



Spring is on its way, gardens will be blooming and it's time to renew green garden waste subscriptions!

Over half of the council's customers have already switched to direct debit payments so their subscriptions will automatically renew. Those who pay annually by card should check their email inboxes for details of how to re-subscribe, before 18 March.

Existing customers with direct debit are also asked to check that the bank details they previously supplied are still the same.

The popular green garden waste kerbside collection service collected 1,710 tonnes of garden waste since April 2020.

As Cabinet Member for Waste Management I think the kerbside green garden waste service is hugely popular across the Island, with 10,000 residents benefitting – especially during 2020 with many more people getting out in the garden; saving trips to the tip, lowering people's carbon footprints and giving people more time to focus on gardening. All of the green waste collected is composted and goes back into gardens across the Island.

While the service is pretty full, there are a few spaces available, so people who've been on the waiting list who'd like to sign up are encouraged to do so.

They should have received emails from the council too. Please do check your junk message folder just in case."

For more information on the scheme, visit [www.iwight.com/greengardenwaste](http://www.iwight.com/greengardenwaste)

## **Marker Buoys set to return**

Marker buoys designed to keep swimmers safe from speedboats and jet skis look set to be deployed off Sandown as part of Isle of Wight Council plans to boost beach safety. The distinctive orange markers are to be installed in May, subject to budget approval.

The marker buoys were removed in 2015 but are set to be reinstated for the 2021-bathing season following unanimous Cabinet support earlier this month. Similar schemes are also being considered for other coastal areas, such as Compton, Colwell and Totland.

The decision follows an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour involving personal watercraft recorded last summer, and forms part of the council's newly adopted Beach Management Strategy Framework.

As the Cabinet member responsible for beaches, I take the safety of all water users very seriously. Beaches form an essential part of Island life, supporting the local economy through tourism and jobs. We need clean beaches, good water quality and a safe place to swim — that's what this new strategy is all about and I was pleased to agree the framework recently. The framework includes actions to improve our holiday tourism offer by enhancing beach safety, developing a voice for those living and working around our coast and building on the £40 million in government funding received to protect our coastal community.

In a further move to improve safety, the council is working closely with the RNLI to undertake a review of all council-owned and managed beaches. This will include a full review of safety equipment, signage, railings and slipways. Meanwhile, I have also set up a new coastal community forum to work collaboratively with other authorities in the south on beach safety and enforcement policies in the Solent and we have had our first meeting to agree terms of reference and who will Chair going forward.

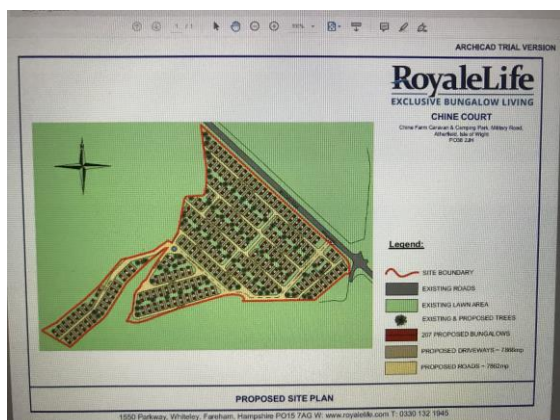
Council leader, Dave Stewart, said the forum, which held its first meeting earlier this week, would also ensure those living and working in coastal communities were given a voice.

He said: "I see this forum as a very positive step for the Island.

"It will provide a further opportunity to build on our plan to keep people safe when they come and enjoy all that the Isle of Wight has to offer - obviously when the time is right.

"The beach safety audits will also be crucial in determining safety requirements going forward and I would like to thank the RNLI for undertaking this work at no cost to the council."

## **Chine Farm mobile Homes**



It has come to light recently that there was an application for a license at the council for 207 mobile homes (residential) on the land at Chine Farm.

Our planning department noticed this and a meeting took place between Officers and the Cabinet Member for housing who notified me of this situation.

It appears that they already have planning permission from many years ago that didn't hold any restrictions on mobile type homes so all they need now is a license and don't have to go for planning permission.

I have to say I was quite shocked to think that permission could be given for 207 homes on the cliff tops at the Chine.

I set up a meeting with Officers, the Leader and myself to discuss the situation and options including any legal challenge.

This is effectively a whole new village on the cliff tops which is a Heritage Coast and prone to erosion so I am amazed that they have permission, especially when we see how much trouble it is to get permission for a retaining wall at Brook.

The outcome of our meeting was that it appears that when this permission was given it was weak in conditions and when re-applied for in 1988 it was made permanent with conditions that the site should be closed between October and March, this permission was given under the South Wight Council at that time.

It would then appear that for a period of more than 10 years the site was occupied during the winter period but not picked up on as it was just a few and low profile by the previous owners, however this was not noticed and brought to the attention of the council's enforcement department for the 10 year period which now means planning can do nothing as a new owner has come in with plans to install 207 mobile units for residential use.

The outcome of our meeting is that we are trying to find any way of challenging this license and will be looking towards Bob Seely and Parliament if necessary. The Leader has asked for this to be held for a member decision rather than officer delegated decision at this time pending any challenge. I will keep you informed as this matter takes its course.

With very best wishes,

Steve,

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