated coastal change management areas in their local plans, alongside their flood and erosion risk information, to enable local authorities to plan for flood and erosion impacts upon communities in advance through their local plans. Many local authorities have also designated coastal change management areas (CCMAs) in their local plans.
- The Environment Agency is working nationally with coastal authorities on a £1 million, 3-year refresh of SMPs to ensure that they are up to date and using the best evidence in their recommendations.

### **Un-adopted Roads Project With Amey**

- The council have a duty of care as the Collection Authority to ensure our contractors are managing risk and employee safety through both contract specification, management and monitoring of the Health, Safety and Environment.
- HSE inspections and failures sit with the council.
- Amey has an employers duty of care under the HSE to ensure their staff have a safe working environment
- Frontagers on unadopted and private roads have maintenance liability for the part of the road in front of their property. Many private and unadopted roads have soft verges.



Refuse collection vehicles of 18 or 26 tonnes have high centres of gravity compared to other trucks and are more prone to topple over in such conditions.

Overhanging trees on unkempt verges can impede vehicles from accessing a property, or cause issues with reversing and viability of operating collection staff and pedestrians.

The conditions of the roads, including deep potholes and obstructions can cause injury.

Progress is being made with un-adopted roads by collaboration with ward councillors and Town and Parish Councils. Corbett Road in Ryde, residents had a stroke of luck due to the BBC filming in the road and have agreed to pay for the repairs if their repair day had to be moved so as not to disturb their filming. We had a Teams meeting with Cllr Michael Beston's residents in his Shanklin ward to gain agreements of the way forward. Gravel Pit Road, Wootton has now been repaired to completion standards.

I would like to thank residents and Councillor's alike for their help in this matter.

With very best wishes for the New Year,

Steve,

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